

May 2023

FOCUS

Issue 276



Parish Magazine of St Stephen's, Hightown



Photo: Chris Jackson

The Coronation Issue

Editor's Letter



I have always believed Hightown to be a very special place to live and an incident that occurred last month left me in no doubt about this.

Wilbur, a timid Labrador, took fright whilst out on a lead walk in the dunes. He tugged free from his extending lead, leaving his owner holding only the hard plastic handle, and went missing. The news about Wilbur travelled quickly, both by word of mouth and online and very soon there were many people out looking and calling for Wilbur: family, friends, the Hightown dog community and general community alike. I saw adults, on foot, shining torches and children with sharp eyes on the lookout for him. I saw one of Wilbur's canine friends, out with his owners, searching for him. There were people driving round the roads looking. By 1am everyone was tired and, with heavy hearts, his owners went home to try to rest. They left their door open all night, in the hope that Wilbur would find his way home, but to no avail. Never giving up hope, at 5am they resumed their search. This time they were in luck! They found Wilbur down by the toad ponds with his lead all tangled up in the bushes and unable to get free.

His family said that right throughout the evening and the next morning, they had felt loved and supported by their whole community.

Once again in our village I witnessed, at first hand, Jesus' command to "*love your neighbour as yourself.*" It made me very proud to be a member of our caring community. Sometimes God's words leap right off the page of the Bible and we see Him in action in front of our very own eyes. This was one such occasion.

God bless you all, Colette

Thank you to our new distributors, who have, very kindly, agreed to give of their free time to deliver the Focus to your homes.

Entries for future issues of Focus to be sent to
Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk

Please Note New Email Address

Please submit before the last day of the month.

St Stephen's Church Sunday Rota for May 2023

Wed 3rd	10.30 Morning Prayer	Geoff Bailey
Sunday 7th	10.30 Eucharist	Rev Canon Janet Eastwood
	6.00 Evening Prayer	Colin Goodyear
Wed 10th	10.30 Morning Prayer	Judith Welch
Sunday 14th	10.30 Eucharist	Rev Nathan Thorpe
	6.00 Evening Prayer	John Gibson
Wed 17th	10.30 Morning Prayer	Hazel Roberts
Sunday 21st	10.30 Eucharist	Rev Sue Smith
	6.00 Evening Prayer	John Gibson
Wed 24th	10.30 Morning Prayer	Rev Sue Smith
Sunday 28th	10.30 Eucharist –	Rev Peter Paine
	6.00 Evening Prayer	John Gibson
Wed 31st	10.30 Morning Prayer	Judith Welch

A Prayer For The King

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,
bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles,
and all who are in authority under him;
That they may order all things
in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace,
To the honour of your name,
And the good of your church and people;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



PRAYER PROMPTS FOR May



- 1st. We remember the Apostles Philip and James and pray for all church clergy, priests, ministers, and other leaders.
For the people of Alt Road and Lower Alt Road.
- 2nd. May we value each person we meet today as a child of God, loved by the father and saved by the son.
For all the people of Thistledown Drive.
- 3rd. Pray for the safety of those working in public transport, and for their passengers.
For the people of North Dunes and Westway.
- 4th. Pray for all the families where children have been adopted or fostered.
For all the people of Thornbeck Avenue.
- 5th. Pray for the families and children in our church congregation.
For the people of St Stephens Road and The Roundway.
- 6th. Pray for governments and rulers throughout the world that they may act for the good of all in their communities.
For the people of Sandhills and Blundell Grove.
- 7th. **5th Sunday of Easter.** For all refugees and those exiled from their countries.
For the people of Grasmere Road.
- 8th. Pray for the safety of those who bring medical aid in situations of natural disaster or conflict.
For all the people of Village Way and Hester Close.
- 9th. Pray for peace in our hearts, especially in those places where we nurse unresolved bitterness or resentment.
For the people of North End Lane and local farms.
- 10th. Pray for the homeless.
For the people of Riverside and Wignalls Meadow.
- 11th. Pray for all organisations working to improve the lot of the very poor in the majority world, and for their employees.
For the people of Marston Crescent.
- 12th. Pray for workers' co-operatives, working to improve the lot of the very poor in the majority world, and for their employees.
For the people Bankside and Withins Field
- 13th. Pray for the work of the Salvation Army with the needy in Britain and overseas.
For the people of Moorhouses and Briary Croft.
- 14th. **6th Sunday of Easter.** Pray for all seafarers and the coastguards who watch our coast.
For the people of Elvington Road.
- 15th. Pray for people and organisations engaged in fair trade with producers in developing countries.
For all the people of The Range and Altcar Camp.
- 16th. Pray for ourselves and for our spiritual lives.
For the people of Alton Close and Blundell Avenue.

PRAYER PROMPTS FOR May (ctd.)



- 17th. Pray for those working in the National Health Service.
For all the people of Hightown
- 18th. **Ascension Day.** We remember the ascension of Jesus into Heaven and rejoice that we continue to experience His presence.
For the people of St. Georges Road and Langley Close.
- 19th. Pray for the staff and residents of local residential and nursing homes.
For the people of Mark Road.
- 20th. Pray for all who have lost loved ones.
For the people of Mayfield Close and Tudor Gardens.
- 21st. **7th Sunday after Easter.** We remember all parts of the world where there is conflict. We pray for an end to hatred and for the attainment of lasting peace.
For the people of the Blundell Road.
- 22nd. Pray for those who are dependent on others for their physical care; may they retain their sense of self-worth.
For the people of Windermere Grove and Sandilands Grove.
- 23rd. Pray for all those who are low in spirit at this time.
For the people of Larkhill Grove.
- 24th. Pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.
For the people of Old Acre and Orrell Hill Lane.
- 25th. Pray for those who have been made homeless by war and violence, or by natural disasters. May despair give way to hope and the ability to return home safely.
For the people of Thirlmere Road and Thirlmere Mews.
- 26th. Pray for all the staff and patients in local hospitals.
For the people of School Road and Rathbone Road.
- 27th. Pray for the work of Sightsavers and their partners in Africa and Asia, in preventing blindness, restoring sight, and training those whose sight cannot be destroyed.
For the people of Elmcroft Lane and Emerson Close.
- 28th. **Pentecost (Whit Sunday).** Pray for terrorists and all who seek to achieve their aims by violence; that they may turn to other means.
For the people of Sandy Lane and Oakfield Road.
- 29th. We give thanks for the fruitfulness of the earth and pray for a more equitable distribution of its bounty.
For the people of Whitfield Close and Moss Lane
- 30th. Pray for the leaders and congregations of Churches together in Formby, Altcar and Hightown.
For the people of Richmond Close and Brentwood Close.
- 31st. We remember with gratitude all those who have been good influences in our lives.
For all the people of Hightown.

Who's Who at St. Stephen's

Vicar	<i>To be appointed</i>	
Reader	Mr. John Gibson	929 2044
Wardens	Mr. Geoff Bailey	929 2145
PCC Secretary	Mrs. Beryl Howard	929 3617
PCC Treasurer	Mr. Keith Aldis	929 3612
Gift Aid Secretary	Mr. Brian Taylor	929 2720
Safeguarding	Mrs. Sonia Bunyard	07905520680
Wills and Legacies	<i>To be appointed</i>	
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs. Beth Cresswell	929 2259
Sacristan Team	Miss Hazel Roberts	929 3731
Health and Safety	Mr. Stanley Alty	929 2289
Flower Rota	Mrs. Hilary Munro	929 2761
CMS Secretary	Mrs. Beryl Howard	929 3617
St. Stephen's Youth Club	Jane Croxton	0776305660
Church Hall Bookings	Mrs. Sally Fraser	929 2370
Focus Editor	Colette Grove Focus.Mag.2023@ststephenshightown.org.uk	
Focus Advertisements	Colette Grove Adverts@StStephensHightown.org.uk	
Focus Distribution	Mr. and Mrs. K Bradshaw	
St. Stephen's Church Website	StStephensHightown.org.uk	



The Coronation Regalia

For over a thousand years our kings and queens have been invested with ring, sceptre, rod, orb and crown. The ring is marked with a cross and the other objects are each topped with one, symbolising the authority of Christ, a dove, the symbol of God the Holy Spirit, perches on the cross at the top of the rod. Together they remind us that Jesus Christ is king over all.

Birthdays

Oliver Charles Stevenson



Baptisms

Sienna Walworth

Scott Hooper



Sanctuary Flowers

7th Hilary Munro

14th Elizabeth Richardson

21st Judith Welsh

28th Margaret Wear

St Stephen's Church Hall

TODDLER GROUP

Term time

Every Friday 9.30 to 11.30am

Brass Cleaning

Hazel Roberts

Sunday Coffee Rota

7th Beth Cresswell

14th Judith Welsh

21st Val Bailey/ Beryl Howard

28th Sue Taylor

The Walk of Witness, Good Friday, April 2023



BODNANT GARDENS N.WALES 20th May 2023

The Hightown Garden Club have arranged a day trip to the National Trust garden in North Wales called Bodnant Garden situated not far from Conway. If you would like to join the trip we have arranged for a coach to take us there, leaving Hightown at 9am, returning around 6pm. Please ring Val on 929 2145 for more information.

The cost will be £16 for the coach and a further £15 entrance fee to the gardens (so a total of £31 per person) unless you are a NT member in which case entry to Bodnant is FREE. The gardens are famous for their collection of rhododendrons, azaleas and a beautiful laburnum archway which should be in flower when we arrive on the 20th May.

More information about the garden and the trip will be available at our meeting, on the 15th May 2023, when we will have a guest speaker from Bodnant to give a talk. Visitors are welcome to attend. As a guest you may visit the garden club for £3. or join as a member for £15.

National Garden Scheme Open Day, Hightown

There will be 4 gardens open in Hightown, on Sunday 28th May between 1pm and 5pm, under The National Garden Scheme. They are as follows:

Jan Proctor, The Cross House, Alt Rd, L38 3RH (*refreshments*)

Joyce Batey, 11 Blundell Rd, L38 9EE

Karen Rimmer, 11 Blundell Ave, L38 9ED

Shirley Roberts, 75 Blundell Rd, L38 9EF

The cost of entry is £5 per person, (children free), and the price covers all gardens. Visitors may pay for and start the tour at any garden. A wristband will be given which is then the passport to the other three gardens. Proceeds go to MacMillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Parkinsons UK and many other charities.

Many thanks to Barringtons Funeral Directors for kindly donating daffodils to St Stephen's church, in March.

Village Organisations and Activities

Tuesday Group, St Stephen's Hall Tuesday morning 10am	Beryl Howard Jan Branigan	929 3617 929 3531
Hightown Friendship Group 2nd Wednesday at 8pm, St Stephen's Hall	Margaret Wear	929 2033
Gardening Club 2nd Monday St Stephen's Hall 8pm	Hilary Munro	929 2761
Bowling Club, Sandy Lane	Diana Killen	0151 284 8941
Hightown Club	Chris Scrine	07884 491807
Blundellsands Sailing Club	Rohan Pickard Chris Williams	rohan.pickard@gmail.com Cwill1951@virginmedia.com
Yoga Classes, Hightown Club	Rose Billinge	07900 017608
Flower Show	Ian Wear	929 2033
Open Mic Poetry Group 3rd Thursday 7.30pm, St Stephen's Church Hall	Tony Higginson Sally Anne	tonythebook@live.co.uk tapiabowes@gmail.com
'Drop In', Thursdays, 1.30—3.30pm St Stephen's Hall	Sue Taylor	0151 929 2720
Village Singers, Our Lady of Victories Hall, Mondays 1.30—3pm	Chris Payne	payne-c@sky.com
Hightown Parish Council	Jenny Farrar	07421 354877 clerk@hightownparishcouncil.uk www.hightownparishcouncil.uk
Community Library, Alt Centre, Lower Alt Rd, Mon 12-2, Tues 1-3,	Linda Munro	07599502577 lindamunro@hotmail.com
Zumba Gold, Dance for all aged 55+, Mondays 9.45-10.30 St Stephen's Hall	Nicky Garsforth	0791 614 2992
Creo Dance Co, Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat	Georgia Gaudie	07857 289795

Christian Aid

Jen, a loving mum in Malawi, dreams of her children being able to have the education they deserve.

Her hard-working boys have earned places at top colleges – but Jen cannot afford to send them both. ‘My heart longs to see our children finish school,’ says

Jen. ‘These dreams are very important to me, because by doing so, I’ll be sure that I am creating a good future for the children.’



A terrible dilemma

Her oldest two boys have gained tertiary education places, which is very rare for young people from her rural area. One has a place at a prestigious polytechnic and one at a well-known college – it’s even on one of Malawi’s banknotes.

Jen works hard to provide for her children. But she can barely scratch a living from the soil. Soaring costs of food, fuel, fertiliser, school uniforms and school fees are crushing dreams and keeping her family in poverty.

Now, Jen has had to make a choice. One that no mum should be forced to make. Rising costs mean Jen can pay for only one of her sons’ college courses.

Help this strong and determined mum provide for her family’s future.

Jen desperately needs to earn more, so that her oldest son Mathews can study as well. His place at a prestigious college is reserved for a year, so Jen remains hopeful that he’ll be able to start his course. The erratic weather is affecting Jen’s profits. ‘The result is that our harvest is very little,’ she says. But Jen remains resilient. ‘We say, let’s work hard so that the money will help the children go to school,’ she smiles.

You will find a Christian Aid donation envelope inside this copy of Focus.

Donations can be placed in the envelope and posted in the box at the vicarage, or handed in at The Village Store. There are online options also, detailed on the envelope, or via the Christian Aid website.

Many thanks.



SHANTIES AND HARPS *by Kevin Howard*

For me it all started a dozen years ago, when the Liverpool Shanty Kings performed on stage in St Stephen's church hall. I was in the audience, then, and was invited to join the group a few weeks later. The group was established in 2007 in preparation for Liverpool's Capital of Culture year, to promote maritime music in Liverpool. Since then, it has played hundreds of venues at local festivals, pubs, sports clubs, care homes, churches and church halls. We enjoy performing at private events such as birthday parties, retirement celebrations and wedding receptions. We have sung on board Cruise Liners and have again been booked for Mersey Ferry excursions this summer. We sang at the Albert Dock at the 125th Anniversary of Cunard when the 'Three Queens' were re-united in Liverpool and on the Daniel Adamson Tug, filmed by Granada for the National news.

Shanties are sailors' brisk work songs from the old wooden sailing ship days. The Shantyman sings a line or a verse and the crew then join in with the chorus, picking up the rhythm of, say, loading cargo, heaving up the anchor, hauling on the ropes (sheets) to unfurl the sails or pumping out the bilges (which they did continuously in the old sailing ships). Often, the accompaniment was just a drum beat to keep time (we use tambourines now) or simple musical instruments, one of which was a mouth organ (harmonica also referred to as a 'harp'). We also sing more poignant shanties known as 'forebitters', sung by sailors when they were off duty, yearning for home and loved ones on their month's-long voyages.

During a performance, for each song, one member (the Shantyman) sings the lead verses then all ('the crew!') participate in the chorus, with the audience invited to join in. There are eleven in the band, including guitar, banjo, accordion and harmonica.

All the accompanists take their turns singing whilst playing – regrettably, as a harpist, not something I have mastered! We practice sporadically when we have a performance coming up or to learn a new song – we already have a repertoire of about 60 songs (not all shanties, lots of Liverpool, some Irish and folk). Thanks to The Hightown Pub for allowing us to practice in their back room. And the railway station is handy for the group members who live further away. We have been booked to play at The Hightown as part of a daylong celebration of music on Saturday May 13th, the Saturday after the King’s Coronation.

I can never remember a time when I could not play the harmonica – when I was eleven my favourite harp was confiscated for a term by a teacher for playing the melody of an impolite ditty during break. I also had difficulty practising when we had dogs, as they would whine loudly at the sound, no matter how sweetly I played. The main way to ruin a harmonica is to blow it after eating as even the slightest crumb can seize up the delicate reeds – so when the Shanty Kings have a mid-concert break and tuck into their sandwiches I have to starve! I look after my several three-octave, double-reeded harmonicas extra carefully as each one costs about £45 and I need several in different keys. These are ideal for the St Stephen’s church band. I use more robust slightly cheaper but good quality harps for the Shanty Kings.



I love playing harmonica in the church band on the first Sunday of the month – playing the hymns is a different challenge. Whereas with the Shanty Kings, once I know the tune, I just improvise an accompaniment; but in the church band I need to play from the musical notation with other musicians. This discipline also helps my sight-reading for Formby Choral Society to which I have also belonged for many years. Of course, as already mentioned, this means, I can’t sing on band-Sundays. But there are lots of other Sundays when I can and do praise God, by singing lustily in the congregation from the ‘body of the kirk’.





From Gill's Kitchen

Easy Coronation Chicken

Ingredients

1 cooked chicken, at least 4lb in weight, cubed

Sauce

1 tbsp apricot jam

Half tsp black pepper

Cream to taste

2 tbsp **MILD** curry paste or powder

Half tsp salt

Juice of 1 lemon

1 pint mayonnaise

Method

Combine all the sauce ingredients. The amount of curry paste is personal. Add the cubed chicken. For smaller amounts adjust the ingredients accordingly.



The Coronation— Anointing With Oil



At the heart of the coronation is a ritual in which the Archbishop of Canterbury anoints The King with oil. This custom, with roots in the Old Testament, can be traced back to the coronation of King Edgar by St Dunstan in 973. The outward and visible act of anointing signifies an inward grace: we pray that God would bless and set apart King Charles to serve the people of our nation and Commonwealth with humility and joy.



On Palm Sunday, 2nd April, we were delighted to welcome Bishop Bev, the Bishop of Warrington, to St Stephen's Church. After our service we enjoyed a cup of coffee/tea and delicious cakes in the church hall.

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!

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to find out more ?

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

Sue Taylor meets Chris Scrine.

Chris was born and educated in Leicester and graduated in hotel management. Following on, Chris worked for Novotel and privately owned hotels. After gaining a post graduate degree in Human Resource Management at Doncaster, Chris travelled to Switzerland to work there for one year.

During his time in Leicester, Chris worked as an assistant personnel manager at Marconi.

On moving to Liverpool in 1994, he lived in the city centre before moving to Hightown. Chris then gained a post as Personnel Manager/General Manager of an occupational training college. He left that post in 2013 to build up a performance coaching business. A great deal of his work involved going into schools to work with students in life skills, interview key skills and counselling.

Chris has lived in Hightown since 1998 and enjoys living here very much. He has one son, Daniel, and is a member of the Blundellsands Sailing Club. He undertakes consultancy work at The Prohibition Recording Studios in Liverpool, where his work involves organising live performances, parties and working with recording artists.

In 2014 Chris was appointed to the role of Chairman at the Hightown Club in Thirlmere Road, a well established sports and social club, which was founded in 1907. The work revolves around liaising with the various sports teams – cricket, squash, bowls, tennis, veterans football, Crosby St. Mary's RUFC and The Social Club. Various social events are held throughout the year and more events are being planned to be held on a regular basis.

This leads Chris into telling me about his role as community liaison officer for Hightown Connections. He was appointed in November 2022 and the role is funded by the Lottery. In this role he has established a monthly luncheon club, again funded by the Lottery, comprising a two course meal for £7.50. He has also established a monthly film club, open to Hightown residents of all ages, sponsored by The Living Well Fund. No charges are made and refreshments are available.

There are plenty of activities on offer at the Hightown Club (see the website) and there are going to be celebrations organised for the Coronation and for the Eurovision Song Contest.

So thank you Chris, and your supporting staff, for making the Hightown Club such a great place to socialise.

To contact Chris – Mobile no. 07884491807

Email: c.scrine@blueyonder.co.uk



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Rohan Pickard – Commodore
rohan.pickard@gmail.com

Chris Williams – Rear Commodore
Cwill1951@virginmedia.com