



ST MARY'S CHURCH
BLACKPOOL

THE SEASON AHEAD

ST MARY'S CHURCH QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our Spring edition!

As we say goodbye to Winter, we look forward to the advent of Spring; a busy season in the life of St Mary's Church, Blackpool. So why not take a few minutes to pop the kettle on for a brew and settle in your favourite spot to find out all that's happening.

- Updates for your diary with the **Revised Year Plan @ St Mary's** - an overview of all that's happening in our church up to August 2026.
- **Money Matters** - see Charles' latest update about St Mary's spending and charity status.
- **Safeguarding** - see Tracy's latest update on safeguarding
- **For Your Fridge Door** - the place to find the rotas, contact details and dates for your diary!

See
What's
Inside

Coffee Time with the Vicar...



God is always near me

When I was about 15 years old, I made a magazine rack in my woodwork class at school. It wasn't the prettiest magazine rack you ever did see, however, I spent a fair amount of time working on it and I remember being very proud of the final product; even my father who was pretty good at woodwork himself told me I had done a "middling" job!

Where is that magazine rack today? The honest answer is that I haven't a clue! Somewhere in my moving from Northern Ireland to England, it got mislaid and it is now probably a piece of rotting wood, languishing in some local dump. And I'm not overly worried about that to be honest. I created it long ago, time has now passed and until I began to write this article, I hadn't a thought about it in years.

I wonder if sometimes we can think about our relationship with God in the same way. We have no problem in believing that he created us, but maybe we feel that he then forgot all about us and has withdrawn from us leaving us to get on with our lives under our own steam and efforts. As a result, we worship a God who created us, but who is distant from us.

Such a view is not what biblical Christianity understands about God; he cares passionately for his creation. Whoever the God of the Bible is or is not, he is not a cold, distant, remote deity who created the world and then either lost interest in it or withdrew from it.

And of course God's love for the world is seen at its clearest as we celebrate Easter and we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ; who cared so much about his people that he came into this world to live, to die and to rise from the dead for human beings so that they might be forgiven for their sins and live in a right relationship with God for ever.

Maybe as we approach this Easter time you feel that God is distant and remote from your everyday life,



'God is always near me' continued

that he wants you to quit bothering him and to get on with your life on your own steam, however nothing could be further from the truth. In his love he longs to draw near to us and have a relationship with us and Easter is the time when we remember his great sacrificial love for us, a love that can be yours and mine today.

May we all experience the presence of the Risen Christ in our lives this Easter time.

Revd Robert Legge



Money Talk

St Mary's has moved into an exciting new era financially. In 2025 our total income for the year exceeded £100,000 – just over £114,000 to be precise. This has happened only twice before in my experience – first when we raised the money to pay for the new kitchen and second when we received the legacy from Jessie Smith.

Of the reasons for this is that we have received a second legacy of £20,000 from the late Josie Cartmell. I am trying to find out more about her, and will tell you more when I can.

Up to now, we have (legally) used the Church of England's Charity status as necessary. However, the Charity Commission and HMRC now require that any church with an income exceeding £100,000 must have its own charity registration. (Previously our accountant persuaded them that the circumstances were unusual). Indeed, by 2031 any church with an income of over £5,000 will need to register.

With the PCC's agreement, when I take the books to our accountant to audit 2025, I will formally ask them to assist us with the registration. I want to make sure everything is done properly, so that we don't fall foul of Registered Charities requirements.

Charles

SAVE THE DATE



Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 17th May

It's coming up to that time of the year again! St Mary's **APCM** will be held on **Sunday 17th May** after the service (see posters on the noticeboard). Part of successful church life is about communicating with each other and this is a time to catch up with what's been happening in the various areas of our church community. (It's also a legal requirement!)

If you lead or organise a group/team in the church and write a report/summary to be shared at the APCM, the deadline for getting these to Michelle or Helen is 12th April.

Having the deadline a bit earlier this year will really help us to compile this information in readiness for the APCM (especially since we don't have a PCC Secretary.)

Thanks for your help! For help/further information, see Michelle.



UPDATE

Safeguarding

UPDATE

I have been busy for the last year continuing to keep safeguarding at the heart of our church activities. We had our first safeguarding Sunday in November 2025 where I shared all the things I have been doing as our Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO). As a church we are 99% compliant with all the recommended safeguarding mandatory standards which is a great achievement.

I am the Safeguarding Lead person and you can speak to me in church or email me:
safeguarding@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk.

Alternatively, you can speak to Robert, our Vicar, in church or email him:
vicar@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk; or phone 01253 421966.

Tracy

REVISED YEAR PLAN @ ST MARY'S CHURCH BLACKPOOL 2025-2026

Month	Event
March	<p>Thurs 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th @ 2.00pm – Bishop's Lent Course in St Mary's Church Hall hosted by LFFG.</p> <p>Sun 29th @ 10.00am – Palm Sunday service in St Mary's Church.</p> 
April	<p>Thurs 2nd @ 7.00pm – Maundy Thursday service in St Mary's Church.</p> <p>Fri 3rd @ 2.00pm - Good Friday reflection – 'An Hour at the Cross' in St Mary's Church.</p> <p>Sun 5th @ 10.00am - Easter Sunday service in St Mary's Church. Afterwards there'll be an Easter Bonnet parade in St Mary's Church Hall – bring & wear your best hat!</p> <p>Sun 12th - deadline for all APCM reports, information etc to be with Michelle or Helen.</p>  
May	<p>Sat 9th @ 11.00am – St Mary's Spring Fair in St Mary's Church Hall.</p> <p>Sun 17th after the church service @ 11.30am – APCM in St Mary's Church. Tea & coffee will be served in the church.</p> 
June	<p>Tues 2nd - Visitation event for Wardens/Vicar – Christ Church Thornton.</p> <p>Sat 13th @ 2.00pm – Ascot Posh Afternoon Tea in St Mary's Church Hall.</p> <p>Thurs 18th @ 10.00am – 'Afternoon with the Ladies' to Ormskirk Market.</p> 
July & August	<p>Sat 4th July @ 2.00-4.00pm - Teddy Bear's Picnic - a family fun event in St Mary's Church Garden.</p> <p>No other events scheduled at present.</p> 

ECO SPOT

A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips 2026 for Spring @ St Mary's Church



March



Take part in a local litter pick or beach clean during 'The Great British Spring Clean' (Friday 13-Sunday 29 March). Litter picking benefits the environment by removing rubbish that can be hazardous for wildlife. Make a difference by helping to tidy your own street or our church grounds?

April



Celebrate new life this Easter and have a go at growing something! April is the perfect time to try to grow something edible. Salad leaves or herbs are a great place to start. Or how about growing sunflowers to then plant in our church garden? They would be great for bees!

May



Wednesday 20 May is 'World Bee Day', so look around to see how you can improve habitats for bees and other pollinators. Make or buy a bee hotel, let some wild flowers grow in your garden, and don't use pesticides. Pray that our pollinator populations will increase.

For more eco-tips, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email: arocha.org.uk/wild-christian
Psalm 24:1 - The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.

**Please note: events, dates and times may be subject to change.
See St Mary's TWA and Facebook for the latest information.**

**FOR
YOUR
FRIDGE
DOOR**



**CONTACTS,
DATES &
ROTAS!**

CONTACTS

Church Warden warden1@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk
Vicar vicar@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk
Safeguarding safeguarding@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk
Treasurer treasurer@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk
**Communications
& administration** communications@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk

**LADIES
FELLOWSHIP &
FRIENDSHIP
GROUP**



LFFG Dates for the Diary!

- 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th March - will be our Bishop's 'Lent course' in the Church Hall. There'll be a cuppa afterwards!
- 9th April - Pat Hawkins - Talk on Quilting
- 16th, 23rd and 30th April - Friendship Group
- 7th May - Kathleen Edwards - Marvellous Markets!
- 14th May - Val's coffee afternoon at home
- 21st and 28th May - Friendship Group

PLEASE NOTE There will be NO meeting 2nd April (Maundy Thursday)

**March,
April &
May**

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Date	Welcomers	Prayers	Chalice	Readers	Coffee	AV team
1 st Mar	Val, Allan	Robert	Rachael	Ann H, Lauryn	Men's Team	Tracy, Fibbie
8 th Mar	Janet, Brian	Pat R	Pat R	Rachael, Malcolm	Kath T, Janet	Nirva, Helen
15 th Mar	Charles, Margaret	Michelle	Michelle	Charles, Karen	Val, Kath	Lauryn, Fibbie
22 nd Mar	Dorothy, Sharon	Rachael	Mary	Sheila, Carole	No coffee	Nirva, Tracy
29 th Mar	Kath M, Pat R	Stuart	Michelle	Pat R, Michelle	Kath T, Janet	Lauryn, Helen
5 th Apr	Janet, Brian	Robert	Rachael	Rachael, Loic	Men's Team	Lauryn, Nirva
12 th Apr	Dorothy, Sharon	Michelle	Pat R	Ann H, Lauryn	Val, Kath	Tracy, Helen
19 th Apr	Charles, Margaret	Pat R	Rachael	Charles, Karen	No coffee	Lauryn, Fibbie
26 th Apr	Val, Allan	Stuart	Pat R	Carole, Sheila	Janet, Kath T	Nirva, Tracy
3 rd May	Kath M, Pat R	Rachael	Mary	Rachael, Loic	Men's Team	Fibbie, Lauryn
10 th May	Dorothy, Sharon	Robert	Michelle	Pat R, Carole	Val, Kath	Tracy, Helen
17 th May	Janet, Brian	Michelle	Pat R	Malcolm, Lauryn	No coffee	Nirva, Fibbie
24 th May	Charles, Margaret	Robert	Michelle	Charles, Ann H	Janet Kath T	Helen, Michelle
31 st May	Kath M, Pat R	Pat R	Rachael	Rachael, Karen	Val, Kath	Tracy, Lauryn