

September/October 2024

# FOCUS

Issue 288



Parish Magazine of St Stephen's, Hightown

**Prince of Peace**  
**The Most High God**  
**The LORD is peace**  
**Father Son Holy Spirit**  
The LORD who provides  
**The God of Eternity**  
**Wonderful Counsellor**  
**THE ANCIENT OF DAYS**  
**The LORD of hosts**



## Editor's Note

On behalf of Reverend Keith and the whole congregation of St Stephen's Church, I would like to warmly welcome Reverend John to our fold, to preach and celebrate from time to time. Rev. John has been worshipping with us, on a Sunday, for a time now, and has been playing his guitar in our band during our All Age Services. You can learn a little more about him, in his letter, on page 3.

Already, as I write, we have been enjoying the seasonal fruitfulness of our garden: an apple and blackberry crumble. There are a few glossy, black, plump ones ready to eat each day and as the autumn season commences, there will be more.

When I was a child, blackberry picking was an annual event to look forward to. It helped alleviate the pain of having to return to school for the new term, after such long holidays. From mid-August to early autumn, we would frequently gather small baskets of the dark, squishy fruit; usually eating more than we ever took home. We would return to the house unaware of our purple-dyed hands and similarly stained clothing, much to the chagrin of my mother!

In an age when so many have lost the connection between what we eat and the land where our food comes from, this autumnal activity can still offer a tangible link to our foraging heritage.

But strike whilst the iron's hot, for according to my grandmother, old Michaelmas Day, on October 11th, is the time when the devil spits on blackberries, making them inedible.

Enjoy all the blessings of autumn,

Colette

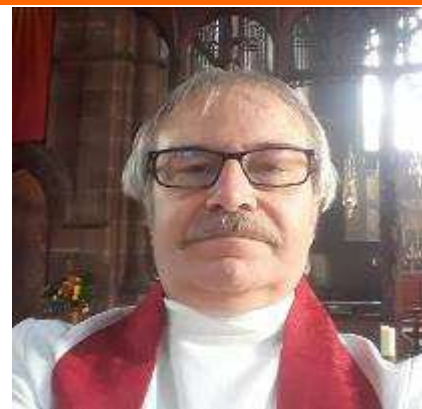
Entries for future issues of Focus to be sent to

**[Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk](mailto:Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk)**

*Please submit before last day of month*

Dear Friends

Keith has asked me to write this month's letter, to coincide with Bishop John giving permission for ministry in retirement at St. Stephens. Keith has very kindly invited me to preach and celebrate occasionally.



After 41 years of full time paid ministry, having to deal with the varied and sometimes challenging tasks that ministry brings, I retired. Ministry began as a Church Army Captain at St. Margaret Toxteth, just after the riots, and then onto the Good Shepherd, West Derby, doing detached youth work in Norris Green. During that period, Ruth and I were married and our two children arrived.

Then God came calling again; that voice that you cannot ignore. After two years of lectures and essays on the Northern Ordination course, I became curate at Christ Church Padgate. I was Vicar at St Margaret and All Hallows Church, Orford, Warrington, then moved to Golborne on the edge of Wigan. St. Thomas' Church joined with St. Lukes and St. Marys, Lowton in a team ministry during that time. My last post was at St. Mary's, Waterloo and St. Faith's Church in Great Crosby.

After this, Ruth and I moved into a house in Crosby, with Socks, the family dog and twenty-five goldfish. We have spent the last year renovating the house we live in and I have had to brush up my DIY skills. Ruth is the house design expert with the skill of selecting colours that look good together.

Finding myself retired in December 2023, I began to look for a new worshipping community. St. Stephens have been very welcoming and I look forward to getting to know you all better.

Most preachers tend to have recurring themes, and you will know them after sitting through a few sermons. They do develop and change over time, as we continue to read new books and the world changes around us.

For me, the centre of our faith is a man called Jesus, who speaks of, and lives out the love of God our Father. He gathered a group of people into a community to live out that love in the world. A community that practiced the forgiveness and love, exemplified on the cross. A community that is inspired and fired by the Holy Spirit, to love the world that Jesus died for.

There are lots of communities of Christians today worshipping, praying and forgiving. St. Stephens is one of them.

I look forward to working with you,  
John

# St Stephen's Church Services – Sept/Oct

<b>Sunday</b> 1st	10:30	All- Age Eucharist
	18:00	Evensong
Wednesday 4th	10:30	Eucharist
Friday 6th	09:30	Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday</b> 8th	10:30	Eucharist
	16:00	Toddler Church
	18:00	Evensong
Wednesday 11th	10:30	Eucharist
<b>NEW SERVICE</b>	19:00	'Sanctuary at Seven' – A short, gentle & reflective service of Holy Communion. Receive- Restore- Refresh
Friday 13th	09:30	Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday</b> 15th	10:30	Eucharist
	18:00	Evensong
Wednesday 18th	10:30	Eucharist
Friday 20th	09:30	Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday</b> 22nd	10:30	Eucharist with Anointing and Healing Prayer
	18:00	BCP Holy Communion
Wednesday 25th	10:30	Eucharist
Friday 27th	09:30	Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday</b> 29th	10:30	Eucharist
	18:00	A special Choral Evensong for St Michael & All Angels with Crosby Community Choir
Wednesday 2nd	10:30	Eucharist
Friday 4th	09:30	Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday</b> 6th	10:30	All-Age Eucharist & Harvest Festival followed by Soup Lunch
	18:00	Evensong
Wednesday 9th	10:30	Eucharist
	19:00	<b>Sanctuary at Seven</b>
Friday 11th	09:30	Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday</b> 13th	10:30	Eucharist
	16:00	Toddler Church
	18:00	Evensong
Wednesday 16th	10:30	Eucharist
Friday 18th	09:30	Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday</b> 20th	10:30	Eucharist
	18:00	Evensong
Wednesday 23rd	10:30	Eucharist
Friday 25th	09:30	Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday</b> 27th	10:30	Eucharist
	18:00	BCP Holy Communion
Wednesday 30th	10:00	Eucharist

## Sunday Coffee Rota Sept.

1st Jane Copeland  
8th Shirley Burns  
15th Christine Grocott  
22nd Di Aldis  
29th Jayne Cudby

## Sunday Coffee Rota October

6th Beth Cresswell  
13th Sue Taylor  
20th Pam Bessant  
27th Beryl Howard

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## Brass Rota

September  
Kevin Bradshaw  
October  
Jan Williams



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young

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celebration of the  
Eucharist

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the Eucharist at the heart

# Prayer Prompts For September



- 1st. **14th Sunday after Trinity.** For those grieving the loss of a loved one.  
*For the people of Mark Road.*
- 2nd. For those starting a new school.  
*For the people of Old Acre and Briary Croft.*
- 3rd. For those returning to school or college.  
*For the people of Sandhills and Bankside.*
- 4th. For those without a safe home.  
*For the people of North Dune, Riverside and Westway.*
- 5th. For all carers, that they may know their worth.  
*For the people of Elmcroft Lane and Sandy Lane.*
- 6th. For those struggling with mental health.  
*For all the people of Hightown.*
- 7th. Pray that we hear God's guidance.  
*For the people of Withins Field, Blundell Grove and Larkhill Grove.*
- 8th. **15th Sunday after Trinity.** Accession of King Charles 111.  
*For the people of Whitfield Close and Oakfield Road.*
- 9th. For all mothers, foster mothers, adoptive and step mothers.  
*For the people of Elvington Road and Marston Crescent.*
- 10th. For all fathers, foster fathers, adoptive and step fathers.  
*For the people of Windermere Road and Grasmere Road.*
- 11th. May we feel God's love.  
*For the people of Alt Road and Lower Alt Road.*
- 12th. For our village community.  
*For the people of Village Way and The Roundway*
- 13th. For our beach and coastline.  
*For all the people of Hightown.*
- 14th. **Holy Cross Day.** God shows his love for us in that, while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Let us show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith. Romans 5:8  
*For the people of Thornbeck Avenue.*
- 15th. **16th Sunday after Trinity.** For those struggling with their eyesight.  
*For the people of Emerson Close and Thirlmere Road.*

## Prayer prompts (contd)



16th. For those hard of hearing.

*For the people of St. Stephen's Road and Hester Close.*

17th. For the beautiful gardens and nature in our village.

*For the people of Alton Close and Brentwood Close.*

18th. For those without enough food to eat.

*For the people of The Range and Altcar Camp.*

19th. For those affected by the wildfires.

*For the people of Blundell Road and Blundell Avenue.*

20th. For those affected by the war in Ukraine.

*For all the people of Hightown.*

21st. **St Mathew; apostle and evangelist.**

*For the people of North End Lane, Moss lane and local farms.*

22nd. **17th Sunday after Trinity.** For those without fresh water.

*For the People of Orrell Hill Lane and Gorsey Lane.*

23rd. For all teachers and ancillary staff.

*For the people of Wignalls Meadow and Moorhouses.*

24th. For the farmers as they gather in their crops.

*For the people of Langley Close, Richmond Close and Mayfair Close.*

25th. For those struggling to make a relationship work.

*For the people of School Road, Rathbone Road and Sandilands Grove.*

26th. For the lonely and housebound.

*For the people of St. Georges Road, Thirlmere Mews and Holmfield.*

27th. Pray for a bountiful harvest.

*For all the people of Hightown.*

28th. For students preparing for university.

*For the people Delph Road.*

29th. **18th Sunday after Trinity. Michael and all Angels.** May God bless us all and give us a guardian angel.

*For the people of Riverside.*

30th. **Ember day.**

*For the people of Thistledown Drive and Tudor Gardens..*

# Prayer Prompts For October



- 1st. We give thanks for the splendour and changing colours of autumn, which many enjoy.  
*For the people of Riverside and Marston Crescent.*
- 2nd. For those who attend church and those unable to attend.  
*For the people of Alt Road and Lower Alt Road.*
- 3rd. We give thanks for the sunshine and showers.  
*For the people of Thornbeck Avenue and Grasmere Road.*
- 4th. Today we celebrate the life of St Francis of Assisi 1226.  
*For the people of North Dunes and Westway.*
- 5th. For seafarers and the coastguards who watch our coast.  
*For the people of Bankside and Wignalls Meadow.*
- 6th. **19th Sunday after Trinity.** We think about students returning to university.  
*For all the people of Withins Field and Holmfield.*
- 7th. For farmers and all who work on the land.  
*For the people of Blundell Grove and Larkhill Grove.*
- 8th. For older people who might find life difficult.  
*For the people of St Stephens Road and the Roundway.*
- 9th. For the attractive flower arrangements in St Stephen's Church.  
*For the people of Hester Close and Village Way.*
- 10th. For musicians and wonderful music.  
*For the people of North End Lane, Moss Lane and farms .*
- 11th. For our heritage.  
*For the people of Moorhouses and Briary Croft.*
- 12th. For laughter in our lives.  
*For the people of the Range and Altcar Camp.*
- 13th. **20th Sunday after Trinity.** For members of the Royal Family.  
*For all the people of Alton Close and Richmond Close.*
- 14th. For cloud formation.  
*For the people of St. Georges Road and Langley Close.*
- 15th. For safety on our roads.  
*For the people of Brentwood Close and Blundell Avenue.*
- 16th. For care and guidance on our roads.  
*For the people of Mark Road and Mayfair Close.*



## Prayer prompts (contd)



- 17th. For all medical staff, nurses, doctors and surgeons.  
*For the people of Delph Road.*
- 18th. Today we remember **St Luke the Evangelist**.  
*For the people of Thistledown Drive.*
- 19th. We pray for all in hospital.  
*For the people of Old Acre and Orrell Hill Lane.*
- 20th. **21st Sunday after Trinity**. For all who visit the Altcar Range and Camp.  
*For the people of Sandy Lane and Oakfield Road.*
- 21st. For all the lonely.  
*For the people of Thirlmere Road and Thirlmere Mews.*
- 22nd. For our families and friends.  
*For the people of Windermere Road and Larkhill Grove.*
- 23rd. For the clergy at St Stephens, St Michaels Altcar and Our Lady of Victories.  
*For the people of School Road and Rathbone Road.*
- 24th. For children attending new schools.  
*For the people of Sandhills and Blundell Grove.*
- 25th. We remember Saints Crispin and Crispinian, martyrs at Rome c.287, patron saints of cobblers.  
*For the people of Old Acre and Tudor Gardens.*
- 26th. For people improving life for all.  
*For the people of Elmcroft Lane and Emerson Close.*
- 27th. **Last Sunday after Trinity**. For new beginnings – Hope where there has been doubt.  
*For the people of Tudor Gardens.*
- 28th. For the many social groups.  
*For the people of Whitefield Close and Gorsey Lane.*
- 29th. For our local shops.  
*For all the people of Hightown .*
- 30th. For popular hymns.  
*For the people of Elvington Road and Sandilands Grove.*
- 31st. For peace through the world.  
*For the people of Brentwood Close.*

## Who's Who at St Stephen's

Vicar	Revd Keith Thornborough
Warden	Judith Welch
PCC Secretary	Beryl Howard
PCC Treasurer	Keith Aldis
Gift Aid Secretary	Brian Taylor
Safeguarding	Cath Marshall <a href="mailto:cathmarshall47@yahoo.co.uk">cathmarshall47@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Electoral Roll	Beth Cresswell
Sacristan Team	Hazel Roberts
Health and Safety	<i>TBA</i>
Flower Rota	Sue Taylor
CMS Secretary	Beryl Howard
St Stephen's Youth Club	Jane Croxton
Church Hall Bookings	Sally Fraser
Focus Editor	Colette Hudson <a href="mailto:Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk">Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk</a>
Focus Adverts	Colette Hudson <a href="mailto:Adverts@StStephensHightown.org.uk">Adverts@StStephensHightown.org.uk</a>
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**Rohan Pickard - Commodore**  
[Rohan.Pickard@Gmail.com](mailto:Rohan.Pickard@Gmail.com)

**Deryk Johnson - Vice Commodore**  
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## Easy Fundraising

St Stephens has have been using #easyfundraising to raise FREE donations for the Church when we shop online. We have just been paid! These donations will make a BIG difference and you can help during this difficult time too - it only takes 2 minutes to sign up and 4,500+ shops ( including Amazon and Ebay) will donate for free, every time you shop online with them!

Why not visit:

[easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ststephenschhightown/  
payments/60537b0af62fd200266cbd30/](https://easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ststephenschhightown/payments/60537b0af62fd200266cbd30/)

to find out more ?

**As that famous advertising slogan tells us: 'every little helps'.**



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# Southport Wills Caroline Speakman

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If you would like some information or some guidance,  
please email me or send a message through the Website.

You can also contact me on 07926 587776 to make an appointment.

**Caroline Speakman**

**Member of the Society of Willwriters**

Email: [southportwills@gmail.com](mailto:southportwills@gmail.com)

Phone: **07926 587776**

Website: [www.southportwills.com](http://www.southportwills.com)



Did you know ?.....

You can get the St Stephens weekly sheet sent to your  
inbox each week.

Simply send an email to: [jayne.cudby@gmail.com](mailto:jayne.cudby@gmail.com)

Supply your email address and name and she will do the rest!



# Creo Fundraiser August

On Saturday 10th August, CREO Dance Company had planned to put on a Taylor Swift themed summer camp. But, following the devastation in Southport, Georgia decided that it needed to become a day to raise money for the affected families and teachers. It was a very special day bringing everyone in the community together for the Family Fundraiser. There was bracelet making, colouring in, face glitter, dance workshops, treasure hunting, lolly lottery, a raffle, tuck shop, BBQ, and even a visit from Elsa herself, and a singalong with 'Taylor Swift'!

A total of £1520 was raised and donations are still being made!

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Saturday, to all the businesses who donated to the raffle, and to all the volunteers who helped put the event together. Our thoughts, love and strength are with all the families of the Southport tragedy.



# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

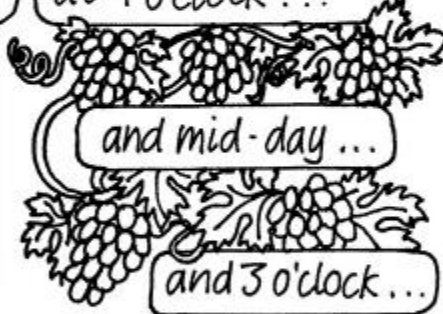
It can be read in the Bible in Matthew chapter 20 verses 1-15

Jesus told a story to describe God's kingdom. A vineyard owner went to the marketplace at dawn to hire workers to pick his grapes.

I'll pay you the normal wage for a day's work.



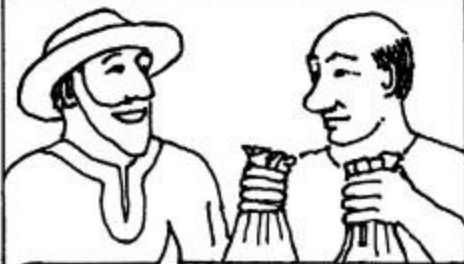
He went out again at 9 o'clock ...



and again with just 1 hour to go before sunset.



At the end of the day..



Pay the last workers first.

They were given a whole day's wage..



and so were those who had worked all day.



You paid them the same and we worked all day!



My friend, you agreed to work for a day's wage

I want to give those who were hired last the same as you got.



Can't I do what I want with my own money?

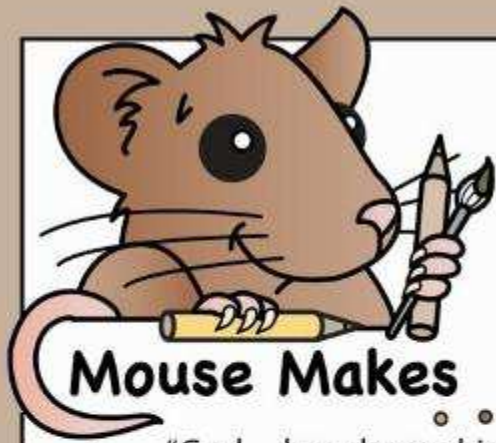
Or are you jealous because I'm good to others?



Jesus concluded...

So those who are now last will be first, and the first last.





# Mouse Makes

## HARVEST THANKSGIVING

"May the peoples  
\_\_\_\_\_ you, O God!  
May all the peoples praise you!  
The land yields its harvest;  
God, our God blesses us."

*Psalm 67:5-6 NIV*

"God ... has shown kindness by  
giving you rain from heaven  
and crops in their seasons.  
He provides you with  
plenty of \_\_\_\_\_. He fills  
your hearts with joy."

*Acts 14:16-17 NIV*

"Let us fear and respect  
the Lord our God.  
He gives us autumn and  
spring \_\_\_\_\_  
at the right time.  
He makes sure that we  
have the harvest at  
just the right time."

*Jeremiah 5:24 ERV*

"Honour the Lord with your wealth  
and the first part of your harvest."

*Proverbs 3:9 ERV*

O	A	G	A	T	H	E	R	A	I	N	S
S	V	O	G	M	A	U	T	U	M	N	P
O	G	D	O	P	R	O	D	U	C	E	R
I	H	J	O	Y	V	S	H	A	R	E	I
L	A	N	D	H	E	P	R	A	Y	D	N
T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G
Y	P	F	E	R	T	I	L	E	E	P	S
B	L	E	S	S	E	D	D	E	L	R	W
S	E	A	S	O	N	F	O	O	D	A	A
U	N	R	E	W	K	I	F	R	U	I	T
N	T	T	E	N	S	C	R	O	P	S	E
N	Y	H	D	P	R	O	V	I	D	E	R

- HARVEST • THANKSGIVING • LAND • EARTH • FERTILE • SOIL • SEED • SOWN  
 NEED • WATER • SUN • SEASON • AUTUMN • SPRING • YIELD • PRODUCE  
 FRUIT • GATHER • CROPS • PLENTY • PRAY • GOD • PROVIDE • JOY  
 BLESSED • GOODNESS • SHARE

*Find the words from the questions too!*

Sep24© deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

## Village Organisations and Activities

Tuesday Group, St Stephen's Hall Tuesday morning 10:00am	Beryl Howard Jan Branigan
Hightown Friendship Group 1st Wednesday at 8pm St Stephen's Hall	Marjorie Walker
Gardening Club 2nd Monday 8:00pm St Stephen's Hall	Hilary Munro
Bowling Club, Sandy Lane	Diana Killen
Hightown Club	Chris Scrine
Blundellsands Sailing Club	Rohan Pickard— <a href="mailto:RohanPickard@gmail.com">RohanPickard@gmail.com</a> Deryk Johnson— <a href="mailto:DerykJ@gmail.com">DerykJ@gmail.com</a>
Yoga Classes, Hightown Club	Rose Billinge
Flower Show	Debbie Underhill— <a href="mailto:underhillsathome@aol.com">underhillsathome@aol.com</a>
Open Mic Poetry Group 3rd Thursday 7:30pm St Stephen's Church hall	Sally Anne— <a href="mailto:tapiabowes@gmail.com">tapiabowes@gmail.com</a> Alex
Craft Group, Every Thursdays 1:30-3:30pm, St Stephen's Hall	Sue Taylor
Hightown Parish Council	Jenny Farrar <a href="mailto:clerk@hightownparishcouncil.uk">clerk@hightownparishcouncil.uk</a> <a href="http://www.hightownparishcouncil.uk">www.hightownparishcouncil.uk</a>
Community Library, Alt Centre, Lower Alt Rd. Mon 12-2, Tues 1-3,	Linda Munro— <a href="mailto:lindamunro@hotmail.com">lindamunro@hotmail.com</a>
Zumba Gold, Dance for all aged 55 plus, Mondays 9:45-10:30, St Stephen's Hall	Nicky Garsforth
Creo Dance Co Mon Tues Wed Thurs Sat Children 3 to 18 years	Georgia Gaudi

# **Youth Club**

**From age 7**

**Friday Evening Term Time**

**6:00pm until 7:15pm**

**£2.50 includes snacks and drinks**

**Contact: Jane Bessant 07776 305 660**

**Please note that there will be no youth club during school holidays**

**Craft Group in St Stephen's Hall will resume on Thursday  
September 5th and will be known as**

**Knit and Natter**

# **Coffee Mornings**

**Saturday 7th September in aid of  
St Stephen's**



**and**



**Saturday 5th October in aid of PODS  
10:00am - 12:00noon**

**St Stephen's Hall**

**Everyone Welcome!**

# St. Stephen's Parish Church- Hightown



## Toddler Time

**A new fun group for Toddlers 0-4yr and their carers!**

**St. Stephen's Church Hall**

**Fridays 10am-11:30am term time**

**Play- Craft- Snack- Story- Songs- Fun!**

**ALL WELCOME!**

**First session Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 24**

Magazine part—sponsored by John Gibson—notary services