

# *The Messenger*

**Parish Magazine of**



**St George  
and**



**All Saints'  
Chorley**

May 2026

## Parish Clergy

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

## Regular Services

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

Parish Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Samantha Trafford <a href="mailto:safeguarding@stgeorgechorley.co.uk">safeguarding@stgeorgechorley.co.uk</a>	0777 2779430
Parish Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Sara Shingler <a href="mailto:shinglebelly@yahoo.com">shinglebelly@yahoo.com</a>	
Parish Treasurer	Mr Stephen Pollard <a href="mailto:treasurer@stgeorgechorley.co.uk">treasurer@stgeorgechorley.co.uk</a>	07568 502770
Parish Magazine Editor	Mrs Chris Gibson <a href="mailto:acvgibson@outlook.com">acvgibson@outlook.com</a>	01257 260555
Parish Health & Safety Officer	Mr John Bradley <a href="mailto:jm30.bradley@gmail.com">jm30.bradley@gmail.com</a>	07375 047982
Parish Visiting & Lay Ministry Team	Mrs Carol Pearson <a href="mailto:carolpearson@outlook.com">carolpearson@outlook.com</a>	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	Simon Wilson	07355 499245
Flower Guild Secretary	Mrs Freda Armstrong	01257 262918
Bell Tower Captain	Dr Victoria Gibson drvigibson@outlook.com	07921 010900
Church Hall	Mrs Sian 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,

How wonderful it is to be writing this letter with the news that we have appointed a new incumbent (vicar.) The Rev Toby Webber will be licensed to the parish of Saint George and All Saints' at 7:30pm on Wednesday 29th July in St George's Church. Unfortunately, the announcement was made too late for the April Magazine; but hopefully most of you will already have heard by now. So let's fill the church and give Toby and his family a great welcome!

Furthermore, just to give you a little background. Toby, who originates from Devon, is currently vicar of St James's, Altham, in the Accrington Deanery. Toby has been vicar there since September 2015. He is also currently an Assistant Archdeacon, and was previously Chaplain to the Bishop of Blackburn. Toby was ordained in Blackburn in 2002, then served his curacy at St Laurence's in Chorley; before moving on to St Aidan's in Bamber Bridge. Toby has spent all his ministry in Lancashire. He is married to Rebecca and they have three children; Annabel, Gideon and Aiden.

May is still the season of Easter in the church calendar, up to and including the 24th which is Pentecost. So in our worship, we continue to thank God for the resurrection of Jesus Christ and then celebrate what the church recognises as its birthday. Pentecost is the coming of the Holy Spirit as tongues of flame on the disciples, and they then go out into the world to spread the good news.

We have the same call as they did, as that wonderful Easter hymn says, "We have a gospel to proclaim, good news for all throughout the earth." Some of us are called to preach the good news as ministers, but we are ALL called to proclaim the good news that Jesus died and rose again for us, by living lives after his example. Sounds hard doesn't it!? How can we follow what Jesus has done? Well, He himself told us what to do in just two commandments: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul and with all your strength. And the second is this – love your neighbour as yourself."

If we all did that, and spread that around, then maybe those in authority and those who hold power over peoples' lives just might take the hint! So let us start with our own church family. Over the last year, without a vicar, many of you have had to take on more responsibilities and challenges,

and it hasn't always been easy at times. Relationships can be strained, which is not unusual in a vacancy.

Remembering then, the challenge of Pentecost, as we received the Holy Spirit through our confirmation; and at every eucharist recalling the sacrifice of Jesus; we must re-energise our duty to love one another as he loves us. We work for Jesus Christ and his Father's purposes for us. Let us renew our Confirmation vow..."Do you turn to Christ as saviour?" "I turn to Christ." The vows end with this prayer: "May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ, give you the strength to continue in the Way."

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

Rev Peter Smith.



**Archdeacon Jane preaching at our Sunday morning Service.**

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

# 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

# "Three Cheers for Reverend Peter"

Who has led us for almost a year  
 Guiding our church without any fear?  
 Vicar, friend and meeter-greeter  
 This is a poem about Reverend Peter

With Lorraine by his side  
 He spreads the Word far and wide  
 His comments are most gracious  
 And his knowledge is capacious

In this interregnum, he's gone the extra mile  
 Delivering sermons with a smile  
 So, until Reverend Toby comes in July  
 I'm glad that we're stuck with this fun-loving guy.

Now I can't think of anything sweeter  
 But to give three cheers for Reverend Peter!

Nicola



## Parish Magazine 2026 Dates

Issue	Deadline (Sunday)	Available (Sunday)
June	24th May	7th June
July/August	21st June	5th July
September	23rd August	6th Srptember
October	20th September	4th October
November	18th October	1st November
December/January	22nd November	6th December

Contributions for inclusion in the Messenger can be given to  
 Chris Gibson or be emailed to [acvgibson@outlook.com](mailto:acvgibson@outlook.com)



## Spotlight on Safeguarding

### Introduction to our Parish Safeguarding Officer

Firstly, I would like to give a big thank you to Victoria Gibson for all her hard work over a number of years whilst previously undertaking the role and wish her every success in her new role of Independent Safeguarding Chair for Blackburn Diocese.

I'm extremely proud to have been asked to take on the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer for St George & All Saints and felt it was important to introduce myself for anyone who may not know me.

I'm Sam Trafford and I've been coming to St George's for about 24 years now. During this time I've been involved in a range of volunteering roles, and you'll often see me serving on the altar on a Sunday morning.

Safeguarding is a really important part of church life; it's about making sure that everyone who comes through our doors feels safe, respected and cared for, so I'll be working closely with the clergy, our group leaders and the PCC to review and implement policies and processes that ensure we maintain good safeguarding practices across the parish.

I'm the point of contact for anyone who has any safeguarding questions, queries or concerns, so if you have any worries, even if they may seem small, please feel free to speak to me in confidence. My contact details are listed below.

As a HR professional, and primary education employee, safeguarding has played a big part of my working life and something which I am very passionate about, so I'm really happy to be able to support our church community in continuing to provide a welcoming place where everyone feels safe and supported.

Kind Regards **Sam Mrs Sam Trafford Parish Safeguarding Officer**  
**Tel: 07772 779 430 Email: [safeguarding@stgeorgechorley.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stgeorgechorley.co.uk)**

# St George's Church Congregation Numbers

Week Beginning	Children Attending	Adults Attending	Communicant
March 1st	12	105	91
March 8th	37	143	126
March 15th	73	127	109
March 22nd	23	124	112
March 29th	42	139	132
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:*

**Marian Crossthwaite, Harold Dunseath, Linda Eubank, Jonathan Yates, Margaret Salisbury, Simon Newell, Dorothy Treadwell, Marjorie Baxendale, Audrey Clark**

also the families of the recently departed

**Peter Elkins, David Guest**

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

St George's Mens Fellowship

## Big Quiz Night

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026

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.

**PROCEEDS TO CHARITY**

### Ladies Thursday Circle

There was no meeting on the 2nd of April as it was Maundy Thursday.

On the 16th April we had a trip to Chorley Little Theatre to see the Unfriend a comedy play. We all enjoyed a lovely evening out.

### Future meetings:

**7th May** A treasure Hunt Done by Bill Walker. We will meet at the Fieldfare at 7pm.

**21st May** From Coal & Canals to Chemistry & the Corridors of power. A talk by Karen Clayton.

Everyone is welcome to come along to our meetings.

**Cathy Jolly**

## 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)

# All Saints' Church Congregation Numbers

Week Beginning	Children Attending	Adults Attending	Communicant
March 1st	19	65	37
March 8th	4	42	41
March 15th	35	82	41
March 22nd	19	65	31
March 29th	49	169	102

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*

***Mildred Cole, 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>
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Mrs Parkinson	
10 <sup>th</sup> May	Mr Walker	Mrs Parkinson
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Mrs Lawrenson	
24 <sup>th</sup> May	Mrs Mason	
31 <sup>st</sup> May	Mr Birkett	
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	

## The History Page Thomas Brown Schoolmaster

The contribution of Thomas Brown to the growth of St George's Parish in the third quarter of the nineteenth century was immense. His fundamental task was to preserve and improve the small struggling Day School.

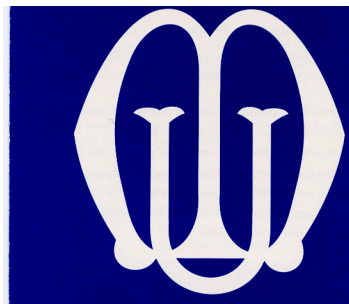
This he achieved despite many frustrations. Some were petty: he once delayed school because much needed whitewash on the shabby walls had not dried; a Parochial Tea Party one previous night had left a bomb site. Other challenges were more serious: vital funding could be lost due to a day's poor performance in a Payment by Results inspection; the half time system was obviously operating in Chorley long before it was codified in national policy and those working half a day were poorly committed; the school could empty for Chorley Fair or if there was a textile workers strike; more than one chastised boy threatened to go to the Catholic school in retaliation.

Nevertheless, Thomas Brown persisted with a solid basic curriculum and no little enrichment. A school that began with 60 pupils, by 1877 had on the books 179 boys, 220 girls and 239 infants. The arrival in 1864 of girls' mistress Miss Alice Hibbert, another one of St George's greats, was of great assistance to Thomas. By Thomas Brown's retirement in 1880 the school's future was secure and its work much respected in Chorley.

**Bill Walker.**



## **Mothers' Union**



### **CRAFT FAIR** (with Coffee and *Homemade Cake*)

On 9th May St. George's and All Saint's MU branches are holding a joint event celebrating the 150th centenary year of MU in Blackburn Diocese. It's a challenge every branch has been given to raise £150 pounds towards continuing the amazing work started by our founder Mary Sumner, which now spans 84 countries Worldwide.

### **MOTHERS' UNION DEANERY FESTIVAL**

On 21st May we will be holding our Chorley Deanery MU Festival this year at St. Peter's Church, Mawdesley. The service will be led by their vicar

Revd Tracy Marshall and the guest speaker will be The Venerable Jane Atkinson.

We haven't held one of our Festival's at St. Peter's before and are very much looking forward to the occasion.

### **CARDS FOR SALE**

**We have quite a good selection of cards for sale on the MU table at the back of church, reasonably priced, and for all occasions. Prices can be found usually on the back of envelopes and money can be placed in the basked. Thank you.**

Gloria Dunseath

*Branch Leader*

*For details on how to purchase a table top please see the poster on the nextpage:*

ST GEORGE'S AND ALL SAINT'S  
MOTHERS UNION

CRAFTERS BUY  
YOUR STALL FOR  
£10

(ENQ: 07974 451740)

CRAFT FAIR WITH COFFEE & HOMEMADE CAKE

9TH MAY  
ST GEORGE'S CHURCH HALL  
10AM-2PM



CELEBRATING THE  
150TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
CHALLENGE

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

Lighting the way for  
generations to come



FREE ENTRY | SMALL CHARGE FOR  
REFRESHMENTS

## The Emmaus Road

Two followers of Jesus were walking down the road,  
They were talking about Jesus, trying to lighten their load.  
They were so bound up in sorrow that they didn't really see  
That another man had joined them; who could he be?

He asked them why they felt so sad. Why the solemn look?  
They said 'Have you not heard the news? Our friend's life been took?  
He was our friend and teacher, and they killed him on the cross  
We don't know how to bear the pain, it's such an awful loss,  
He spoke such words of wisdom, and he taught us how to pray  
It hasn't been the same since they took our Lord away.

He said, 'You mean to tell me that you have never read  
The words of all the prophets; you don't know what they said?

He spoke to them of prophesies and how things had to be  
Exactly just the way they were so we can all be free.

They asked him in to dinner. The hour was getting late.  
They still didn't know just who he was, but they laid an extra plate.  
As they sat down at the table the man began to pray.  
(They were getting rather hungry, but they didn't like to say)

Then a wonderful thing happened, they couldn't believe their eyes,  
He broke the bread and they knew him! It was a great surprise.  
But then he vanished from their sight as though he'd never been  
But they knew that it was Jesus; there was one thing it could mean

The rumours that they'd heard were true, he'd risen from the dead  
Forget dinner! They ran outside to spread the news instead

I guess that it just goes to show, you can't keep a good man down  
Even if you hang him on a cross, he's gonna stick around  
There's a lesson here for all of us: Never lose your faith  
For Jesus will be with you on life's road to keep you safe.

***Submitted by Netta Walker***

Images taken from All Saints' Passion Play





# 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

## St George's Church Institute

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



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ST GEORGE'S AND ALL SAINTS'



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**5.30PM-7.00PM**

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**contact: [cjbentliff@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cjbentliff@hotmail.co.uk)**

**07450269010**



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# Taylor's Memorials

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