

The Messenger

Parish Magazine of



**St George
and**



**All Saints'
Chorley**

November 2025

Parish Clergy

	Main Contact for St George's during the "Vacancy" Revd Peter Smith frpeter@stgeorgechorley.co.uk	
	Main Contact for All Saints' Assistant Curate The Revd Jordan Bentliff MA (Hons) Tel: 01257438000 / 07450 269010 Email: cjbentliff@hotmail.co.uk	
	Retired Clergy with Permission to Officiate The Revd Peter Smith BA (Hons) PTO Tel: 07412 624931 Email: ordinand07@gmail.com	

Regular Services

The Parish Church of St George Sunday 9:30am Family Eucharist Wednesday 10:00am Eucharist www.stgeorgechorley.co.uk	The Parish Church of All Saints' Sunday 11:00am Family Eucharist Sunday 4:00pm Closer Service Thursday 10:30am Eucharist www.allsaintschorley.com
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Parish Contacts

Parish Safeguarding Officer	Dr Victoria Gibson safeguarding@stgeorgechorley.co.uk	07921 010900
Parish Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Sara Shingler shinglebelly@yahoo.com	
Parish Treasurer	Mr Stephen Pollard treasurer@stgeorgechorley.co.uk	07568 5027780
Parish Magazine Editor	Mrs Chris Gibson acvgibson@outlook.com	01257 260555
Parish Health & Safety Officer	Mr John Bradley jm30.bradley@gmail.com	07375 047982
Parish Visiting & Lay Ministry Team	Mrs Carol Pearson carolpearson@outlook.com	07981 021288
Parish Youth Group	Meet every Friday 5:30pm to 7:00pm at All Saints' Church (contact Fr. Jordan)	07450 269010

St George's Contacts

Churchwardens	Mr John Bradley jm30.bradley@gmail.com Mrs Lorraine Smith lorraine54@me.com	07375 047982 07729 8866401
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr Gordon Blackledge ARCO FTCL	01257 274922
Verger	"Vacancy"	
Flower Guild Secretary	Mrs Freda Armstrong	01257 262918
Bell tower Captain	Dr Victoria Gibson drvigibson@outlook.com	07921 010900
Church Hall	Mrs Sian Phillipson Manager / Booking churchhall@stgeorgechorley.co.uk	07734 232684
St George's Primary School	Mr Andy Purcell Head Teacher	01257 2623230
Sunday Club	We meet in the Church Hall 9:25am on a normal Sunday	
Men's Fellowship	2nd Wednesday 7:30pm Church Hall	01257 263245
Mothers' Union	2nd & last Thursday 7:30pm Church Hall	
Thursday Ladies Circle	1st & 3rd Thursday 7:30pm Church Hall	
Dramatic & Musical Society	Friday 7:00pm Church Hall	
Badminton Club	Monday 8:00pm Church Hall	
Church Institute	Monday - Thursday 2:00pm - 11:00pm Friday & Saturday 2:00pm - 12:00 midnight Sunday 12:00 noon - 11:00pm	01257 413107
Toddler & Baby Group	Little Steps meet Wednesday (term time) 10:30am-11:30am Church Hall	

St George's Uniformed Organisations Meet at Church Hall (Term time)

Rainbows	Kathryn Winters Tuesday 8:00pm	07701 353429
Brownies	Kathryn Winters Tuesday 6:15pm	07701 353429
Guides	Sarah Glover Tuesday 7:15pm	07974 687541

Red Bank Uniformed Organisations Meet at Red Bank Mission Hall (Term Time)

Beaver Scouts Scouts Cub Scouts	Monday 6:15pm Monday 7:30pm Jackie Beesley (GSL) Tuesday 6:50pm	01257 270770
Rainbows	Wednesday 5:30pm Kaitlenn Hunter	
Brownies	Wednesday 6:45pm Lynsey Torrens	
Guides	Thursday 6:45pm Jackie Beesley	01257 270770

All Saints' Contacts

Church Wardens	Mrs Shirley Starkey churchwarden.allsaints@yahoo.com Mrs Joyce Jolly joycejolly21@gmail.com	07806 682946 01257 278057
Verger	Mrs Christine Ireland	01257 273291 07596 443163
All Saints' Primary School and Nursery Unit	Mrs Sarah Partington Head Teacher	01257 262489
Flower Guild Secretary	Mrs Marjorie Holland d_holland1@sky.com	01257 271830
Mothers' Union	Mrs Marjorie Holland d_holland1@sky.com Meet every 1st & 3rd Wednesday at 2:00pm (locations vary)	01257 271830
Ladies Friendship Group	Mrs Rachael Anders-Kay rachaelanderskay@gmail.com	07851 210120
Men's Social Group	Mr Michael Anders-Kay michaelanderskay@gmail.com	07923 255326

***Please notify the Parish Magazine Editor of any changes/updates
Mrs Christine Gibson acvgibson@outlook.com 01257 260555***

I now cast this little Publication into your hands earnestly hoping that it may meet with your approbation, and enable you to spend a happy and profitable hour whilst reading over its pages".

Rev. John Stock 1863, The Messenger first issue

Dear friends,

As I sit down to write this month's letter, my heart is full of gratitude for all of that you have done to share the love of Christ with our community. In particular it has been such an incredible joy to celebrate our bicentennial service with Bishop Philip, in which we welcomed former clergy back to our parish. It was a privilege to be able to celebrate the two hundred years of prayer, worship, service, and fellowship of our church. The celebrations were a wonderful testament not only to our heritage, but to the vitality of our community today.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the day such a success. From those who spent hours arranging flowers and preparing heavenly music, to the teams who organised flags, transport, refreshments, and who helped in the service itself — you embodied the spirit of St George's. Your dedication, creativity, and good humour shone through at every stage. It was deeply moving to see our church filled with you; our church family, with those from other churches in Chorley, old and new faces alike, all sharing in the same joy and thanksgiving.

As we look back with gratitude, we also look forward with hope. I am delighted to share some exciting news: we have received diocesan funding towards employing a youth worker in our parish. This is a wonderful opportunity to invest in the next generation — to support our young people as they explore faith, community, and life in Christ. Over the coming months, we will begin the process of shaping this new role and discerning how best to serve the needs of our young people and families. Please keep this in your prayers as our parish continues on the long road towards Advent and Christmas.

Two hundred years behind us, and, God willing, many more ahead — may we continue to be a place where faith is nurtured, love is shared, and Christ is known.

With every blessing, Rev Jordan Bentliff

Our Vision - Closer to Christ; further out for Christ.

St George's Church Congregation Numbers

<i>Week Beginning</i>	<i>Children Attending</i>	<i>Adults Attending</i>	<i>Communicant</i>
7 th Sep	48	145	123
14 th Sep	53	173	142
21 st Sep	31	119	109
28 th Sep	25	114	108

**Note - The attendance numbers include all the services
within the week**

Holy Baptism	Holy Matrimony
Libby Rebecca Mark	None
Rosie Jane Brewis	

**Please pray for those struggling with illnesses of any sort, and
especially for:**

***Marian Crossthwaite, Harold Dunseath, Linda Eubank, Richard
Wilk, Simon Newell, Margaret Salisbury,
Norman Whittaker, and Dorothy Treadwell.***

**And for the families of those who have died recently
*Stephen Moss, Revd. Robert Moore, Stephen Turner &
Alan Fairclough,***

**We remember all those who are currently housebound and unable
to be with us in Church.**

St. George's Church - Bicentenary Celebration Year

This year, 2025, is the bicentenary of St. George's Church. One special activity, among various other events and activities to celebrate the bicentenary, is to create a time capsule.

The primary purpose of a time capsule is to preserve objects and information from a specific point in time for future discovery and reflection. It serves as a snapshot of the present, intended to be opened and examined by people in the future, often with the aim of providing insights into our life experiences from the past.

One consideration has been regarding how long a time span before the capsule should be opened. The longer it is sealed, the more difficult it can be to choose items to be included. A span of 100 years is often a popular choice, however, previous experience has proved choosing a shorter time such as 50 years allows some of the original participants to experience the opening, and for the items included to bring back memories. As such, it is planned for the capsule to be opened in the year 2075.

It is planned to collect a number of appropriate items to include within the time capsule that will provide a view of what life was like in 2025, with an emphasis on our local community, parish life and St George's Church.

If you wish to include any items, please discuss with me. It is hoped as many appropriate items offered will be included, but space will be limited, and items will need to be suitable to avoid deterioration or damage over the next 50 years.

Stephen Pollard



Spotlight on Safeguarding

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 2025

Sunday 16 November is Safeguarding Sunday and, on this day, as well as over the following weeks, thousands of churches from diverse backgrounds and traditions will join together to shout about safeguarding and help protect vulnerable people.

The campaign is now in its 7th year and last year saw over 5000 churches across the UK, from a variety of backgrounds and traditions take part. It is a moment in the Church's calendar to reflect, give thanks, and recommit ourselves to making our churches safe places for all; to reflect on our safeguarding journey, and highlight all the good work that is being done to create safer places.

It's also a time to honour the dedication of parish safeguarding officers and volunteers, to pray for those affected by abuse or harm, and to reaffirm our shared responsibility to protect the vulnerable in our communities.

Defending the rights of vulnerable people is integral to Christian faith and teaching. Sadly, the church hasn't always done this well. But we

have a chance to change that. We are already seeing many churches take the responsibility to safeguard those in their care seriously. That's why the theme this year is - Action speaks louder! It's time to move beyond just talking about creating safer places, and take action towards doing it.

Safeguarding Sunday offers space for honest conversation and learning, helping us to grow into communities of care, transparency, and trust.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Together, we can create environments where all feel valued, respected, and safe.

Our vision is for a world where every child and adult can feel, and be, safe. It's a big vision, and we can't do it alone. Through this campaign we hope to inspire you, and our church, to take part, and talk about safeguarding. Safeguarding Sunday is an opportunity to show your community that you take safeguarding seriously as an outworking of your faith in a just and loving God.

Thank you for your support with this campaign. It's an opportunity to raise awareness of safeguarding, encourage volunteers to step forward and most importantly, whole congregations are learning that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, which in turn creates safer places for all.

Christmas Trees For Sale

(Like last year and at the same price!)

**Nordman, non-drip (nor drop), 4 feet
high, with free stand**

Only £25

**Buy one to brighten Christmas 2025 and support
your Church funds. All proceeds to St George's.**

**Please order by November 29th. Trees will be
available from end November and you choose
delivery date.**

Victoria

Dr Victoria Gibson,
Parish Safeguarding
Officer,
0792 1010 900

Safeguarding@stgeorgechorley.co.uk

Thursday Ladies Circle



A brilliant talk was given to us in October by Frances Rafferty, all about the Crown Jewels and Coronations. She was extremely knowledgeable on the subject especially the crowns worn by the different monarchs and why they were chosen by them. She was also very funny with little anecdotes about the royals throughout her talk.



In the picture you see Phoebe dressed in the royal regalia, all made by Frances herself. The other picture shows all the coronation mugs she has collected over the years, and a roll of coronation wallpaper produced for Queen Elizabeth 11 It was a very pleasant enjoyable evening.

At our next meeting in October when we held our AGM, followed by filling shoe boxes to go abroad for people a lot less fortunate than ourselves, and having to live in dire conditions and a critical humanitarian crisis. Our prayers are with them. We filled a fabulous 26 boxes.

Future meetings.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 6th Nov. | A talk on the Angel font by David Horsfield
This is an open meeting, everybody welcome. |
| 20th Nov | A whist drive. Netta and Cath. |

Everybody welcome.

Cath Jolly

Bishop Philip conducted The Service celebrating our Church's bicentenary



and re-dedicated the restored Reredos



St George's Christmas Fair 2025

You are invited to join us on Saturday 29th November for the annual Christmas Fair, held this year inside the Church Hall only. The fair opens at 10.30am by very special guests and closes at 1.30pm.

You will find all the usual fun and games, as well as a great selection of stalls including:

Bottle tombola, Crafts and festive gifts, Cakes and Preserves, Children's toys, Scouts & Guides games and gifts, Pop-up café, a visit from Santa, Children's Crafts, Teddy and Chocolate tombola and Mothers Union Gift Bag stall.

There will also be 'Guess the weight of the Christmas Cake' competition. Amazing prizes in our Grand raffle, the £50 note game and the usual program raffle along with the Mothers Union raffle.

Run-up to the big day:

You could help us make the fair a really successful event (and our main fundraiser for the year) by bringing in the following in the weeks running up to the fair:

- Bottles (all types, including toiletries and alcoholic/non-alcoholic)
- Chocolate for the chocolate tombola
Great condition teddies, children's toys.

Also - can you help us find some raffle prizes? We would be grateful for a raffle prize to add to the Grand raffle. Would your hairdresser donate a haircut, your garage a free MOT, your favourite restaurant a meal for 2?

On the day:

- Please come and support the fair and bring your friends and family for a lovely festive event!

In Summary: Drop off at back of church and please follow the notices directing where each type of contributions are to be left.

October	Bottles - all bottles, including shampoo, wine, fizzy pop - for the bottle tombola
	Teddies/soft toys-for the Teddy tombola
	Chocolate - for the Chocolate tombola (Sunday club are also requesting these from the children)
November	New/good used condition toys
For on the day	
Thank you	Cakes & bakes for the cake stall

Sara Shingler

Mothers’ Union

Who we are

Mothers’ Union (MU) is a global Christian movement dedicated to empowering women and strengthening families and communities through love, faith and fellowship.

Our mission is to work with people of all faiths and none, to support communities and advocate for positive change.

Founded in 1876 by Mary Sumner and now active in 84 countries, through kindness, faith and compassionate action, we are focused on ending violence and poverty, and injustice, striving to create a better tomorrow for all where everyone can thrive.

What we do

MU is a part of the communities we work with – both in the UK and globally. We exist to support people's lives today and create lasting change for tomorrow. Driven by the unique needs of each

community, we journey alongside them to create programmes that foster growth, safety, and lasting wellbeing. Whether it is supporting women surviving domestic abuse, working with families affected by modern slavery, offering hope through our prison's outreach work, helping vulnerable people in hospitals and care homes, or simply walking alongside refugee and asylum seeking families to make them feel welcome, we work to bring practical support and transformation where it is most needed. At MU, we see our work as being the hands and feet of Jesus in the communities we call home. We are committed to sharing His love through practical community action, fellowship and prayer.

Everyone Welcome

We welcome everyone who cares about supporting family and community life – whether male or female, a parent, grandparent, single or married. Whoever you are you have a place in the MU family!

While women-led, our movement is not just for women. Families are built on the contributions of all members and the unique gifts and experiences they contribute! We welcome men to join our movement as partners in creating positive change within their community.

Together, we are Mothers' Union
Will you Join Us, Join In!

Gloria

The History Page November 2025

The account of the first public service at St George's in October's issue, completes our month- by-month story of the church's birth. Despite the first public service being held at St George's chapel of ease in October 1825, the early years of the church's existence were not easy. Any additions to the basic shell of the building had to be found by the church rate payers or donors. There was no organ until 1837. The clerk doubled as a cleaner. Pew rents, for the remuneration of the minister, did not yield as much as was expected, largely because not all the pews were let. Fundamentally, the hope that the availability of some two thousand seats would attract many more to Church was wishful thinking. Chorley contained a population of more than 7,000 but around 2,000 of these were Catholics and another 1,000 committed Protestant Dissenters. The very young and the infirm could not attend.

The creation of District powers in 1835, allowing baptism, marriage and funeral services at St George's, was a boost. Then in 1856 it gained full parish status, the minister John Stock becoming the first vicar. His bible is still held in the archive. However, the near complete filling of the pews took another forty years and was due to two factors: the vast increase in the numbers of houses in the parish due to the selling off of the Gillibrand estate and the dedicated work of the schoolmaster Thomas Brown in creating a large cohort of young men identifying with the Church.

Next year's issues may well see us look at Thomas Brown in more detail. For now, here is our one image of John Stock, the first vicar.

Bill Walker





*From 10.30am - 11.30am
on Wednesdays (term time)*



Toddler & Baby Group at St George's Church Hall

Are you a parent, carer, childminder of a preschool child? We'd love you to come and join us at our friendly group on a Wednesday morning. We restart after the summer break on 3rd September@ 10:30am. Hope to see you there! Elizabeth Wilding

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OPENING TIMES:- Monday - Thursday 2pm - 11pm,
Friday & Saturday 2pm - 12 midnight
Sunday 12 noon - 11pm

Parish Magazine 2025 Dates

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Deadline (Sunday)</i>	<i>Available (Sunday)</i>
December/January	23rd November	7th December
Contributions for inclusion in the Messenger can be given to Chris Gibson or be emailed to acvgibson@outlook.com		

Help The Homeless Christmas Appeal 2025

Help the Homeless is a local charity set up in 1995. Its aim is to help people in Chorley who are homeless or threatened with homelessness and to seek to prevent homelessness. The charity aims to uphold the following values: to be credible, collaborative, accessible and responsive to those who seek their help. They aim to be an advocate to ensure the homeless get the support they need and to be a catalyst for change to improve their lives for the better. It is situated at The Gateway on Friday Street, where it provides a drop in centre serving hot food several times a week and operates a food bank. . If you would like to discover more about their work or offer your services as a volunteer you are welcome to drop in anytime or call on 01257220077

This Christmas we will be once again supporting the Charity through our Gift tree donations. From 23rd November the Christmas Gift Tree will be in Church, complete with tags denoting various items, such as Man's hat, Lady's gloves etc. If you are able, please take a tag, buy the said item and return it wrapped by Sunday 14th December.

Thank you for your continued support,

Elizabeth Wilding
on behalf of the Mission and discipleship Team.

All Saints' Church Congregation Numbers

<i>Week Beginning</i>	<i>Children Attending</i>	<i>Adults Attending</i>	<i>Communicant</i>
7 th Sep	23	51	34
14 th Sep	26	54	39
21 st Sep	27	82	50
28 th Sep	244	138	57

All Saints' Church

Holy Baptism None
Holy Matrimony None

Please pray for those struggling with illnesses of any sort, and especially for:

**Paul Catterall, Linda Eubank, Ken Starkey, Christine Gothard,
Michael Baxendale, Michael & Pam McLachlan, Linda
Carrara, Sandra & Mike Downey, Anita Campbell,
Norma & Brenda Riley and all the residents of Gillibrand
Hall and Coniston House**

**And for the families of those who have died recently
Annie Baxter Chantelle Fitzgerald Alan Fairclough & John Ross**

**We remember all those who are currently housebound and unable to
be with us in Church.**

2025 Flower Rota St George's

<i>Date</i>	<i>One Pedestal</i>	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
2nd Nov	Mrs Hobbiss	Miss B Smith
9th Nov	Mrs Mason	Mrs Ellison
16th Nov	Mrs Heartfield	
23rd Nov		
30 th Nov	Advent	
7 th Dec	Advent	
14 th Jan	Advent	
21 st Dec	Advent	
25 th Dec	Christamas	
28 th Dec	Christmas 1	
4th Jan 2026		
11 th Jan		
18 th Jan	Mrs Wilding	
25 th Jan	Mrs Lorraine Smith	
1 st Feb	Mr Birkett	

—

Dates for your Diary:

!5th November Family Friendly Ceilidh in the Church Hall, £5 a ticket, £15 for a family ticket, nibbles provided, bring your own drinks. Fun, games and dancing for the whole family.
John Bradley

St George's Dams presented "Two Hundred Not Out"
To celebrate 200 years of the Church





ALL SAINTS CHURCH
CLOSER

TO GOD | TO OUR COMMUNITY | TO ONE ANOTHER

EVERY SUNDAY @ 4PM

JOIN US FOR CRAFTS, FUN, MUSIC, PRAYER AND
PRAISE AS WE WORSHIP GOD TOGETHER IN OUR
NEW GATHERING FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG
PEOPLE!

Revd. Jordan Bentliff

**Assistant Curate in the Parish of St George, Chorley and
the Parish of All Saints, Chorley**

**Tel: 01257438000
Mob: 07450269010**

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