

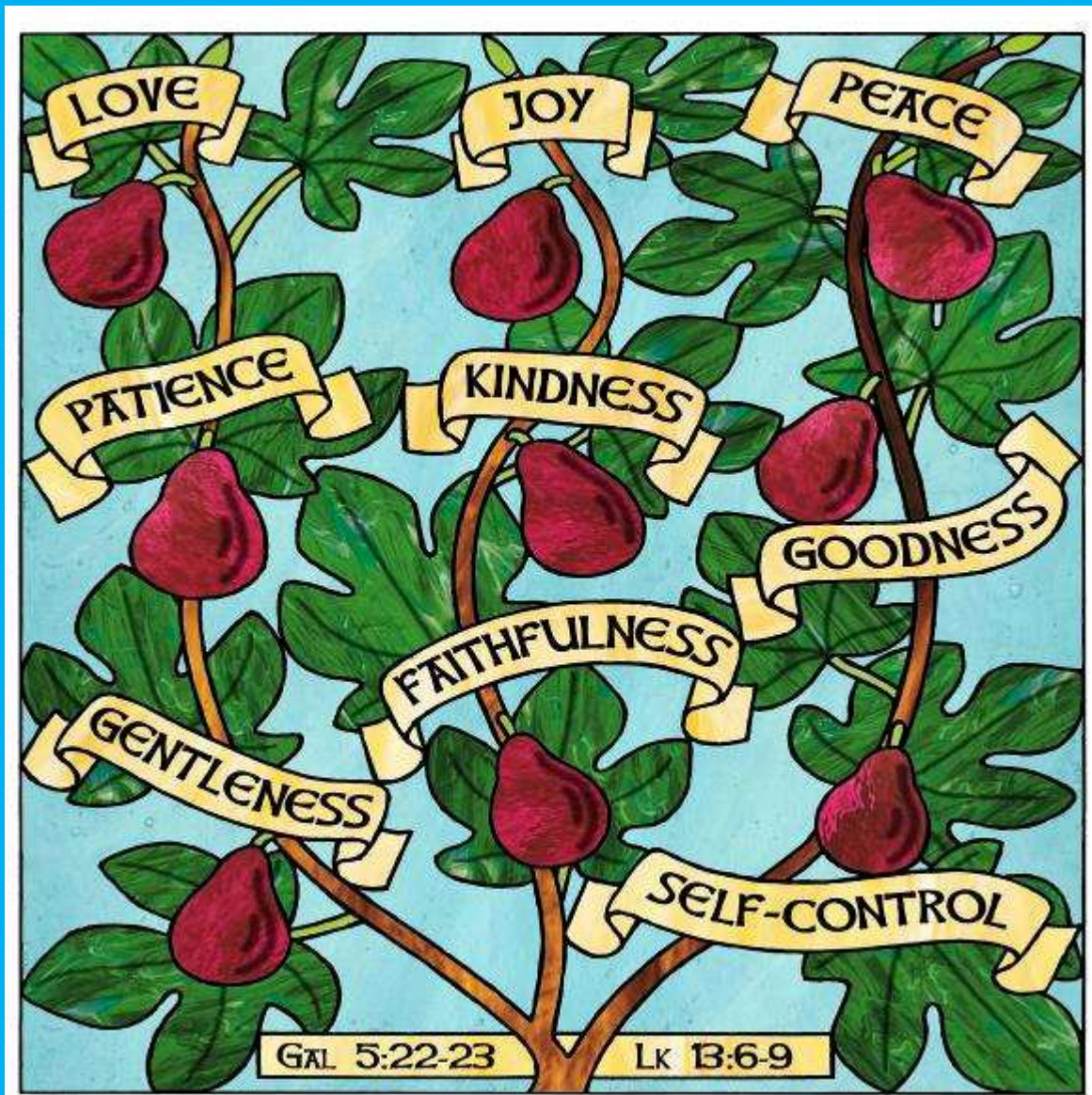
June 2025

FOCUS

Issue 295



Parish Magazine of St Stephen's, Hightown



The Fruits of the Holy Spirit



Editor's Note

We have been blessed with warm, sunny weather all throughout the spring which has given me the opportunity to sit in my garden and observe the abundant, active and sometimes noisy wildlife. At one point this year, the great spotted woodpecker in the garden was awakening us at daybreak with his drumming.

This clement weather, and the weather for June, July and August, will be crucial to the success or failure of all attempts to breed and multiply. So the wildlife, our gardens and the local farmers are all hoping for a good season; not too wet but not too dry either, with just enough rain, and plenty of warm sunshine. This will ripen the crops, let plants and animals thrive and allow us to continue to sit in our gardens or stroll along the beach or country lanes and enjoy the great British summer to the full.

As I write, I am observing a female blackbird, (females have brown feathers and a brown bill), a most industrious and attentive worker, who, over the last few days, has been collecting box moth caterpillars, which have been feasting upon the box hedge in my garden. Initially, I was not overjoyed to find box moth eggs, however, earlier on in the year, I decided against using pesticides. Watching the blackbird, the grey tits and the other garden birds collecting the box moth caterpillars, to feed themselves and their young, has been a source of great joy, not only for me but I'm sure the box hedge is appreciating the symbiotic relationship too.

We only need to spend a short, quiet time surrounded by nature before we realise the Divine Presence that is in all of God's good creation.

Enjoy!

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,

Last month on the 18th we held our Annual Parochial Church meeting and received the various reports from Church and the groups associated with us. What a busy church and community we are! Thank you to all who give so much time to our church and village.



We will have also re-elected our Church Warden, Judith Welch and elected and welcomed our second Church Warden in Jane Copeland, which is truly wonderful. We are most grateful to Jane to responding to God's call to serve our parish in this way. We have a great team of officers and a very supportive PCC. God is good!

A real encouragement for me, over these last two years, has been the growth of our different congregations. Sunday morning, our All-Age Eucharist, Wednesday morning, Toddler Church and Sanctuary at Seven congregations have all seen growth, some of it small, but that's okay. Our Sunday evening BCP congregation has remained fairly static with regards to numbers, although we do welcome visitors from time to time. Together, we share in so many ways.

Relationships and sharing together are important and one way we do this is with our 'after service fellowship'. We have a good number of folks who stay for a cuppa and a chat after Sunday and Wednesday morning services. Our monthly coffee mornings also provide that space to gather and share together. It's good to meet and share together.

In June, we celebrate several important feasts in the Church....

Pentecost: when we give thanks for the sharing of the Holy Spirit on the disciples... a rushing mighty wind filled the place where they were meeting. Tongues of fire appeared and rested over them and the Spirit enabled them to speak in different tongues so sharing the message of Jesus.

Trinity Sunday: where we celebrate the doctrine of the Trinity, the three persons of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, a blessing to us all.

Corpus Christi: Thursday 19th, sixty days after Easter, the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, we give thanks for the Eucharist, for Holy Communion. We will hold a special service at church on this evening. The Latin words 'Corpus Christi' translate to the 'Body of Christ'. At every Eucharist, we share the Body and Blood of Christ, as Jesus instructed, 'Do this in remembrance of me'.

On the 25th of this month I will have been with you for two years! Where has that time gone?? I am grateful to God for calling me to serve here in Hightown. Sharing together, we have achieved much in that time.... But there is still much more that we would like to do!! Do come and join us at any of our services; come and share with us. You will be most welcome.

God Bless,

Keith

Magazine part-sponsored by John Gibson - notary services

St Stephen's Church Services for June

Sunday 1st -Easter 7	10:30	All-Age Eucharist
	18:00	Evensong
Wednesday 4th	10:30	Eucharist
Friday 6th	09:30	Morning Prayer
Sunday 8th -Pentecost	10:30	Eucharist
	16:00	Toddler Church
	18:00	Evensong
Wednesday 10th	10:30	Eucharist
	19:00	Sanctuary @ Seven
Friday 13th	09:30	Morning Prayer
Sunday 15th -Trinity	10:30	Eucharist Father's Day
	18:00	BCP Holy Communion
Wednesday 18th	10:30	Eucharist
Thursday 19th	19:30	Eucharist- Corpus Christi
Friday 20th	09:30	Morning Prayer
Sunday 22nd -Trinity 1	10:30	Eucharist
NO Evening Service at St Stephens.	18:30	Archdeacon's Visitation Service at St Faith's Great Crosby
Wednesday 25th	10:30	Eucharist
Friday 27th	09:30	Morning Prayer
Sunday 29th - St. Peter & St. Paul	10:30	Eucharist
	18:00	Evensong

The Feast of Corpus Christi

St Stephen's Church Thursday 19th June 7.30pm

Please join us for our Eucharistic Service in thanksgiving for the
institution of Holy Communion

Children's Church

**10.30am Sunday 15th June and every third Sunday in
St Stephen's Hall**

**All children, and parents of young children are very
welcome**

Prayer prompts June

From the writings of Julian of Norwich

Week 1: We will find no rest for our heart or spirit as long as we seek it in insignificant things, which cannot satisfy us, rather than in God, who is omnipotent, omniscient and beneficent.

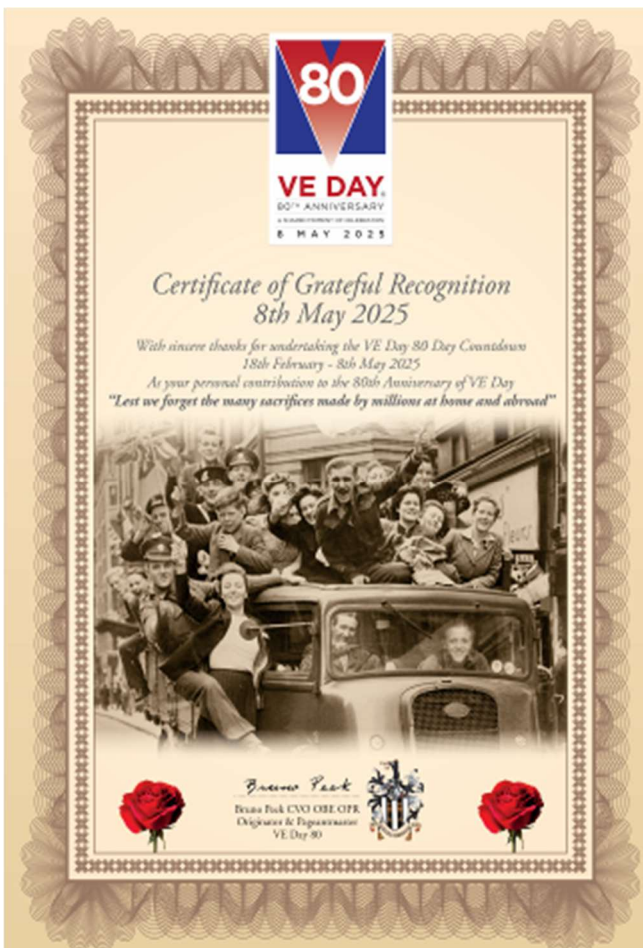
Week 2: Our Lord desires that our spirit be truly turned to gaze upon him and upon all his glorious creation, for it is exceedingly good. All his judgements are sweet and comforting, and bring our spirit to rest.

Week 3: God wants us to be enfolded in repose and peace. Only then shall Christ's spiritual thirst be satisfied. This is his thirst: a desire to love us. That love shall continue until the last day, when we shall be completely gathered into his joy and happiness.

Week 4: Christ Jesus is both human and divine. Because he is divine, he is supreme happiness. So he was from the beginning, and so shall be until the ending. This happiness can neither increase nor diminish.

Let us pray for the people of:

Village Way, The Roundway, Alt Rd, Lower Alt Rd and Thistledown Drive



A very warm welcome was extended to Bishop Ruth on 3rd May at a lovely Service of Hope at Liverpool Cathedral.



EASTER 2025

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CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN



Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th June

10.00am—12 noon

St Stephen's Church Hall

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



Brass Rota

June

**Colette Hudson
and Jayne Cudby**



Sunday Coffee Rota June

**1st Jan Williams
8th Jane Bessant
15th Jane Copeland
22nd Shirley Burns
29th Christine Grocott**

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Who's Who at St Stephen's

Vicar	Revd Keith Thornborough
Associate Priest	Revd John Reed
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	TBA
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

A Statement Following The Death Of Pope Francis by The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell

Here are some excerpts from that statement:

‘Let us walk together, work together, pray together.’ These are the words Pope Francis said to me when we met in 2023. They sum up his vision for the church, both the Roman Catholic Church but also ecumenically.

“Francis’s whole life and ministry was centred on Jesus who comes among us, not to be served, but to serve. We saw that in Francis’s service of the poor, his love of neighbour especially the displaced, migrant, the asylum seeker, his deep compassion for the well-being of the earth and his desire to build the church in new ways. Francis showed us how to follow Jesus, and encouraged us to go and do likewise.

“His encyclicals and teachings were supported by his deeds and actions. His whole life was instantly recognisable as those of one who followed Jesus.

“Pope Francis was acutely aware of the divisions between our churches, and I remember the powerful work he did with the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland in promoting peacebuilding in South Sudan.

“I remember, in the brief times I spent with him, how this holy man of God was also witty, lively, good to be with, and the warmth of his personality and interest in others shone out from him. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



The Fruits of The Holy Spirit

“So by their fruits you will know them” (*Matthew 7:20*)

The entire passage in Matthew’s Gospel helps us to understand the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, which are the observable behaviours of people who have allowed the grace of the Holy Spirit to be effective in them. These qualities reflect God’s nature, who cultivates them within us as part of His work of restoring all of creation.

Man and Horse *By Graham Goodchild*

In memory of Janice 1st February 1960 - 11th April 2025

The late Janice Mullings, of Larkhill Grove, once kindly forwarded a photograph of her grandfather, Thomas Benoni Mullings, astride his horse. Thomas served in the East Anglian Brigade, Royal Field Artillery during the First World War following service in the 1st Surrey Rifles. Thankfully, he survived the War, but sadly his two brothers Alfred and Albert Mullings, lost their lives serving in the Royal Navy. Six of Janice's great uncles also served in the First World War. Five were brothers the sixth served as a Major in the Indian Army.



Men like Thomas, in charge of horses in the First World War, shared a common anguish at their suffering. As a soldier in the Royal Field Artillery he would have witnessed the misery that horses had to endure in the hellish conditions of the Western Front, pulling supply and ammunition wagons, field artillery guns and ambulances. These men loved and respected their animals. It was not unusual to find injured horses bandaged with men's own emergency dressings. Some would give or risk their lives out of love for their horses. One officer recalled a situation in May 1918 when, withdrawing his troop under heavy machine gun fire, a horse was shot from under its rider. The officer ordered the trooper to leave the dying horse and mount behind him, but the trooper refused. Risking death, he crawled towards the horse, which raised his head in recognition. The officer repeated the order, offering to shoot the animal, but the trooper merely shook his head. He stayed the next few moments with his horse, stroking its head and neck until it died. He then re-joined the troop. The pastoral duties of Army chaplains extended to arranging mercy killings for badly injured horses and providing comfort to soldiers who had lost much-loved animals.

It was impossible to shelter horses from machine gun and rifle fire, but on the East African Front between British Kenya and German Tanganyika an ingenious solution was found by Major Robert Stordy, chief veterinary officer, to protect British grey horses from German snipers. Using a silver nitrate solution, he painted the Army greys with zebra stripes and leopard spots to camouflage

them and confuse the enemy. His success was rewarded with a DSO. But sadly, the East African campaign saw the greatest number of horses, mules and donkeys killed in the First World War.

The bond between man and horse was deep as captured in the following verse penned by Private William Parr, Field Artillery, 1st Canadian Division:

*'And when the grand, great, final roll call comes,
To be the first upon parade we'll try
Oh Lord of All, please grant my only prayer,
To take my horses with me when I die.'*

Janice's Mother, Olga, remembered the death of Thomas Benoni Mullings on 1 April 1977. The fate of his horse is unknown. We hope that it enjoyed a well-earned retirement.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of a long-time Hightown resident,



Janice Louise Mullings, who died on 11th April 2025.



May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

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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
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A Good Read-The Truant School

By Colette Hudson, based on the writings of Miss C Scott



This school was said to have been built with bricks from the old Walton Gaol, I can still remember when we first came to Hightown, about 1911, what a forbidding place it appeared. The gates were bolted and barred and a huge St Bernard dog was to be seen patrolling the grounds. A watchman was on duty all day occupying a sentry hut inside the entrance gate. Strict discipline was enforced in those days. Mrs Watson, who with her husband, was in charge of the school as headmaster and matron, for some years, told me that heavy weights (used as doorstops in her day) had been used many years ago as a punishment, to be carried by the wrongdoers - shades of Jane Eyre! There were also cells - the doors having peep holes. There was a large staff as the boys at the school had to learn a trade. The Church of England and Roman Catholic children had their separate teaching staff and lived apart.

The boys had to attend church services each Sunday - the C of E boys at Altcar Church and the RC boys at Little Crosby. They set off to walk the distances like regiments of young soldiers in hail, rain or sunshine each week, attired in corduroy suits, Eton collars, Glengarry hats and in wet weather, black oilskin capes. Mr T Tiffin used to

read and talk to the boys on a Sunday afternoon - a kind action which I am sure was very much appreciated. He was a great favourite with the boys.

A rather interesting story was told to me last year. One of our residents, Mrs D Savin, was passing the site of the old school when two elderly men stopped her and asked what happened to the school. She explained to them that it had been demolished and to her surprise they said that they had been pupils at the school, "old boys"- emigrated who had prospered. Whilst they were in England they thought they would revisit their old school, just to see if any of the teaching staff were still there. They said that the discipline had been strict but nevertheless they had benefited from it.

During WW2 children from Liverpool were evacuated to the Truant School (the remand home boys having been removed by this time.) The ladies of the village took turns to bath the children and put them to bed.



Hightown Gardens, Sunday 8th June, 1pm to 5pm

A welcoming group of gardens, open for charity

Visit a plantswoman's quirky garden full of surprises, a recently built contemporary garden with pond feature, an organic

garden with a Mediterranean theme, a wildlife, organic garden with pergola, pond and literary themed areas and a small garden with a modern touch that's full of colour. There is wheelchair access to one garden in Blundell Rd, West Bank in School Rd and the Mark Rd Garden.

Combined admission is £6, with tea, coffee and cake at 7 Mark Rd.

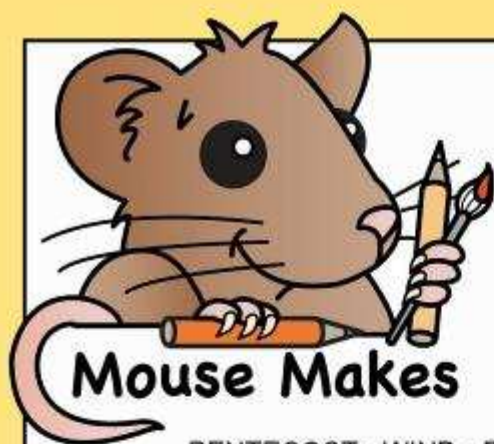
11 Blundell Avenue, L38 9EQ, Karen Rimmer

48 Blundell Rd, L38 9EQ, Nina and Colin Mitchell Price

75 Blundell Rd L38 9EF ,Shirley and Phil Roberts

7 Mark Rd L38 0BG, Barbara and Derek Jones

West Bank, School Rd, L38 0BN, Barbara MacArthur



Mouse Makes

PENTECOST • WIND • FIRE
 HOLY • SPIRIT • TONGUES • RESTED
 JERUSALEM • JEWS • GALILEANS
 HEAR • LANGUAGE • ARAMAIC • GREEK
 HEBREW • PARTHIANS • MEDES
 ELAMITES • MESOPOTAMIA
 JUDEA • CAPPADOCIA • PONTUS
 ASIA • PHRYGIA • PAMPHYLIA
 EGYPT • LIBYA • CYRENE
 ROME • CRETANS
 ARABIANS • GOD



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It was fifty days since **Passover**, and Jews from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to celebrate Passover. As the **Apostles** were gathered together the **Holy Spirit** came upon them and they began to speak in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them.

The crowd that were listening were amazed as they heard about God in their own language.

How many people heard, believed and were baptised that day?

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible or parts of the Bible have now been translated into over 3,000 different languages since it was first written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

God in the Sciences

Editor: These questions and answers are taken from The Faraday Kids website (www.faradaykids.com). For even more science-faith Q&A's, check out 101 Great Big Questions About God and Science, Edited by L Henderson & S Bryant (Lion, 2022)

Help, my kids just asked me a science question!

Why aren't dinosaurs in the Bible?

The Bible wasn't written to list all the animals on earth or tell us about science. It was written a long time before people started to use science to learn about the world.

When the Bible was written, people didn't even have a word for dinosaurs! But it's not just dinosaurs that aren't mentioned in the Bible, it doesn't talk about armadillos, kangaroos, sabre-toothed cats or penguins either!

That doesn't mean that the Bible is out of date or wrong, or that these animals aren't important. Rather than teaching us science, many Christians believe that the Bible was written to tell people about God, how much He loves them, and all the amazing things He has done.

The Bible says that God made everything, and loves everything He made, so that includes dinosaurs. It also encourages people to explore and find out all about the wonderful things it says God has made. Science is a part of this exploration.

Did God make the dinosaurs?

The Bible, (the holy book that Christians read), says that God made everything. All the stars, the Earth and all the amazing plants and animals that have ever lived here. So yes, most Christians believe that God made the dinosaurs!

The Bible also teaches that God loves it when people explore His creation, and science is a great way of doing that. So, for many Christians, science is one of the fun things we can use to learn all about how God made everything, including all of the dinosaurs!

Were humans and dinosaurs ever living on earth at the same time?

Yes! But probably not the kind of dinosaur you're thinking of! Most of the dinosaurs died out a very, very long time ago, way before humans first lived. But some of the smaller, feathery dinosaurs survived and over a long time they have evolved into the animals we call birds.

So, from chickens and robins to penguins and ostriches, there are dinosaurs living all over our world today!



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

Sunday June 8th 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**