

The Messenger
Parish Magazine of



**St George
and**



**All Saints'
Chorley**

February 2025

Parish Clergy

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

Regular Services

<p>The Parish Church of St George</p> <p>Sunday 9:30am Family Eucharist Wednesday 10:00am Eucharist</p> <p>www.stgeorgechorley.co.uk</p>	<p>The Parish Church of All Saints'</p> <p>Sunday 11:00am Family Eucharist Sunday 4:00pm Closer Service Thursday 10:30am Eucharist</p> <p>www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11480/ <i>temporary</i></p>
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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 Club 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

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,

Over the past couple of years the PCC have been thinking through how to explain simply what the vision of our parish is, and how it might work itself out in our two parish churches with their different opportunities and gifts. This month we launch our vision and as we do I'd like to try to explain it a little, with more to follow in due course. Our new vision is: Closer to Christ; further out for Christ.

First, why do we need a vision? It's a great question because in some ways being a Christian is simply about following Jesus. However, if it was only a case of it being that simple the Church in the UK might not be in such a predicament. The truth is, as we all know, that the number of people choosing to follow Jesus in our country goes down each year. As a nation there is, sadly, a very real chance that those Confirmed this year will be not able to attend many of the churches which currently exist in Chorley when they come to retire, because they simply will no longer exist. To ensure that our children and our grandchildren have faithful churches in which to worship requires us to step out in faith and actively work to ensure this aim. Where do we start?

'Closer to Christ' - We must start with ourselves. If we aren't whole heartedly following Jesus why would anyone else, including our children. Long gone are the days when people just went to church because their parents did... and, indeed there are positive elements to that. In the modern age, as in the age when the Christian faith first started, people need to decide for themselves whether to follow Jesus and then commit to following Him with everything they have got. To make a relationship work, any relationship, requires time, attention, and love. This is true of our relationship with Jesus, just as much as with our family. There is no sidestepping making daily time to be with Jesus. Silence (so we can hear from Him), prayer (as we talk with Him), and Bible Reading (so we can better understand Him), are the essential building blocks of our personal faith. This in turn needs supporting with a lifestyle which complements your faith, ensuring there is the time for such devotion, and cutting out the things which

detract from living Jesus' way. In order to strengthen the church which exists and to attract others to find out more we must be living the faith. So first and foremost let's give attention to drawing closer to Christ.

'Further out for Christ' - Having ensured we're drawing closer to Christ each day, we are then called to go out and share our faith in words and deeds. A faith which doesn't have a positive impact on those around us is no faith at all (just look at Jesus' challenge in Matthew 25!) Start by identifying five people you know who don't yet come to church and commit to praying for them every day, asking God to care for them and open their heart to knowing more about Him. Then in tactful and appropriate ways seek to invite them to something taking place at church. Perhaps start with something social, like a coffee morning, the Panto, or even the Parish Dinner in June. Find something they may be interested in, invite them, and then go with them and introduce them to others. In addition, or if you don't know anyone who doesn't yet come to church, why not find a way to get to know new people, through volunteering in the community or in one of our schools... they always appreciate having someone to listen to the children read, for example. Seek ways of serving others and then prayerfully see where it goes.

I've barely scratched the surface, but hopefully this is enough to begin to understand our vision, and also help you to begin to assess what your next steps in following Jesus might be. Taking these steps may be hard, but together we can strengthen our church and ensure that Christian community remains in Chorley for the next generations.

God bless,

M.G. Pint

Fr Mike

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



Geoff Armstrong

It is with a heavy heart that I share the sad news of the passing of Geoff Armstrong on Friday 27th December. Geoff was a true stalwart of our school and church community. Geoff served as a governor of St George's Primary School with unwavering dedication, always advocating for our kids, staff, and the values we hold dear. He was more than a governor; he was a friend, a mentor, and a champion for education and faith.

Geoff's commitment to our school and church was nothing short of inspirational. His wisdom, compassion, and steadfast belief in the power of community touched the lives of so many.

Whether he was offering sage advice in meetings, volunteering his time for events, or simply sharing a warm smile, Geoff embodied the spirit of service and kindness.

As we reflect on his life, we are reminded of the Bible's words in Matthew 25:21: "Well done, good and faithful servant." Geoff's legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew him, and his impact on St George's and our wider community will never be forgotten.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones during this time of mourning.

Rest in peace, and rise in glory Geoff.

You will be deeply missed.

*Mr Andy Purcell, Head Teacher
St George's Primary School*



St George's Church Congregation Numbers

Week Beginning	Children Attending	Adults Attending	Communicants
3rd Nov	30	134	124
10th Nov	75	174	170
17th Nov	61	129	108
24th Nov	24	113	101
1st Dec	27	130	105
8th Dec	23	135	128
15th Dec	23	124	110
22nd Dec	43	272	162
29th Dec	16	96	86

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

Marian Crossthwaite, David Heyworth, Linda Eubank, Richard Wilks, Margaret Salisbank & Steve Cox

**And for the families of those who have died recently
Geoff Armstrong, Geoff Gibbs, Peter Hunter, Dorothy Jepson,
Derek Heyes, Norman Henry Hayes & Hannah Green**

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

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

St George's Church - Holy Baptism
November/December Mia Grace Ellis-McGarry
Holy Matrimony None



Spotlight on Safeguarding

This month I am focussing on Safeguarding and mental health.

If someone needs urgent help due to their mental health, for example if you think they might attempt suicide or self-harm or have seriously harmed themselves, you can support them by the following:

If they are not safe by themselves right now – stay with them and help them call 999 for an ambulance, if you feel able to do so. Or you could help them get to A&E.

If they can keep themselves safe for a little while – you can get quick medical advice by contacting NHS 111. Or you could help them make an emergency GP appointment to see a doctor. You can also encourage them to call the Samaritans on 116 123 to talk to someone, 24 hours a day.

If you have a concern about a child or young person you can contact the NSPCC: **0808 800 5000**. If you have concerns about an adult, you can contact the Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Mental Health Crisis Line: **0800 953 0110**.

Victoria

Dr Victoria Gibson

Parish Safeguarding Officer

0792 1010 900

safeguarding@stgeorgechorley.co.uk

MOTHERS' UNION

It does seem a long time ago now since last told 'don't forget it's the deadline today', but then again when you think about it, it was quite a while ago since we actually had to think about it.

We broke up for our Christmas 'break' on 10th December after our meal at the Yarrow Bridge, which was delicious and 16 of us managed to make it in the end and a jolly time we had too. (photo evidence proves). Unfortunately illness got the better of two of our members.

Our first meeting back in January was going to be on the 9th and all were looking forward to Revd Mike giving a Eucharist Service. In the event that had to be cancelled due to the bad weather conditions. (Not a good start to the New Year). Subscriptions for 2025 and updating the GDPR form were collected on 30th Jan and we also made the evening more of a social time.

WASHBAG APPEAL

The 'Washbag Appeal' for Chorley Hospital is still ongoing even though we haven't really been involved with it very much lately so any contributions would be greatly appreciated. The items we are collecting are as follows:

Travel size toothpaste or any cheap toothpaste
(it doesn't have to be in a box because when we give the items to Betty (the MU member from St. Peter's who makes bags up, she takes everything out of boxes and discards them)

Toothbrushes (including childrens)
Combs (without tailcombs)
Single pkt tissues
Facecloths
Soap

NO other items except the above are put in the washbags because we have to be mindful that anyone might have a skin allergy.

Alternatively we are also accepting cash donations and Betty does buy in bulk off Amazon that gets delivered straight to her. Please see either Elizabeth or myself for more information but any contributions greatly appreciated.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

13th Feb AGM
27th Feb Pam Coates (MU Speaker)
13th Mar Revd Mike (Eucharist)
27th Mar Cath Cole – 'Bedpans to the Palace'





Gloria Dunseath



Maggie's Xmas Burger looks like it had more to drink than all of us put together, and goodness knows what the sprout's up to!!

Christmas Appeals

Thank you to all who so generously responded to the appeal for gifts for Help the Homeless and toys for Homestart. As you can see from the photo my car was once again packed full. The gifts were taken to the respective charities where they were most gratefully received. Thank you once again,

Mission and Discipleship Team



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



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Aladdin



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£8 for Adults,

£6 concessions.

Call 01257 276540

Email (PayPal) stgeorgesdams@gmail.com

Thursday 20th February 2025 7.30pm.

Friday 21 February 2025 7.30pm.

Saturday 22 February 2025 4.00pm

St Georges Church hall, Halliwell street, Chorley, PR7 2AA .

In spring's soft glow, a dancer's tale,
Amidst the blooms, her movements sail.
With each pirouette, a flower blooms,
Nature's brush, her dress consumes.
Against the canvas of morning's light,
A dance of grace, a wondrous sight.
In every step, the seasons meet,
Spring's embrace, a dance so sweet.



Nicola



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ST GEORGE'S AND ALL SAINTS'**



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07450269010**

The History Page February 2025 Two Hundred Years Ago

Thomas Rickman, architect of the new St George's chapel of ease, closed his diary for 1824 with the contented judgement that Providence had been most kind to him. Indeed it had, for St George's was one of many commissions that were now flooding his way.

But what of St George's chapel? It stood complete but awaiting consecration. The new bishop of Chester, C.J. Blomfield, was in post but had many matters to attend to. He chose as a priority to issue the Enquiries Pre Visitation to his many parishes. Given that the previous visitation of 1818 leaves no record and possibly did not occur, this is not surprising.

St George's was of course under the aegis of the mother church, St Laurence's. The rector of Chorley John Whalley Master was an absentee and paid nephew Robert Morley Master to occupy the new rectory and act as curate for the handsome sum of £300 per annum. The latter's reply to the Enquiries is illuminating, He mentions perpetual curate Oliver Cooper now plays little part in the parish due to his great age and the near 2000 Catholics are a concern. The new National School (known as St George's after 1846) is near completion- but no mention is made of the brand new largest building in Chorley- namely St George's chapel of ease! Yet, there it loomed, ready to play its role.

Bill Walker

Knitting and Natter Group

Venue All Saints Church on a Thursday time 6pm-7pm. We meet every week and are a small group with experience from novice to very experienced. We help each other by sharing patterning, what size needles to use etc.

We are a friendly group, and look forward to meeting new members.

Christine on behalf of the Knitting and Natter Group.

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.**

**Count your gardens by the flowers,
never by the leaves that fall.
Count the days by golden hours
Don't remember clouds at all.
Count your nights by stars not shadows.
Count your life with smiles not tears,
And with joy through all your journeys
Count your age by friends not years.**

Christine Ireland

Thursday Ladies Circle

At our first meeting in January after the Christmas break, we planned our programme for the coming months. We also played a game, and then had a Jacob's join. It was a very pleasant evening.

Future meetings.

6th Feb. Bill Walker. The problem in opening St. George's.
20th Feb. Pantomime. Aladdin.

Everyone is welcome to come along.

Cath Jolly

Answer to last month Quiz

Ephesians, Amos, Luke, Malachi, Job, Matthew

Iffy Shaun's famous. When looking for a similar kind of job there came a few

1 Samuel Ezra Nahum

at once; annual even. That might impress rased Shaun in a humble way.

2 Samuel Micah Revelation/

Choose a mule instead of my car? (Time to revel ,eh Shaun?) Though each

James 1 Thessalonians

bridge aims to unite everyone , theres a lonely one sometimes.

2 John 1 Timothy Mark Numbers

From the Third Stooze onwards, I want a movie not marked by numbers.

Acts Romans Esther Hosea Judges

The facts about romance fester dependant on whose ear judges.

Ruth Genesis John Obadiah

Sat on the roof, Jenny says "Budge on up. It's not so bad higher up ."

Zephaniah Nehemiah

So she goes even higher. Near my arm!

Jeremiah 2 Corinthians Haggai Isaiah

Injury mired; I took her in the hand. "She's a hag". I thought "One eye's higher

2 Chronicles 1 Corinthians

than the other like two chronic eels. She must have Willy Wonka in the ancestry'

Joel Philippians

"Joe' be better for lippy answers" I tell her.

Joshua Leviticus Jude

"Joe/ sure. He's livid 'cos Shaun's subdued"

Zechariah

"He's a crier " I say.

Jonah Daniel 1 Chronicles 1 Peter

"Joe? Na! - Danny'll honk . Ron? He kills swamp eaters".

2 Timothy Colossians Psalms

"Toot him or the subjects' close," Ian says, arms arouhd Jenny,

Titus Deuteronomy

as tight as he could,, probably due to Ron and me.

Song of Solomon Philemon 2 Peter

"Iain has hunger. Sole lemonshould re-fill. A monster plate with two pittas.

1 John Habakkuk Galatians

"Go onJonny, It's kebab time . Have a cook in the galley ,son "says I

Ecclesiastes Hebrews

"Heck, lazy ass, tea's on its way". He brews so well!!!

2 Kings Lamentations 3 John

"Tuck in son, lamb and Asian Sauce is in the fridge on the

Proverbs

hamper of herbs"Joesays

Ezekiel 1 Kings Exodus 2 Thessalonians

I reply "Easy killer ! Is it the Swan King's eggs or just two vassal onions?"

M.S.Trust - Coffee Morning

Thank you to all who supported the event at Saint Michael's C/E High School and Academy on the 9th November 2024.

The M.S Trust will receive £1,070 80p - proceeds from the Coffee Morning.

The Armstrong and Birkett Family

Parish Magazine 2025 Dates

Issue	Deadline (Sunday)	Available (Sunday)
March	16th February	2nd March
April	23rd March	6th April
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 George's Bi-Centenary Year 2025

Notes for your Diary

Pantomime Aladdin Week beginning 17th February, (Half Term)

Bi-Centenary Parish Dinner, 13th June Cunliffe Hall

(Masonic hall)

October Dams Bi-Centenary Musical Production

John Bradley

All Saints' Church Congregation Numbers

Week Beginning	Children Attending	Adults Attending	Communicants
3rd Nov	29	58	36
10th Nov	25	74	39
17th Nov	17	66	35
24th Nov	37	180	44
1st Dec	13	58	35
8th Dec	223	176	41
15th Dec	111	269	31
22nd Dec	32	154	103
29th Dec	17	43	23

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

All Saints' Church - Holy Baptism

November: Gemma Barker, Ocean Louise Daly

December none

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

Paul Caterall, Ken Starkey Eniko Bodis, Christine Gothard, Denise Byron, Michael Baxendale, John Tickle, Pam McLachlan, Linda Carrara, & residents of Gillibrand Hall and Coniston House.

**And for the families of those who have died recently
William Hough, Rosemary Roberts, Carol Webb,
Margaret Feguson**

2025 Flower Rota

St George's

Date	One Pedestal\	Lady Chapel
2nd Feb	Mr Birkett	
9th Feb	Mrs Hearrtfield	
16th Feb		
23th		
2nd		
9th	Lent	
16th	Lent	
23rd	Lent	

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



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PEOPLE!

Revd. Jordan Bentliff

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

Tel: 01257438000
Mob: 07450269010

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at
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