

The Messenger
Parish Magazine of



**St George
and**



**All Saints'
Chorley**

April 2025

Parish Clergy

	Vicar The Revd. Michael Print BA (Hons), BTh (Oxon) Tel: 01257 263064 Email: vicar@stgeorgechorley.co.uk	
	Assistant Curate The Revd. Jordan Bentliff MA (Hons) Tel: 01257 43800 / 07450 269010 Email: cjbentliff@hotmail.co.uk	
	Retired Clergy with Permission to Officiate The Revd. Peter Smith BA (Hons), PTO Tel: 07412 624931 Email: ordinand07@gmail.com	

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 4:00pm Closer Service Thursday 10:30am Eucharist www.allsaintschorley.com
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Parish Contacts

Parish Safeguarding Officer	Dr Victoria Gibson safeguarding@stgeorgechorley.co.uk	07921 010900
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 Christine Gibson acvgibson@sky.com	01257 260555
Parish Health & Safety Officer	Mr John Bradley jm30.bradley@gmail.com	07375 047982
Parish Visiting & Lay Ministry Team	Mrs Carol Pearson (Authorised Lay Minister) carolpearson@outlook.com	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 Blackledge ARCO FTCL	01257 274922
Verger	Vacancy	
Flower Guild Secretary	Mrs Freda Armstrong	01257 262918
Bell Tower Captain	Dr Victoria Gibson drvigibson@outlook.com	07921 010900
Church Hall	Mrs Sian Phillipson Manager/Booking churchhall@stgeorgechorley.co.uk	07734 232584
St George's Primary School	Mr Andy Purcell, Head Teacher	01257 262323
Sunday Club	We meet in the Church Hall 9:25am on a normal Sunday	
Men's Fellowship	2nd Wednesday 7:30pm, Church Hall	01257 426335
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 -12:00 midnight Sunday 12:00 noon -11:00pm	01257 413107
Toddler & Baby Group	Little Steps meet Wednesday (term time) Church Hall (contact Mrs Natalie Print)	01257 263064

St George's Uniformed Organisations Meet at Church Hall (Term Time)		
Rainbows	Kathryn Winters Tuesday 5.00pm	07701 353425
Brownies	Kathryn Winters Tuesday 6.15pm	07701 353425
Guides	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 Kaitlin Hunter	
Brownies	Wednesday 6:45pm Lynsey Torrens	
Guides	Thursday 6:45pm Jackie Beesley	01257 270770

All Saints' Contacts

Churchwardens	Mrs Shirley Starkey churchwarden.allsaints@yahoo.com Mrs Joyce Jolly joycejolly21@gmail.com	07806 682946 01257 278057
Verger	Mrs Christine Ireland	01257 273281 07596 443163
All Saints' Primary School and Nursery Unit	Mrs Sarah Partington, Head Teacher	01257 262489
Flower Guild Secretary	Mrs Marjorie Holland d_holland1@sky.com	01257 271830
Mothers' Union	Mrs Marjorie Holland d_holland1@sky.com Meet every 1 st & 3 rd Wednesday at 2:00pm (locations vary)	01257 271830
Ladies Friendship Group	Mrs Rachael Anders-Kay rachaelanderskay@gmail.com See notice sheet for meetings	07851 210120
Men's Social Group	Mr Michael Anders-Kay michaelanderskay@gmail.com See notice sheet for meetings	07923 255325

Please notify the Parish Magazine Editor of any changes/updates
Mrs Christine Gibson acvgibson@sky.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 brothers and sisters,

As this magazine is published we're just over half way through Lent and we're approaching Holy Week and Easter. I hope that you have found the Lent Devotionals helpful, and have been finding time to pray each day. If not, why not start now, just 5 minutes each day can set you on a healthy habit for the rest of your life. Prayer is a strong theme as we enter Holy Week and we walk with Jesus through the last week of His life. We pray with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane (on Maundy Thursday) in our 7.30pm service at All Saints 'church. Next we pray with the disciples as they weep over Jesus 'death, asking that the whole world might come to know and love our crucified Lord in our 1pm Good Friday service at St George's. We gather again in All Saints 'to remember the Easter story at 6pm on Holy Saturday, and then after a small bonfire we listen again to a summary of the whole Bible and pray that God would rise in our hearts as we head into the celebration of the Resurrection. Please do join us for one or more of these services and pray with, and for, the whole parish.

However, as we come out the other side so often people who have found the Devotionals helpful struggle as to what to do next. I have found it helpful to pick a short letter or book of the Bible and continue the daily habit of Bible reading and prayer, perhaps with the help of some bible notes available from the Christian bookshop in town. In addition it is so important to be praying for our own parish, so here are a few things you might prioritise.

Praying for Growth: this year the whole of our Diocese is praying for growth and renewal. Funnily enough, though how often do we need to be reminded, the evidence

Leading Your Church Into Growth Prayer

God of Mission, who alone brings
growth to your Church.

Send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our
planning, wisdom to our actions, joy to our
worship, and power to our witness.

Help our church to grow in numbers, in
spiritual commitment to you,
and in service to our local community,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

proves overwhelmingly that when churches pray for growth... they grow! Please do join us in praying this prayer each day. You may find it helpful to pray with other people. Our ALM Carol Pearson is leading a monthly prayer meeting on the third Wednesday of each month, at 7.30pm. Why not speak to Carol to find out more? It is always encouraging to get together and pray.

Praying for the sick: Each week, on the notice sheet, we provide the names of those who are struggling, if you know someone who would like to be included on the prayer list do let me know. We pray for them in the service, but do take the notice sheet home with you and pray for them in your daily prayers. One of the things Fr Jordan and I do is visit those who are sick and we offer the ministry of anointing, where we take oil blessed by the bishop in Holy Week and apply it to their foreheads and hands. Is there someone you know for whom this might bring hope and healing, if so do let us know.

My prayers are for you all this Easter, that God would be with you, show Himself to you in a special way, and as you pray daily, that His love would grow in your hearts.

May God bless you this Easter,

Fr Mike

M.G. Pint

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



Parish of Chorley St. George and All Saints
New Church Electoral Roll
Spring 2025

Background

In accordance with Church Representation Rules, every six years each Parish of the Church of England has to compile a new electoral roll and as the existing roll was compiled in 2019, we have to create a brand new electoral roll in 2025.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who does this apply to?

A: Everyone! Everyone will be removed from the current roll and must re-apply.

Q: But my name is already on the electoral roll for public elections.

A: The church electoral roll is totally separate to the electoral roll known as the Electoral register for UK elections and is used to enable you to vote at our Annual Church Meeting and to hold certain positions such as sidesperson, or to be part of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), which is responsible for local church affairs.

Q: So who can apply to go on the new roll?

A: Under the Church Representation Rules you are entitled to have your name entered on the roll, if you:

(i) are baptised and aged 16 or over; and

- (ii) have signed a form of application for enrolment; and either
- iii) are members of the Church of England or of any Church in communion with the Church of England being resident in the parish or (not being resident in the parish) having habitually attended public worship in the parish during the six months prior to the application for enrolment; Or
- (iv) are members in good standing of a Church (not in communion with the Church of England) which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity declaring themselves to be also members of the Church of England and having habitually attended public worship in the parish church of England being resident in the parish during the period of six months prior to enrolment.

Important dates

A formal legal notice will be displayed in both churches on the *1st March* and forms will be available from this date.

The New Electoral Roll forms will be accepted from the *2nd March to the 19th April* and the Visiting team will liaise with the 'housebound' between these dates.

The New Roll will be displayed on internal notice boards of each church on the *3rd May*. The New Roll will be confirmed at the APCM on the *20th May*.

Sara Shingler Electoral Roll Officer

Lent Lunch

Many thanks to all who stayed for soup and contributed so generously to Action for Children. A grand total of £360 was raised! Thanks also to our soup makers for the delicious assortment of home made soups that were on offer and to all who helped serving, washing up etc.

Thanks again Mission and Discipleship Team

St George's Church Congregation Numbers

Week Beginning	Children Attending	Adults Attending	Communicants
2nd Feb	27	143	127
9th Feb	132	296	152
16th Feb	28	124	118
23rd Feb	17	123	109

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

St George's Church - Holy Baptism
January
Liam George Quinn Callum, Anthony Quinn

Holy Matrimony None

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

**Alan Fairclough, Marian Crossthwaite, Harold Dunseath,
Linda Eubank, Richard Wilks & Margaret Salisbank**

And for the families of those who have died recently

Steve Cox, Elaine Bruce, Margaret Williams, Irene Haworth

& Diana Downing

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



Spotlight on Safeguarding

Spotlight on Safeguarding – Covid and Long Covid

This month I wish to focus on where you can get support and help with Covid and Long Covid.

Although the pandemic is over, this is close to my heart as I am recently recovering from my fourth Covid infection and was diagnosed with Long Covid in December 2021.

I contracted Covid originally in March 2020 a week before the first lockdown. I caught the infection at work (in safeguarding) as did another colleague. I was very poorly and off work for some time as it affected my lungs especially with severe breathlessness, chest pain and chronic fatigue. I caught Covid a second time in October 2020 and this established several symptoms around my breathing which did not improve, and I was diagnosed with Long Covid and PTSD due to the drowning feeling I felt with my compromised breathing. I am forever grateful to the paramedics who attended me and later Professor Bakerly at Salford Hospital and his team for their care and help.

In 2020, my friend and colleague, Randip Bhogal, County Operational Manager, Adult Safeguarding died from Covid aged just 53. Randip was a committed Christian and touched the lives of so many at work as well as championing the protection of adults with care and support needs. Randip often shared his journey to Jesus and how he found salvation and was a shining light especially in the difficult and complex world of safeguarding.

Long Covid is a term used to describe ongoing symptoms of Covid, or new symptoms that develop after a Covid infection. People with Long Covid can experience a wide range of symptoms affecting different parts of the body. Research exploring the causes of the condition and potential treatment options is ongoing. It is estimated that 1.9 million people in the UK are experiencing Long Covid symptoms especially breathlessness.

Last month on March 9th there was the national Covid-19 day of reflection to remember those who lost their lives and to stand together with those who are grieving.

2025 marks five years since the pandemic began and we continue to honour and remember those affected. I have given a couple of interviews to the BBC on Covid and Long Covid and have shared my experiences in a series of patient videos for the NHS. I continue to support patients experiencing Long Covid symptoms and share my journey with them. I caught Covid a third time in October 2024 and again recently in March 2025 largely due to a weakened and compromised immune system. I use oxygen and an inhaler to manage symptoms alongside several breathing strategies and mental health support including EMDR.

Help and support:

NHS guidance on current Covid symptoms and advice

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/covid-19-symptoms-and-what-to-do/>

NHS support for Long Covid

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/long-term-effects-of-covid-19-long-covid/>

Long Covid Support Charities

<https://www.longcovid.org>

<https://www.longcovidsos.org>

Prayer for the Covid Day of Reflection

Dear God,
be with us as we think about all that has changed,
and help us to trust that you are always with us.
Be close to us as we remember those who have died,
and help us to trust they are at peace with you.
Show us how to reach out to others with kindness and
care,
so that hope shines out in every heart and home,
Amen.

Victoria

Dr Victoria Gibson

Parish Safeguarding Officer

0792 1010 900

safeguarding@stgeorgechorley.co.uk

St George's Bi-Centenary Year 2025

Notes for your Diary

Bi-Centenary Parish Dinner, 13th June Cunliffe Hall
(Masonic hall)

October Dams Bi-Centenary Musical Production
John Bradley

MOTHERS' UNION

Our meeting on 13th March was definitely different when Nicola brought along a borrowed projector, her laptop and 'Small Gordy'. The story of his coming into being was fascinating and very funny to say the least, and he behaved himself very well (I think Nicola had a sigh of relief at the end of the evening).

The slide show of the places and people he had got to see on his travels was amazing, even learning that he had a cousin, 'Flashington'. And on that note as they say

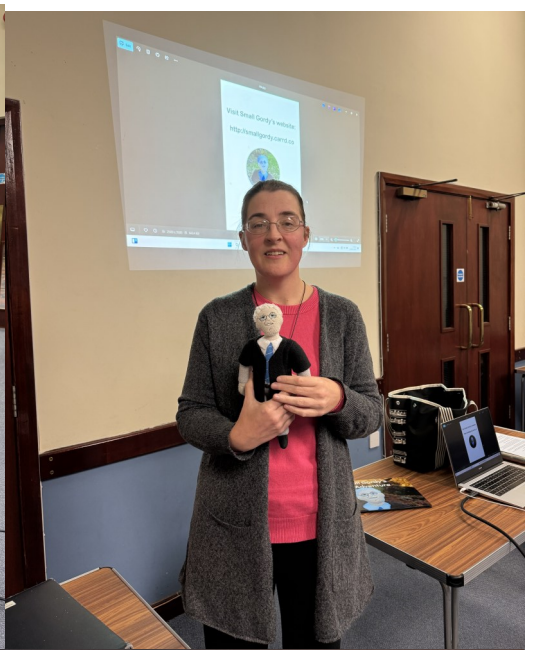
The photos show 'Small Gordy' being introduced to us by Nicola, then Nicola showing one of the organ pipes she has. The sound it makes is beautiful it has to be said.

Small Gordy proudly standing beside an array of pipes that Nicola has at home.

When it came to having their photo taken with the little chap everyone wanted to be first, but who would that be.....well none other than Mrs G B (Catherine Blackledge)

And last but not least all who could come to the meeting.

At the end of the meeting Nicola presented the MU with a signed copy of the latest chapter of 'Small Gordy's' life his Big Adventure. We feel honoured to have been given this book (which Nicola has signed, and we'll have to have a think what to do with it, but any suggestions for raising a little money would be considered. Just let one of us know.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

10th Apr Prayer Service/Planning for VE Party

24th Apr Talk by Revd Norman Pearson

8th May VE Party

15th May MU Deanery Festival (at St. Laurence's)

29th May Ascension Day

12th Jun Ann Preston – Talking about 'Street Children of Nepal'
(Ann will just have returned once again from Nepal a couple
of of days before Coming to speak to us)

26th Jun Jacobs Join

Everyone is welcome to come along and join us when we have a speaker, and we meet in the Church hall 7.30 pm 2nd and last Thursdays of the month.



Gloria Dunseath



St.George's Day Bi-centennial Celebration

Come and join us on Sunday 27th April at 10 o'clock for a special service of celebration as we remember our patron saint, George , in our church's 200th Year. Bishop Joe Kennedy will be preaching and there will be contributions throughout the service from St George's school children.

Stay after the service for fun, food (Bring and Share) and fizz. To mark the occasion why not wear something red and/or white ? You could even add blue as that is reputed to be St George's favourite colour! If you're very inventive you could even include these colours in the food you bring to share! Swat up on your knowledge of St George as there will be a quiz as well as crafts(for adults as well as children) and a bouncy castle!

St George's Mens Fellowship

Big Quiz Night

Friday 16th May

| At St George's Church Hall

£6 (£3 school students)

Includes first drink free and all nibbles

Starts at 7.30 (Doors Open 7pm)

Teams of 3-5 but will always accommodate individual players

Tickets available from David Horsfield (01257 263245), Peter Wilding(07703483892) or Bill Walker (07951079359) by telephone order or in church hall on Sundays.

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OPENING TIMES:- Monday - Thursday 2pm - 11pm,
Friday & Saturday 2pm - 12 midnight
Sunday 12 noon - 11pm



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

Our APM and APCM will be held on 20th May 2025 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. Due to 2025 being the year that a new 'Roll' is required to be prepared, the APCM will receive the newly prepared 'Roll'. The APCM also elects new members to the PCC, and also to Deanery Synod every three years. As elections for Deanery Synod were held in 2023, the next elections will be held in 2026. 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.



**THE PARISH OF
ST GEORGE'S AND ALL SAINTS'**



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH MOOR ROAD

**contact: cjbentliff@hotmail.co.uk
07450269010**

The History Page April 2025 Two Hundred Years Ago

At the end of April 1825, St George's architect, Thomas Rickman, heard that he had been granted an audience with the new Bishop of Chester, Charles James Blomfield. This was most gratifying and necessary for Rickman. He had been in good standing with the previous bishop and was now able to inform Bishop Blomfield that

he had successfully executed the commissions to build new churches in Preston and Chorley. He must also have secured the bishop's approval for him to forge ahead with new commissions for Rickman's friend J.W.Whittaker, vicar of Blackburn. This led to churches in



St Mary Mellor

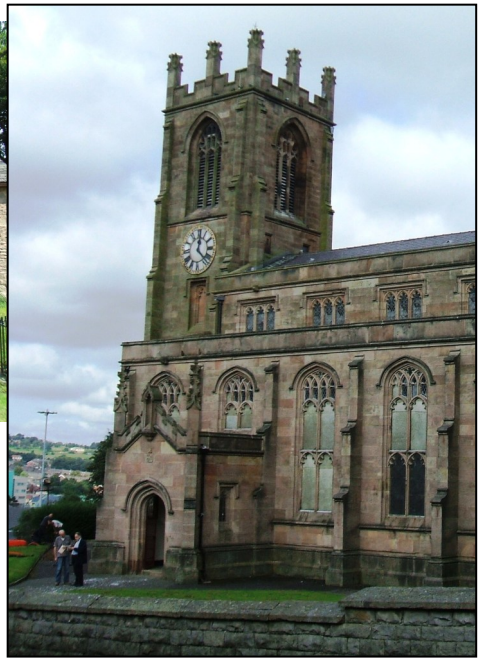
Darwen, Lower Darwen and Mellor by the end of the decade, then Tockholes by 1833. In addition St John's Whittle, in Leyland Parish, was completed very cheaply and quickly by the same Thomas Rickman.



The Old and the New St James, Lower Darwen

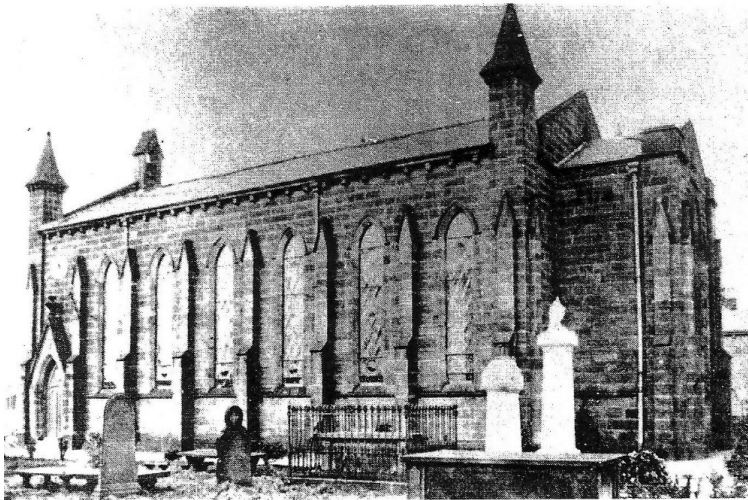


Schoolroom at St Stephen's Tockholes



Holy Trinity (now St Peter's) Darwen

Thus St George's architect would be most content in the Spring of 1825. The only concern for Chorley was that he had failed to extract any promised date for the consecration of St George's. Perhaps he did not ask.



Bill Walker

St John's Whittle
(pre 1870s)



Revd. Peter Smith addressing
All Saints' Mothers Union at the
11.Oclocck Service on the
anniversary of 95 years.

Below is the group of
members.



Parish Magazine 2025 Dates

Issue	Deadline (Sunday)	Available (Sunday)
May	20th April	4th May
June	18th May	1st June
July/August	22nd June	6th July
September	24th August	7th September
October	21st September	5th October
November	19th October	2nd November
December/January	23rd November	7th December
Contributions for inclusion in The Messenger can be given to Chris Gibson or can be emailed to acvgibson@sky.com		

ST GEORGES AND ALL SAINTS CELEBRATION EVENING

To Celebrate the Bi-Centenary Anniversary
of St Georges Church

13th June 7.00pm

Cunliffe Hall Street, Chorley PR7 2BE

Please join us for a hot buffet,
live band and dancing. Black tie optional

£30pp

For tickets please contact John Bradley 07375 047982, jm30bradley@gmail.com



All Saints' Church Congregation Numbers

Week Beginning	Children Attending	Adults Attending	Communicants
02nd Feb	16	65	38
09th Feb	26	75	48
16th Feb	28	73	37
23rd Feb	22	59	34

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

All Saints' Church - Holy Baptism
February none

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

Paul Caterall, Linda Eubank, Ken Starkey, Christine Gothard, Michael Baxendale, Pam McLachlan, Linda Carrara, & residents of Gillibrand Hall and Coniston House.

And for the families of those who have died recently
Alan Holcroft, Irene Rathbone, Thomas Warren, William Hough
Rosemary Roberts, Carol Webb, Margaret Ferguson, Steve Fisher
and John Riley

2025 Flower Rota

St George's

Date	One Pedestal	Lady Chapel
6th April	Lent	
13th April	Lent	
20th April	Easter Mothers Union	
27th April	Mrs Hobbiss	
4th May	Mrs Parkinson	
11th May	Mr Walker	
18th May	Mrs Lawrenson	Mrs Parkinson
25th May	Mrs Mason	Mr Birkett
1st June		

Thursday Ladies Circle

We had a trip to St Paul's Adlington to watch Sister Act, for our first meeting in March. It was a really good performance, and enjoyed by us all.

At our next meeting a lady from St Catherines Hospice came along to gave us an uplifting story of triumph over adversity. She was extremely passionate about the work that was done by staff and volunteers at the hospice to provide care for the sick or terminally ill,. She showed us photos and told us stories of people who had been in the hospice, they were very heartwarming and made us realise what a fantastic job they all do, and how much we need to support them when fundraising.

Future meetings. 3rd April Easter cards
 17th April. Maundy Thursday.

Everyone is welcome. Cath Jolly



ALL SAINTS CHURCH

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TO GOD | TO OUR COMMUNITY | TO ONE ANOTHER

EVERY SUNDAY @ 4PM

JOIN US FOR CRAFTS, FUN, MUSIC, PRAYER AND
PRAISE AS WE WORSHIP GOD TOGETHER IN OUR
NEW GATHERING FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG
PEOPLE!

Revd. Jordan Bentliff

*Assistant Curate in the Parish of St George, Chorley and
the Parish of All Saints, Chorley*

Tel: 01257438000
Mob: 07450269010

All Saints Vicarage
89 Moor Road
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