

Parish Magazine

St John's Read and St Peter's Simonstone



Taste and see that the Lord is good.
The Lord's words are sweeter to me than honey.
Ps 34:8, Ps 119:103

Sept 2026
£1.00 per copy
(12 issues for £10.00)

Directory

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Please let the Vicar, Curate or Churchwardens, know of those who are ill either at home or in hospital. Arrangements for Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals should also be made with the Vicar.

Web site: www.readstoneparish.com

An electronic version of the magazine is sent to all parishioners whose email address we know. If you know anyone who has an email address but does not already receive an electronic copy and would like to do so, please let either of the two Churchwardens or the Editor know. Further details of this option can also be found on our web site: www.readstoneparish.com
A number of printed copies are also available at the back of church.

"The See" - Further news and information can be seen on the diocesan web site: www.blackburn.anglican.org

August Special Services:

Funeral 4th : Rosemary (Rose) Lea

Baptisms 16th : Jaxon, Esme and Imogen

Interment of ashes 21st : Walter Ian Jordison



This month we remember Matthew's call to be an apostle of Jesus and ask what it means for us to follow Christ.

Jesus calls us where we are:

'Jesus saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him.' (Matthew 9:9).

It was just an ordinary day at Matthew's tax booth, when Jesus called him. He simply got up and followed! Despite Matthew's past, his occupation and what people thought of him, Jesus still called him. Are we ready to follow when Jesus calls us into a relationship with Himself?

Jesus comes to where we are:

'While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with Him and His disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' (10,11).

Jesus went to Matthew's home and ate with tax collectors and sinners, demonstrating that He meets people where they are, despite their sin and shame. The Pharisees avoided sinners, because they believed only the perfect could have access to God. When God is at

work in the lives of those we don't expect, allow Jesus to open our hearts to embrace what He is doing.

Jesus comforts us where we are:

'On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but those who are ill.' (12).

Jesus came to save sinners and to give hope to the hopeless. The Pharisees were so committed to keeping the law, that they had forgotten God's heart of compassion. However, Jesus reminded them that they were witnessing God's love in action. In what ways can we express compassion towards others, especially those outside the community of faith?

Many blessings,

Rev Sue <><

Community Exercise Classes

Read & Simonstone

Light, sit down exercises

Tues 10.30-11.30 a.m.

Constitutional Club, Whalley Rd

More energetic, aerobic-type exercise

Wed. 7.00-8.00 p.m.

St John's School, Straits Lane-Small charge for each class.

Details about these classes and personal services from

Mick on 07549 625396

Parish of St John's Read & St Peter's Simonstone

Monthly Summary – July 2026



Receipts		£
	Planned Giving	2176.57
	Loose Plate	161.90
	Gift Aid	407.89
	Donations Gift Aided	207.00
	Donation Box	18.80
	Light/Lent Lunches	75.00
	Donations non-Gift Aided	2087.00
	Fees Payable to PCC	739.00
	Parish Magazine Sales	24.00
	Community Fund Raising	374.10
	Electronic & Card Donations	295.00
Total		6566.26
Payments		£
	Parish Share	3973.00
	Electricity	69.69
	Vicarage Costs	471.28
	Church Building Maintenance	10236.00
	Stationery	119.76
	Insurance	353.46
	Graveyard Maintenance	513.00
	Fees Payable to Blackburn Diocese	2010.00
	Communion Wine and Wafers	14.25
	Accessories and Other Church Service Costs	56.16

	Blackburn Diocese Loan Repayment	2056.51
	St John's Church Building Costs	30561.52
	Organist Fees	80.00
	Parish Magazine	
	Bank Charges	7.75
	Card Payment Fee's	5.17
Total		50347.55

In July, we had a deficit in our receipts vs payments of £43,791.29 mainly due to the 1st instalment of the costs to repairs for our organ, and payments to our builder for repairs to St John's building.

Supporting Our Church: A Message for Our Parish Community

St John's Church has always been more than a building. It is a place where we gather in joy and in sorrow, where we celebrate life's milestones, where prayers are spoken, friendships formed, and faith nurtured. Week by week, it stands open as a sign of God's presence in our community. What keeps this ministry alive is not just tradition or history—it is the generosity of those who call this parish their spiritual home.

Why Your Giving Matters Here

Every gift offered to our church, whether large or small, helps sustain the life we share. Parish giving supports:

- **Worship and prayer** From Sunday services to baptisms, weddings, and funerals, your giving helps provide the resources, clergy, music, and welcome that make our worship meaningful.

- **Care for our community** Our church is often a quiet lifeline—offering pastoral support, visiting the housebound, hosting groups, and providing a listening ear. These ministries depend on a stable financial foundation.
- **The upkeep of our church building** Our building is a place of beauty, memory, and hope. But it also needs heating, insurance, repairs, and ongoing maintenance to remain safe and welcoming for all. As you know we have been blessed by the generous donations we have received to fund the recent repairs to St John's.
- **Mission and outreach** Whether it's children's activities, community events, or new ways of sharing the gospel, giving enables us to grow and serve in ways that meet today's needs.

The Importance of Regular Giving

One-off donations are always appreciated, but regular giving—through the Parish Giving Scheme or a standing order—makes the biggest difference. It allows the PCC to plan confidently, manage rising costs, and invest in long-term ministry. Regular giving is the steady heartbeat that keeps our church's mission strong.

A Generous Vision of Faith

The Church of England encourages a way of giving shaped by thankfulness, sacrifice, and generosity. These values remind us that giving is not just about finances—it is part of our discipleship. It is an

act of worship, a response to God's love, and a way of sharing in the work God is doing here in our parish.

How You Can Help

If you feel able, please consider:

- Reviewing your regular giving
- Joining the Parish Giving Scheme
- Supporting a specific project or ministry
- Leaving a legacy gift in your will
- Praying for our church's mission and finances

Every contribution strengthens our shared life and helps ensure our church remains a place of welcome, worship, and witness for generations to come.

Thank you so much for your continued support. We could not fulfil our God-given vision without your generous offering of time, talents, and finance. We encourage regular members of the church to contribute to the vision of the parish and the activities associated with it in whatever way you can.

Whether making a one-off gift today, or to become a regular giver, scan this code to go to our PGS giving page.



We do also have different alternatives available, such as paying by Standing Order or if you prefer you can pay weekly via the White envelopes available in Church.

Please remember to use easyfundraising every time you shop online! Over 8,000+ retailers will donate part of what you spend to us, so you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. These donations really help us out, so please sign up if you haven't yet. It's easy and FREE! You can get started at: -

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/readstonecofe>

Blessings

Peter



Ron Harrison, a 'good and faithful servant'

It is with heavy hearts that we mourn the passing of our dear friend and former 'editor in chief', Ron Harrison.

Ron was a huge part of village life for many years. He was church warden and school governor at St Peter's. He loved cricket and played for Blackburn for many years. His taste in football was questionable at best (in the opinion of the vicar) as Ron passionately supported Blackburn

Rovers. His larger than life character made him a firm friend of many.

Never shying away from technological advances, Ron embraced IT using it to create the parish magazine as well as in his film making.

Ron will be buried with his beloved wife Jean and is mourned by his children Gillian and Neil as well as his grandsons and in-laws.

We give thanks for Ron's long and faithful life, spent in serving God and his neighbour. May he rest in peace and rise again in glory.

Autumn Study Course

Starts Sept 22nd at 2pm and 6pm in church.

We will be using a six-session course written by Bishop Joe, entitled "Six invitations to Dinner with Jesus".

He will lead us in responding to six invitations as they come to us in Luke's Gospel. Each invitation is personally addressed to you. With each invitation, Jesus opens the door for you to experience the generosity of God.



There will be refreshments, so please sign the list at the back of church so that we know how many people to cater for.

SIMONSTONE WITH READ WI

Simonstone with Read WI met on Thursday 20 August. The ladies welcomed five guests and the speaker - the Parish's very own Rev. Sue Ball who gave a talk entitled 'Ephesus Past and Present'. She visited Ephesus whilst on a sabbatical, wanting to follow in the footsteps of St. Paul.

Sue explained that St. Paul described himself as short, deformed and bald. He was born in Tarsus and was originally named Saul. Educated in Jerusalem he became a Pharisee. He was travelling on the road to Damascus when he had a vision and spoke with God, which led to a change of heart, leading him to visit the synagogues of major cities and explain the new way, the way of Jesus Christ - a way of peace and love.

Apparently, he was a great orator but did go on a bit! He set up groups to spread the word and would then move on to the next city. He would stay in contact with these groups, praising or admonishing them, by letter. His Letters to the Ephesians form the tenth book of the New Testament.

Myth has is that Ephesus was founded by Androcles (he who extracted a thorn from a lion's paw) but it is now believed that the city was founded by women, who built a temple to their goddess Cybele, who was known by the Greeks as Artemis and by the Romans as Diana.

When Ephesus was founded, it was a deep harbour port on the Aegean Sea, an important trading post with a multinational community. Earthquakes destroyed the city but it was rebuilt each time and the ruins we see now are from its third incarnation. Eventually the local river silted up and became marshland - the perfect breeding ground for mosquitos - leading to the city's decline. The coastline is now five miles from Ephesus.

The site itself includes the Arcadian Way, which leads to a huge marketplace, which was once surrounded by shops and covered walkways. Next to it is a huge amphitheatre, holding about 25,000 people. The acoustics are amazing and it is still used for concerts. A gate by the theatre was allegedly built by three freed slaves and the

carvings on the gate provide a wonderful insight into the history of the city. One of the main sites is the Library of Celsus. Sadly only the facade remains but it is testimony to the site being a major centre of learning. Opposite the Library... a brothel.

When Rev. Sue visited, she stayed in Kusadasi, which is where the cruise liners dock; up to four a day. What was once a tiny fishing village is now a thriving city but the original inhabitants have been moved away to make way for hotels, bars, restaurants and shops. The waters of the harbour are polluted with plastic bags and whilst the economy may rely on tourists there is definitely a downside and Sue's final message was for us to be aware of the impact of our travels, the impact of tourism...

The next WI Meeting takes place on Thursday 17 September when there will be a talk by the 'Chocolate Orange Lady'. If you would like to learn more about the WI please contact the Secretary Hilary Clarkson on 0784 325 9995.



John Braddyl of Portfield and Whalley

Portrait 1590 hanging at
Gawthorpe Hall

John was head of an ancient Lancashire family and after the dissolution of the monasteries he became the owner of Whalley Abbey, its land and properties.

With the death of his father in 1604 he became 'surveyor of the woods beyond Trent belonging to the Duchy of Lancaster' and collected taxes on behalf of the Crown in Cumbria.

A portrait of John painted by Robert Peake (1551-1619) was purchased for Lancashire Museum Service with a grant from Heritage Lottery Fund, Resource/ V.A., and National Art Collection Fund. This life size portrait now hangs in the Long Gallery of Gawthorpe Hall, Padiham.

John wears a silver suit suitable for the Royal Court, black lambswool cloak, and brown gloves, that shows his familiarity with the countryside.



He was of the Catholic Faith, and his sister Jane married into the Brockholes family and two sisters into Southworth and Talbot families. His younger brother was a priest.

Whalley and Portfield are only seven miles from Gawthorpe and although the Shuttleworths were not Catholic they both supported Parliament's side in the civil war. The Braddyls were closely linked to the Assheton family by marriage.

Information collated by Christine Holbrook

(Gawthorpe opening hours Wed-Sunday 12-4:30pm and Bank Holidays)

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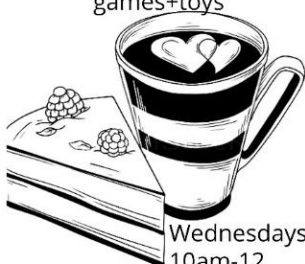
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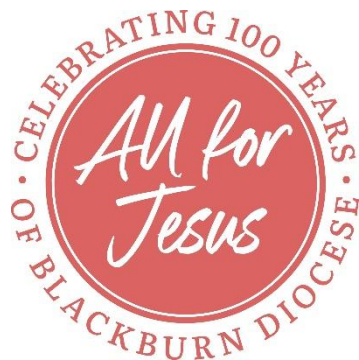
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'All for Jesus' Celebrating 100 Years of the Diocese of Blackburn

Bishop Philip writes: 2026 is our Centenary year as a Diocese. It will be a chance to give thanks for all that God has done through his people in the Diocese of Blackburn since William Temple founded it in 1926, and an opportunity to commit ourselves anew to mission and ministry in the service of Jesus Christ across Lancashire.



Centenary Service of Celebration - Thursday November 12th 2026, 7pm
November 12th 1926 is the day the Diocese of Blackburn came into being. So 100 years later we will gather in Blackburn Cathedral with friends and guests from across the county to celebrate. Clergy and representatives from every parish and school will be invited along.

Launch of the New Strategic Vision - Saturday November 14th 2026

We are in the midst of the process of discernment that will result in our new strategic vision once Vision 2026 expires this year. Therefore, on November 14th 2026 all will be invited to an open meeting of the Diocesan Synod when the new vision will be formally launched. The event will be live-streamed for those unable to attend in person.

Mission Weekend

All parishes in the Diocese are holding a Mission Weekend in September. There will be a wide variety of open days and activities taking place throughout Lancashire. Take a look at [A Church Near You](#) for more information. Here are our plans, please join our celebrations!

DIOCESAN CENTENARY QUIZ

READ CONS CLUB

			
SPEAKER	PIE AND PEAS	QUIZ	DRINKS

THURSDAY
10TH SEPT

DOORS OPEN
7PM

FREE TICKETS

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, READ

READ & SIMONSTONE WALK FOR PEACE

BLACKBURN DIOCESE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER
10.00AM

May Peace Prevail On Earth

May Peace Prevail On Earth



10.00am
Meet at the entrance of the new chapel at St John's Church

Then we walk together across the village

At Read St John's
Read St John's will have a special service for the children of Read St John's Church

Refreshments and cakes at St John's

Come and support our children as they share what they have learned about peace in our hearts, homes, schools, communities and world.

Come and Walk With Us!

AND DON'T FORGET...
SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER • 10.00AM •
READ ST JOHN'S CHURCH
CENTENARY CELEBRATION SERVICE
and there will be cake!

★ CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF BLACKBURN DIOCESE ★

<<<<< FREE EVENT • EVERYONE WELCOME >>>>>

Children • Families • Grandparents • Friends • Neighbours • Dogs

AND THE CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE!

Children • Families • Grandparents • Friends • Neighbours • Dogs

Centenary Celebration

Celebrating 100 years of
BLACKBURN DIOCESE

SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday 13th September
10.00am

Read St John's Church

Everyone is warmly welcome to join us as we continue celebrating 100 years of Blackburn Diocese.

100 YEARS
1919-2019

 A special service

 A warm welcome

 Cake to share!

May Peace Prevail On Earth

Come and celebrate with us!

★ CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF BLACKBURN DIOCESE ★

<<<<< FREE EVENT • EVERYONE WELCOME >>>>>

Children • Families • Grandparents • Friends • Neighbours • Dogs

Centenary Prayer

Heavenly Father,

in our Centenary year we rededicate ourselves and our Diocese to you.
Send the Holy Spirit to give us confidence in our witness, generosity in our service, and love for our neighbours, that your Church may be renewed and many come home to you, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

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READ & SIMONSTONE

MOTHERS UNION

Joyce Andrew 01282 771463

Tuesday 22nd September 7.30 at Simonstone School Hall

Speaker Paul Clarke on "Living with Parkinson's"

Quiet Hour at Hurst Green 7th October 2 pm

Hope you all had a good summer

Regards J.A.



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KEEP IT LOCAL

FLUOR MAIN ST, WINSOR OF READ CRICKET CLUB, WINSOR



Hello Everyone,

Goodbye - to the Swifts, Swallows and House Martins that have been wheeling about our sky this summer. I love to hear the screams of the Swifts,

absolute masters of the air, and see them flashing like giant dragonflies. House Martins are still here as I'm writing this, there must be more than 20 flashing, swooping and dancing up there in the evenings, more than there were a few weeks ago, such a good sign. And if the weather stays warm they may stay a few weeks more. Perhaps the parents are giving the young ones flying practice, or else they are all just feeding on flies and midges to build up their strength before they set off for Africa. I really hope we see them all again next year.

Himalayan Balsam Bashing - The season has finished as far as REG are concerned. The work in August has proved difficult, with steep banks at first very dry, and then muddy and slippery, with the plants hard to reach amongst thorny bushes and brambles, and the plants going to seed earlier than usual because of the long hot spells. The young heifers were curious about us, or rather about whether our buckets and rucksacks had food inside, but they were no trouble, and we saw that some of the pulled-out balsam was being eaten by them. We discovered that a meadow plant with pretty blue/purple flowers was chicory, though it looks nothing like the cultivated chicons or endive that's available occasionally in shops or markets. This wild

chicory is the source for the coffee substitute that was made during the hard times of the second world war, now available in health food shops as a caffeine-free, slightly sweet powder used in the same way as instant coffee. Anyway, we stopped pulling out the balsam because it was popping everywhere. We held 22 sessions from May to August, including the Scouts' visit and the Spring Wood collaborative event. REG hours totalled 151, Spring Wood volunteers 36 hours, and the Scouts 13.5 hours. 43 people took part, but that does not reflect that the weekly sessions have been usually attended by 5 or 6 people.

Water Testing - no news on this subject except that Luke, our Ribble Rivers Trust contact, has been on paternity leave sooner than he expected. Once he's back on duty and shown us how to test the water samples that we collect, I'll report back to you.

Bird Feeders - And now a sad warning concerning bird feeders. We have a squirrel-proof one that allows small birds to access the seed that is held in a rigid plastic cylinder. I had noticed that there was a crack in the plastic at the base, but had done nothing about it, and I was horrified one morning to find a sparrow caught by one of its toes in the crack. I managed to free the toe and get the poor thing out of the feeder, but the whole leg seemed quite useless, so I made it as comfortable as possible on a tea towel in a box with water and seeds, and covered the box, to let it rest, and to see how it would go on. A while later someone lifted the cloth off and the bird flew off straight away, but I think it will struggle to survive with only one useful leg, although some birds do seem to manage like that. I have removed the offending piece of plastic to make it safer, but we're

now on the lookout for a replacement. So do take warning from my sad experience and keep a check on any wild life equipment you have.

Litter picking - In August the pickers spent 10.75 hours and collected 10.5 bags of rubbish. My early Sunday morning litter session was brightened when, whilst on the little pedestrian island in the middle of the Shuttleworth crossroads, a man jumped out of his car, ran over, and thrust £5 into my hand. "Go and get yourself a coffee", he urged, and ran back to his car. No sooner had the lights changed than another car stopped and a young man handed me £10! How brilliant was that? How kind and appreciative. What a good little boost for REG funds!

A ROCHA - Caring for God's Earth - From A Rocha's calendar, I'll finish with what they suggest for September:

The Season of Creation (1 September - 4 October) is dedicated to God as the Creator and sustainer of all life. Join A Rocha UK's Season of Creation prayer and reflection webinar on Wednesday 2 September to start this season with others. Explore more Season of Creation resources at: arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/season-of-creation

That's all for this month. Enjoy the changing of the seasons. Don't forget that we have a thermal imaging camera, which, completely free of charge, we can use to check out any areas in your home that might benefit from some insulation, tape round windows to stop draughts, or just a rolled up towel where a door meets the floor.

Penny Galpin

Readstone Environment Group

07957 792518

readstoneinfo@gmail.com

Easy Baked Apples

At this time of year, many of us have more apples on our trees than we know what to do with. So here's a simple recipe by Hugo Harrison to try. Enjoy God's provision after dinner on Sunday.

Ingredients

- 50g/1 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz [butter](#)
- 1 [orange](#), zest and juice
- 50g/1 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz light brown soft [sugar](#)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp [ground ginger](#)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp ground [allspice](#)
- 100g/3 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz [dried mixed fruit](#) (currants, sultanas, candied peel)
- 4 large sharp eating [apples](#), such as Evita, Jonagold, Granny Smith, Braeburn
- [crème fraîche](#), to serve

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 220C/200C Fan/Gas 7. Melt the butter in a small pan over a medium-low heat. Take the pan off the heat and add the orange zest and juice along with the sugar and

spices. Stir well to combine, then add the dried fruit. Set aside.

2. Core the apples, pushing the corer about three-quarters of the way through the apple, to make a container for the filling.
3. Put the apples cored side up into a deep-sided roasting tray, into which they fit snugly. Fill the empty cores with the spiced fruit mixture. Don't worry if the filling spills over a little: when the apple releases its juices as it bakes it'll create a delicious spiced apple caramel in the bottom of the tray.
4. Bake the apples on the bottom shelf of the oven for 20 minutes, or until the apples are soft.
5. Serve the apples with generous spoonfuls of the roasting juices and a spoonful of crème fraîche.



Services

September

Wednesday 2nd 5:45 p.m. - All Age Worship Service

**Sunday 6th 10:00 a.m. - Parish Communion
6:30 p.m. - Monthly Evening Prayer**

Wednesday 9th 5:45 p.m. - All Age Worship Service

**Sunday 13th 10:00 a.m. - Diocesan Centenary Service
(Service of the Word)
6:30 p.m. - Said Communion Service**

Wednesday 16th 5:45 p.m. - All Age Worship Service

Sunday 20th 10:00 a.m. - Parish Communion

Wednesday 23rd 5:45 p.m. - All Age Worship Service

Sunday 27th 10:00 a.m. - Parish Communion

Wednesday 30th 5:45 p.m. - All Age Worship Service