

THE SEASON AHEAD

ST MARY'S CHURCH QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

See
What's
Inside

Welcome to the 6th issue of our quarterly newsletter

- We have a new **St Mary's Year Plan** - a helpful overview of all that's happening from September 2026 to August 2027.
- **For Your Fridge Door** - the back page where you'll find lots of useful dates for your diary!



Coffee Time with the Vicar...

Sowing and Reaping

"Mummy, daddy, I am going to make us all very, VERY, rich!"

So announced five-year-old Robert Legge to his parents one evening long ago. My father responded by loudly sniggering from behind his newspaper while my mother replied with a patience for which she was justifiably well known, "Really dear? That's nice! Now, it's time to say your prayers, brush your teeth, say 'Goodnight' to Daddy and go to bed!"

To be fair I really did have a cunning plan. In school that day our teacher had read us the story of Jack and the beanstalk (can you all see where this is going?) a story about a young lad who obtained some magic beans and when he planted them, they grew into a huge beanstalk. When Jack (for that was his name) climbed this beanstalk, he discovered an enchanted castle where lived a rich, evil giant. To cut a long story short, Jack stole the giant's gold, killed the tyrant and he and his mother lived happily ever after, despite Jack's having casually broken the sixth and eighth Commandments about killing and stealing! And according to my reasoning, if Jack could do it, then I could do it!

Of course, it's all a fairytale, isn't it? There is no such thing as magic beans and if you sow nothing, you get nothing.

In Galatians 6 v 7 Paul reminds his readers that "Whatever a person sows, so shall they reap." As we approach the Harvest season for another year, we reflect upon sowing and reaping and we can imagine the utter incomprehension that would ensue if a farmer planted one kind of seed only for a totally different food to spring up instead. Carrots are carrots and sprouts are sprouts; you sow what you reap. In the same way in everyday life, if we are determined to sow hatred, violence, suspicion and discord, then that is what we will surely reap. Furthermore, we will soon be commemorating Remembrance Sunday where we remember those who gave their lives for freedom and justice. It is proper and right that we do so, but we must also remember that wars come through human sin and selfishness and a desire to live our lives our way rather than obey the laws and commandments of God.

It is really simple and obvious if you think about it. If as Christians we sow God's seeds, and we water them by the power of his Spirit, then with his help, we will reap a harvest that both glorifies him and makes us into the sort of people he wants us to be. However, if we sow our own seeds in our own way, then we will end up reaping a very different harvest altogether.

The great Christian writer C.S. Lewis famously wrote, "There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done." Our actions have consequences; we can either sow God's way or our own way. Whatever we sow we shall reap.

Robert Legge, Vicar



Month	Event
September 26	Sat 26th @ 7.00pm – Quiz night in St Mary's Church Hall in aid of St Mary's Church.
October 26	- Sun 4th @ 10.00am - Harvest service in St Mary's Church. - Sun 4th @ 3.00pm – Joint Songs of Praise with Southshore Methodist Church in the Methodist Church.
November 26	- Sun 8th @ 10.00am – Remembrance Day service in St Mary's Church. - Thurs 12th @ 7.00pm – Service of Celebration in Blackburn Cathedral. - Sat 14th – New Diocesan Vision Launch at the open Deanery Synod meeting in St Michael's School, Chorley. - Thurs 19th – Visit to Bents Garden Centre organised by Ladies Fellowship & Friendship Group (LFFG). - Sat 21st @ 11.00am – St Mary's Church Winter Fair in St Mary's Church Hall. - Thurs 26th @ 1.30pm for 2.00pm – LFFG Christmas Meal at <u>Trebaron</u> Garden Centre.
December 26	- Wed 16th @ 10.00am – Bereavement Service in St Mary's Church. - Thurs 17th @ 7.00pm – Carol Service - Mon 21st @ 3.00pm – Teatime with Santa in St Mary's Church Hall. - No Wednesday Midweek Holy Communion Service - Thurs 24th @ 2.00pm – Christmas Eve Crib service in St Mary's Church. - Thurs 24th @ 11.30pm – Christmas Eve Midnight Holy Communion in St Mary's Church. - Fri 25th @ 10.00am – Christmas morning service in St Mary's Church.

2027

January 27	Sat 23rd @ 7.00pm – Quiz Night in St Mary's Church Hall in aid of St Mary's Church.
February 27	- Wed 10th @ 10.00am – Ash Wednesday service in St Mary's Church. - Sat 13th @ 7.00pm – Valentine's Social Night in St Mary's Church Hall. - Thurs 18th @ 2.00pm – Bishop's Lent Course in St Mary's Church hosted by LFFG.
March 27	- Sun 21st @ 10.00am – Palm Sunday service in St Mary's Church. - No Wednesday Midweek Holy Communion Service - Thurs 25th @ 7.00pm – Maundy Thursday service in St Mary's Church. - Fri 26th @ 2.00pm - Good Friday reflection – An Hour at the Cross in St Mary's Church. - Sun 28th @ 10.00am - Easter Sunday service in St Mary's Church.
May 27	9th or 16th (date TBC) @ 11.30am after the church service– APCM in St Mary's Church.
June 27	- Visitation event for Wardens – date, time and venue TBC. - Sat (date TBC) @ 2.00pm – Ascot Afternoon Tea fundraising event in St Mary's Church Hall.
July & August 27	No events scheduled at present.

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

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

ECO SPOT

In August we had a company come to do a free Energy Audit of our church. The results will help us plan for our future energy needs in the best environmentally friendly and economical way for our church.



Some Eco Tips!

September - the season of creation and thanksgiving to God. What have you grown?

October - tackle climate change at home by finding those draughts and reducing heat loss to help your energy bills. Let's get our homes winter ready!

November - how can we look after nature during the winter? Bird feeders can be refilled and log or leaf piles are great for winter habitats too!

For more eco-tips, sign up to A Rocha UK's Wild Christian email: arochoa.org.uk/wild-christian



Do you have a safeguarding concern?

We want everyone to feel welcome, safe and valued at St Mary's Church. To raise a concern, please see Michelle or Robert in church or email: vicar@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk or phone: 01253 421966. You can also contact the Diocese: safeguarding@blackburn.anglican.org

A Note from Your Warden...

We have spent a lot of money on our church again, on essential work including repointing the South wall. Please do your best to support the two big fundraisers coming up this season:

The Quiz Night on 

Saturday 26th September @ 7.00pm



Winter Church Fair on

Saturday 21st November @ 11.00am-2.00pm

Help will be needed please on **Monday 5th October** at **9.00am** to sort the Harvest donations; please let me know if you can - thanks!



We really need extra help on a Sunday morning!

Please consider being a **welcomer**, **reading in church**, **saying prayers** or **helping with the chalice** during communion.

Training and support will be given.

Thank you.

Deepening our Faith Journey



Revd Robert is launching 2 new projects in September:

1. **'Let's Dive Deeper'** cards - these will have a summary of the morning's sermon and further pointers for reflection, reading and prayer. They will be posted weekly on Facebook, but it is hoped that there will be print versions too.
2. **'How to be a Christian'** - this new booklet that will come out this autumn, will join the 'How to' series and is designed for those who want to start their journey as a follower of Jesus, or as a refresher if you're already on that journey.



Joint Service Songs of Praise



Earlier this year we had a joint service with our friends from South Shore Methodist.

We hope to have another joint service on

Sunday 4th October @ 3.00pm at their church.

More details to follow closer to the time.

AV Open Visit



Want to see how the AV system works or interested in joining the AV team?

Why not sit with Helen during one of the open sessions in church this autumn and watch how it all works?

Sunday 27th September

Sunday 1st November.

Money Talk



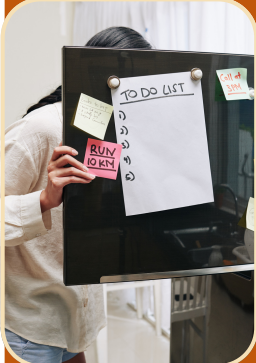
I think we're all frustrated at the continuing closure of the High Street banks, making it harder to get to our money. Some good news now is that a Banking Hub has opened at 22 St Annes Road West (that's

St Annes Square to you and me). It will be open from 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday. Each day will be staffed by a different bank – Monday is Barclays, Tuesday is Lloyds, Halifax and Bank of Scotland. If you're with NatWest (like the church is) then it's Wednesday. HSBC is Thursday and Santander is Friday. All you need now is to get to St Annes avoiding roadworks. Good luck. Charles (Treasurer)

GOOD NEWS!

- The Archdeacon has given St Mary's permission to install new external noticeboards. Two will replace the Church ones and one will replace the existing sign on the Church Hall facing Lytham Road and a new one will be put up on the Church Hall Mayfield Avenue entrance. The PCC is hoping that the work will be completed before Christmas. Watch this space!
- Also, coming soon - new resources for St Mary's Children's Area!

**FOR
YOUR
FRIDGE
DOOR**



**CONTACTS,
DATES &
ROTAS!**

CONTACTS

Church Warden

warden1@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk

Vicar

vicar@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk

Safeguarding

For safeguarding, please contact the Warden or Vicar or email safeguarding@blackburn.anglican.org

Treasurer

treasurer@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk

**Communications
& administration**

communications@stmaryschurchblackpool.org.uk



LFFG Thursday Dates - 2.00-4.00pm in the Church Hall

- **3rd Sept** - Photos & a talk by **Michelle Broughton**.
- **10th Sept** - 'Tales of a Customs Officer' **Part 2** - Brian Topping.
- **1st Oct** - **Hospice Tea Party** - all proceeds to go to Trinity Hospice.
- **8th Oct** - Sewing demonstration by **Lucy Plumbley**, The Sewing Institute, Lytham
- **5th Nov** - 'English Christmas Traditions' - a talk by Margaret Holbrook.
- **12th Nov** - **Revd Robert** - **past, present and future** - his story.
- **19th Nov** - **Coach trip** to Bents Garden Centre.
- **26th Nov** - **Christmas Meal** at Trebaron Garden Centre.

The Friendship Team will run the other Thursdays in each month.

For more information see Margaret, Shirley or Val.

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Date	Welcomers	Prayers	Chalice	Readers	Coffee	AV team
6 th Sep	Val, Allan	Carole	Rachael	Ann H, Michelle	Men's Team	Fibbie, Helen
13 th Sep	Janet, Brian	Robert	Michelle	Sheila, Karen	Janet, Kath M	Nirva, Helen
20 th Sep	Charles, Margaret	Stuart	Kath T	Charles, Becca	Val, Margaret	Fibbie, Nirva
27 th Sep	Dorothy, Sharon	Michelle	Michelle	Sheila, Carole	No coffee	Open visit (Helen)
4 th Oct	Val, Allan HARVEST	Robert	Rachael	Rachael, Loic	Men's Team	Fibbie, Helen
11 th Oct	Janet, Brian	Rachael	Rachael	Becca, Malcolm	Janet, Kath T	Nirva, Helen
18 th Oct	Dorothy, Sharon	Robert	Michelle	Ann H, Carole	Val, Margaret	Fibbie, Nirva
25 th Oct	Charles, Margaret	Stuart T	Kath T	Michelle, Karen	No coffee	Nirva, Fibbie
1 st Nov	Val, Allan	Carole	Rachael	Sheila, Charles	Men's Team	Open visit (Helen)
8 th Nov	Janet, Brian REMEMBRANCE	Robert	Michelle	Charles, Michelle	Val, Kath M	Nirva, Helen
15 th Nov	Dorothy, Sharon	Rachael	Kath T	Anne H, Carole	Janet, Kath T	Fibbie, Helen
22 nd Nov	Janet, Brian	Michelle	Michelle	Becca, Karen	Val, Margaret	Nirva, Fibbie
29 th Nov	Charles, Margaret	Carole	Rachael	Rachael, Malcolm	No coffee	Helen, Michelle

