



ST MARY'S CHURCH
BLACKPOOL

THE SEASON AHEAD

ST MARY'S CHURCH QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our quarterly newsletter edition

The aim of our quarterly edition newsletter is to give you an overview of what's going on in St Mary's Church, Blackpool.

The main feature of this edition is our mini calendar - a break down of all the services and events over Advent and Christmas.

Don't forget, we still have St Mary's TWA (The Week Ahead) to provide you with a weekly breakdown of what's happening as well.

See
What's
Inside

- **A mini calendar** - an overview of all that's happening over the next 3 months in the church.
- **Money Matters** - see the latest news from our Treasurer, Charles.
- **For Your Fridge Door** - the place to find the rotas, contact details and dates for your diary!

Coffee Time
with the Vicar...



Put that light out!



As a child one of my most vivid recollections was the resounding laughter of my father and mother as we watched one of the best sitcoms ever made: Dad's Army. Back then my mother's favourite character was Chief Air Raid Warden Hodges played by Bill Pertwee and of course we all remember his two most famous catch phrases, "Ruddy 'ooligans!" and "Put that light out!"

As I write this article, I guess the last thing that any of us want to see in Blackpool is for the lights to be put out. So many people come here in order to enjoy the world-famous Blackpool Illuminations as well as the Blackpool Lightpool which ran very successfully recently. It seems to me that the main purpose of the lights is to brighten up our lives during the darkest, coldest days of Autumn and throughout Winter.

And then of course we enter the Christmas season and in towns, villages and cities, shops, houses, schools, pubs and churches all over the country, Christmas lights burn bright along with decorations.

However, time marches on and by the time you revisit this article in January and February the lights will have indeed been put out: the Blackpool Illuminations and the Christmas lights which will have been boxed away for another year. And once again darkness reigns. When this happens, I wonder if there is a danger that we fall into assuming that the light of the world that we talk so much about in church over Christmas has also gone out. By the first two months of 2026, Christmas seems such a long time ago, the Christmas bills need to be paid and our well-intentioned New Year Resolutions have gone the way of all our well-intentioned New Year Resolutions over past years.

Now, just imagine if you will the following scenario. Imagine if one evening every single light in Blackpool was switched off. Not just the Illuminations, but the shops and houses and pubs and amusement arcades and churches as well. All the lights were off except for one; the light at the very top of Blackpool Tower.

continued overleaf



In that context, that one light shining in the darkness above our town would shine more brightly, prominently and beautifully than ever. The all-encompassing darkness would make that tiny light even more special.

In John 1 v 15 we read "The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." This is a particularly popular reading at Christmas time however it remains true for the rest of the year as well. The temporary lights of our world may eventually go out, and by their very nature and purpose they are bound to do so. However, as we face the winter darkness without them, let us remember that God's light in the world, tiny as it often appears, is still with us, and nothing or nobody in this world can ever put that light out.

Revd Robert Legge

Services over Advent and Christmas

Christingle weekend

Christingle Coffee Morning on Saturday 6th December @ 10.00am in St Mary's Church Hall

Christingle Service on Sunday 7th December @ 5.00pm in St Mary's Church



Carol Service

on Wednesday 10th December @ 7.00pm in St Mary's Church

A Time to Reflect and Remember - a bereavement service

on Wednesday 17th December @ 10.00am in St Mary's Church

Whether you have lost someone recently or a long time ago - this special service is a quiet time to remember. (Please note that this **replaces** the Holy Communion service)

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Christmas Eve Crib Service on Wednesday 24th December @ 2.00pm in St Mary's Church

Christmas Eve Midnight Holy Communion Service on Wednesday 24th December @ 11.30pm in St Mary's Church

Christmas Day Holy Communion Service on Thursday 25th December @ 10.00am in St Mary's Church

Updates for your diary - January & February 2026

January

Saturday 24th @ 7.00pm - Quiz & Bingo Night in St Mary's Church Hall

February

Saturday 14th @ 6.30 for 7.00pm start - Social night with special guest singer in St Mary's Church Hall. More details to follow on Facebook!

Wednesday 18th @ 10.00am - Ash Wednesday service in St Mary's Church.

Thursday 26th @ 2.00pm - Bishop's Lent Course begins in St Mary's Church. (This is the 1st of 5 consecutive sessions in the lead up to Holy Week.)

Please note: events, dates and times may be subject to change.

See St Mary's TWA and Facebook for the latest information.



ECO SPOT

Eco Tips for Winter @ St Mary's Church

We are called to be good stewards of God's creation for the benefit of future generations as well as for our own comfort and enjoyment of nature.

So, what does that mean for us?



Christmas recycling

Christmas is a fun time for receiving gifts and cards but how do we know what we can recycle? Our top tips are - check with Blackpool Council either online, by phone or look at the label that came with your new brown bin to see what paper and card can be recycled in it. Watch out for shops that have recycling bins for cards too - their rules might differ.

Simpler Recycling

Blackpool Council are launching their drive to be in line with the nation wide effort to reduce, reuse and recycle called **Simpler Recycling**. For those of us living in the Blackpool area, this will mean the introduction of food waste bins as well as recycling and rubbish bins being collected on a 3 weekly basis. Check out Blackpool Council's website or contact them for more details.

Eco Church

Exciting news is that we are now registered with **Eco Church**, an A Rocha UK project. This is a long-term project for our whole church family and we hope that you will enjoy helping us work towards our first target which will be a Bronze Award. Five areas of church life are covered in this project. More information to follow!

Michelle

Do you have a safeguarding concern?

Tracy is our **Safeguarding Lead** person and if you would like to talk to her, you can see her in church or she can be contacted via: safeguarding@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk. Alternatively, you can speak to **Robert**, our **Vicar**, who you can see in church, or email on: vicar@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk, or phone 01253 421966.



They say we are moving to a cashless society. I didn't believe that until I realised that about the only time I actually hand over cash is when I go to the Dunes with the guys on Thursday afternoons. It's also apparent when we look at the cash collection in Church, which is reducing slightly each week. That's partly because so many of us are giving via Standing Order – thank you. However, we notice that many visitors to our Church are struggling to find coins in their pockets or purses, which is embarrassing for them and us.

So, the PCC has decided to go for a new system which will allow everyone to donate using a contactless Credit or Debit Card. We hope to have this up and running in the near future, so look out for it.

We believe that the system will give us flexibility. That's because we'll be able to take it into the Hall for use at fairs or other events. We will also be able to create a QR Code – that fancy pattern of tiny squares you see on so many adverts and TV shows – which can be printed on The Week Ahead sheets, so that anyone can make a donation on impulse.



But DO NOT WORRY!

We are not taking away your opportunity to use cash at any time. It's just another option available to us in the 21st Century.

Charles

**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!

- **4th Dec - Christmas Lunch** at Trebaron Garden Centre, 1.30 for 2pm (see Pat R for details)
- **11th Dec - Carols and Christmas Buffet** - this is our **last meeting** of 2025
- **8th Jan - Celebration Quiz**
- **15th Jan - Holiday Photos** - Michelle and David Broughton
- **5th Feb - Return to the Hebrides** - Val Baldwin
- **12th Feb - Valentine's Quiz**
- **26th Feb - The Bishop's Lent course** begins, led by our Vicar.
 Other Thursday dates will be run by the Friendship Group



**Dec,
Jan &
Feb**

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Date	Welcomers	Prayers	Chalice	Readers	Coffee	AV team
7 th Dec	Val, Allan	Stuart T	Kath T	Ann H, Lauryn	Val, Kath M	Tracy, Fibbie
14 th Dec	Janet, Brian	Robert	Pat R	Alan, Karen	Kath T, Janet	Nirva, Helen
21 st Dec	Sharon,Michelle	Doreen	Michelle	Michelle, Sheila	No coffee	Lauryn, Nirva
28 th Dec	Charles, Margaret	Alan	Mary	Doreen, Carole	No coffee	Fibbie, Tracy
4 th Jan	Val, Allan	Rachael	Rachael	Rachael, Loic	Kath T, Janet	Lauryn, Helen
11 th Jan	Kath M, Pat H	Pat R	Pat R	Charles, Michelle	Val, Kath M	Tracy, Nirva
18 th Jan	Janet, Brian	Robert	Michelle	Ann H, Lauryn	No coffee	Fibbie, Lauryn
25 th Jan	Val, Allan	Stuart T	Kath T	Michelle, Karen	Men's Team	Nirva, Fibbie
1 st Feb	Charles, Margaret	Pat R	Pat R	Charles, Sheila	Janet, Kath T	Lauryn, Tracy
8 th Feb	Kath M, Pat R	Rachael	Michelle	Rachael, Loic	Val, Kath M	Nirva, Lauryn
15 th Feb	Sharon,Michelle	Alan	Mary	Pat R, Carole	No coffee	Fibbie, Helen
22 nd Feb	Janet, Brian	Robert	Pat R	Doreen, Alan	Men's Team	Nirva, Fibbie

