

The Messenger

Parish Magazine of



**St George
and**



**All Saints'
Chorley**

July/Aug 2026

Parish Clergy

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

Regular Services

The Parish Church of St George Sunday 9:30am Family Eucharist Wednesday 10:00am Eucharist www.stgeorgechorley.co.uk	The Parish Church of All Saints' Sunday 11:00am Family Eucharist Sunday 4pm Closer Service Thursday 10:30am Eucharist www.wallsaintschorley.com
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Parish Contacts

Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Samantha Trafford safeguarding@stgeorgechorley.co.uk	0777 2779430
Parish Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Sara Shingler shinglebelly@yahoo.com	
Parish Treasurer	Mr Stephen Pollard treasurer@stgeorgechorley.co.uk	07568 502770
Parish Magazine Editor	Mrs Chris Gibson acvgibson@outlook.com	01257 260555
Interim Parish Health & Safety Officer	Mr Bernard Hilton lancs1950@yahoo.com	07792 631430
Parish Visiting & Lay Ministry Team	Mrs Carol Pearson carolpearson@outlook.com	07981 021288
PCC Secretary	Vacant	

Parish Youth Leader	Mr Pete Gaskell youthstgallsaintschorley@gmail.com	07515 750518
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St George's Contacts

Churchwardens	Mrs Lorraine Smith lorraine54@me.com Mrs Netta Walker n.m.a@hotmail.co.uk	07729 886640 07932 278551
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr Gordon Blackledge ARCO, FTCL.	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 Philipson 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 - 11:45am Church Hall	07425608510

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

Rainbows 6.15pm	Kathryn Winters ~Tuesday 8:00pm	07701 353429
Brownies 7.15pm	Kathryn Winters ~Tuesday 6:15 pm	07701 353429
Guides 8.00pm	Sarah Glover Tuesday 7:15pm	07974 687541

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

Beaver Scouts Scouts Cub Scouts	Monday 6:15pm Monday 7:30pm Jackie Beesley (GSL) Tuesday 6.50pm	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@yahoo.com Mrs Joyce Jolly joycejolly21@gmail.com	07806 682946 01257 278057
Verger	Mrs Christine Ireland	01257 273291
All Saints' Primary School & Nursery 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,

Summer is upon us and many of you will be heading off on your holidays, but the life of the parish goes on. At the end of this month sees the arrival of our new vicar Revd Toby Webber (Wednesday 29th July 7:30pm in St George's Church) and so this letter may well be my last for a while.

The vacancy has been just over a year and one of the wonderful aspects of that time (for me at least,) is the numbers attending church has been maintained and I thank all of you for keeping faith and for your continued worshipfulness and prayers.

It has been a wonderful privilege to have led practically all of the services along with Fr Jordan and I need to record my grateful thanks to so many of you. The Churchwardens for their unwavering duty in 'running' the church and being the port of call for any issues that have arisen. The Treasurer and Finance team for keeping our heads above water, and the Mission & Discipleship team for keeping our focus on the gospel and our *raison d'être*. Our PCC members for all their hard work. A special thank you to those who joined me for Morning Prayer every Friday in church to pray for our parish and to ask God to guide someone to be our next vicar...and he has delivered! I must thank our Organist & Choirmaster for diligently producing hymns and anthems for every sung service and of course, the members of our fantastic choir. Our ALM for leading various prayer meetings and for leading or assisting at the monthly worship in Primrose Gardens. All our volunteers in church, sides people, the flower guild, not forgetting the members of our maintenance team, our cleaner, our Hall Manager, the Tuesday morning coffee ladies.

And where would we be without our DAMS members to brighten up our lives with shows and pantos!? The list is not exhaustive, and thank you to the groups that provide fellowship and social interaction in the community outside the church...Badminton, Mothers' Union, Thursday Ladies Circle, Men's Fellowship.

If I have missed anyone out, my apologies, but it just goes to show that the mission of God does not rely on one person, but many, many other willing helpers, and to the unsung heroes, I give you my heartfelt gratitude. All in all, my friends, this all goes to show that Jesus is alive in our parish and his mission and to fulfil our motto: “Closer to Christ, further out for Christ.”

With every Blessing. Revd Peter

Dear friends

I am writing this from my old parish in Clayton-le-Moors, near Accrington, where we’ve just had a service of confirmation. I know that you have one coming up very soon at St George’s and All Saints’ as well. Confirmation is such a special occasion in the life of faith and its always a joy to witness. I still remember my own confirmation, way back when I was 12. Having been brought up as a Cradle Christian, Sunday School it was an occasion to own my faith and something I took seriously. I love the line that in the present version of the service the bishop addresses directly to each candidate just before he or she lays hands on the candidate to confirm: “Name, God has called you by name and made you his own.”



Those words are a powerful reminder of the fact that we are each personally created by God, and each in Christ personally called to be his children, his own treasured possession. As those known and loved by God, and set right with him by his own grace, we are called to trust and obey, following in the way of Jesus. That call to follow can take unexpected turns and little did I expect a year ago that I would be returning to Chorley and coming to join your two wonderful churches!

Years ago when I was in Chorley before I was a young single curate, no doubt a bit 'wet behind the ears'. I come to you hopefully with a bit more maturity, certainly with a lot more experience under my belt. And not on my own but as part of a family. In fact, the confirmation we just celebrated was very special as my eldest, Annabel, was amongst them. Annabel will turn 12 in September and start at St Michael's which she is very excited about. My wife is Rebecca, and she teaches science in a Catholic High School in Preston. We are both originally from down south – though different parts, I'm a Devonian whilst she grew up in Winchester and then Chichester (we met up a mountain in Switzerland – perhaps a story for another time!) We also have two lively boys – Gideon and Aidan. They will go into years 5 and 3 at St George's School from September.

On 29th July Bishop Joe will officially confirm my appointment here by committing to me the 'cure of souls' of the parishioners of your large and diverse parish. Not just the care of those who are regulars, but of the whole parish. A heavy responsibility – though not one to be exercised with heaviness but with joy. But certainly one which I can only begin to address with the working together of the whole church family and above all by stirring up the gift of the Holy Spirit day by day. As confirmation reminds us, the strengthening, transforming presence of the Spirit is the inheritance of all Christians. May we be united in that Spirit and empowered by it that the mission of God may go forward here in this next chapter in the life of the united parish.

In anticipation of getting to know you and serve with you.

Toby

Revd Toby Webber

Our Vision - Closer to Christ; further out for Christ

Save the Date

Saturday 12th September 2026 4.00pm

St George's Church Chorley

Assembly Bangers

Come and join us to sing your favourite hymns, maybe from your school days or growing up. To make this happen we need to know your favourites.

Please give us a list of your top 5. Then the most popular will be chosen. Children from St George's School will also be joining us.

At the end of the service there will be bangers/sausages on a roll served along with drinks in the Church Hall.

Looking forward to seeing you all then.

(Please pass completed forms back to Elizabeth Wilding, Carole Cox, Netta Walker, Lorraine Smith or any Sidesperson.)

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YOUTH UPDATE

After several busy weeks of Youth Group, assemblies, Closer services, and the general joyful chaos of youth ministry, Father Jordan and I had the privilege of taking nine of our young people on Endeavour – the Bishop's Holiday residential at Borwick Hall, near Carnforth.

It was, in the best possible way, a full-on few days.

Endeavour was a chance for young people from across the diocese to come together for worship, activities, games, small groups, prayer, friendship, and a great deal of fresh air.

One of the biggest encouragements was seeing our young people grow in confidence as the week went on. Some threw themselves into every activity. Some needed a little more encouragement. Some found their place in quieter ways. But all of them were part of something bigger than their usual weekly routine, and it was a joy to see friendships deepen, conversations open up, and faith become a little more real and lived-in.

Residentials are powerful because they give time and space for things to happen that cannot always happen in an hour on a Friday evening. Young people have the chance to ask questions, try new things, worship alongside others, and discover that Church is wider, deeper and livelier than they may have realised. Through it all, there was a real sense of God at work: in the worship, in the conversations, in the laughter, and in the small acts of kindness that often say more than any grand speech.

I am especially grateful to Father Jordan for encouraging and trusting me throughout the week, and to everyone who prayed for us while we were away. Your prayers really did matter.

As we return, we are now looking ahead to the start of Confirmation classes. This feels like a natural and exciting next step. Several of our young people are beginning to ask deeper questions about faith, and what it means to follow Jesus for themselves rather than simply being brought along by someone else.

The classes will give them space to explore those questions honestly. They will not be about forcing perfect answers or producing polished young theologians by the end of week one – which is probably just as well. Instead, they'll be about helping our young people understand the Christian faith more deeply, grow in confidence, and think carefully about what they believe and how they want to live.

Please do continue to pray for our children and young people, especially those beginning Confirmation preparation. Pray that they would feel safe to ask questions, brave enough to be honest, and open to the God who already knows and loves them.

The past few weeks have been a real reminder that youth ministry is built through small moments as much as big events: a conversation over snacks, a question in a discussion group, a young person trying something new, a quiet prayer, a shared laugh, or a week away that stays with them long after they come home.

Pete

DEFIBRILLATOR

We are pleased to announce that a new defibrillator has been fitted to the outside wall of the Church Hall. This has been paid for by a generous donation from a parishioner. Sara Shingler and Hilary Wilby (choir members) are the nominated guardians for the defibrillator and can provide information on how to access the machine in the event of someone having a cardiac arrest. Training is currently being sought.

Lancashire Association of Change Ringers Visit Our Tower

On Saturday 13th June 2026, The Lancashire Association of Change Ringers (LACR) visited our Bell Tower as part of their 150th Anniversary celebrations. It was great to welcome LAC Rand to showcase the unique Ellacombe Bells that we have at StGeorge's Church. Members learned about the history of Ellacombe and the versatility (and hard work!) in playing in these beautiful and unique bells.

It was a great opportunity to share our experiences as bellringers and work together to keep the tradition of ringing alive.



If anyone is interested in learning more about Ellacombe or indeed have a go at playing the bells please reach out.

Victoria

Dr Victoria Gibson, Tower Captain

Parish Magazine 2026 Dates

Issue	Deadline (Sunday)	Available (Sunday)
September	23rd August	6th September
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		

Ladies Thursday Circle

Thanks go to Netta who organised a speaker for our first meeting in June, a lady called Estelle Bryers came along and gave us a fabulous talk on the history of Chorley Little Theatre, and other entertainment venues in the area. The passion and knowledge she showed kept us all interested throughout her talk. Hopefully she will come again to another one of our meetings.

At our second meeting in June and the last one until September, we enjoyed a quiz prepared by Netta. We had nibbles, followed by strawberries and cream. Delicious!

Thank you Netta.

Hope everyone has a lovely summer break, see you all in September.

Cath Jolly

St George's Church Congregation Numbers

Week Commencing Monday	Children Attending	Adults Attending	Communicants
27 th April	23	120	103
4 th May	17	127	103
11 th May	24	125	125
18 th May	22	121	105
25 th May	26	120	109
Note - The attendance numbers include all the services within the week			

Holy Baptism

Holy Matrimony

None

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, Marjorie Baxendale, Audrey Clark , Kanwak

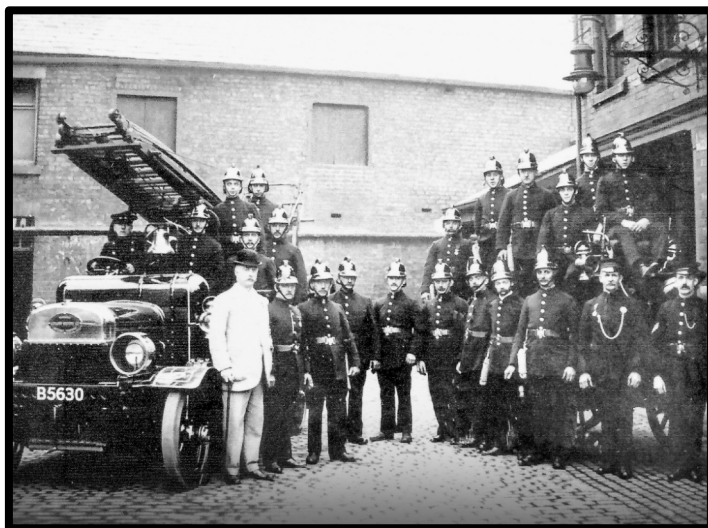
also the families of the recently departed
Annmarie Cornwell

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

The History Page Thomas Brown Story continued.....

Readers will be aware of the impact on the National/St George's School and Sunday School of teacher Thomas Brown, who was headmaster in the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

He made himself very busy of an evening too. As a self-taught science student, he began adult education classes in Chorley for any of his charges who showed an interest. Eventually he persuaded five other Lancashire towns to copy and borrow from his courses.



Possibly his most notable student was Henry Hibbert, himself a notable supporter of St George's and an eventual significant politician, educationalist and mayor of Chorley. Henry was educated at Chorley Grammar School and Hutton

but reportedly sought out Thomas Brown for additional lessons in his evenings and holidays. Both master and student are classic examples of the Victorian appetite for self-improvement.

Images of Sir Henry Hibbert as mayor and patron of the fire service are shown.

Biff Walker.



The Harrock Hill Challenge



On Saturday 20th June this year, eight hardy souls successfully completed a 15 mile round walk from St George's Church to Harrock Hill, with three purposes-to:

- Commemorate the Girls Friendly Society, one of the great old St George's societies.
- Raise some money, to be divided between the Parish and a Charity chosen by the participants, namely Chorley Hedgehog Rescue. Currently donations touch £200.
- Have a happy but challenging day out. Could older people emulate the young of yesteryear?

The sun shone brightly for us, as a cheerful team tramped steadily by Duxbury Woods, Coppull Old Parish Church, Chisnall Hall and Mossy Lea to the target of several GFS walks a century ago. The group swelled with the addition of the Bradley-Phillipson family, undertaking a shorter but still challenging walk around the summit, confronted by

many a nettle and bramble. Fine views of the Pennines, west coast and Lake District mountains appeared before we examined the ruined windmill, now shrouded in trees.

On the descent spirits were raised by the sight of Graham Heald's camper van, complete with bathroom. The rest period was enhanced by Margaret Turner describing photographs of her happy times with the GFS.

Several trampers nursing various old leg injuries bravely eschewed the opportunity to claim a lift and set their dogged tread homeward, soon passing Higher Wrennalls Farm where the GFS used to take tea. Leafy lanes, grassy footpaths, along with a boring but necessary diversion by road near Park Hall, bore us finally to the Fieldfare. men of the support team- Graham and his van, Ian Hunter with his iced water and John Hobbiss with his recovery vehicle, happily unemployed. The Alison Arms at Coppull made available their picnic tables and toilets for the lunchbreak, whilst Tunley United Reform Church offered their car park for support vehicles and their grassy haven for a rest.

So there was indeed a happy but challenging day out. It proved a good thing to do.

Netta and Bill Walker

All Saints' Church Congregation Numbers

Week Commencing Monday	Children Attending	Adults Attending	Communicants
27 th April	17	70	42
4 th May	18	76	35
11 th May	36	70	36
18 th May	21	31	24
25 th May	29	45	25

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

Holy Baptism

Holy Matrimony

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

Hilda Hirst, Jean Hodgkinson

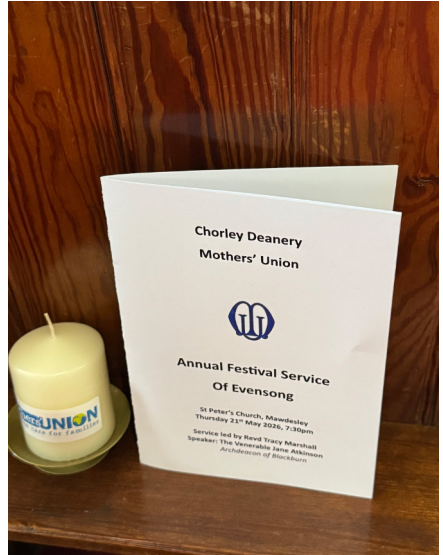
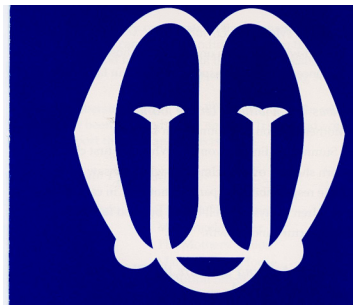
We remember all those who are currently housebound and unable to be with us in Church

2026 Flower Rota St George's

Date	On Pedestal	Lady Chapel
5 th July	Mr Walker	
12 th July	Mrs Greenwood	
19 th July	Thursday Ladies	
26 th July	Mrs Astley	
2 nd Aug	Mrs Turner	
9 th Aug		
16 th Aug	Mrs Ellison	
30 th Aug		
6 th Sep	Mrs Mason	
13 th Sep		
20 th Sep	Harvest	
27 th Sep		
4 th Oct		
11 th Oct		
18 th Oct		
25 th Oct		
1 st Nov	Miss B Smith	
8 th Nov	Mrs Hobbiss	Miss B Smith
8 th Nov	Mrs Mason	Mrs Ellison

Mothers' Union

In June's magazine it was mentioned that we held our Deanery Festival at St.Peter's Church, Mawdesley. Below are some photos taken on the night of a wonderful service, fellowship and (of course) refreshments afterwards.





At our meeting on 11th June, we were treated to the delights of Iceland (no pun intended) by Revd Peter and Lorraine Smith. A good turnout and a fascinating history and geography lesson rolled into one.

25th June was our Jacobs Join and last meeting before our summer recess. Although this seems quite a long break until we return end of August/ September we still have much to look forward to, such as

**CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF THE MOTHERS' UNION,
BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL,**

8th AUGUST 10.30 am - 4.00 pm

POSTER ON NEXT PAGE

**PLEASE DO COME ALONG AND SEE THE EFFORT PUT INTO
THIS EVENT (Open to all)**

ANNUAL BOWLING MATCH (MF v MU)

We did have a date for this but unfortunately it now clashes with other events, but as soon as we know, so will you via THE WAY. Everyone had such a great evening last year and we are hopeful that our numbers might swell this year.

In the meantime all members of the MU wish you all a very happy Summer's break.

Gloria Dunseath

Branch Leader



***Celebrating 150 Years
of The Mothers'
Union
Blackburn Cathedral
8th August 10.30am –
4.00pm***

**An exhibition to showcase the work of the
Mothers' Union in Blackburn Diocese**

Deanery and Branch Banners on display

**Our history, our outreach work, our campaigns and so
much more to see.**

Activities for children in the Crypt

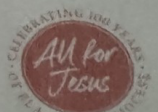
2pm-3pm Mary Sumner Day Service

***Let's come together on this really special
occasion!***

Admission Free

**THE
DIOCESE
OF
BLACKBURN**

**150 YEARS OF
Mothers' UNION
Join us, Join in**



 St George's & All Saints' Church, Chorley

YOUTH GROUP

*Hang out. Have fun.
Ask real questions.*



FRIDAYS
5:30-7:00PM



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,
131 MOOR ROAD,
CHORLEY

FOR AGES 10+



Games



Snacks



Real talk



No pressure

COME AS YOU ARE.
YOU BELONG HERE.



Find us on Facebook
All Saints Church Chorley



07515 750518



GAMES



REAL TALK



SNACKS



NO PRESSURE

ALL SAINTS CHURCH



CLOSER

Church that works for real family life

Crafts, music, prayer & worship

Sundays at 4 PM

A relaxed, welcoming service where kids can be kids and adults can breathe. Come as you are — we'll handle the rest.

Designed with families in mind — but open to everyone.



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All Saints Church Chorley



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