

St Silas Parish Church, Blackburn



St Silas

Magazine

April/May 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

What a joy it is to write to you in the light of our Lord and Saviour Jesus' Christ's Resurrection. I'm greatly enjoying getting to know you all, and I hope that you are enjoying getting to know Laura, Beatrice and myself. I am certainly looking forward to the series of pastoral visits I have committed myself to over the Easter season, visiting each of you in turn and having the opportunity to hear your stories.

As we begin to settle down into the life we have been called by Almighty God to live together in this place, I simply have one question for you all. What do you think God is calling us at St Silas to be? I guess it's not that simple at all, but at least it's only one question! Over the coming weeks and months, we will have to start forming plans to create the St Silas we are being called to make in this generation, and these same plans need to be proactive and joyful, centred around our common love for and commitment to Jesus Christ and his bride the Church.

So again I ask you, what do you think? No answer is silly, no answer will be simply dismissed, what has God

put on your heart in this place at this time. I look forward to hearing your answers and being inspired by you all.

With the assurance of my love and prayers.

Fr David

CAFÉ CONCERT

ST. SILAS CHURCH

Preston New Road, Blackburn

BB2 6PS

SATURDAY 18th APRIL 2026

John Hosking

Organ Music for Easter

Recital at 11.00am

Refreshments from 10.15am

Admission £5

All Welcome!

CAFÉ CONCERTS 2026

As we enter a new season of Saturday morning café concerts at St Silas, we look forward to welcoming John Hosking on 18th April with 'Music for Easter'.

John is no stranger to us, of course, as he can be found regularly at the keyboard of our organ, and is very much part of the extended St Silas family.

On 16th May we will have a return visit from Ian Pattinson, organist at Lancaster Priory, who will be presenting a programme of 'Aquatic Music' featuring the works of Handel, Bach, Whitlock, Rawsthorne and Coates.

Admission is still just £5, including refreshments from 10.15 and with the recital starting at 11 o'clock.

Brian and Sheila

Eco Team News

The Eco Team are delighted to announce that St Silas Church now has ...

⌘🌀 **BRONZE** 🌀⌘

Eco Church Status.

We would like to thank all at St Silas who have supported our work to achieve this accolade, with a special mention to Ella. As well as working to sustain the actions we have put in place to gain BRONZE, we will be working towards the Silver Award.

Big Plastic Count

Thank you to everyone who took part in this event. We hope it highlighted the vast quantities of plastic that supermarkets use to package goods.

What happens to our plastic waste?

16% is recycled in the UK : 16% is exported : 9% is sent to landfill :
59% is incinerated

These are shocking statistics!

Try to make shopping choices that limit plastic packaging. Shop for fruit, veg, fish and meat at Blackburn Market and/or try Turtlebee at Huntley's Farm Shop for refillable options on a selection of food, cleaning products and toiletries.

Many thanks for your support - The Eco Team

FLOWER GUILD MAGAZINE NOTES FOR APRIL-MAY 2026

Looking back at the notes for February -March, we have indeed welcomed Father David D'Silva who attended our recent Flower Guild Spring meeting, kindly hosted by Diana. Any hopes we had of a possible quieter year for the Flower Fairies, were quickly dashed as he outlined his ideas for future festivals! As we were able to circumnavigate and overcome difficulties last year, I'm sure we will succeed again and do our very best for him and St Silas' church.

Since the last magazine it has been and still is Lent, which everyone knows means no flowers in church, consequently there is little to report. However, we have just had Mothering Sunday, and this year Fr. David reminded us that the liturgical colour for Mothering Sunday is primarily Rose pink. Hence this year the daffodil posies were tied up with "hot pink" Raffia tape (trying to keep to biodegradable materials) instead of bright yellow ribbon bows. Our group spent a lovely morning putting the posies together with stems of pretty pink Heather (tracked down and picked by Mary) and an assortment of snippets of greenery. It is not unusual that on many occasions we have to "raid" (with permission) friends' gardens for greenery and on this occasion, we sought help from Avril, a good friend of the Flower Fairies. Fr David duly blessed the posies at both services on the day and to the delight of Parishioners on Mothering Sunday, his 3- year-old daughter, Beatrice, took on the duty of handing out the bunches during the service. She could hardly contain her excitement and did this very well with a skip in her step missing out no-one! It was a joyous occasion.

The following day Fr David visited surrounding Care Homes with the remaining bunches we had allocated for them and at the same time to introduce himself as our new Parish Priest.

The occasion of Mothering Sunday will of course be swiftly followed by Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter, all of which Father David has ideas for us. We hope we can do him proud, but more of that in the next magazine.

Once again, our thanks to all our regular contributors and to Ruth for keeping our books straight. One of our oldest contributors, Sheila Hopwood, was 100 years old recently, and still writes an interesting letter by hand to Ruth with each donation she sends!

Wishing everyone a happy, joyous Easter!

Val and Diana

LADIES' CIRCLE – APRIL AND MAY 2026

We wish Fr David, Laura and Beatrice and Rev Dennis and Toni a very Happy Easter! And a Happy Easter to all our members and friends.

A huge thank-you to our friend Calvin Harris who gave us a fascinating talk about his life at our meeting in February at Larmenier. The Tuesday Morning Fellowship enjoy Calvin's company each week in church, and it was extremely kind of him to come and speak to L.C. for a second time.

Thank you to Fr David for chairing our A.G.M. in January even though he had only been "in the job" for a couple of days! He explained about his new role as not only our Priest-in-Charge but also Canon for Presence and Engagement for the whole of Blackburn! (We thought it was just north Blackburn!) We made sure to tell him he has our wholehearted support in his very important and intensive ministry.

Ladies' Circle members comprise a mixture of St Silas churchgoers and ladies who live at Larmenier Village (and another!), so we have a nice mix of Church of England, Roman Catholic, Christchurch and others. Now that we have started wearing name badges we are getting to know one another better, and we are also identified for the speaker!

In April we revert to the Church Narthex (the reason being that church will be warmed up in the spring!) and we welcome Rev Dennis Crook on Tuesday, 28th April at 2pm with a talk entitled, "A Stroll down Memory Lane." Dennis is a popular speaker (that includes his sermons of course!) and he and his wife Toni are an inspirational couple.

On Tuesday, 26 May we have been invited to have afternoon tea in the Woodcock Lounge at Larmenier Village at 2.30pm. We may be having a speaker on that day and will let you have details later on.

New members are always welcome – please see me in church or contact by email or phone (see below) if you would like to join us.

Ruth Loft, secretary, Ladies' Circle

01254 262324, email ruth.loft@btinternet.com m. [07960791367](tel:07960791367)

CAFÉ CONCERT

ST. SILAS CHURCH

**Preston New Road, Blackburn
BB2 6PS**

SATURDAY 16th MAY 2026

Ian Pattinson

Organist, Lancaster Priory

'Aquatic Music'

Recital at 11.00am

Refreshments from 10.15am

Admission £5

All Welcome!

SERVICES IN ST. SILAS CHURCH

SUNDAYS: Said Eucharist at 9.00am
Sung Eucharist at 10.30am
Evensong at 6.00pm

TUESDAYS: Eucharist at 10.00am
(Book of Common Prayer)

Refreshments are available after the 10.30am services on Sundays and the 10.00am services on Tuesdays.

There will also be morning prayer (08.30am) on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. Evening prayer (4.30pm) on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Devil's Beatitudes

Blessed are those who are too tired, busy or disorganised to meet with their fellow Christians each Sunday.

They are my best workers.

Blessed are those who enjoy noticing the mannerisms of clergy, choir and servers.

I can see their heart is not in it.

Blessed are the Christians who wait to be asked and expect to be thanked.

I can use them.

Blessed are the touchy.

With a bit of luck they may stop going to church.

Blessed are those who keep themselves, their time and their money to themselves.

They are my missionaries

Blessed are those who claim to love their God at the same time as hating other people.

They are mine for ever.

Blessed are the trouble makers; *they shall be called my children.*

Blessed are those who have no time to pray.

They are easy prey to me.

Blessed are you when you read this and think that it is about other people and not about yourself -

I've got you!

Submitted by Margaret Wiltshire who found this in another church's magazine.

Who doesn't enjoy a cup of tea?

On behalf of the Events and Hospitality Team we are looking for volunteers to add to the Sunday morning refreshment rota. All you have to provide is a pint of milk and a cheery smile! If you are willing please speak to one of us on a Sunday morning while collecting your tea.

Thanking you in anticipation...

Anne Inglis – E & H Team Co-ordinator



Who's Who in St Silas Parish Church

Priest-in-Charge: Fr David D'Silva 07507730569
Email: fr.david.dsilva@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Alison Ramsden
Dedicated e-mail: safeguardingstsilas@gmail.com
Dedicated mobile: 07593855329

Churchwardens: Mr Matthew Talbot 07592 539703
Mr Joe Swinhoe 07984658568

Sacristan: Mr J Swinhoe **Verger:** Ella Watt 07880 838577

Organist & Choirmaster: vacancy

Acting PCC Secretary and ER Officer: Mrs Audrey Dunstan
email: audreydunstan@btinternet.com

PCC Treasurer: Acting Treasurer David Kemp
E-mail: david@chances-unlimited.co.uk

Gift Aid Secretary: Mrs Margaret Wiltshire

Headteacher St Silas C of E School (CIDARI Academy):
Miss K Haczycki 01254 698447

Headteacher Wensley Fold C of E Academy:
Amanda Whittingham 01254 667449

Ladies Circle: Mrs R Loft 01254 262324

Flower Guild: Mrs V Lewis 01254 813648 & Mrs D Saulet 01254 57912

Bellringers: [Practise Fridays 8.00pm – 9.15pm] contact Bob Moody 07718 570547

Charlotte Ferguson 07718 570549

Website: to be rebuilt – not curenly available
e-mail – stsilasblackburn@gmail.com

