

# Brindle Voice

May 2026



*This months cover photo was taken by Rosalyn Eastwood*

**‘But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ.’**

**Ephesians 2: 4-5**



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*Produced for the community by Brindle St James Parish Church*



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# THE LORD IS MY ROCK

Dear Friends,

May is about to start in a blaze of creation glory, the sun is shining and at the edge of my garden, which is indeed a patch of field there are some very pretty pale pink, tiny flowers, which I thought were May flowers. I have discovered that these flowers are known as Cuckooflowers or Lady's-smock! Described by the Wildlife Trust as 'a sure sign that spring has arrived'. As a Brindle girl I love the legend of the Brindle Cuckoo, that the villagers captured, to bring the local farmers good weather. They built a wall around it but of course the wall was not high enough and the Cuckoo flew off. As I see new life springing up, in the fields and hedgerows around the village I am reminded and thankful for the renewal of life.

The Easter season continues up to the celebration of Pentecost on 24 May and the amazing gift to the world of the Holy Spirit. This year I have been struck afresh by the power of Christ's crucifixion and the miracle of his resurrection. In responding to questions asked by Year 7 pupils at St Michael's High School I was once again awed by the fact that Christ paid with his life so that our sin was forgiven and know the transformative power of rebirth and renewal in faith that offers hope and direction for all of us. Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, tells those early Christians that they had been spiritually dead because they did not obey God. Yet goes on to say;

*'But God's mercy is so abundant, and his love for us is so great, that while we are spiritually dead in our disobedience, he brought us to life with Christ. It is by God's grace that you have been saved.'* (Ephesians 2:4-5)

*As I reach the mid-point of my curacy, I am obeying God's call to spend the fourth Sunday*

of the month at St Cuthbert's Church in Fulwood. It is a very different type of worship and context than Brindle and I am excited to see what God does there.

The first wedding of the year takes place on bank holiday weekend marks a couple starting out in a new phase of their relationship. While the two baptisms planned at the start and end of the month remind us all that we are washed clean of our sins and reborn into God's family.

The evidence of new life springing up everywhere may encourage you to open your garden to visitors to raise funds for Brindle St James. You are warmly invited to visit my corner of a Brindle field on 31 May to share in prosecco and cake and see my collection of dandelions which the birds love. Our confirmation candidates, adults and children, commence preparation for this significant step in their faith life. And we look forward to the start of Blackburn Diocese's centenary celebrations on 16th at the Big Day out in Blackpool.

Eastertide gives us the opportunity to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and enjoy the grace and new life it brings which is central to our Christian faith.

Rev Sam



## **BRINDLE ST JAMES PARISH ROUND-UP**

Having celebrated, at end of March, Jesus's arrival in Jerusalem riding on a colt on Palm Sunday; joyously singing and holding aloft our palm crosses we galloped into Holy Week at the start of April. Maundy Thursday we remembered the Last Supper sharing bread and wine at the Eucharist. Reflecting on Jesus's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane as the altar was stripped bare, only a candle burning symbolising the light of Christ. Good Friday we spent an hour at the Cross. In the afternoon some braved the weather, as blindfolded and reliant on the person in front we went through tunnels and over obstacles on the school field. Experiencing what it is like to trust, Ending with a welcome mug of hot chocolate and a hot cross bun!

Easter Sunday dawned in a blaze of glorious sunshine, church beautifully decorated by the flower team. As we celebrated the amazing gift of salvation, rebirth and renewal of our spiritual faith lives of Christ's resurrection. Easter doesn't end with the empty tomb but continues to Pentecost at the end of May. Time to delve deeper into what Christ's crucifixion and resurrection means for us.

April closed with the funeral of Hazel Melling who many will know as a long-standing and faithful member of the Brindle St James' church family. We continue to hold Hazel's husband Noel and her sons Mark and Richard and their families in our prayers.

What a special time Easter is and how wonderful and joyous to be celebrating it together in worship, through scripture, through singing and through prayer.

Thank you to everyone who participates in the life of our church as we look forward to the busy and exciting month of May.

## **BRINDLE ST JAMES CHURCH SERVICES ~ MAY**

|                        |   |                           |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| <b>3rd</b>             | <b>Easter Holy Communion<br/>&amp; Sunday School</b><br><i>Easter 5</i> | <b>10.30am</b>            |
| <b>10<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Holy Communion (Said)<br/>Holy Communion</b><br><i>Easter 6</i>      | <b>9.00am<br/>10.30am</b> |
| <b>13th</b>            | <b>Praise Service</b>   | <b>6.30pm</b>             |
| <b>17th</b>            | <b>Holy Communion<br/>&amp; Sunday School</b><br><i>Easter 7</i>        | <b>10.30am</b>            |
| <b>24th</b>            | <b>Praise Service<br/>Holy Communion</b><br><i>Pentecost</i>            | <b>9:00am<br/>10:30am</b> |
| <b>27<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Praise Service</b>   | <b>6.30pm</b>             |
| <b>31<sup>st</sup></b> | <b>Holy Communion</b><br><i>Trinity Sunday</i>                          | <b>10.30am</b>            |

**You're warmly invited to join us in worship!**

Everyone is welcome—whether you come every week or it's your very first visit. For more details, please visit our website.

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11478/service-and-events/events-all/>

You can also contact our Rector, Jon:

[rector@brindlestjames.co.uk](mailto:rector@brindlestjames.co.uk)

### **LIFE EVENTS**

#### ***Funerals***

**Our heartfelt condolences and loving prayers are with the family and friends of Evelyn Dixon and Hazel Melling, whose funerals both took place at St James' Church on Wednesday 15th April and Wednesday 29th April respectively.**

**BRINDLE ST JAMES  
BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE**

**MAY**

|             |  |             |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| <b>1st</b>  | <b>ANTHONY WILLIAM LINDSAY</b>               | <b>1999</b> |
| <b>9th</b>  | <b>ROSEMARY GEORGIANA MORRIS-<br/>ASHTON</b> | <b>1976</b> |
| <b>11th</b> | <b>JOHN JOSEPH BAXENDALE</b>                 | <b>2009</b> |
| <b>13th</b> | <b>EDWARD GREGSON</b>                        | <b>1983</b> |
|             | <b>ALAN NEIL WILSON</b>                      | <b>1996</b> |
| <b>16th</b> | <b>ELLIE MAE GREEN</b>                       | <b>2004</b> |
| <b>23rd</b> | <b>AMY BLACKBURN</b>                         | <b>2002</b> |
|             | <b>BRENDA CHARNLEY</b>                       | <b>2013</b> |
| <b>29th</b> | <b>MARGARET STOTT</b>                        | <b>1941</b> |

*If you would like to have a loved one remembered  
in the Book of Remembrance, please ask one of  
the Church Wardens  
for a form to complete.*

**“Even though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”  
*Psalm 23***

**BRINDLE ST JAMES  
FLOWER ROTA**

**MAY**

THE FLOWERS IN CHURCH FOR MAY ARE  
IN MEMORY OF TONY LINDSAY AND ARE  
KINDLY PROVIDED BY

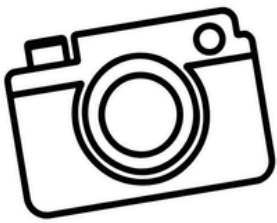
|             |                        |
|-------------|------------------------|
| <b>3rd</b>  | <b>SHIRLEY LINDSAY</b> |
| <b>10th</b> | <b>SHIRLEY LINDSAY</b> |
| <b>17th</b> |                        |
| <b>24th</b> |                        |
| <b>31st</b> |                        |

Would you like to sponsor the church  
flowers to mark a special anniversary  
or event?

As part of your dedication,  
your name would be included in  
The Brindle Voice.

For details please contact  
**Joan Hopcraft ~ 01254 854 465**





## CALL FOR FRONT COVER PHOTOS BRINDLE VOICE

The Brindle Voice is inviting photo submissions for a future front cover.

We'd love to see your best shots of local life, landscapes, buildings etc.

Entries are welcome from both children and adults.

Please send your high-resolution image, along with your name and contact details, to Sally, the Editor.  
[sallyprice07@gmail.com](mailto:sallyprice07@gmail.com)

Selected photos will be featured on the front cover.

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# THANK YOU!



# The Town of Horwich

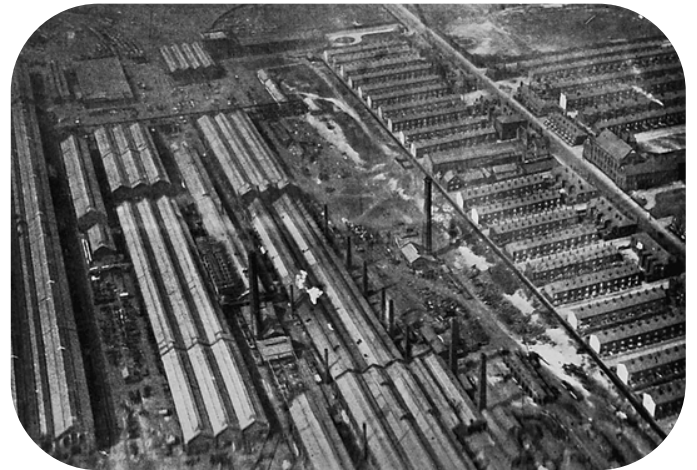
*Mr Bernard Kellett*

On Monday 20th April, Derek Cartwright described to the Brindle Historical Society how one company built - and effectively created - the town of Horwich. In 1884, Horwich was a small rural settlement of fewer than 4,000 people, yet it rapidly became one of the fastest-growing towns in the country. The catalyst was the Loco Works, established after 650 acres were purchased for just £36,000. Although not the first choice for the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway – the area lacking both coal and skilled labour - the bargain price proved irresistible.

Under William Barton Wright, and later John Aspinall, hundreds of navvies arrived in 1884 and within two years had constructed the Erecting Shop, with locomotives already arriving for repair. Skilled workers were transferred from the Miles Platting works in Manchester, and by 1892 the works employed over 3,000 people. Before construction began, however, the site had to be levelled requiring the removal of half a million tons of earth, effectively moving a hill. The migrant workers also built housing for the expanding workforce which was soon supplemented by private builders providing shops, pubs, and other essentials as the town grew.



The factory itself was immense, with the Erecting Shop stretching over a quarter of a mile. It was a state-of-the-art facility, featuring natural and electric lighting, a telephone system, its own water supply, and even gas production. Twin overhead cranes were capable of lifting over 100 tons and regularly carried engines over the heads of the workers below. An 18-inch-gauge railway was also constructed, using small 0-4-0 tank engines to carry materials around the site.



Management were notably forward-thinking: alongside employment, the company provided a cottage hospital, a bandstand, and recreation ground, and trained hundreds of workers in its own school, ensuring a steady supply of skilled labour. Some employees went on to have remarkable careers: apprentice A. V. Roe later founded AVRO (producer of the Lancaster Bomber amongst other aircraft), while Sir Nigel Gresley, who worked under Aspinall, designed famous locomotives such as the Flying Scotsman and Mallard.

During the First World War, the works produced shell cases as well as locomotives for France; in the Second, it diversified further, building over 400 Matilda tanks and Oerlikon shells.

The last steam locomotive was built in 1957, though repairs continued until 1964. Thereafter, work shifted to foundry work, specialised products such as leaf springs, along with refurbishing diesel multiple units, repairing wagons and converting coaches for maintenance use – much less glamorous but still keeping the wheels turning.



In the 1980s, BR Engineering Ltd. rationalised its workshops, and Horwich closed in December 1983, 97 years after opening, having built 1,800 locomotives and repaired more than 50,000. Not a bad innings for a town that, just a century earlier, barely warranted a mention on the map.

### Next Meeting

The Society will next meet on  
**Monday 18th May**  
when the speaker, **Tony Cunliffe**,  
will provide the audience with evidence from  
forensic science, historical clues and expert  
testimonies to try and unravel the mysteries behind  
the Turin Shroud.

Historical Society members get in free and it's just  
£5.00 for guests which includes tea or coffee, biscuits  
and a chat.

For more historical information about Horwich in general, visit Horwich Heritage.  
(<https://www.horwichheritage.co.uk/looking-back.php#mast>)

# Cuckoo Walks 2026

It was on 16th October 2004 that the first Cuckoo Walks took place in Brindle, with proceeds going towards the proposed new Community Hall. Following the success of that inaugural event, a second day of walks was arranged for 23rd April 2005 and, since then, apart from a brief pause during the Covid-19 pandemic, the walks have been held close to St George's Day each year. For the first several years, all funds raised were donated to the Community Hall which opened on 19th August 2006.

Once construction costs were covered, the walk organisers turned their attention to supporting local charities.



On 18th April 2026 almost 150 walkers set off on six different routes ranging from three to twelve miles, each exploring a different corner of the beautiful countryside around Brindle. Some routes were old favourites, tried and tested over the years; others ventured into less familiar territory. All attempted to avoid mud, boggy fields and awkward stiles, though, as ever, success varied depending on one's optimism (and footwear). The weather was reassuringly typical of April in Lancashire: around 12°C, with a light breeze and intermittent showers - ideal walking conditions.



Apart from walkers on the twelve-mile route, who set off soon after 9 o' clock, everyone else departed at 10am. The varying distances meant that the groups returned to the hall at intervals, making the mammoth task of serving Cavendish's delicious food just about manageable, although it did look very challenging from the perspective of an onlooker.



The walks are intended to raise money for charity and once all expenses are paid, the Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Pendle and Bowland Pennine Mountain Rescue will each receive £600 and the Brindle Community Hall a further £100.



The organising committee want to give a huge thank-you to the Cavendish Arms for donating the food at a discounted price, Denham Springs Dairy for donating the milk and cream, Asda community champion for donating the snacks and Brindle Parish Council for a cash donation. Many thanks are also due to everyone who walked, assisted and organised the event; it simply wouldn't happen without you. The committee is already considering how to improve things for next year and will certainly welcome any volunteers keen to share the planning load. See you all in 2027, hopefully with dry socks!



# Community Directory

|                           |                              |  |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Rector                    | Rev Jon Price                | 07483 948 380<br><a href="mailto:rector@brindlestjames.co.uk">rector@brindlestjames.co.uk</a>  |
| Church Warden             | Roger Parr                   | <a href="mailto:rogerparr10@aol.com">rogerparr10@aol.com</a>   |
| Church Warden             | Elaine Courtney              | 07957 561 151  |
| Church Treasurer          | Richard Howarth              | 07713 390 722  |
| Sunday School             | Catharine Cummins            | 01772 316 745  |
| Pastoral Visitors         | Lynn Packer<br>Ann Greenland | 01772 323 267<br>07973 726 608   |
| Bell Ringers              | Stuart Crosby                | 01257 265 542  |
| Mothers Union             | Rana Shiadah Dvaidson        | 07801546254  |
| PCC Secetary              | Julia Dixon                  | 07411 888 090  |
| Weekly Notice Sheet       | Lynn Packer                  | 01772 323 267  |
| Cubs/Scouts/Beavers       | Ann Hardman                  | <a href="mailto:gsl@bsjscouts.co.uk">gsl@bsjscouts.co.uk</a>   |
| Guiding/Brownies/Rainbows | Sam Eccles                   | 07749 383 888<br><a href="mailto:1stbrindle.guides@gmail.com">1stbrindle.guides@gmail.com</a>  |
| Community Hall Bookings   | Susan Horrocks               | 01254 852 173  |
| W.I.                      | Susan Burgess                | 07930 134 288  |
| St James Players          | Stuart Lockhart              | 01254 852 522  |
| Historical Society        | Henry Stone                  | 01254 854 290<br><a href="mailto:henry.stone.t21@btinternet.com">henry.stone.t21@btinternet.com</a>  |
| Brindle Art Group         | Shirley Stone                | 01254 854 290  |
| BOFFS (55+)               | Wyn Tagg                     | 01772 312 447  |
| Gardening Club            | Barbara Woods                | <a href="mailto:bwoods@talktalk.net">bwoods@talktalk.net</a>   |
| St. James primary School  | Head: Mrs Austin             | 01254 873 379  |
| Brindle Parish Council    | Clerk<br>Darren Cranshaw     | <a href="mailto:clerk@brindleparishcouncil.org.uk">clerk@brindleparishcouncil.org.uk</a><br><a href="mailto:Darren.cranshaw@brindle-pc.go.uk">Darren.cranshaw@brindle-pc.go.uk</a> |

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If you would like your local organisation's contact details included in the Community Directory, or have photos for the cover or inside the magazine, please contact Sally.

Contributions are always gratefully received.

This months front cover photo has been kindly provided by Rosalyn Eastwood