

November 2023

# FOCUS

Issue 279



Parish Magazine of St Stephen's, Hightown



PEACE BE WITH YOU



## Editor's Letter

*“Is this not a true autumn day? Just the still melancholy that I love - that makes life and nature harmonise”*

*George Eliot*

Are you a spring, summer, autumn or winter person?

Like George Eliot, “whose very soul is wedded to it”, my favourite season is autumn.

I love the smell of the rich, damp earth. A smell that borders almost on taste in its intensity, conjuring up a feast of buttery mushrooms and roasted chestnuts.

I love the vibrant colours, the fiery reds, golds, oranges and burnt umbers. This is nature's grand finale before its long, winter sleep.

I love the sound of: the crispy, crunchy leaves underfoot, as I walk our dog on a frosty day below a clear blue sky; the pink footed geese, honking their way over our rooftops in their endless skeins; the roaring log fire in my sitting room and so much more.

Last, but not least, I love the cosy woollen blankets on the backs of the sofas and chairs, ready to wrap around ourselves as we enjoy the afternoon ritual of tea around the fire after a long walk. Simple pleasures for which I feel incredibly grateful and thank God.

God bless you and keep you safe and warm this 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 Note New Email Address**

Please submit before the last day of the month.

Dear Friends,

On Sunday 12th November, as a village we will gather around the war memorial to remember and give thanks for those who have lost their lives in conflicts going back over a century, and at 11am we will fall silent for two minutes. Some folks may look at the names carved on the memorial; indeed some may have a personal connection. Others may pray in silence during this time, but all of us assembled there will remember. "We will remember them".



At St Stephen's we continue to hear the Ukrainian national anthem before our service on the first Sunday of each month as we remember the people of Ukraine, at home and displaced. Sadly, we are now witnessing fresh conflict in Israel and Gaza; thousands of people fleeing their homes with reception areas unable to cope. We must continue to pray for peace.

It's important to remember the sacrifices of so many who died striving for peace in our world.

In the Holy Gospel of +John, Jesus said to his disciples, "Peace I leave with; my peace I give you", before he left them and he sent the Holy Spirit, a promised gift to them. The Prince of Peace will forever be with them because of what he manifests in his community of discipleship.... Love, Joy and Peace.

Henri Nouwen, a great and gifted writer walked the road to peace and over time developed a wonderful, beautiful spirituality of non-violence. Henri wants us to spend time in prayer, praying for peace, the end of conflicts.

He wrote, "For Jesus, there are no countries to be conquered, no ideologies to be imposed, no people to be dominated. There are only children, women and men to be loved."

"As peacemakers we must resist all the powers of war and destruction and proclaim that peace is the divine gift offered to all who affirm life."

Wherever you are on Sunday 12th at 11am, do pause, do fall silent, do remember with gratitude those who have given their lives, and if you can, offer a prayer for peace in our world. Prayers are always heard.

If you can be with us at the memorial, you will be most welcome to join us in church afterwards for our Remembrance Day Service.

Peace be with you.

God Bless,

Keith

# St Stephen's Church November Services

<b>Wednesday 1st</b>	10.30am	Eucharist
<b>Friday 3rd</b>	09.30am	Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday 5th</b>	10.30am	All Age Eucharist
	06.00pm	Evening Prayer
<b>Wednesday 8th</b>	10.30am	Eucharist
<b>Friday 10th</b>	09.30am	Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday 12th</b>	10.30am	Remembrance Day Service and Eucharist
	05.00pm	Toddler Church
	06.00pm	Evening Prayer
<b>Wednesday 15th</b>	10.30am	Eucharist
<b>Friday 17th</b>	09.30am	Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday 19th</b>	10.30am	Eucharist
	06.00pm	Evening Prayer
<b>Wednesday 22nd</b>	10.30am	Eucharist
<b>Friday 24th</b>	09.30	Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday 26th</b>	10.30am	Eucharist and Healing Service. <i>Opportunity for laying on of hands with prayer and anointing for those who would like it.</i>
	06.00pm	BCP Holy Communion
<b>Wednesday 29th</b>	10.30am	Eucharist
<b>Friday 1st December</b>	09.30am	Morning Prayer

# Who's Who at St. Stephen's

Vicar	Revd Keith Thornborough
Warden	Judith Welch <a href="mailto:Judith.Churchwarden@StStephensHightown.org.uk">Judith.Churchwarden@StStephensHightown.org.uk</a>
PCC Secretary	Mrs. Beryl Howard
PCC Treasurer	Mr. Keith Aldis
Gift Aid Secretary	Mr. Brian Taylor
Safeguarding	Revd Keith Thornborough (Acting)
Wills and Legacies	<b><i>To be appointed</i></b>
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs. Beth Cresswell
Sacristan Team	Miss Hazel Roberts
Health and Safety	<b><i>To be appointed</i></b>
Flower Rota	Mrs. Hilary Munro
CMS Secretary	Mrs. Beryl Howard
St. Stephen's Youth Club	Jane Croxton
Church Hall Bookings	Mrs. Sally Fraser
Focus Editor	Colette Hudson <a href="mailto:Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk">Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk</a>
Focus Advertisements	Colette Hudson <a href="mailto:Adverts@StStephensHightown.org.uk">Adverts@StStephensHightown.org.uk</a>
Focus Distribution	Mr. and Mrs. K Bradshaw
St. Stephen's Church Website	<a href="http://StStephensHightown.org.uk">StStephensHightown.org.uk</a>

# Prayer Prompts For November



- 1st. **All Saints' Day.** Today we celebrate men and women in whose lives we see the grace of God powerfully at work.  
*For the people of St Stephen's Road and Hester Close.*
- 2nd. **All Souls' Day.** On this day, Christians remember and pray for those who have died.  
*For the people of Briary Croft.*
- 3rd. For Christian unity. Help our churches to work together.  
*For the people of Elmcroft lane, Windermere Road and Holmfield.*
- 4th. For the safety of all enjoying fireworks at this time at public displays or at home.  
*For the people of School Road and Sandilands Grove.*
- 5th. **4th Sunday before Advent.** For those who lead our church services today.  
*For the people of North End Lane, Moss Lane and the local farms.*
- 6th. For all those who use St Stephen's Church Hall.  
*For the people of Sandhills and Bankside.*
- 7th. For all local businesses, with thanks for their services.  
*For all the people of Hightown.*
- 8th. 8. For our children, that they may be kept safe at their places of education.  
*For the people of Blundell Avenue and Oakfield Road.*
- 9th. For the strength and guidance of teachers and lecturers in all settings.  
*For the people of Blundell Road.*
- 10th. For parents, guardians and all care givers.  
*For the people of Whitefield Close, Langley Close and Richmond Close.*
- 11th. For those families who are in need, struggling due to the cost of living.  
*For the people of the Range and Altcar Camp.*
- 12th. **3rd Sunday before Advent Remembrance Sunday.** Today we remember our armed forces and the service and sacrifice of those who have defended our freedoms.  
*For the people of Old Acre and Larkhill Grove.*
- 13th. For the work of Altcar Training Camp.  
*For the people of St. George's Road and Grasmere Road.*
- 14th. For peace in the world, as we remember those in areas of conflict.  
*For All The People Of Hightown.*
- 15th. For the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the Middle East and other areas.  
*For the people of Mark Road.*

# Prayer prompts (contd)



16th. For all the leaders of countries and governments, that they may find a way of working together towards peace.

*For the people of Village Way and The Round Way.*

17th. For all refugees, that they may be treated with compassion and justice.

*For the people of Alt Road Lower Alt Road, and Thistledown Drive.*

18th. For Relief Agencies around the world.

*For the people of Tudor Gardens and Rathbone Road.*

19th. **2nd Sunday before Advent.** For those who are unable to practise their faith fully.

*For the people of Gorse Lane, Orrell Hill Lane and Delph Road.*

20th. Thanking God for the freedoms we have in this country.

*For all the people of Hightown.*

21st. For the teachings of the Bible, that we may take time to read it.

*For the people of Emerson Close and Mayfair Close.*

22nd. For St. Stephen's Church to grow in numbers and in spiritual commitment to you.

*For the people of Thirlmere Road and Brentwood Close.*

23rd. That, as part of the Liverpool Diocese Rule of Life, we aim to pray, read and learn in our inner journey, and tell, serve and give in our outer journey of Faith.

*For the people of Withins Field and Blundell Grove.*

24th. For St. Stephen's Youth Club and Toddler Group.

*For the people of Marston Crescent and Alton Close.*

25th. For our All Age Services and Toddler Church.

*For the people of Sandy Lane and Thirlmere Mews.*

26th. **Sunday before Lent, Christ the King.** We celebrate Christ's universal sovereignty.

*For the people of Elvington Road.*

27th. For all those who suffer in mind, body and spirit

*For all the people of Hightown.*

28th. For all who work in our NHS, other health services, and all emergency services.

*For the people of North Dunes and Westway.*

29th. For the work of all food banks and the local Formby Pantry

*For the people of Thornbeck Avenue.*

30th. **Andrew the Apostle.** We thank you for Andrew's readiness to obey your call.

*For all the people of Riverside.*

## Have you a spare “SPARE” ?

What am I talking about? Well, I volunteer on a Friday morning at the Alt Centre Library. I am often asked about the stock. Everything is donated, so we are at the mercy of house clearers and downsizers. We have a wide selection of novels from the classics to crime fiction, historical fiction and romance for all types of reader. There is even a Nadine Dorries! There are books about royalty, history, cookery ( my favourite) and reference. Each have their own sections.

Come and browse the shelves. The library is open on Mondays from noon until 2pm and on Fridays from 10am until noon. Borrow, (and return later), whatever takes your fancy, and if you should find that you have a “SPARE”, to spare, we have a reader eagerly awaiting to find out who said, and did what, behind the palace curtains without putting money into their pockets. Eventually the book will take pride of place on the royalty shelf.

\* “SPARE” by Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex. Ghostwritten by J R Moehringer

ISBN: 9780593593806



### Christmas Extravaganza

Saturday 25th November  
11am till 3pm

**Cake Stall**      **Sweet Stall**  
**Bottle Tombola**      **Raffle**  
**Xmas Gifts**      **Santa**  
**Xmas Candles**  
**Homemade Decorations**  
**Teas, coffees and homemade cakes**



### Coffee Morning

run by Altcar Ladies

**Saturday November 4th**  
10am-12noon

**Fair Trade Stall**



### Christenings for children of all ages

**St Stephen's Church**  
Ring Rev. Keith on 0151 929 3097



We are delighted to have been able to purchase new hymn books for St Stephen's congregation and choir, courtesy of a very generous donation, given in memory of our late, and much loved Churchwarden, Michael Cudby.

## St Stephen's Church Hall

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Term time

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## Brass Cleaning

November:

Hazel Roberts

## Sanctuary Flowers

November

5th Hilary Munro

12th Remembrance Sunday

19th Pauline Goodchild

26th Advent Greenery

## Sunday Coffee Rota

November

5th Beth Cresswell

12th Judith Welch

19th Val Bailey

26th Sue Taylor

## Remembrance 1950-1953

### Korea: The Forgotten War

*Graham Goodchild, Old Acre*

**“A distant obligation honourably discharged”**

These modest words were written by John Bowler MC, a National Service veteran of the Korean War, for inscription on the Korean War Memorial, unveiled in London’s Victoria Embankment Gardens on 3 December, 2014.

The Korean War ended inconclusively 70 years ago with an armistice signed on 27 July 1953. There was no outright victory and no peace treaty. It was a brutal war that cost the lives of 1,263 British and Commonwealth soldiers, including 18- and 19-year-old National Servicemen. Injured soldiers totalled 4,817 and 1,060 were taken prisoner. The injured included soldiers who had been cruelly beaten, subjected to long starvation, and psychologically damaged by brainwashing techniques whilst in Chinese captivity.

On 5 June 1950 North Korea, supported by Soviet Russia and Communist China, invaded South Korea crossing the 38th Parallel that divided Communist North Korea from democratic South Korea, capturing South Korea’s capital Seoul. The same day the United States obtained United Nations (UN) resolution condemning the invasion and two days later a further resolution calling on member states to assist South Korea in repelling the invaders. Russia boycotted the meeting and did not impose a veto. An American-led UN force was quickly assembled for action in Korea.

The United States now turned to Britain for military support in Korea. Even though suffering from Post War austerity, worsened by food shortages and strict rationing, Britain agreed to contribute resources to the UN force, putting the British Far East fleet at the disposal of the Americans and ordering two Army infantry brigades to Korea. They were later joined by other forces, units and services. In all, more than 82,000 British service personnel were deployed in Korea. This decision was taken, partly to show solidarity with America’s fight against the spread of communism and partly to restrain American use of the atom bomb against North Korea.



Early arrivals in Korea included a detachment of Royal

Marines. Commando 41 teams were dropped by US submarine on the coast of North Korea where they carried out successful hit-and-run raids. Among their number was Geoffrey Morrissey, who today lives in Hightown and his wife, Pamela. We salute him and all who served in Korea.

The war against North Korea was primarily led by the Americans who, in a series of engagements, successfully pushed the North Koreans back across the 38th parallel. Fearful that the Americans intended to expand the War into China, the Chinese mobilised an army of 300,000 troops to launch a fresh invasion of South Korea. On Christmas Day 1950 a vanguard of 60,000 Chinese troops crossed the 38th Parallel. Following the historic route to Seoul, they reached the Imjin river thirty miles north of Seoul on 23 April 1951. Here they found the river crossings held by the British 29th Infantry Brigade. Then followed the fiercest battle fought by British troops since World War II. Both sides sustained heavy casualties. After three days of desperate fighting against overwhelming odds the 29th Brigade was ordered to withdraw to a new position north of Seoul

Tragically, the 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment who had been ordered to cover the Brigade's withdrawal, found themselves trapped under heavy Chinese fire. Running out of ammunition, and with no hope of relief, they were forced to surrender and were taken into harsh Chinese captivity for the remainder of the war. The British stand at the Battle of the Imjin River captured the world's imagination and ranks high in the annals of the British Army. Their brave stand had enabled the UN forces to regroup, preventing the Chinese reaching Seoul. Unable to sustain their invasion, the Chinese fell back across the 38th Parallel.

The Korean War saved democratic South Korea from Communist occupation, opening the way for its present economic prosperity, but failed to halt the threat from North Korea. As recently as last August, Kim Jong-un, the authoritarian leader of North Korea ordered his oppressed people to make ready for war "to sweep away the South Korean puppets". The world watches and waits for the next chapter in the troubled story of Korea.

## **Remembrance Service**

**Sunday 12th November at 10.50am around our war memorial**

**Then in St Stephen's Church**

**All Welcome**



## Tuesday Group Trip to Llandudno

*By Beryl Howard*

The sun was shining as we boarded the coach at 10am in the morning (an early start for some!). Our first stop was at the marble church, Saint Margaret's, at Bodelwyddan. How many times have we



Part of the group outside Bodelwyddan Church with Revd Keith and Revd Jayne Coxall

travelled to Wales passing the church and here was a chance to visit. Revd Keith, who is a friend of the vicar there, had arranged the visit. We were warmly welcomed with coffee and cake and then had a talk and tour. Revd Keith also took the, not to be missed, opportunity to play their two organs. We learned that the church was commissioned by Lady Margaret in memory of her husband, Henry, and was dedicated in 1860, taking only four years to complete. The amazing hammer-beam roof, the beautiful stained-glass windows and the carvings in the stone are all testament to the skill of the hundreds of local workmen who toiled on the building. Next time you are passing on the A55 stop and visit, you won't be disappointed, although I can't promise coffee and cake.

Our next stop was a restaurant on the Little Orme for a fish and chip lunch. Both visits had taken up time and, as it was getting late, we were taken for a drive along the front at Llandudno before the journey home. The sun shone for us all day and everyone enjoyed the trip.

### Birthdays

**Amber Ray Wallworth 19th November 2018**

**Sienna Violet Wallworth 6th November 2017**



# Village Organisations and Activities

Tuesday Group, St Stephen's Hall Tuesday morning 10am	Beryl Howard Jan Branigan
Hightown Friendship Group 2nd Wednesday at 8pm, St Stephen's Hall	Margaret Wear
Gardening Club 2nd Monday St Stephen's Hall 8pm	Hilary Munro
Bowling Club, Sandy Lane	Diana Killen
Hightown Club	Chris Scrine
Blundellsands Sailing Club	Rohan Pickard—Rohan.Pickard@Gmail.com Deryk Johnson—DerykJ@Gmail.com
Yoga Classes, Hightown Club	Rose Billinge
Flower Show	Ian Wear
Open Mic Poetry Group 3rd Thursday 7.30pm, St Stephen's Church Hall	Tony Higginson—tonythebook@live.co.uk Sally Anne - tapiabowes@gmail.com
Craft Group 1.30 - 3.30pm All welcome	Sue Taylor
Hightown Parish Council	Jenny Farrar clerk@hightownparishcouncil.uk 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+, Mondays 9.45-10.30 St Stephen's Hall	Nicky Garsforth
Creo Dance Co, Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat Children 3-18 years	Georgia Gaudie

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Branch Director



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***If you are interested in joining the club or trying some sailing with existing members, please contact:***

**Rohan Pickard - Commodore**  
**[Rohan.Pickard@Gmail.com](mailto:Rohan.Pickard@Gmail.com)**

**Deryk Johnson - Vice Commodore**  
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Founded 1907

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The Hightown Club is a village Sports and Members Club, which encompasses the heart of the Hightown Community. We host a range of sporting activities for all age groups at casual and competitive levels and we actively encourage the local community to enjoy the facilities at the Club by attending our wide range and top quality events or just dropping in for a friendly drink in our Sports Bar.

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**Wills and Powers of Attorney are powerful legal documents. The skill in preparing the right document for your circumstances comes from knowing to ask the right questions coupled with the experience and expertise to draft it correctly; and thereafter ensuring that the formalities of finalising the document are properly adhered to. If you cut corners there is a risk that your loved ones will only discover the problems when it is too late - causing them stress, heartache and unnecessary financial loss.**

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Elizabeth Foggin TEP, Solicitor at Autumn Years Law is your local expert in:

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- Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Probate & Estate Administration
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# Toddler Church

**At**

**St. Stephen's- Hightown**

**Sundays 12<sup>th</sup> Nov & 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec**

**5pm**

***A service for pre-schoolers and their families  
with lots of fun, songs, a bible story, a simple  
craft and refreshments***

***All Welcome!***