

April 2025

FOCUS

Issue 293



Parish Magazine of St Stephen's, Hightown

Happy Easter!



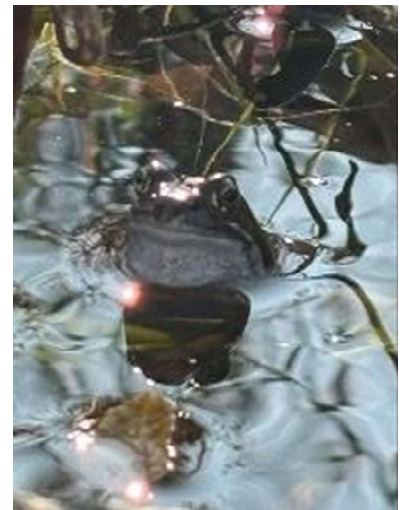
The Lord has Risen!

Magazine part-sponsored by John Gibson - notary services



Editor's Note

From my earliest days, I have always been a great fan of Jeremy Fisher (by Beatrix Potter.) Great was my excitement and joy, when, I could introduce the charming little fellow to my own two children. Except that, they didn't quite see it like that, I think they felt it was an infliction of sorts. In spite of the beautifully illustrated books, the stuffed toys and the numerous trips to The World of Beatrix Potter in Bowness, my enthusiasm just didn't rub off. It appeared that they even preferred a hike in the fells of the Lake District, (yes, you did read correctly—a hike) than a visit to this fantastic attraction. Events of more recent days, though, are nearly making up for the disappointment felt at that time, as I find myself as the guardian of dozens of my very own Jeremy Fishers, real live ones this time! Over the last few warm days, they have emerged in my wildlife pond, which appeared to be void of life over the winter, and have been entertaining me ever since with their antics and their extremely loud croaking. Now, of course we have lots of frog spawn and I'm waiting for the next instalment of their cycle. This month, we celebrate that Jesus rose from the dead, and here we have Mother Nature trying to tell us that this can be true. Everywhere we look we see new life! God created this world and its beauty and grandeur to tell us how amazing He is; it tells us about Him and how much He loves us.



Wishing you all a blessed and happy Easter,
Colette

Entries for future issues of Focus to be sent to

Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk

Please submit before last day of month

Dear Friends,

This month we will continue our journey towards Easter, beginning on Palm Sunday and then have the opportunity, during Holy Week, to gather together every day, to pray, worship and reflect until we arrive at the joy of Easter Day, when we will proclaim, 'Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!'. Details of all our Holy Week and Easter services are listed in the magazine. You will be most welcome at any or all our services!



Easter is later this year, nearly at the end of the range permissible, the 25th of April being the last possible day.... but what does Easter mean to you?

It's a good question to ask! For some it is time off school, or work; time to spend with family and friends, perhaps a holiday with hopefully better weather with the longer days! For others it's hot cross buns, Easter bunnies and chocolate eggs!

For Christians, it's a time of real joy, of celebration after the Lenten season of prayer, penitence and fasting. We are celebrating the resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb, occurring three days after His crucifixion. It fulfils the prophecy of the Messiah's rejection and persecution, death for our sins, and resurrection, as foretold in Isaiah 53.

Easter is also a time to reflect on the meaning of life and the power of love and forgiveness. Through the symbolism of Easter, Christians are reminded that no matter how dark things may seem, there is always hope in the power of resurrection and new beginnings, the triumphant victory of Christ over death and the grave. His power conquered sin and offers eternal life to all who believe and put their trust and faith in Him.

We have eyewitness accounts to the whole of the Passion and Easter narrative. The resurrection did occur, and so, we have immense hope and assurance. It is through the resurrection that we find assurance of our redemption and the promise of new life in Christ. The resurrection validates Jesus' identity as the Son of God and confirms His authority to grant forgiveness of sins and reconcile humanity with God.

Easter is not merely a celebration of an event in history, but a proclamation of the foundational truth that shapes our entire faith journey and offers all of us hope for the future. Alleluia!

***God Bless,
Keith***

St Stephen's Church Services for April

Wednesday 2nd	10:30	Eucharist
Friday 4th	09:30	Morning Prayer
Sunday 6th	10:30	All-Age Eucharist
	18:00	Evensong
Wednesday 9th	10:30	Eucharist
	19:00	Sanctuary @ Seven
Friday 11th	09:30	Morning Prayer
Palm Sunday 13th	10:30	Eucharist
	16:00	Toddler Church
	18:00	Evensong
Monday 14th	19:30	Evening Prayer in Holy Week
Tuesday 15 th	19:30	Eucharist in Holy Week
Wednesday 16 th	10:30	Eucharist
	19:30	The Stations of The Cross
Maundy Thursday 17 th	19:30	Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar and Watch
Good Friday 18 th	09:30	Morning Prayer
	10:00	Walk of Witness with Our Lady of Victories
	14:00	'Last Words of Love': <i>Seven last words from the Cross</i>
Holy Saturday 19 th	19:30	Easter Fire and Vigil
Easter Day Sunday 20 th	10:30	Eucharist
	18:00	BCP Holy Communion
Wednesday 23 rd	10:30	Eucharist
Friday 25 th	09:30	Morning Prayer
Sunday 27 th	10:30	Eucharist
	18:00	BCP Holy Communion
Wednesday 30 th	10:30	Eucharist

RENEWAL OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL OF ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, 2025

Periodically, the Electoral Roll of members and supporters of our parish church has to be completely renewed to ensure that it contains accurate details of those on the Roll. This has to be done to be presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will be held this year on a Sunday in April or May. The exact date is yet to be announced.

Therefore, all who are registered on the existing Electoral Roll will receive a letter inviting them to renew their membership by completing the attached form and returning it to the Electoral Roll Officer. Anyone who is not already on the Roll and wishes to be included should contact me – details below. Membership shows your support for St Stephen's and its Christian mission in Hightown and confers the right to have a say in how our church is administered.

Beth Cresswell, Electoral Roll Officer,
0151 929 2259- bethcresswell@googlemail.com



Services for Holy Week



Palm Sunday 13th

10.30 Eucharist

16.00 Toddler Church

18.00 Evensong

Monday 14th

19.30 Evening Prayer in Holy Week

Tuesday 15th

19.30 Eucharist

Wednesday 16th

10.30 Eucharist

19.30 Stations of the Cross

Maundy Thursday 17th

19.30 Eucharist, Stripping of Altar and Watch

Good Friday 18th

09.30 Morning Prayer

10.00 Walk of Witness with Our Lady of Victories

14.00 “Last Words of Love”. *Seven last words from the cross.*

Holy Saturday 19th

19.30 Easter fire and Vigil

Easter Sunday 20th

10.30 Eucharist

18.00 BCP Holy Communion



Prayer prompts April

Wk 1. “The kingdom of God does not come with careful observation, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you.” (*Luke 17*)

Wk 2. O Lord , you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down. You are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord. (*Psalms 139*)

Wk 3. “As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (*John 13*)

Wk 4. “ Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.” (*John 14*)

Wk 5. ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen’ (*Luke 24*)

Let us pray for the people of:

Langley Close, Richmond Close, Old Acre and Altcar Camp.



Spring Clean

Thanks to everyone who came to help to give a good “Spring Clean” to St Stephen’s Church and Hall. Chairs were scrubbed, awkward nooks and crannies swept out and cleansed. In fact, no stone was left unturned. In the photograph we can see some of the workforce sitting outside for a well earned coffee break. The ladies tell me that they, too, had a brief break.



Community Event at The Hightown Club



On Sunday 27th April from 11:30am to 2:30pm, **THE TENNIS SECTION** are hosting a **FREE** Open Day for Hightown and beyond.

You are all invited to come along and try your hand at tennis. You can just knock a ball around with a friend, (there are plenty of rackets to borrow), or you could have some free coaching with a qualified coach.

There will be a barbeque, and the clubhouse will be open for refreshments. Tennis is such a great sport for all ages and a really fun way to get fit and stay fit. No strings attached, apart from the ones on the racket.

For more information go to: clubspark.lta.org.uk/HightownTennisClub

Eyes Down for Bingo

Plus refreshments

St Stephen's Hall

Wednesday 9th April 1:00—3:00pm

Free



Coffee Morning



In aid of PODS

Saturday 5th April 10:00am—12:00noon

St Stephen's Church Hall

Come and enjoy a bacon/sausage barm and a cup of tea or coffee

Neighbourhood Police Team

A member of our local neighbourhood police team for Formby and Hightown, PC Fontenell, recently attended our Saturday morning coffee morning in St Stephen's Hall.

He, and his colleagues, are keen, that we, in Hightown, are aware of the services that they are providing and how to contact them. PC Fontenell is trying to encourage people to contact the police if they have any concerns. He said that he had had numerous conversations with people in the community about concerns regarding suspicious behaviour, but they had been worried about 'bothering' them. He continued saying that, obviously, 999 is for emergencies or if you are in danger or if something is happening at that moment; 101 is the number for any other help required. He wishes it to be known that they are there to help us!

Constable Fontenell: **mob 07976058772**

Email: 5301@merseyside.police.uk

Children's Church

From **MAY** onwards, St Stephen's will be having a special children's church, in St Stephen's Hall, every third Sunday of the month at **10.30am**. The children will be given the opportunity to participate in songs, prayers, Bible stories, games and discussion time. Children of all ages will be most welcome, although we would ask that parents of pre schoolers remain with them. We are really looking forward to this new venture, to make church more child friendly, and hope to see lots of you.

The family of Graham and Pauline Goodchild would like to thank everyone who sent messages of sympathy, those who offered support in recent weeks and those who helped at

Graham's Funeral Eucharist.
We have greatly appreciated it.





Brass Rota



April

Jan Williams

May

Hazel Roberts

Sunday Coffee Rota April

6th Jayne Cudby

13th Beth Cresswell

20th Sue Taylor

27th Pam Bessant

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Revd Keith Thornborough
at**

St Stephen's

on 0151 929 3097

Who's Who at St Stephen's

Vicar	Revd Keith Thornborough
Warden	Judith Welch Judith.Churchwarden@StStephensHightown.org.uk
PCC Secretary	Beryl Howard
PCC Treasurer	Keith Aldis
Gift Aid Secretary	Brian Taylor
Safeguarding	Cath Marshall cathmarshall47@yahoo.co.uk
Electoral Roll	Beth Cresswell
Sacristan Team	Hazel Roberts
Health and Safety	<i>TBA</i>
Flower Rota	Sue Taylor
CMS Secretary	Berenice Gibson
St Stephen's Youth Club	Jane Croxton
Church Hall Bookings	Sally Fraser
Focus Editor	Colette Hudson: Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk
Focus Adverts	Colette Hudson Adverts@StStephensHightown.org.uk
Focus Distribution	Mr and Mrs K Bradshaw
St Stephen's Church Website	StStephensHightown.org.uk

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Rohan.Pickard@Gmail.com

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

Caroline Speakman

Member of the Society of Willwriters

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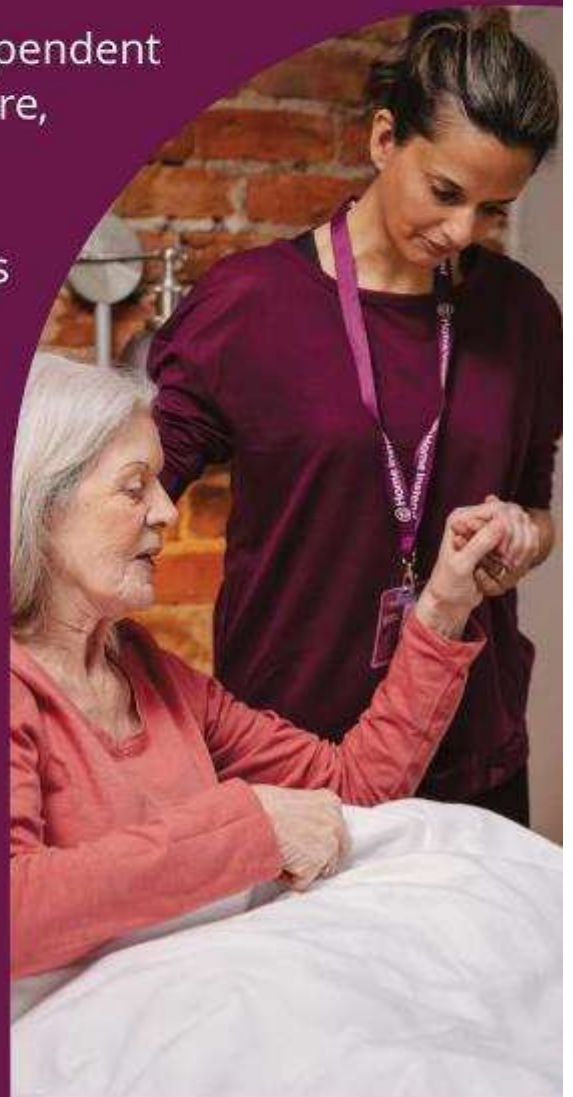
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Hightown Friendship Group 1st Wednesday at 8pm St Stephen's Hall	Marjorie Walker
Gardening Club 2nd Monday 8pm St Stephen's Hall	Hilary Munro
Bowling Club, Sandy Lane	Diana Killen
Hightown Club	Chris Scrine
Blundellsands Sailing Club	Rohan Pickard— RohanPickard@gmail.com Deryk Johnson— DerykJ@gmail.com
Yoga Classes, Hightown Club	Rose Billinge
Flower Show	Debbie Underhill underhillsathome@aol.com
Open Mic Poetry Group 3rd Thursday 7.30pm St Stephen's Church hall	Sally Anne— tapiabowes@gmail.com Alex
Craft Group, Every Thursdays 1.30-3.30pm, St Stephen's Hall	Sue Taylor
Hightown Parish Council	Jenny Farrar clerk@hightownparishcouncil.uk www.hightownparishcouncil.uk
Community Library, Alt Centre, Lower Alt Rd. Mon 12-2, Tues 1-3, Weds 1-4, Fri 10-12	Linda Munro lindamunro@hotmail.com
Zumba Gold, Dance for all aged 55 plus, Mondays 9.45-10.30, St Stephen's Hall	Nicky Garsforth
Creo Dance Company Mon Tues Wed Thurs Sat Children 3 to 18 years	Georgia Cardwell

From Beth's Kitchen

FLUFFY TUNA FLAN

This is a recipe from "FOCUS ON FOOD," a cookery book which Elizabeth Richardson and I edited many moons ago to raise funds for St Stephen's. We had great fun collecting recipes from a multitude of contributors and adding quotes, sayings and graces beneath each one.



We sold over 100 copies so there may be a few of them about. The recipe I have chosen is one sent in by our dear friend Val Bailey. Try and think of her and her family with every mouthful.

Ingredients

200g short crust pastry	½ pint white sauce
¼ teaspoon English mustard	Salt and pepper to taste
2 eggs, separated	1 tin flaked tuna

Method

First make the white sauce in the usual way with ½ pint of milk.

Roll out the pastry and line a 22cm flan ring or dish. Bake blind, lined and filled with baking beans in a hot oven for 15 minutes. Remove beans and return flan to oven for a further 5 minutes until cooked and golden.

Flake tuna and add to sauce. Add egg yolks, mustard and seasoning

Whisk the egg whites until stiff. Gently fold into sauce mixture.

Place in cooked pastry case and bake in a hot oven for 15-20 minutes until well risen and golden brown

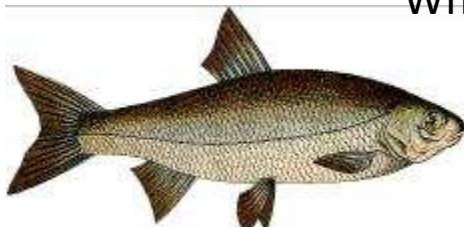
Serve with potatoes and green vegetables or a crisp salad.

Serves 4

The Angler's Prayer

Lord, give me grace to catch a fish
so large that even I

When telling of it afterwards
May never need to lie.



A Good Read by Colette Hudson

Schools

The year is 1912 and the first Primary School that Miss Scott remembers was ‘at the corner of Blundell Avenue—the house on the south side. It belonged to a Miss MacMillan, who was, or appeared to be, rather severe, both in her dress and in her manner. She also taught in Sunday School. I remember that our Confirmation Classes were held in her schoolroom. This was, of course, before our church was built. In later years she left Hightown and Miss Frodsham opened a school which was held in the vestry of the church (then used as a dual purpose hall) and later in the Church Hut. Then Miss Mason opened her school in Rathbone Rd where she carried on for many years. Many of her pupils have done very well and thank her for her help in their training. Since she gave up her school the children have had to travel to Formby or Crosby for their schooling.’

(Editor’s note: When I was younger, there was no free transport to local schools. Families without cars opted for schools situated close to railway stations, those with cars had more choice. At senior school level, quite a number of children were sent to boarding school.)

Doctor

‘A Dr Matthews lived at ‘Broomy Bank’ in the early days. Later a Dr Sanders lived at ‘Danefield’, Alt Rd, where the present side entrance was the surgery entrance — built specifically for that purpose.’

(Editor’s note: When I was growing up in Hightown, Dr Patrick Reid (Paddy) had a surgery in Lower Alt Rd.

Police Station

‘The Police Station was the last house up the hill in School Rd. I understand that any offenders caught were locked up in The Truant School!’

(Editor’s note: When I was growing up, the Police Station was in St Stephen’s Rd, in the house, now, most aptly named ‘The Old Nick.’

Hightown Fire Brigade

'The members of the Hightown Voluntary Fire Brigade were mainly business men resident in Hightown. Their equipment comprised a few hoses mounted on a window cleaner's cart and it had to be man - handled along the road to the scene of the fire. This contraption was kept in the garage to the right of Gaffney's shop. Owing to the poor supply of water, there was difficulty in getting sufficient force for it to be really effective.'

Shops

Having already mentioned Gaffney's General Stores in a previous issue, I will record what Miss Scott had to say about other shops.

'Mr I. Edwards states that the Chemist Shop originally opened where the present butcher is situated. The butcher shop being now where the Chemist is now situated. A change over apparently!

Cake Shop: Now the Post Office

Greengrocer: Situated on the opposite side of the Village Green. Produce from the farms.

A great character called 'Fish Lizzie' came to Hightown from Liverpool with produce from the market. She wore a long skirt and shawl and carried her basket on her head. She took a great interest in all the happenings of the village.'

(Editor's Note: When I was younger, the shop that is now The Village Salon used to be the Chemist / Hardware Store, that which is now The Village Store was Adams Butcher's Shop. There was a Post Office in the shop alongside The Village Store and the shop that is now the Pharmacy used to be an off licence. On the opposite side of the village green there was a greengrocer's, one small hut operating as a hairdresser's, a sweet shop in another tiny hut and a slightly larger hut acted as 'The Wool Shop' and sold so much more!. Gaffney's was still a general store, and for a very brief while, I was their paper girl.)



Mouse Makes



On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.
Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,
and showed us the resurrection to
come by His raising to new life!



Jesus is risen!

The angel said:
"Jesus ...is not here, for He
has risen, just as He said."
Matthew 28:6

Jesus is here

Jesus said:
"Where two or three
come together
in my name I am
there with them."
Matthew 18:20



READ the story of
the resurrection in:
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-19
Luke 24:1-49
John 20:1-29
and 21:1-14

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



Jesus will come again!

Jesus said:
"I will come back
and take you to
myself so that you
will be where I am."
John 14:3



JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN
LORD • SAVIOUR • KING
RESURRECTION
PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS



MESSIAH • REDEEMER
CHRIST • SON OF GOD
HOSANNA • PRAISE
GO TELL • EASTER



Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Lk 22:1-13, Mt 26:14-19, Mk 14:10-16

It was just before Passover, when Jews celebrate God rescuing them from Egypt. Jesus and his disciples were in Jerusalem..

The Chief Priests were plotting



How can we get rid of Jesus?
He always has crowds around him.

Jesus' disciple Judas came to them...



I could help you.

We'd be happy to pay you



How much?

30 silver coins



30 silver coins happened to be the same amount that had to be paid as compensation to the owner if a slave was killed Ex.31:32



I'll let you know when Jesus is alone.

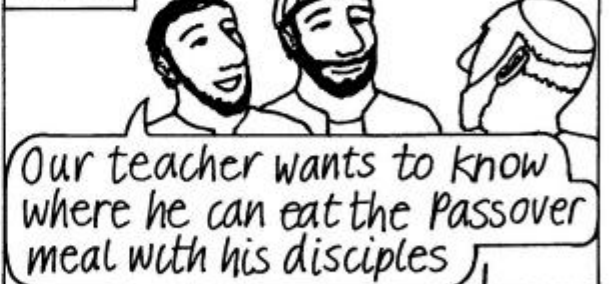
Meanwhile, Peter and John asked Jesus...



Where do you want us to prepare the Passover meal?

Go into the city and follow the man carrying a water jar to his home

They did, and asked the house owner



Our teacher wants to know where he can eat the Passover meal with his disciples

The room is upstairs on the roof, ready to use



Peter and John got the meal ready



That evening, Jesus and his 12 disciples went to the room to eat the Passover meal.





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!

Toddler Church

St Stephen's Church

Palm Sunday April 13th 4pm

A service for pre-schoolers and their families

Fun songs, a bible story, craft and refreshments

We look forward to meeting you!

Youth Club

From age 7

Friday Evening Term Time

6pm 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**