

# *The Messenger*

**Parish Magazine of**



**St George  
and**



**All Saints'  
Chorley**

June 2026

## Parish Clergy

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

## Regular Services

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

## Parish Contacts

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

|                     |   |              |
|---------------------|---|--------------|
| Parish Youth Leader | Mr Pete Gasketh<br>youthstgallsaintschorley@gmail.com | 07515 750518 |
|---------------------|---|--------------|

## St George's Contacts

|                            |  |                                  |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Churchwardens              | Mrs Lorraine Smith<br>lorraine54@me.com<br>Mrs Netta Walker<br>n.m.a@hotmail.co.uk                           | 07729 886640<br><br>07932 278551 |
| Organist & Choirmaster     | Mr Gordon Blacklidge ARCO FTGL   | 01257 274922                     |
| Verger                     | Simon Wilson   | 07355 499245                     |
| Flower Guild Secretary     | Mrs Freda Armstrong  | 01257 262918                     |
| Bell Tower Captain         | Dr Victoria Gibson<br>drvigibson@outlook.com   | 07921 010900                     |
| Church Hall                | Mrs Sian Phillipson Manager / Booking  | 07734 232684                     |
| St George's Primary School | Mr Andy Purcell Head Teacher   | 01257 2623230                    |
| Sunday Club                | We meet in the Church Hall<br>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<br>Friday & Saturday 2:00pm - 12:00midnight<br>Sunday 12:00noon - 11:00pm | 01257 413107                     |
| Toddler & Baby Group       | Little Steps meet Wednesday (term time)<br>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<br>Scouts<br>Club Scouts | Monday 6:15pm<br>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<br>Churchwarden.allsaints@yhoo.com<br>Mrs Joyce Jolly<br>joycejolly21@gmail.com | 07806 682946<br>01257 278057 |
| Verger                                     | Mrs Christine Ireland   | 01257 273291                 |
| All Saints' Primary<br>School & Nurse Unit | Mrs Sarah Partington Head Teacher   | 01257 262489                 |
| Flower Guild Secretary                     | Mrs Marjorie Holland<br>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 we come to the close of the Easter season, I want to take a moment to give thanks. Easter is a time of profound joy and hope, a season in which we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and are reminded anew of the promise of life and renewal. Over these past weeks, it has been a privilege to gather together in worship, to share in fellowship, and to witness the many quiet and faithful ways in which God is at work among us. Thank you for the part each of you has played in making this season so special within our parish life.

I would also like to take this opportunity to give thanks for the arrival and ministry of our new youth worker. Already, in what is still a relatively short time, we have begun to see real signs of encouragement and growth within our youth group. There is a renewed sense of energy, engagement, and welcome among our young people, and this is something we can all celebrate. It speaks not only to his dedication and gifts, but also to the openness and generosity of this parish community.

Thank you for the warm welcome you have extended to him. The life of any church is shaped so deeply by how we receive those who come to serve among us, and your kindness and support have made a tangible difference. Please do continue to encourage him, to pray for him, and to support this vital ministry, as we seek to nurture and grow the faith of the next generation.

Looking ahead, we also hold in our prayers the new incumbent who will be joining us in the coming months. This is an important moment in the life of the parish, a time of transition and new beginnings. I ask that you would pray for them as they prepare to come among us: for wisdom, for peace, and for a deep sense of God's calling. Pray too for their family and for all the practical arrangements that come with such a move.

At the same time, let us prepare our own hearts. Welcoming a new incumbent is not simply about logistics or organisation; it is a spiritual task. It invites us to be open, to be prayerful, and to be ready for the ways in which God may lead us forward together. May we be a community marked by grace, patience, and generosity as we enter this next chapter.

As we move beyond Easter and into the season ahead, we carry with us the truth of the resurrection—that Christ is with us, that hope endures, and that God continues to work in and through his people. May that hope sustain and guide us in all that we do.

With every blessing,

Fr Jordan Curate

### **“WHEELIE ANGELS”**

In the last fortnight I have had numerous ‘lifts’ from hospital, to and from a crematorium, to a sports club, to and from Kathleen’s nursing home, to Preston bus station, to and from St. Laurence’s church, from St. George’s church, and latterly several times from the nursing home to Chorley. Also I have received at least one get-well card and many get well messages and offers of help. (I’m usure if I’m dreaming this, but I fancy two people trying to put one of my arms into two sleeves!). Seriously I am amazed at the love of our St. George’s family, and not just them but people of Chorley and Preston.

What a wonderful family, at St. George’s

Thank you

Brian Allman

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

**Simon's sermon from Sunday. It was an excellent message on how to deal with disagreement in the church.**

## **Matthew 18:15–22 — “Reconciliation, Responsibility, and the Radical Call to Forgive”**

### **1. The Courage to Confront**

Matthew eighteen, verses fifteen to twentytwo, is one of the most practical — and one of the most demanding — passages Jesus ever gave to the Church. It is not a cold set of rules, nor a bureaucratic process for dealing with difficult people. It is a vision of what Christian community looks like when it is shaped by the love, the courage, and the mercy of Christ. It is a call to reconciliation, to responsibility, and to the radical, unending practice of forgiveness.

Jesus begins with a simple instruction: “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone.” — because that alone is revolutionary.

Most of us avoid conflict at all costs. We would rather sit in quiet resentment than risk an awkward conversation. We talk to everyone except the person who hurt us. We rehearse the wound until it becomes part of our identity. But Jesus refuses to let the Church become a place where conflict festers in silence. He calls us to a holy courage — not the courage to fight, but the courage to love someone enough to tell them the truth.

And notice how Jesus insists that the conversation begins privately. Privately. — let that settle.

This is not about shaming someone or gathering allies. It is about protecting the dignity of the person who has done wrong. It is about stopping gossip before it starts. It is about giving the other person the chance to hear, to reflect, and to respond without fear of humiliation. Imagine — truly imagine — how many church conflicts would evaporate if we obeyed this one instruction. Imagine how many relationships would be restored. Imagine how many wounds would heal.

The goal, Jesus says, is that “you have regained your brother or sister.” Not defeated them. Not proved yourself right. Not won an argument. — you have regained them.

The language is relational, not legal. The Church is not a courtroom. It is a community of forgiven sinners learning how to forgive one another. The aim is always restoration.

But Jesus is realistic. Sometimes the private conversation does not work. Sometimes the person refuses to listen. Sometimes the wound is too deep or the denial too strong. So, Jesus gives a second step: bring one or two others. This is not escalation; it is deepening the attempt at reconciliation. It widens the circle of care. It brings wisdom, perspective, and prayer into the situation. And if that still fails, Jesus says, “tell it to the church” — meaning the gathered community, the body of believers who hold one another in prayer and accountability. This is not about public humiliation. It is about the community taking responsibility for its own health.

Then comes the hardest line: “If the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile or a tax collector.” — because this is where many misunderstand.

Some have taken this as permission to cast people out. But how did Jesus treat Gentiles and tax collectors? He ate with them. He called them. He loved them. He invited them into the kingdom. Jesus is not saying, “Cut them off.” He is saying, “Recognise that they now stand in need of patient love, persistent mercy, and the kind of grace that keeps the door open.” Even when reconciliation is not possible, love remains.

This passage challenges us deeply. In our parishes, our PCCs, our ministries, and our friendships, conflict is inevitable. But Jesus gives us a way to walk through conflict without losing one another. The question — the real question — is whether we have the courage to follow it.

## **2. The Church That Heals**

**After giving these instructions, Jesus says something astonishing: “Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in**

heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”  
— because this is holy ground.

This is not about magical authority. It is about the Church participating in God’s work of healing. To bind is to name what is broken. To lose is to release what is forgiven. The Church is called to be a place where truth is spoken and grace is offered. A place where sin is taken seriously and forgiveness is taken even more seriously.

Unaddressed conflict binds people in bitterness. Unspoken wounds bind communities in mistrust. Unresolved tensions bind the Church in fear. But when we follow Jesus’ way — speaking truth, seeking reconciliation, offering forgiveness — we lose people from shame, guilt, and isolation.

Jesus then says that if two believers agree in prayer, God will act. This is not a blank cheque for wishfulfilment. It is a promise that when the Church seeks reconciliation together, heaven joins in. When two believers pray for healing in a broken relationship, God is present. When a small group gathers to help two people reconcile, God is present. When a community commits to peace, God is present.

And then Jesus gives the famous line: “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” — because this is often misunderstood.

We quote it at small services or poorly attended meetings, but its true context is conflict. Jesus is saying that when we gather to do the hard work of reconciliation, he is with us. Not watching from a distance. Not judging our efforts. But standing in the midst of us, healing, guiding, and strengthening us.

The Church is not a club. It is not a social organisation. It is not a place where we come to be comfortable. It is a place where we learn to love one another as Christ loves us. And that means holding one another accountable — not harshly, but lovingly; not judgmentally, but truthfully. Accountability is not about control. It is about spiritual growth. It is about helping one another become more like Christ.

### 3. The SeventySeven Times

Then Peter, ever practical, asks the question we all want to ask: “Lord, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” — because Peter thinks he is being generous.

Seven is more than most of us manage. But Jesus replies, “Not seven times, but seventyseven times.” Jesus is not giving a number. He is giving a posture. Forgiveness is not something we count. It is something we live. It is a continual practice, a discipline, a habit of the heart.

Forgiveness is not forgetting. It is not pretending the hurt didn’t happen. It is not excusing wrongdoing. It is not allowing abuse to continue. Forgiveness is choosing not to let the wound define the relationship. It is choosing to release the desire for revenge. It is choosing to see the other person as more than the worst thing they have done. This is incredibly hard. It feels unfair. It feels costly. It feels impossible. And that is precisely why Jesus commands it.

Immediately after this passage, Jesus tells the parable of the unforgiving servant — a man forgiven an unpayable debt who refuses to forgive a small debt owed to him. The message is unmistakable: we forgive because we have been forgiven. The Church is a community of forgiven people. We stand before God not because we are righteous, but because God is merciful. If we refuse to forgive others, we deny the very mercy that saves us.

Forgiveness does not cancel justice. It does not erase consequences. It does not ignore harm. But forgiveness transforms justice from retribution into restoration. It seeks healing, not punishment. It seeks renewal, not revenge. Forgiveness does not mean allowing continued harm. Jesus’ teaching on conflict includes boundaries, accountability, and communal involvement. Forgiveness is not the same as reconciliation. Reconciliation requires repentance, change, and rebuilding trust. But forgiveness opens the door to the possibility of reconciliation. It keeps the heart soft. It keeps bitterness from taking root. It keeps the community from fracturing.

In our churches, forgiveness is often the missing ingredient. We hold grudges. We nurse old wounds. We avoid people who have hurt us.

We let small conflicts become large divisions. But Jesus calls us to a forgiveness that is extravagant, abundant, and unending. Not because the other person deserves it, but because we have received it.

— and let that truth rest in your heart.

## **What We Do Now**

So, what does all of this mean for us today — in our parish, in our relationships, in our community life? What does it mean not just in theory, but in the ordinary, sometimes messy, sometimes painful reality of being the Church together?

It means, first, that we must become people who walk toward conflict, not away from it. That is not our instinct. Our instinct is to retreat, to avoid, to hope things will simply “blow over.” But Jesus does not give us that option. He calls us to take the first step — gently, honestly, prayerfully — toward the person who has hurt us. And that first step is often the hardest. It requires humility. It requires vulnerability. It requires courage. But it is the step that opens the door to healing.

It also means that if we have hurt someone — knowingly or unknowingly — we must be willing to go to them. To listen. To apologise. To seek forgiveness. That, too, is hard. It means admitting that we are not always right. It means acknowledging that our words or actions have caused pain. But reconciliation begins with honesty, and honesty begins with the willingness to say, “I am sorry.”

It means that if we know of tension in the church — if we sense that something is not right, if we hear murmurs of frustration, if we see relationships strained — we must resist the temptation to gossip. Gossip is the enemy of reconciliation. It spreads quickly, it wounds deeply, and it destroys trust. Instead, we are called to pray. To hold the situation before God. And, where appropriate, to help bring people together. Not to take sides, not to stir the pot, but to be peacemakers.

It means that if we are holding a grudge — one that has been there for years — we must ask God to loosen our grip. Grudges feel powerful. They give us a sense of control. But they poison the heart. They drain our joy. They keep us from seeing the other person as God sees them. Forgiveness is not pretending the hurt did not happen. It is choosing not to let the hurt have the final word.

It means that if we have been avoiding someone — slipping out a different door, sitting on the other side of the church, pretending not to see them at coffee — we must ask Christ for the courage to take the first step. A conversation. A greeting. A willingness to be present. Reconciliation rarely happens in grand gestures. It begins in small, faithful acts of openness.

It means recognising that reconciliation is not always immediate. Sometimes it takes time. Sometimes it takes many conversations. Sometimes it requires the help of others. Sometimes it requires boundaries. And sometimes, despite our best efforts, reconciliation may not be possible — at least not yet. But even then, we are called to keep the door open. To keep praying. To keep loving. To keep hoping.

It means remembering that Jesus stands in the midst of those who try. When we take even the smallest step toward peace, Christ is already there. When we risk a difficult conversation, Christ is already there. When we choose forgiveness over bitterness, Christ is already there. When we seek healing rather than victory, Christ is already there.

And it means imagining what our church could be if we lived this out. Imagine a community where people speak truth in love. Imagine a community where forgiveness flows freely. Imagine a community where wounds are healed, where relationships are restored, where Christ's presence is unmistakable. Imagine a community where conflict does not divide us, but becomes the place where grace is revealed.

— and truly imagine it.

This is not beyond us. It is not unrealistic. It is not naïve. It is the life Jesus calls us to. It is the life the Spirit empowers us to live. It is the life that bears witness to the kingdom of God.

So let us choose that life. Let us choose courage. Let us choose honesty. Let us choose forgiveness. Let us choose reconciliation. And let us trust that Christ — who is with us when two or three gather in his name — will guide us, strengthen us, and make us instruments of his peace.

## Prayer

Let us pray.

Gracious and reconciling God, you call us into a community shaped by your love, where truth is spoken in gentleness and forgiveness flows without measure. Give us courage to face conflict with honesty, wisdom to seek reconciliation with humility, and grace to forgive as we have been forgiven. Heal the wounds we carry, soften the hearts that have grown hard, and restore the relationships that have been strained. Make our church a place where Christ is present in every conversation, every act of mercy, and every step toward peace.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*Simon*

## Youth Update

Writing my first article for the parish magazine feels like a good moment to pause, look back, and say: wow, quite a lot has happened already. Since starting as Youth Leader, I have been learning names, finding my way around two churches, getting to know the schools, meeting volunteers, leading assemblies, helping with services, buying more table tennis balls than I ever expected to need, and discovering that “organised chaos” is not just a phrase but a fairly accurate description of youth ministry.

It has been a real privilege to begin this work across St George’s and All Saints’. I have been very grateful for the welcome, encouragement and patience I have received as I settle into the role. There is a lot to learn, and I am still very much learning it, but it has already been encouraging to see relationships beginning to grow with children, young people, families, schools and volunteers.

Youth Group has been one of the biggest joys so far. We have had games, crafts, snacks, silly challenges, Bible talks, discussion groups, air hockey, table football, table tennis, and, most importantly, plenty of kids – around 15 each week! Some come full of questions. Some are still working out what church and faith mean to them. Some are mostly there for the food and games – and honestly, that is not a bad

place to start. Many good conversations begin over snacks. I have also loved being involved with Closer, our family service at All Saints'. It has been encouraging to see families, children and adults worshipping together in a way that is relaxed, welcoming and rooted in faith. Closer has given us space to be creative, whether through songs, activities, conversation, prayer, food, or simply making room for families to come as they are. There is something very hopeful about seeing church life become a little more accessible and a little more lively.

This work would not be possible without the prayer, encouragement and generosity of many people. I am especially grateful to the Benefact Trust, and to everyone across the parish who has supported the work so far, whether by volunteering, donating resources, praying, offering ideas, or simply asking how things are going. I am also particularly grateful to Father Jordan for his guidance, encouragement and trust as I have found my feet in the role. Having someone alongside me who knows the parish, knows the people, and is willing to help shape the work has made an enormous difference.

Next week brings another exciting step, as Father Jordan and I take nine of our young people on the Bishop's Holiday residential. We are looking forward to a week of fun, friendship, faith, and probably a fair amount of controlled mayhem. Please do pray for the young people, for safe travel, for good conversations, and for those of us leading – particularly for wisdom, energy and enough patience to survive whatever happens after lights out!

*Pete*

## **Men's Fellowship Annual Big Quiz**

This proved a happy if slightly smaller event than the norm. Seven teams battled cheerfully over 120 traditional quiz questions, the outcome decided only by a brilliant last round, supported by an astutely played joker. Congratulations to the winners- Barbara Horsfield, Margaret Beaumont, John Hobbiss and Arthur Campbell of the "Jamblers". Many thanks to all participants who raised a total of £200 for the two children's charities- Footprint and Little Tickers.

Quiz masters David Horsfield and Bill Walker were splendidly aided by the dedicated barman Alan Farrington, wine merchant, grocer and raffle runner Peter Wilding and welcomer Ken Barrett.

*Bill Walker*



| <b>Parish Magazine 2026 Dates</b>  |                          |                           |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Issue</b>   | <b>Deadline (Sunday)</b> | <b>Available (Sunday)</b> |
| July/August  | 21st June                | 5th July                  |
| September  | August                   | 6th September             |
| October  | 20th September           | 4th October               |
| November   | 18th October             | 1st November              |
| December/January   | 22nd November            | 6th December              |
| <b>Contributions for inclusion in the Messenger can be given to<br/>Chris Gibson or be emailed to <a href="mailto:acvgibson@outlook.com">acvgibson@outlook.com</a></b> |                          |                           |

# Garden Party

*in loving memory of Vicki  
and in aid of The MS Trust*

*on Saturday, 11th July 2026*

*35, Chester Avenue,  
Duxbury, Chorley PR7 4AG*

*2.00 pm - 5.00 pm*

To be opened by

*The Speaker*

*the Rt. Hon Sir Lindsey Hoyle MP*

Stalls, Tombola etc.

Admission £6.50

Children Free

# St George's Church Congregation Numbers

| Week Beginning         | Children Attending | Adults Attending | Communicant |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup> April  | 45                 | 137              | 137         |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> April | 63                 | 197              | 109         |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> April | 31                 | 160              | 120         |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> April | 23                 | 153              | 110         |
|                        |                    |                  |             |

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

## Holy Baptism

Karl Blamire  
Keith Blamire  
Kolton Blamire

## Holy Matrimony

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  
Laurence (Len) Docherty

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

The theme is  
Jesus The Good Shepherd and the  
key scripture is John 10 v 14-16



## NATIONAL MONTH OF PRAYER for Toddler groups June 2026

Pray for your local toddler group,  
its leaders and all the families it  
comes into contact with.



For more information, ideas and resources visit the Facebook Group - 1277  
[www.1277.org.uk/resources](http://www.1277.org.uk/resources)

1277 Make Them Count' is a national movement for church-based toddler groups. On average a UK child has just 1,277 days between birth and starting nursery education, and the aim of the movement is to make these days

count for the children, for their families and for the toddler groups that they attend. The precious moments of development from birth onwards can be challenging for parents/caregivers, full of questions or even loneliness. Through working with the children we can offer support, hope and connection. For the child they get to learn the value of social spaces and trusted adults, and to hear the word of God and to grow.

The National Month of Prayer (NMOP) is an ecumenical initiative of 1277 Make Them Count and happens throughout June each year. It encourages churches, individuals and toddler communities to pray three ways — in groups, for groups and across groups in the UK. The theme for 2026 is based on the words of Jesus found in John 10:10-16.

We are blessed in Chorley to have a church run toddler group on most week days. Please pray for their leaders, helpers, children and parents/carers, especially for our own Little Steps group that continues to thrive. We meet on Wednesday mornings in term time at 10:30 till 11:45am. If you are a parent/grandparent/carer of a little one aged from birth to 4 years why not pop in and meet our lovely ,friendly group? We'd love to meet you!

*Elizabeth Wilding Toddler Group Leader.*

## The Harrock Hill Challenge



Readers who saw the DAMS' October production may remember the sketch based around the Girls Friendly Society's several tramps from St George's School gates to Harrock Hill summit, around one hundred years ago. The writer referenced the splendid prizewinning log books of Beth Heald, lovingly preserved by Lucy and then Jim McPartlin. The beautifully crafted books enhanced the story of one of the Church's most effective auxiliary societies, already evident from the old Parish Magazines.

On Saturday 20th June this year, we plan a 15 mile round walk from St George's Church to Harrock Hill, with three purposes-to:

- Commemorate the Girls Friendly Society
- Raise some money (to be divided between the Parish and a Charity chosen by the participants)

- Have a happy but challenging day out

This would be suitable for small family or friendship groups. We propose £10 ( or more!) donation per group, rather than sponsorship.

We shall provide you with a route, directions, a map and recommended places to eat and drink. There will also be a Risk Assessment in place. You would need a stout heart and feet capable of a moderately easy route along paths and lanes, plus sensible and appropriate equipment, at least one mobile phone per group and a willingness to take responsibility for your personal safety.

We have already planned, walked and checked the route but we do still need the following:

- First aider(s) to be at a contactable point
- Team(s) with car in attendance prepared to retrieve anyone struggling
- A member of the clergy to set us on our way with a blessing
- Interested groups to contact us, no later than 6th June
- Determine an evening meeting place for award of certificates, yarning and feasting

*Netta and Bill Walker (07951079359)*

### **The History Page Thomas Brown Story (continued..)**

Whilst making a success of the National/St George's Day School between 1850 and 1878, Thomas Brown was also in charge of the Sunday School. His impact, admittedly in an area of Chorley where there was a fast-growing potential constituency, meant that the Sunday School flourished too. As early as 1864 there were 688 boys, 704 girls and 60 "teachers", many of these being older students progressing into service.

The youths amongst the teachers became very important for the future of St George's. Mr Brown involved them in the first Young Men's



# All Saints' Church Congregation Numbers

| Week Beginning         | Children Attending | Adults Attending | Communicant |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup> April  | 29                 | 75               | 50          |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> April | 2                  | 36               | 33          |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> April | 31                 | 70               | 27          |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> April | 31                 | 49               | 15          |
|                        |                    |                  |             |

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*

***Eric Scambler, William Robinson***

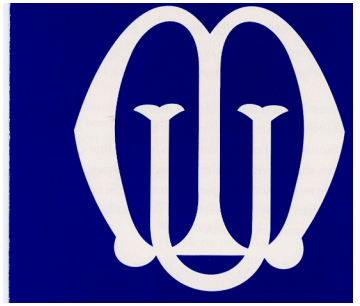
*We remember all those who are currently housebound and unable to be with us in Church*

## 2026 Flower Rota St George's

| <b>Date</b>           | <b>On Pedestal</b> | <b>Lady Chapel</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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  |                    |                    |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Sep   | Mrs Mason          |                    |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> Sep  |                    |                    |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> Sep  | Harvest            |                    |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> Sep  |                    |                    |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct   |                    |                    |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct  |                    |                    |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct  |                    |                    |

## Mothers' Union

What a great day we had on 9th May for our Craft/Coffee and Cake Day. The photos below are a glimpse of what was on offer during the time we were open.







Through the support of stallholders, the general public and of course the congregations of both St. George's and All Saint's we made over £500.00 which more than meets the challenge for both our Mothers' Unions of raising £150.00 Celebrating 150 Years of the Mothers' Union in Blackburn Diocese.

Thanks also to everyone who helped out on the day in the kitchen, I think you kept us all going.

## **CHORLEY DEANERY FESTIVAL**

Our Annual Festival was held at St. Peter's Church, Mawdesley on Thursday 21st May.

A beautiful little church which soon started filling up. It was a lovely



service enjoyed by all. We await in anticipation to see where it will be held next year !!

*Gloria Dunseath*

*Branch Leader*

### **Ladies Thursday Circle**

Due to local elections and the church hall used for voting, we enjoyed round two of Bills treasure hunt, on and around Astley park, starting and ending at the Fieldfare pub where we enjoyed a drink while Bill marked our quiz sheets. There were a few showers during the walk, but that didn't dampen our spirits, and a pleasant evening was had by us all. Thank you Bill, see you for round three.

At our next meeting in May we welcomed a lady called Karen Clayton, she came along to our meeting and gave us a very interesting talk on her varied career within the civil service. She grew up in a council house in Leyland, started work, and with her ability and confidence she worked her way up through the civil service, holding some very impressive and important positions, and meeting some very influential people, while keeping her feet firmly in Leyland. It was a lovely evening and very enlightening.

**Future meetings.** Estelle Bryers. A History of the Theatre.

Everybody is welcome.

*Cath Jolly*



**Ukraine Shoebox  
Distribution  
Christmas  
2025-26**

**International  
Aid Trust**

Christian Compassion For A Hurting World

Charity Registration No 1086597

Thank you very much for all your support of our Shoebox Appeal!

Pictured right are some of our staff and volunteers who loaded thousands of your gifts onto an articulated lorry at our Tarleton Warehouse in December, ready to make the journey to Ukraine, with a special visitor who popped in!



Below is the same lorry being unloaded five days later at our distribution centre at Motoyvlivka, near Kyiv



The photos above right and below were taken after the first of several Christmas services, at the church at our base at Motoyvlivka. Hundreds of children who have been displaced from home because of the ongoing conflict received your

shoebox gifts and heard about God's greatest gift of His Son, Jesus, through the nativity play. Pastor Andrei sends his thanks, saying; "Every child received a gift from you, this is a ray of light in their lives, in these times when rockets explode above their head, your help remains unchanged





Here is our Ukraine Director, Pastor Pasha (second left), with Colonel Yarislav and dedicated volunteer Ivanka (right), who collected shoeboxes from our distribution centre at Motovylyvka and then drove over to the east of the country, to Kramatorsk, visiting lots of areas near the

frontlines. They gave out these gifts to soldiers and to lots of people in need, including children in hospital who have been injured in the war.

The youth team from Soborna church in Kyiv travelled down to the Kherson region in the south in early January, despite the sub zero temperatures, to share the good news of the gospel through the nativity play and gave out hundreds of your shoebox gifts. As you can see on the photo, left some of these were



our flatpack boxes, kindly printed and donated by DS Smith Packaging. The boxes below are packed in Ukraine, funded by your kind donations to our 'Virtual Shoebox' scheme.



Youth team leader Sofia writes, "Despite the freezing temperatures, darkness, and uncertainty, God continues to bless and sustain those who seek Him. We truly feel His



presence every day giving strength, peace, and courage to keep going. This winter is harsh, but His grace is stronger.

The same team travelled to the Chernihiv region in the north of Ukraine (left and below), where they distributed 1,200 shoebox gifts and shared hope in Jesus, bringing joy and smiles to people in the frontline

communities.

The photo left shows some of the boxes from our friends at Shoebbox Express.

In the midst of the cold God gives us the privilege to serve. He opens doors for us to be close to children, to support them, to protect their hearts, and to bring moments



of joy, warmth, and hope even when circumstances seem unbearable. This is a great blessing for us. We believe that no darkness can overcome His light. Even now, God is working through His people, through prayer, compassion, and faithful service.

Thank you for standing with us, for praying, and for caring. May the Lord bless you abundantly.”





The same team travelled to the Chernihiv region in the north of Ukraine (left and below), where they distributed 1,200 shoebox gifts and shared hope in Jesus, bringing joy and smiles to people in the frontline communities.

The photo shows some of the boxes from our friends at Shoebox Express.

At Novhorod-Siverskyi, there was shelling directly aimed at the civilian bomb shelter where they were due hold the event, but despite everything the youth team went ahead with serving the local community.



Thank you again for your support, all these journeys are made possible by your kind donations for shoebox transport!

*Elizabeth Wilding*



# 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

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Sunday 12 noon - 11pm

📍 St George's & All Saints' Church, Chorley

# YOUTH GROUP

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Ask real questions.*



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**5:30-7:00PM**



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**CHORLEY**

**FOR AGES 10+**



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