

THE SEASON AHEAD

ST MARY'S CHURCH QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



ST MARY'S CHURCH
BLACKPOOL



Welcome to our Summer edition!

With the end of the school year in sight and the summer season in full swing in our holiday town of Blackpool, many of our groups will be winding down for the summer. However, as our Vicar reminds us, God is with us wherever we go - whether that's Blackpool or another holiday destination. In this issue, you'll find all you need to know about what's happening in St Mary's this summer.

See
What's
Inside

- Update on the APCM @ St Mary's - an overview of the latest news from our Annual Church Parochial Meeting in May 2026.
- Money Talk - see Charles' latest update about St Mary's financials.
- For Your Fridge Door - the place to find the rotas, contact details and dates for your diary!



Coffee Time with the Vicar...

Let me tell you about Alexa!

Let me tell you all about Alexia! Alexia is currently sitting on my study desk even as I write. Alexia is about 6 inches in height, circular in shape and has been very useful to me ever since I received her as a gift several years ago. For those who don't know, Alexia is an electronic device that can provide all sorts of online information simply by asking her to do so. Thanks to Alexia I am listening to Elgar's Cello Concerto even as I write.

However, what does Alexia do when I am not asking her questions and requesting Bible references and music choices? The short answer is that she does absolutely nothing! She sits there in silence, just a part of the furniture. There is no relationship between myself and Alexia: all the requests are made by myself, and she merely responds electronically to my voice commands.

I think that this can sometimes be a good analogy as to how we see our relationship to God; it can so often become a somewhat one-sided affair. We ask God questions such as, "Why am I not more successful/ healthy/ wise/ good looking/rich?" We say to God when we pray, "Do this, do that, do the other and do it now!" We often pray to him only when we are in trouble or in need without really thinking too much as to whether or not he might want to be involved in our lives at any other time. God is present when we want him, otherwise he can just sit there in silence and switch himself off!

Perhaps one of the most well-known verses in the entire Bible talks about our opportunity for having a meaningful relationship with God;

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. (Revelation 3 v 20)

This is a verse that talks about the kind of relationship that God longs to have with his people. It is a two-way relationship; eating together is a very personal activity. It occurs when two people meet together and intentionally sit down to talk about issues of mutual concern and interest.

Unlike my "relationship" with Alexia which is completely one sided and basically selfish on my part,



Coffee Time with the Vicar continued

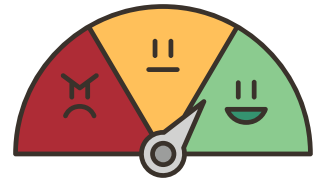
God wants us to have a real, living relationship with him. Seen in this light, prayer involves us talking to God but also listening to what he has to say, reading the Bible is carried out in relationship as we read about God and his love, but we also discover what he requires of us. And of course, attending church is more than just what we can get out of it, we also wait for God to speak to us as well.

God wants so much more for all of us than just to be in a one-sided relationship with him (which at the end of the day is really no relationship at all). He wants to give us the best he can give us but that involves our being prepared to commit to him, his commands and his love day by day.

Robert Legge, Vicar St Marys Church, May 2026

REVIEW OF THE YEAR @ ST MARY'S CHURCH BLACKPOOL 2026

It's been a year since our last APCM and so on Sunday 17th May 2026, we met together again after the service to review how things have gone.



Church warden highlights

- Following up on the Quinquennial report, the plaster work in the church is repaired and repainted with correct breathable paint. However there's ongoing monitoring of the damp patches.
- Emphasis on new energy efficient resources e.g. LED lights have been fitted, new central heating 7 day programmable timer fitted. A major energy review is planned with a full energy audit. Church hall - new sensor lights have been fitted and the storage room has been revamped and cleared.
- The Terrier and Inventory is up to date.

Safeguarding highlights

- Tracy sent a message to say that St Mary's is now 99% compliant with safeguarding. The focus is now on training.

Vision 26 highlights

- The New Bronze Eco award and focus on Creation Care; Christine's donations of the new internal recycling bins for cosmetics and blisters packs all are contributing to St Mary's 'Being Witnesses'.
- In 'Inspiring children and young people' the main events were last year's 'Teatime with Santa' which saw each child being given a copy of the nativity story, 'The Grumpy Owl', and the summer event, St Mary's 'Teddy Bears' Picnic' for primary aged children, their families and their teddies!

Vicar highlights

- The Vicar thanked everyone for their contributions large or small to keep St Mary's Church going in order to serve God by loving each other and our world.
- He asked for prayer for a 2nd warden & a new church secretary as both posts are vacant.

Safeguarding Spot



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. You can also speak to Robert, our Vicar: vicar@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk or 01253 421966.

For more information about safeguarding in St Mary's, why not check out our:

- noticeboard in the front entrance hall and/or
- website where you can find information on our homepage as well as on our dedicated safeguarding page www.stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk

ECO SPOT

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



Take part in citizen science or a local nature event:

- Search your local beach with a shore survey: wildlifetrusts.org/shoresearch Spend ten minutes counting pollinators: ukpoms.org.uk
- Join in with Churches Count on Nature (6th-14th June): arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/churches-count-on-nature/ Do a Bee Walk: beewalk.org.uk
- Join Great Big Green Week (6th-14th June): greatbiggreenweek.com



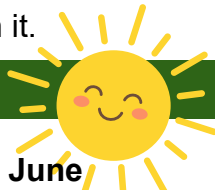
It's Plastic Free July and this year we're thinking about laundry, a top source of microplastic pollution. Fibres from synthetic clothes (polyester, nylon, and acrylic for example) shed tiny fibres during washing and drying. These enter the sewage systems and are hard to filter out. Use a microfibre bag or ball to catch the fibres. This year's campaign at plasticfreejuly.org.



Times of drought and dryness can be dangerous for wildlife. Provide water for birds and insects - put a dish of water out to help wildlife stay hydrated. Insects, small mammals, birds, and even badgers, foxes, and deer could benefit. A stone in a plant saucer helps bees to perch and drink without drowning. These small actions make a big difference and are just some of the ways we can live out our calling to care for God's creation: <https://arocha.org.uk/looking-after-wildlife-in-the-heat/>.

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.

Summer events coming up in St Mary's!



Sat 13th June @ 2.00-4.00pm

Ascot Posh Afternoon Tea in St Mary's Church Hall -
£12.00 with Bucks Fizz on entry & a raffle!

Dress code: big hats & posh outfits (women & men)!
This is a fundraising event for St Mary's Church
- see Kathleen, Pat R or Shirley for tickets.



Thurs 18th June
Afternoon with the Ladies'
to Ormskirk Market.

To book your place on this
coach trip, see Pat R.



Sat 4th July - Teddy Bears' Picnic! There will be lots of games held in St Mary's Church field followed by a picnic in the church garden (or the church hall if it's raining).

Open to families of primary aged children and their teddies! It's free, but any donations will go to *Brian House Hospice*. If you'd like to come along, please see Kathleen M in church or leave a message on [St Mary's Church Facebook page](#).

Money Talk!

Well, here's a new one. Michelle had a call from one of our contractors to say we had paid their invoice (£3,362) twice. When I checked, I found that I had indeed downloaded the invoice in April and again in May, and then paid them both. I am pleased to say the contractor has repaid us. On the other hand, one of the properties is empty at the time of writing, and we are liable for Council Tax. I paid that over the phone using the Church debit card, and then noticed on the bank statement that the amount had been debited twice. After a long session listening to Mozart on the phone, the Council has now repaid that amount too. Moral of the story – pay attention when handling money.

We have money invested in 35 Day and 95 Day Notice accounts at the bank. Whilst this gives us a slightly better interest rate, it does mean it takes a long time to get the money transferred if we need it. I therefore propose to transfer the bulk of the money from the 95 Day account.

Charles (Treasurer)



**FOR
YOUR
FRIDGE
DOOR**



**CONTACTS,
DATES &
ROTAS!**

CONTACTS

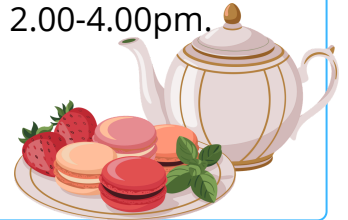
- Church Warden** warden1@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk
- Vicar** vicar@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk
- Safeguarding** safeguarding@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk
- Treasurer** treasurer@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk
- Communications & administration** communications@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk

LFFG Summer Dates for the Diary!



- 4th June - Desert Island Discs (discussing favourite pieces of music and books)
- 11th June - Games Afternoon
- 18th June - Trip to Ormskirk Market - for more details see Shirley or Kathleen
- 25th June - Friendship Group run session
- 2nd July Card Making Workshop with Pat Barber
- 9th July - Strawberry Tea
- 16th, 23rd, 30th July - Friendship Group session
- 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th August - Friendship Group sessions

We meet in
St Mary's Church Hall
@ 2.00-4.00pm.



June, July & August V o l u n t e e r R o t a s	Date	Welcomers	Prayers	Chalice	Readers	Coffee	AV team
	7 th Jun	Val, Allan	Robert	Pat R	Ann H, Lauryn	Men's Team	Tracy, Helen
	14 th Jun	Janet, Brian	Pat R	Rachael	Rachael, Malcolm	Kath T, Janet	Lauryn, Nirva
	21 st Jun	Charles, Margaret	Michelle	Michelle	Charles, Karen	Val, Kath	Lauryn, Fibbie
	28 th Jun	Dorothy, Sharon	Robert	Mary	Sheila, Carole	No coffee	Nirva, Fibbie
	5 th July	Kath M, Pat R	Stuart	Michelle	Pat R, Michelle	Kath T, Janet	Tracy, Helen
	12 th July	Janet, Brian	Robert	Rachael	Rachael, Loic	Men's Team	Nirva, Fibbie
	19 th July	Dorothy, Sharon	Michelle	Pat R	Ann H, Lauryn	Val, Kath	Lauryn, Nirva
	26 th July	Charles, Margaret	Pat R	Rachael	Charles, Karen	No coffee	Lauryn, Fibbie
	2 nd Aug	Val, Allan	Stuart	Pat R	Carole, Sheila	Janet, Kath T	Nirva, Fibbie
	9 th Aug	Kath M, Pat R	Robert	Mary	Pat R, Carole	Men's Team	Tracy, Helen
	16 th Aug	Dorothy, Sharon	Rachael	Michelle	Michelle, Nirva	Val, Kath	Lauryn, Fibbie
23 rd Aug	Janet, Brian	Michelle	Pat R	Malcolm, Rachael	No coffee	Lauryn, Nirva	
30 th Aug	Charles, Margaret	Robert	Michelle	Charles, Ann H	Janet Kath T	Helen, Michelle	