

The Messenger

Parish Magazine of



**St George
and**



**All Saints'
Chorley**

February 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 26990100 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 00pm Closer Service Thursday 10:30am Eucharist www.wallsaintschorley.co.uk
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Parish Contacts

Parish Safeguarding Officer	Dr Victoria Gibson safeguarding@stgeorgechorley.co.uk	07921 100900
Parish Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Sara Shingler shinglebelly@yahoo.com	
Parish Treasurer	Mr Stephen Pollard treasurer@stgeorgechorley.co.uk	07568 5027780
Parish Magazine Editor	Mrs Chris Gibson acvgibson@outlook.com	01257 260555
Parish Health & Safety Officer	Mr John Bradley jm30.bradley@gmail.com	07375 047982
Parish Visiting & Lay Ministry Team	Mrs Carol Pearson 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 Blacklidge ARCO FRCL	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 Phillpson Manager / Booking	07734 232684
St George's Primary School	Mr Andy Purcell Head Teacher	01257 2623230
Sunday Club	We meet in the Church Hall 9.25am on a normal Sunday	
Men's Fellowship	2nd Wednesday 7:30pm Church Hall	01257 263245
Mothers' Union	2nd & last Thursday 7:30pm Church Hall	
Thursday Ladies Circle	1st & 3rd Thursday 7:30pm Church Hall	
Dramatic & Musical Society	Friday 7:00pm Church Hall	
Badminton Club	Monday 8:00pm Church Hall	
Church Institute	Monday - Thursday 2:00pm - 11:00pm Friday & Saturday 2:00pm - 12:00midnight Sunday 12:00noon - 11:00pm	01257 413107
Toddler & Baby Group	Little Steps meet Wednesday (term time) 10:30am - 11:30am Church Hall	

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

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

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

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

All Saints' Contacts

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

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

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

Rev. John Stock 1863, The Messenger first issue

Dear friends in the parish of St George and All Saints,

As the seasons continue to turn, I find myself grateful for the many ways God meets us through shared worship, hospitality, and prayer in our life together as a parish.

Recently, it has been a real joy to welcome Father George who joined us on placement for eight days. In a short time, he became very much part of our community, sharing in worship, conversation, and the daily rhythms of parish life. Times of placement remind us that the Church is always learning, always growing, and always being renewed through the gifts we share with one another. We give thanks for Father George's presence among us and pray God's blessing on his continuing ministry.

Another deeply meaningful moment in recent weeks was our Choral Evensong. In the beauty of music, scripture, and silence, we gathered to pray especially for those who have recently departed this life. Evensong has a gentle way of holding both our gratitude and our grief, allowing us to place our loved ones into God's eternal care. It was a moving reminder that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, and that nothing—neither life nor death—can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

As we continue our journey together as the parish of St George and All Saints, may we remain attentive to God's presence in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of our common life: in welcoming the stranger, in lifting our voices in praise, and in holding one another in

prayer. To that end, as we journey into another centenary year (this time, for our diocese) it seemed right to end this letter in prayer.

Let us pray:

Loving God,

We thank you for all who journey with us in faith, for those who serve and those who learn, for moments of joy and moments of quiet remembrance.

We commend to your mercy those who have died, and we ask your blessing upon this parish of St George and All Saints.

Strengthen us in love, deepen us in faith, and guide us always in the way of Christ our Lord.

Amen.

With every blessing,

Revd Jordan Bentliff

Our Vision - Closer to Christ; further out for Christ

St George's Church Congregation Numbers

Week Beginning	Children Attending	Adults Attending	Communicant
Nov 2 nd	101	189	168
Nov 9 th	10	112	103
Nov 16 th	25	125	124
Nov 23 rd	33	124	111
Nov 30 th	78	126	116
Dec 7 th	22	108	101
Dec 14 th	53	157	151
Dec 21 st	11	57	62
Dec 28 th	25	76	77

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

Holy Baptism	Holy Matrimony
Oliver Thomas Holt	None

Please remember in your prayers:

Marian Crosswaite, Harold Dunseath, Linda Eubank, Jonathan Yates, Margaret Salisbury, Simon Newell, Norman Whittaker, Dorothy Treadwell, Betty Hurley, Margaret Beaumont, Marjorie Baxendale & Audrey Clarke

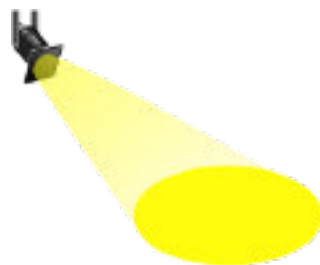
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iso the familues of the recently departed

Betty Purcell, Pauline Murphy & Frank Woodcock

We remember all those who are currently housebound and unable to

Spotlight on Safeguarding



This month I wish to focus on hoarding.

If you're supporting someone who's hoarding, whether they agree or not, you should try to keep these important points in mind:

- Use respectful language. Don't refer to their possessions as 'junk' or 'rubbish'. This shows that you don't understand their connection to the objects or why they want to keep them. They will be less likely to open up to you if you talk about their things in this way.
- Don't focus on a total clean-up. While some people who hoard might be able to completely clear their space, this isn't the case for everyone. The important focus should be the safety and wellbeing of the person. This can be achieved without completely clearing everything. This is sometimes called a 'harm reduction strategy'.
- Listen to what they want. Ask the person close to you what they think will help. This will give them more control over the situation and show you care about what they want. For example, they might want you to sit with them while they clean or for you to help take things to charity shops.
- Think carefully about gifts. It may be unhelpful to give them new items. If you want to give a gift, try thinking of alternatives like going for a meal or day out. Try to be understanding if they get rid of something you've given them. Even if this feels hurtful to you, it might be part of their progress.
- Don't pressure them to let you into their space. They might feel really anxious about visitors, so it's important not to take it personally if they don't invite you in. If you'd like to spend time together, consider other places you could meet instead.
- Let them know you're there. One of the most important things you can do is let the person you're worried about know that you care. Make sure they know that you can help them find support when they're ready.
- Include them in calls to authorities. You might feel that authorities such as social services or the council need to be involved. Or the

RSPCA if they hoard animals. If so, you should discuss this with the person who's hoarding first. This will make them feel more included in the decision and more likely to accept help. You should only call the authorities without their permission if there is a serious risk to safety.

Helping to clean or clear

During their process of starting to clean or clear, you can help by thinking about the following:

- Respect their decisions. Most people have some attachment to things they own. You might not understand why they keep particular things. But try to remember that the items they hoard feel important to them – even if they don't seem valuable to you.
- Don't take over their space. It's understandable to want to help them improve things. But if you try to take charge, they might not want to accept any help at all. For example, don't touch or move things without their permission.
- Try to be patient. Once someone seeks help with hoarding, it can still take a long time before they're ready to make changes.
- Help them celebrate successes. Try celebrating after they clear a small area. They might feel very anxious about what's left to do, so it could help if you encourage them to notice achievements. You could also remind them to take things one step at a time.

Discarding is never a simple yes-no process, and most items will be pondered over through several sort-throughs, over a period of months and years.

Supporting people who don't think they hoard

Not everyone is ready to admit that they have problems with hoarding. If someone close to you is in this position, try to:

- Be gentle. You can't force someone to change their behaviour. Don't try to persuade, trick or force someone into clearing up or throwing things away. This is unlikely to help them change in the long term and could make them withdraw from you.

- Help them to seek treatment and support. For example, you could encourage them to use Hoarding UK's Clutter Image Rating or download a hoarding icebreaker form from Rainbow Red. These tools can help them to talk to their doctor.
- Help them stay safe. Focus on things such as fire safety and emergency access. This can at least make the hoarding situation a safer environment. The London Fire Brigade has a home fire safety checker, which could help if you're concerned about fire safety.
- Avoid making threats. Threatening to cut off contact or call authorities like the council is unlikely to help the situation. It can make them feel more alone and less likely to talk to you about what they're going through.

Tips for your own wellbeing

Supporting someone with a mental health problem can feel draining. It's important to look after yourself as well.

- Set limits for yourself. It can be really difficult if you're supporting someone who doesn't think they're hoarding, or doesn't want to seek help. It's important to consider what help you feel able to offer and set yourself limits.
- Try peer support. Some people find it helpful to connect with others who are also supporting someone with hoarding. To find peer support, you could contact Mind's Infoline or your local Mind to find support in your area. Or try online peer support, such as Side by Side. Hoarding UK's support groups include online support for friends and family.
- Look after yourself. Supporting someone else can sometimes be difficult and stressful. It's important to remember that your mental health is important too. For more information, see our pages on coping while caring for someone else, managing stress and building resilience and how to improve your wellbeing.

Living with someone who is hoarding

You might find it very difficult living with someone who's hoarding, or has a diagnosis of hoarding disorder. You might have lived with them for a long time without mentioning their hoarding. Or you might have recently realised it.

What steps you take might also depend on what kind of relationship you have. And how their behaviour makes you feel.

The other tips on this page can still help you, but you could also consider these ideas:

- Respect each other's boundaries. Work together to keep these boundaries where you need them. For example, this could involve agreeing that certain spaces need to be clutter-free for safety reasons. Or having a space in the home that's just for you.
- Address the hoarding problem together. Work out what common goals you have for your shared space and discuss how you can achieve these together.
- Give them space. It might help to give them time alone to sort things out. Some people find it easier to do this without someone else there. For example, you could go for a walk or go to the cinema while they clean.
- Know your limits. It's ok if you feel you can no longer live in a space where someone is hoarding. It's not always possible to find somewhere else to stay. So it might help to try things like making sure you spend time outside the house regularly. This could include going for walks, visiting friends or going for a day out.
- Talking therapy. You can go to some types of therapy with the person who is hoarding. This can help you both express how you're feeling. The charity Relate has more information on relationship and family therapy.

Victoria

Dr Victoria Gibson

Parish Safeguarding Officer

0792 1010 900

St George's DAMS

Presents

Cinderella

A Pantomime by Alan P Frayn



February 2026

St George's Church Hall, Halliwell Street, Chorley

Thursday 19th at 7.00pm

Friday 20th at 7.00pm

Saturday 21st at 4.00pm

Tickets

£8.00 Adults

£6.00 Concessions

Contact Margaret Turner on 01257 276540

Email (PayPal) stgeorgesdams@gmail.com

or pay on the door

All Saints' Church Congregation Numbers

Week Beginning	Children Attending	Adults Attending	Communicant
Nov 2 nd	15	54	36
Nov 9 th	20	38	71
Nov 16 th	45	51	107
Nov 23 rd	39	40	83
Nov 30 th	24	28	50
Dec 7 th	43	53	41
Dec 14 th	175	198	45
Dec 21 st	242	122	27
Dec 28 th	6	78	63

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

Nicole Gorton, Betty Purcell, Terri Roberts, Frank Woodcock

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

LENT LUNCH 2026

This year's Lent Lunch will be held on Sunday 8th March after coffee. Please join us to enjoy a bowl of delicious homemade soup and a roll in exchange for a donation to charity. It was lovely to have so many attend last year for food and fellowship and we hope for a good turnout again this year to support our chosen charity, SVP Chorley Buddies.

If anyone would like to make a pan of soup for the occasion or help on the day, please contact Elizabeth on 07425608510.

SVP CHORLEY BUDDIES SVP Chorley Buddies is a very active St Vincent de Paul Society community support project working throughout Chorley Borough. It exists to respond to identified need in the community, relieve social isolation and combat food and financial poverty. The charity works in partnership with Chorley Council and other local organisations such as Living Waters Storehouse, Help the Homeless and Chorley Women's Centre.

To this end three staff and 100 enthusiastic volunteers offer food clubs, telephone befriending, delivery of food parcels and social and leisure activities. Individual families in need are also offered support with furniture, clothing or household items. The school uniform events which run during the year are extremely popular giving parents access to donated uniforms for local primary and secondary schools.

The four weekly food clubs operate in two areas of Chorley plus Coppull and Clayton Brook. At very low cost shoppers have access to good quality food, toiletries and other items which would otherwise end up in landfill. Most of the food comes from FareShare and from individual businesses. Over 1000 people are helped every month and membership is open to anyone. The sessions also offer a chance for people to meet and socialise in a safe space which has proved very popular. There is even an emporium stall with good quality clothes, accessories, toys and bric a brac at very reasonable prices.

A community café is held every Wednesday morning in the Buttermere Community Centre where all are invited to come along to a warm space

with an equally warm welcome. After lunch a weekly craft club operates at a very modest cost.

Two lunch socials with entertainment or an activity session are held each month enabling people to get out of the house and into company. There is no charge made but donations are always welcome.

Leisure activity classes are provided at various places in the Borough including seated yoga and chair exercise, aquarobics, knit and knatter and children's crafts. In the school holidays children's activity sessions prove very popular with local families in Chorley and Clayton Brook.

The charity is also involved in seasonal events such as the Christmas Toy Appeal when hundreds of children receive new toys donated by generous local individuals and organisations.

For further information please ring 01257 542367 or visit the SVP Chorley Buddies Facebook page.

Judith Hilton

Thank You From International Aid Trust.



Dear friends at St George's and All Saints Churches.

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

Each shoebox brings great joy to the person
who receives it, like the children pictured
at our Mostovivka Church in Ukraine.

Thank you again,
with every blessing
from all at

International Aid Trust

Shoeboxes can be given at any point during the year as they are not just despatched at Christmas. Other ways you can help are by donating dried/tinned food, toiletries, nappies etc as well as clothes in good condition. The charity is always on the lookout for willing volunteers to pack these goods up in their warehouse or to work in one of their shops. . For further information on the excellent work this local charity does go to www.internationalaidtrust.org.uk

Thank you again.

Elizabeth Wilding on behalf of the Mission and Discipleship Team.

Help The Homeless Gift Appeal

Thank you so much for your generous support for the above appeal. As you can see from the photograph below your donations covered the whole table and were piled high around the tree. The volunteers at the charity were delighted and most thankful to receive your gifts and would be distributing them in the lead up to Christmas.

Thank you again. Mission and Discipleship Team.



2026 Flower Rota St George's

Date	On Pedestal	Lady Chapel
1 st Feb		
8 th Feb	Mrs Heartfield	
15 th Feb		
22 nd Feb	Lent	
1 st Mar	Lent	
8 th Mar	Lent	
15 th Mar	Lent	
22 nd Mar	Lent	
29 th Mar	Lent	
5 th Apr	Easter Mothers Union	
12 th Apr		
18 th Apr		
26 th Apr	Mrs Hobbiss	
3 rd May	Mrs Parkinson	
10 th May		
17 th May		
24 th May		
31 st May		
7 th June		
14 th June		
21 st June		
25 th June		

Does Your Prayer Life Need A Reboot?

If the answer to the question above is “ Yes” then there are several options available at church to help:

Morning Prayer is held every Friday in the North Chapel and follows the Common worship order for Morning Prayer .

Prayer Group takes place on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm .This is led by our ALM Carol and held at people’s homes on a rota basis. There is a theme each meeting with a relevant Bible passage, quiet music to aid reflection and prayers led by Carol with opportunities to offer your own prayers if you feel comfortable doing so. The prayers from the Prayer Tree in Church are also read out at this time. The evening ends with Compline.

The Prayer Tree gives an opportunity to offer your private prayers to God on a set theme though you are also welcome to write a prayer for anything that is worrying you or you are thankful for. The theme for the next couple of months is World Peace as I’m sure you will agree that we are living in worrying times. Please write a prayer or name the area you are most concerned about on the doves provided and hang on the tree. You can also offer prayers for the vacancy at any time.

Prayer Apps are a good source of inspiration should you prefer to pray in private at home. Some you might like to try are, Daily Prayer (taken from CofE book of Common Worship) Reflections for Daily Prayer, Everyday Faith from the Church of England, Blackburn Diocese’s Fruitful App and Lectio 365 from the 24/7 Prayer Movement.

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We hope you can find inspiration from one of these options and make more time for prayer in 2026 .

Mission and discipleship Team.

The History Page February 2026

For three years The History Page has tracked the somewhat tortuous progress towards the opening of St George's Chapel of Ease in 1825. Less noticed was the simultaneous creation of the school situated at the junction of Pall Mall and Bolton Street. However, the provision of a school in addition to a church was deemed important by the orthodox high churchmen who guided the Anglican assertiveness of the early nineteenth century.

This school, opened in November 1825, was later to become known as St George's School but at its origins was Chorley National School. At the time Chorley was effectively one parish and St George's chapel seen as an overflow provision for St Laurence's. The school was to be there for all corners of the parish and was to teach according to the principles of the Established Church. It was called the National School because construction had partly been paid for by the National Society (founded 1811) and it was commonplace to refer to the Church of England as the National church.

Below is an architect's plan for the National School

Bill Walker.





*You are all so welcome to
come and join All Saints' new*

SUNDAY SCHOOL!

*For 0-18's every Sunday during our 11am
Eucharistic Worship, All Saints' Church,*

Moor Road

Ladies Thursday Circle

At our first meeting after the Christmas break, We enjoyed a Jacob's join and some quizzes, We had a good catch up and enjoyed the evening very much.

Future meetings:

5th Feb. A talk by Chris Walsh. Meet in church at 7.15pm.

19th Feb Cinderella. The DAMS pantomime.

Everyone is welcome to come to our meetings, why not come along and join us.

Cath Jolly

Prayers

The beauty of the home is order

The blessing of the home is contentment

The glory of the home is hospitality

The crown of the home is Godliness

For this new morning and its light,

For rest and shelter of the night,

For health and food for love and friends,

For every gift your goodness sends

We thank you gracious Lord.

Christine Ireland

Mothers' Union

As I'm typing this we are still only in January so I feel justified in wishing you all a very Happy New Year, even though by the time you are reading this it will now be February, but do we really need a reason to wish our fellow man (or woman) a 'happy year'. Just out of interest, those of you who are longing for some sunshine, my sister returned to Australia after spending a month with us here at St. George's (she only came for some snow, and was bitterly disappointed) to 33 degrees, which then rose to 39. Makes you wonder!!

Our last contribution to the magazine stated that we were going for our Christmas meal to the Hartwood Hall on 10th December. Everyone really enjoyed the atmosphere and the company (and the food was good as well). There were two tables of us, but somehow I've ended up with two photos of the same table but from different ends! My apologies to everyone on table No. 2.





Now that Christmas is passed we are starting collecting contributions towards our Washbag Scheme again, if anyone would like to donate. For anyone who doesn't know about the scheme, we, along with other churches within Chorley Deanery, collect certain items that are then put into Washbags by BETTY GRATTON from St. Peters' Church. She tries to take 80 every month or so to Chorley Hospital which are distributed to patients who are admitted as emergencies with no immediate way of getting washing items. The articles we require **are:**

TOOTHPAST (small travel size will suffice, or supermarket own brand)

TOOTHBRUSH, SOAP, FLANNEL (not sponge), SINGLE PACKET TISSUES (if you buy the multiple packs we will split them down), COMB (no tailcombs as these are classed as offensive weapon).

Anything you wish to donate can be left at the back of church where a bag will be placed with Mothers' Union on it. Thank you in advance which helps this valuable work continue.

Gloria Dunseath

Branch Leader



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 3rd September@ 10:30am. Hope to see you there! Elizabeth Wilding

St George's Church Institute

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Christenings, Anniversaries
Weddings and Funerals

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Application for Membership Always Welcome
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Friday & Saturday 2pm - 12 midnight
Sunday 12 noon - 11pm



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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH MOOR ROAD

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07450269010



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

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EVERY SUNDAY @ 4PM

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Taylor's Memorials

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