

# *The Messenger*

**Parish Magazine of**



**St George  
and**



**All Saints'  
Chorley**

April 2026

## Parish Clergy

	<p>Main Contact for St George's during the "Vacancy" Revd Peter Smith Email <a href="mailto:frpeter@stgeorgechorley.co.uk">frpeter@stgeorgechorley.co.uk</a></p>	
	<p>Main Contact for All Saints' Assistant Curate The Revd Jordan Bentliff MA (Hons) 07450 2699010 Email <a href="mailto:cjbentliff@hotmail.co.uk">cjbentliff@hotmail.co.uk</a></p>	
	<p>Retired Clergy with Permission to Officiate The Revd Peter Smith BA (Hons) PTO Tel 07412 624931 Email <a href="mailto:frpeter@stgeorgechorley.co.uk">frpeter@stgeorgechorley.co.uk</a></p>	

## Regular Services

<p>The Parish Church of St George</p> <p>Sunday 9:30am Family Eucharist Wednesday 10:00am Eucharist <a href="http://www.stgeorgechorley.co.uk">www.stgeorgechorley.co.uk</a></p>	<p>The Parish Church of All Saints'</p> <p>Sunday 11:00am Family Eucharist Sunday 4pm Closer Service Thursday 10:30am Eucharist <a href="http://www.wallsaintschorley.co.uk">www.wallsaintschorley.co.uk</a></p>
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## Parish Contacts

Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Samantha Trafford <a href="mailto:safeguarding@stgeorgechorley.co.uk">safeguarding@stgeorgechorley.co.uk</a>	0777 2779430
Parish Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Sara Shingler <a href="mailto:shinglebelly@yahoo.com">shinglebelly@yahoo.com</a>	
Parish Treasurer	Mr Stephen Pollard <a href="mailto:treasurer@stgeorgechorley.co.uk">treasurer@stgeorgechorley.co.uk</a>	07568 502770
Parish Magazine Editor	Mrs Chris Gibson <a href="mailto:acvgibson@outlook.com">acvgibson@outlook.com</a>	01257 260555
Parish Health & Safety Officer	Mr John Bradley <a href="mailto:jm30.bradley@gmail.com">jm30.bradley@gmail.com</a>	07375 047982
Parish Visiting & Lay Ministry Team	Mrs Carol Pearson <a href="mailto:carolpearson@outlook.com">carolpearson@outlook.com</a>	07981 021288
Parish Youth Group	Meet every Friday 5:30pm to 7:00pm at All Saints Church (contact Fr Jordan)	07450 269010

# St George's Contacts

Churchwardens	Mr John Bradley jm30.bradley@gmail.com Mrs Lorraine Smith lorraine54@me.com	07375 047982  07729 886640
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr Gordon Blacklidge ARCO FRCL	01257 274922
Verger	Simon Wilson	07355 499245
Flower Guild Secretary	Mrs Freda Armstrong	01257 262918
Bell Tower Captain	Dr Victoria Gibson drvigibson@outlook.com	07921 010900
Church Hall	Mrs Sian Phillpson Manager / Booking	07734 232684
St George's Primary School	Mr Andy Purcell Head Teacher	01257 2623230
Sunday Club	We meet in the Church Hall 9.25am on a normal Sunday	
Men's Fellowship	2nd Wednesday 7:30pm Church Hall	01257 263245
Mothers' Union	2nd & last Thursday 7:30pm Church Hall	
Thursday Ladies Circle	1st & 3rd Thursday 7:30pm Church Hall	
Dramatic & Musical Society	Friday 7:00pm Church Hall	
Badminton Club	Monday 8:00pm Church Hall	
Church Institute	Monday - Thursday 2:00pm - 11:00pm Friday & Saturday 2:00pm - 12:00midnight Sunday 12:00noon - 11:00pm	01257 413107
Toddler & Baby Group	Little Steps meet Wednesday (term time) 10:30am - 11:30am Church Hall	

## St George's Uniformed Organisations Meet at Church Hall (Term time)

Rainbows	Kathryn Winters ~Tuesday 8:00pm	07701 353429
Brownies	Kathryn Winters ~Tuesday 6:15 pm	07701 353429
Guides	Sarah Glover Tuesday 7:15pm	07974 687541

**Red Bank Uniformed Organisations Meet at Red Bank Mission Hall (Term Time)**

Beaver Scouts Scouts Club Scouts	Monday 6:15pm Monday 7:30pm Jackie Beesley (GSL)	01257 270770
Rainbows	Wednesday 5:30pm Kaitlinn Hunter	
Brownies	Wednesday 6:45pm Lynsey Torrens	
Guides	Thursday 6:45pm Jackie Beesley	01257 270770

**All Saints' Contacts**

Church Wardens	Mrs Shirley Starkey Churchwarden.allsaints@yhoo.com Mrs Joyce Jolly joycejolly21@gmail.com	07806 682946  01257 278057
Verger	Mrs Christine Ireland	01257 273291
All Saints' Primary School & Nurse Unit	Mrs Sarah Partington Head Teacher	01257 262489
Flower Guild Secretary	Mrs Marjorie Holland d_holland1@sky.com	01257 271830
Men's Social Group		

Please notify the Parish Magazine Editor of any changes/updates  
Mrs Christine Gibson acvgibson@outlook.com 01257 260555

**I now cast this little Publication into your hands earnestly hoping that it may meet with your approbation, and enable you to spend a happy and profitable hour whilst reading over its pages".**

**Rev. John Stock 1863, The Messenger first issue**

Dear Friends,

As I write to you, we find ourselves in the reflective and often challenging season of Lent—a time when we are invited to slow down, to take stock, and to turn our hearts again towards God. It is a season marked by honesty and hope: honesty about ourselves, and hope in the grace and renewal that Christ offers us.

This year, Lent feels particularly significant for us as a parish. Alongside this time of reflection, we also stand on the threshold of new beginnings. In the coming months, we look forward with great anticipation to welcoming a new youth worker into our community. This is an exciting step forward in our ministry, especially as we seek to nurture and support the faith of our younger members. Please do hold them in your prayers as they prepare to join us, and pray too for the young people whose lives they will touch.

We are also entering a time of discernment and transition as we (hopefully) prepare to appoint a new Vicar. This is an important moment in the life of our parish, and we trust that God is already at work, guiding the right person towards us. I encourage you to pray faithfully for all those involved in this process—that there may be wisdom, clarity, and a shared sense of God’s calling.

Yet before we rush ahead to what is to come, Lent gently calls us to walk a deeper path: the journey towards Holy Week. This is the heart of our faith story. From the waving palms of celebration, through the shadows of the cross, to the dawning light of Easter morning, we are invited not simply to remember these events, but to enter into them.

As we take part in the services of Holy Week, whether it is the quiet reflection of Maundy Thursday, the solemnity of Good Friday, or the joy of Easter Day, each step of the journey draws us closer to Jesus and to the greatness of his love for us. Easter was the true “new beginning” and it should be held in our hearts through all of the changes in the year ahead.

In the midst of change and expectation, Lent reminds us that God’s work is often slow, patient, and deeply rooted. As we look ahead with excitement, may we also take time to be still, to pray, and to listen—trusting that the God who calls us forward is also present with us now.

Yours in Christ, Fr Jordan

# Easter Services 2026

You are very welcome to join one of our friendly congregations for any of our Easter services

## 29th March - Palm Sunday

9:30am Eucharist and Passion Play **St George's Church**

11:00am Eucharist **All Saints' Church**

4:00pm Closer **All Saints' Church**

## 31st March - Holy Tuesday

7:30pm Stations of the Cross **All Saints' Church**

## 1st April - Holy Wednesday

10:00am Eucharist **St George's Church**

7:30pm The Nail **St George's Church**

## 2nd April - Maundy Thursday

7:30pm Eucharist and the Watch **All Saints' Church**

## 3rd April - Good Friday

2:30 pm Devotions **St George's Church**

## 4th April - Holy Saturday

7:00pm Vigil and Passion Play **All Saints' Church**

## 5th April - Easter Day

9:30am Easter Eucharist **St George's Church**

11:00am Easter Eucharist **All Saints' Church**

4:00pm Closer **All Saints' Church**

**Our Vision - Closer to Christ; further out for Christ**

## **The Nail - A dramatic representation on the events of Good Friday.**

**On Wednesday 1st April at 7:30pm in St George's Church.**

Six characters from the events of Good Friday are portrayed by members of the church. They are John & Glenys Bradley, Lorraine Smith, Elizabeth Wilding, Simon Wilson and Fr Jordan; with Fr Peter narrating.

The characters represented are: Peter (disciple), The Roman Centurion, Pontious Pilate, Caiaphas (High Priest), Judas (disciple) and Mary Magdalene.

Each person holds a nail as they speak, representing the nails used to crucify Christ. They are used as a jumping off point for their reflections. Each character considers the questions, 'who killed Christ' and 'who was responsible'. Each character tries to justify that they were not guilty for the death of Jesus. Each part includes a Biblical passage, a reflection from the point of view of the character, and a short prayer.

We encourage as many people as possible to come along. You will find it a fascinating exploration of the human psyche, and an emotional journey for the characters.

(The Nail drama is based on the book of the same name by Stephen Cottrell, The Archbishop of York, who has given permission for anyone to use his book as they see fit.)

Peter Smith



## **Annual Parish Meeting (APM) and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

Our APM and APCM will be held on 28th April 2026 at All Saints' Primary School, Moor Road, Chorley, starting at 7:30pm. The APM (normally a very short meeting) will be held first followed by APCM. Both the meetings are major events in the parochial calendar and are conducted in accordance with the requirements as laid out in the Church Representation Rules.

The primary purpose of the APM is to elect the Churchwardens for the parish, in our case we need to elect a total of four, two for each of our parish churches. In addition to those listed on the Church Electoral Roll (referred to as the 'Roll') of the parish, those persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence may also attend this meeting.

The purpose of the APCM is to receive reports on changes to the 'Roll', general parish activities, and financial matters. The APCM also elects new members to the PCC, and also to Deanery Synod every three years. This year we are required to elect our new Deanery Synod Representatives. Only persons whose names are listed on the 'Roll' may attend this meeting.

Members of the clergy (including retired clergy) are not legally permitted to have their names listed on a Church Electoral Roll. They are, however, permitted to attend both these meetings.

### **St. George's Day**

Please join us for our patronal festival on Sunday 26th April @9:30am. There will be no service at All Saints that day, to enable their congregation to join our celebrations. We will be having a Jacob's Join Lunch in the hall after coffee. There will be a sign up sheet in the back of both churches in order for us to plan the seating.

Hope to see you there.



# St George's Church Congregation Numbers

Week Beginning	Children Attending	Adults Attending	Communicant
1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	43	123	110
8th Feb	119	226	139
15th Feb	26	107	103
22nd Feb	29	106	106

Note - The attendance numbers include all the services within the week

Holy Baptism	Holy Matrimony
Oscar Harvey Alexander Ashcroft	None

*Please pray for those struggling with illnesses of any sort and especially for:*

**Marian Crossthwaite, Harold Dunseath, Linda Eubank, Jonathan Yates, Margaret Salisbury, Simon Newell, Dorothy Treadwell, Margaret Beaumont, Marjorie Baxendale, Audrey Clark**

also the families of the recently departed  
**George Donnelly, Peter Elkins**

*We remember all those who are currently housebound and unable to be with us in Church*



We're so excited that it is just TEN WEEKS until we gather in the centre of Blackpool to celebrate our diocesan centenary with our Big Day Out!

If you haven't yet heard about the event, [please click here](#) to watch a short video with Bishop Philip, inviting you to attend.

We'll be hosting activities for children of all ages with games, crafts and stories. We'll run sessions for teenagers and grown-ups from sport workshops to live music and more. In the afternoon, we'll have a giant FREE hog roast (or vegetarian) lunch, before all coming together for a celebration service on St John's Square outside the Winter Gardens.

Please do spread the word amongst your parishes so we can make the Big Day Out the heart of our celebrations and also enjoy a great day together. There is now an expanded range of promotional material for you to use on social media, and in your services and newsletters, [available here](#). Please do also show the video with Bishop Philip in your services if you are able.

Here is a reminder of the programme for the day, along with booking links and further information:

### **11:00 to 13:00**

Family Zone inside Blackpool Church - St John's church, Church Street, Blackpool FY1 1BP, featuring activities, crafts, worship, inflatables, and a pre-school creche area. Please note that the Family Zone is for pre-school and primary aged children only and their

families only. Unfortunately, we will not be able to allow unaccompanied adults access to this area between 11:00 to 13:00.

Youth Zone inside St John's Church of England Primary School, 153 Church Street, Blackpool FY1 3NX, featuring games, worship, inflatables, food and all sorts of other fun for young people in school years 7 to 11. Parents/carers will need to drop their young people off and pick them up afterwards. St John's School is a 2-3 minute walk from the church. Registration is essential via the links below.

The Main Stage in St John's Square, Church Street, Blackpool FY1 1BP (weather permitting), with live music on the big stage, and live comedy from Andy Kind.

### **13:00 to 14:00**

A free Hog Roast lunch (with vegetarian alternative) will be available to everyone who pre-registers on one of the links below. Hot and cold drinks will be available for sale. There are also lots of cafes and restaurants in the immediate area of St John's Square.

### **14:00 to 15:15**

A giant open air worship celebration in St John's Square, Church Street, Blackpool FY1 1BP, with music from the Salvation Army Band and Blackpool Church worship team, a message from Bishop Philip, stories of faith from across Lancashire, and much more.

## **Booking**

Booking is essential for lunch as numbers will be pre-ordered. Registration is essential for the Youth Zone. Booking is advised for the Family Zone.

[Booking for family group access into Family Zone](#)

[Register young people for Youth Zone](#)

[Booking for lunch only](#)

## **Car parking**

Sainsburys Blackpool (FY1 3AJ) offers 3 hours free parking. Longer stays are available at a charge at Talbot Road Multi-Storey (FY1 3AU) or Houndshell Shopping Centre (FY1 4NY). All of these are a 10 minute walk from the venues.

## **Public transport**

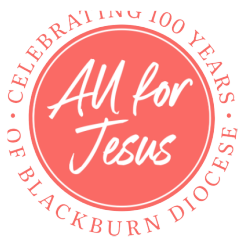
The nearest train station is Blackpool North, which is about a 10 minute walk from the venues. Buses and trams also stop nearby - just head to Blackpool town centre.

## **Coaches and minibuses**

If you are coming by coach/minibus, your driver will be able to drop you off in St John's Square, Church Street, Blackpool FY1 1BP and then park up to collect you later.

We look forward to seeing you there! Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

The Big Day Out team.



## **Lent Lunch.**

Thank you to all who took part in the lunch on Sunday 8th March and donated to SVP Chorley Buddies. A total of £300 was raised on the day. Special thanks go to all the ladies who made soup, waited on and washed up!

Mission and Discipleship Team.

## Parish Magazine 2026 Dates

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Deadline (Sunday)</b>	<b>Available (Sunday)</b>
May	19th April	3rd May
June	24th May	7th June
July/August	21st June	5th July
September	23rd August	6th Srptember
October	20th September	4th October
November	18th October	1st November
December/January	22nd November	6th December

**Contributions for inclusion in the Messenger can be given to Chris Gibson or be emailed to [acvgibson@outlook.com](mailto:acvgibson@outlook.com)**



Revd. Jordan introducing Peter (Pete) our new Youth Worker who will be involved with St George's and All Saints'.

# All Saints' Church Congregation Numbers

Week Beginning	Children Attending	Adults Attending	Communicant
1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	20	58	35
8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	21	68	36
15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	20	84	52
22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	26	75	29

Note - The attendance numbers include all the services within the week

<b>Holy Baptism</b>	<b>Holy Matrimony</b>
None	None

*Please pray for those struggling with illnesses of any sort and especially for:*

***Paul Catterall, Linda Eubank, Ken Starkey, Christine Gothard, Michael Baxendale, Pam & Michael McLachlan, Linda Carrara, Sandra & Mike Downey, Anita Campbell, Norman & Brenda Riley, Joyce Jolly, Audrey Clark; and all the residents of Gillibrand Hall and Coniston House.***

*And for the families of those who have died recently*

***Philip Clarke & Mildred Cole***

*We remember all those who are currently housebound and unable to be with us in Church*

## 2026 Flower Rota St George's

<b>Date</b>	<b>On Pedestal</b>	<b>Lady Chapel</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Easter Mothers Union	
12 <sup>th</sup> Apr		
18 <sup>th</sup> Apr		
26 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Mrs Hobbiss	
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Mrs Parkinson	
10 <sup>th</sup> May	Mr Walker	Mrs Parkinson
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Mrs Lawrenson	
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Mrs Mason	
31 <sup>st</sup> May	Mr Birkett	
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Mrs Ellison	
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Mr Allman	
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Mrs Lorraine Smith	
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Mrs Armstrong	
5 <sup>th</sup> July	Mr Walker	
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Mrs Greenwood	
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Thursday Ladies	
26 <sup>th</sup> July	Mrs Astley	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Aug	Mrs Turner	
9 <sup>th</sup> Aug		
16 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Mrs Ellison	
30 <sup>th</sup> Aug		

## The History Page April 2026 St George's School Origins

After a shaky start the National School ( more often called St George's School after 1847) needed an inspirational leader and around 1850 came the polymath Thomas Brown. He was to have a major impact upon both the school and the chapel.

He was born in 1826 the son of a farmer in Kirkwhelpington, Northumberland. An unusual and remarkable ability with numbers brought him to the notice of a local landlord. One suspects this was one of the socially conscious Trevelyan's at nearby Wallington Hall. Thomas was likely given an opportunity as a pupil teacher under the auspices of the National Society and in around 1850 must have taken the brave decision to come a considerable distance to Chorley as the one full time master. This also entailed him being head of the Sunday School. The census finds him living in Pall Mall with his first wife Jane.



*The likely Kirkwhelpington farm  
Thomas Brown hailed from*

Thomas must have made an immediate impact. The earliest evidence of this is a written address to him, signed by some 30 male Sunday School teachers, most of these being older lads. It is clear they value his example, knowledge and care. One wonders why it was drawn up; possibly Revd Stock heard Thomas was sought after by other schools and was keen to acknowledge his value. The range of Mr Brown's achievements will be detailed in future issues.



*St Bartholomew's Church he  
would have attended*

Incidentally, the address only came to light some fifteen years ago, when the late Peter Jackson, in his uncannily skilled searching, unearthed it from the back of a dusty cupboard in Chorley Library.

**Bill Walker.**

## Mothers' Union

### ADVANCE NOTICE

CRAFT FAIR (with Coffee and  
Homemade Cake) ST. GEORGE'S  
CHURCH HALL



On 9th May, St. George's and All Saint's MU branches are holding a joint event celebrating the 150th Anniversary Challenge of raising £150 per branch in this the centenary year of the Mothers' Union. We would love to hear from you if you are a talented crafter (or even someone newly starting out) wishing to sell your items, and details of how to purchase a table top are on the poster opposite or please speak to Joanne Salisbury (branch Secretary St. George's).

We have already had a few enquiries and it's looking promising for a good selection of crafts. Members of St. George's and All Saints Mothers' Unions will be on hand to serve up their delicious home made cakes and coffee before or after you've perused the stalls and it promises to be a great few hours 10am – 2pm. Please **do come** along and support us if you possibly can.

### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

We are appealing once again for toiletries that make up the bags going to Chorley Hospital. The items required are:

Combs (no tail combs), soap, toothpaste (can be supermarket own brand) toothbrush, single packet tissues, and facecloth.

Betty Gratton, from St. Peter's MU, tries to take 80 bags each time she goes to Chorley Hospital and every time she re-stocks the previous 80 have all gone. The bags are made up of items given by ourselves and other MU branches in our deanery. It is essential work that we have been involved with for many years (with your help of course).

There will be a large bag (marked Mothers' Union) placed at the back of church by our table, for any donations, for which you are thanked in advance. The Washbag Scheme is something of a necessity for anyone ending up in hospital as an emergency.

### **DEANERY QUIET DAY**

As part of the continued 150th Anniversary Year celebrating our founder Mary Sumner, on April 25th at St. George's we will be holding a Quiet Day Service 10am – 12pm. This will be followed by refreshments. As I mentioned last month about how we would like to increase our membership, this is just another one of those times when our different branches come together in fellowship and if you feel the need for 2 hours of Quietness and Reflection, please do come along and join us.

Revd Peter, (our Deanery Chaplain ) will be taking the service so you will find it very calming and relaxing.

*Gloria Dunseath*

Branch Leader

## **Ladies Thursday Circle**

Barbara Horsfield very kindly organised a Bible quiz for us to do at our first meeting in March. We all arrived Bibles in hand, and had a really good evening. Thank you Barbara for organising it for us.

Once again we had the pleasure of Elaine Heartfield giving us a demonstration on how to make an Easter flower arrangement. This was followed by her helping us all to make one for ourselves. We all went home with a lovely arrangement. Thank you Elaine, we look forward to our Christmas flowers.

### **Future meetings:**

2nd April. Maundy Thursday.

16th April The Unfriend (comedy play) Chorley Theatre.





Cath Jolly



## What is Charity?

**It is silence, when words would hurt**

**It is patience, when your neighbour is curt**

**It is deafness, when scandal flows**

**It is thoughtfulness, for another's woes**

**It is promptness, when duty calls**

**It is courage, when misfortune falls**

*Christine Ireland*



# Little Steps



From 10.30am - 11.30am  
on Wednesdays (term time)



Toddler & Baby Group at St George's Church Hall

Are you a parent, carer, childminder of a preschool child? We'd love you to come and join us at our friendly group on a Wednesday morning. We restart after the summer break on 3<sup>rd</sup> September @ 10:30am. Hope to see you there! Elizabeth Wilding

## St George's Church Institute

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Friday & Saturday 2pm - 12 midnight  
Sunday 12 noon - 11pm



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**07450269010**



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# Taylor's Memorials

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