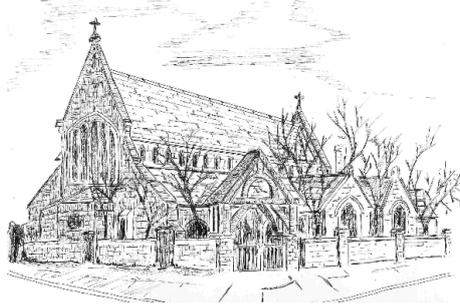


# St Stephen's Church



Little Harwood  
Blackburn

Parish Magazine



March and April  
2020

**WE LOVE JESUS - WE LOVE OUR NEIGHBOURS WE  
RESPECT DIVERSITY IN LITTLE HARWOOD**

**50P**

St Stephen's Church  
Little Harwood, Blackburn

**Sunday Services:**

**10.45 a.m.** HOLY COMMUNION  
with Hymns & Sermon

**Every fourth Sunday of the month:**

**10.45 a.m.** MORNING SERVICE  
with Hymns & Sermon (no Communion)

Details of extra services and special services  
will be advertised separately

***Weekday Service:***

A Service of **Holy Communion** is held  
each week on **Thursday** at **9.45 a.m.**

(note: a service of Morning Prayer takes place  
instead of communion once a month)

All enquiries for **BAPTISMS** and  
**WEDDINGS** please contact the Church  
warden initially

## *From the Vicar*

### IN CHRIST WE ARE A NEW CREATION

Charles Wesley's (1707-1788) much-loved hymn 'Love divine, all loves excelling' is with a theme of 'Christian perfection'. The hymn begins with *God's Grace in the Incarnation of Jesus* and concludes with highlighting the impact Jesus has made in the lives of believers.

Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Soon, we will be entering into the Lent season. Our focus will be on God's grace revealed in the birth, work, suffering and victory of Jesus over death on the Cross. The Christian faith narrative is summed up in Jesus' resurrection from death and offering of life eternal to all the believers.

Year after year, during Lent season, we are given an opportunity to audit our Christian faith journey through self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study the scripture and preparation for Easter. Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. The devil tempted Him for forty days and forty nights by diverting His attention from spiritual hunger to worldly hunger and from dependence on God to self-dependency and self-glory (Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13).

In our context, many questions, doubts are raised and objections made about the *Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ*. The claim that *Jesus is the Son of God* is rejected by many. *Jesus' Death and Resurrection* is refuted. *The Second Coming of Jesus Christ* is reduced to be only as human appearance. Jesus' status from birth to His death is lowered by many considering Him only as a prophet and mortal as a human.

The season of Lent is a time for us to prepare ourselves to live and share confidently the message of God's Love and Grace in the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's eternal love and source of promised redemption and salvation for the world. "*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life*". (John 3:16).

We come to Jesus during the Lent season with a penitent heart and join Charles Wesley's prayer to "Love Divine all Love Excelling in Jesus:

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee.

This prayer reminds us that the Lent is not completed on a sad note but on victory. The Christian faith is rooted in the suffering of Jesus. However, this suffering offers a new beginning as Christ died and rose again on the third day. Let this Lent season assure us that in Jesus, we have a *Life Eternal* and through his *Resurrection*, we have been offered the ultimate salvation.

In Jesus, we are a new creation. St Paul puts it aptly in Romans 6:5-6

*"For if we have been united with him [Jesus] in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin"*.

Sarah Siddique Gill



**The Easter Lily is a symbol of peace**

## INDIFFERENCE

When Jesus came to Golgotha  
They hanged Him on a tree,  
They drove great nails through hands and feet,  
And made a Calvary.  
They crowned Him with a crown of thorns;  
Red were His wounds and deep,  
For those were crude and cruel days,  
And human flesh was cheap.

When Jesus came to our town  
They simply passed Him by;  
They never hurt a hair of Him,  
They only let Him die.  
For men had grown more tender,  
And they would not give Him pain;  
They only just passed down the street,  
And left Him in the rain.

Still Jesus cried, "Forgive them,  
For they know not what they do."  
And still it rained the winter rain  
That drenched Him through and through.  
The crowds went home and left the streets  
Without a soul to see;  
And Jesus crouched against a wall  
And cried for Calvary

*Rev Geoffrey Studdert-Kennedy* (1883-1929) (Woodbine Willie)

### Pause for Thought

There is a green hill faraway, without a city wall, where our dear Lord  
was crucified. He died to save us all.

## From our Curate

By the time you read this, we will have entered the season of Lent. It was only a couple of days after Christmas that the selection boxes were rapidly replaced with Easter eggs and hot cross buns appeared in place of the mince pies on the supermarket shelves. Now I am partial to a toasted hot cross bun (preferably spread with butter and lemon cheese) but I was alarmed at the rapid progression when Easter was, at the time, some three months away.

Before we leap to Easter, we must first journey through the solemn season of Lent; a season of 40 days which has traditionally been a time of discipline for fasting, prayer and self-examination in preparation for Easter. There's not much profit to be gained from sales on supermarket shelves for this sombre season save for a push on pancake ingredients for Shrove Tuesday which marks a feast day before Lent begins.

As Christians, we need these more sombre seasons to reflect, wait on God and with the help of the holy Spirit transform our lives. In this season we recall Jesus' own 40 days in the wilderness, in preparation for ministry and his resistance of temptation by the devil.

On a February half term trip to London a couple of years ago we attended the Ash Wednesday service at St James' Piccadilly. Outside in the courtyard, next to the pavement was a pop-up "ashing station" where people could stop briefly to receive the sign of the cross in ashes on their forehead. This ashing tradition dates back centuries as an outward sign of regret for not living God's way. Our repentance is both individual and communal for the hurt and harm our selfishness has on other people, the world and ourselves. This outward sign shows that with God's help, we want to change.

I think that this time of turning back to God and saying sorry is a powerful antidote to what seems to be the rise of excessive individualism in the world. The words which accompany the imposition of ashes endorse the fact that we as individuals are not the

centre of the universe, “remember that you are dust and to the dust you shall return” (taken from Genesis 3.19). The words on the pavement sign outside St James in Piccadilly concluded with “in a competitive world, don’t get even, get ashed”.

I would encourage you to take time out this Lent to pray and use scripture to grow closer to God and discern his purposes for our lives as we prepare for the joy of the Easter season.



I wish you a holy and blessed Lenten season.

In Christian love

Rev Joanne

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## ST STEPHEN'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

*'In our school, whatever the challenge, we aim high with God in our hearts.'*

Children in Year 6 have spent this half term studying the Mayans. They had an interesting day led by a visiting speaker and here are a few of their memories.

### **Mayan Day 2020 Year 6**

On Wednesday 15th January year 6 had a Mayan day. We had a man who studied a lot about the Mayans and has visited Mexico quite a few times, (Rob) who came into school and gave us lots of information about the Mayans. He said that Mayans believed they were created out of corn and believed in various Gods.

They invented chocolate and they even had a chocolate God! Her name was “Lady Kakao”, which means lady cocoa. We tasted some Mayan chocolate and people weren’t very keen on the taste.

They offered human sacrifices to the gods as an offering.

**HUMANS!!!**

The Mayans had five different ways of sacrificing rituals. He chose some volunteers and let them choose which way they wanted to be sacrificed. Here were the options:

- Getting your head chopped off
  - Drowning in a deep well called a “cenote”
  - Getting tied to a post while arrows are shot at you. Depending how annoying you were, you either had one arrow shot at your heart or many around the outside of your body then one in your heart.
  - Lying in the temple while the priest pulled out your heart with a knife and burnt it. They burnt the heart as they believed that the smoke from the heart was food for the Gods.
  - Buried alive. Usually if a king wanted a servant to go with him when he died, the servant would be buried alive next to their master.
- We were divided into groups, given a card, and with our group we had to produce a drama based on our card. There were things like Mayan sacrifices, pok-a-tok game, and journey to the afterlife, all about chocolate and on the loose, and a woman who kills men.

At the end of the day, the teachers, Ms Lalsing and Mister Kirkham, acted out a drama with Bignose as the narrator. It was hilarious to see our teachers acting in front of the whole year 6.



The story was about the Mayan creation story and their beliefs on how they were created. We then had a quiz about all we had learnt that day. It was a tie between 6 Beech and 6 Yew. Year 6 had a fantastic day learning about the Mayan society and had learnt a lot about them. By Raihaanah

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### **Robinwood January 2020 St Stephen's**

I will share with you my most exciting activities at Robinwood!

#### **Archery**

On the first day, we were taught to stand at the waiting line and wait till we were told to go up to the shooting line.

However, there was a red line which was represented as a danger zone which meant nobody was allowed pass. In the second session we were taught



how to hold a bow and shoot at the right aim exactly where you want it to be. In the third and final session we were told to go shoot and try ourselves.

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#### **Giant Swing**

As we all walked up the icy stairs to the giant swing we were told to wait and how it's going to work. Then, two of us had to show a demonstration on what's going to happen and how it will work. As we sat in the swing we were lifted up in the air waiting to be told to pull the knight, seconds later everybody was shouting

**'PULL THE KNIGHT HAVE A NICE FLIGHT'**

and the swing went rapidly fast from side to side high up in the air. As the swing slowed down we were told to come out of the swing and go into the shed to wait for the next two to have their turn in the swing.

We all had a fabulous time and will have memories that will last forever.

## MONDAY CLUB NOTES

Here we are at last. What a good idea it was to not hold our January meetings with the way the weather had been and people not being well, although it does seem a while since we met.

Our first meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup> was enjoyed by all. Fleur always makes her talk interesting.

We hope that Peggy, Nan and Fran are all feeling better. We are also glad to hear that Barbara's Alf is improving.

On March 16<sup>th</sup> we will have a speaker from the Salvation Army.

April 20<sup>th</sup> Pat Osborne will be with us again speaking about Princess Margaret.

Our meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> May will be announced later.

June and Denise.

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### BOILER UPDATE

As many of you know, the boiler ceased to work mid-January. The engineer came to look and reported that the fan motor had seized. Parts required to replace were found to be obsolete. They did a site survey to replace boiler as the current one is now 20yrs old. We are waiting for the report from this.

We will continue to hold services in the lounge. Many thanks to all who are helping to make this work as smoothly as possible.

Joan Bolton Churchwarden

### PCC notes from the meeting 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Rev Sarah and Rev Joanne arranged a 'Ladies' get together for 28<sup>th</sup> January with tea and cakes.

The report from the Safeguarding Officer (PSO) included further information to ensure that ongoing Safeguarding requirements are met.

The 2020 Table of Statuary Fees and Charges was approved.

The date for the AGM to be arranged.

Anne Thornber. PCC Secretary

## Food for thought from the Diocese

### Retreat and quiet opportunities at Abbey

Whalley Abbey's 2020 programme of residential retreats and spirituality days for all, as well as quiet days for clergy provides a variety of occasions to be still and quiet, to hear from God through His Word and be refreshed in love for Jesus Christ. The full programme can be found [here](#) to read and to download on the Diocesan website. Archdeacon Mark says: "I would encourage everyone to book into one of the events we have organised, or to simply contact the Abbey direct and ask if you can come on your own on another date." The Abbey office email is [office@whalleyabbey.org](mailto:office@whalleyabbey.org) or phone on 01254 828400

### Pause for thought

Christ whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ the true and only light  
Sun of Righteousness arise,  
Triumph over the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar in my heart appear

### Saints Days

#### 17<sup>th</sup> March St Patrick's Day

The day commemorates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, and celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. Celebrations generally involve public parades and festivals, céilís, and the wearing of green attire or shamrocks.<sup>[</sup>

#### 23<sup>rd</sup> April St George's Day

**Saint George's Day**, also known as the **Feast of Saint George**, is the feast day of Saint George as celebrated by various Christian Churches and by the several nations, kingdoms, countries, and cities of which Saint George is the patron saint including England, and regions of Portugal and Spain (Catalonia and Aragon).

## FLOWERS MARCH/APRIL

During Lent we will not be putting flowers on the Altar but will continue with flowers on Pedestal & Linen Chest when requested.

### Pedestal

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 8 <sup>th</sup> March  | ILM of Harry Blackburn |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> March | Mrs Nan Smith          |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> March | Mrs Dorothy Hargreaves |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> April  | Mrs Peggy Bull         |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> April | ILM of Eddie Knott     |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> April | Mrs M Wilson           |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> April | ILM of Terry Jackson   |

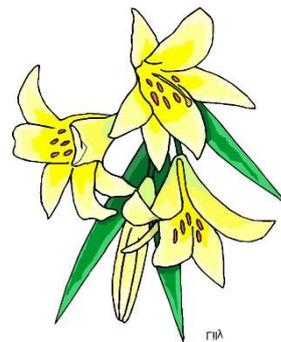


### Linen Chest

|                        |                                     |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> March  | In loving memory of Donald McDonald |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> March  | Mrs Nan Smith                       |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> March | Mrs Margaret Greaves                |
| Easter Sunday          | Vacant                              |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> April | Mrs Margaret Greaves                |

## IN LOVING MEMORY

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> March | Donald McDonald       |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>       | Doris Alice Walker    |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>       | Sylvia Greaves        |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>       | Harold Riley          |
| 10 <sup>th</sup>      | Nellie Fish           |
| 12 <sup>th</sup>      | Albert Greaves        |
| 16 <sup>th</sup>      | Helen Smith           |
| 18 <sup>th</sup>      | Roy Pritt             |
| 19 <sup>th</sup>      | Ann Pritt             |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup>      | Ellen Walmsley        |
| 27 <sup>th</sup>      | Tom Hargreaves        |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> April | John Bull             |
| 13 <sup>th</sup>      | Eddie Knott           |
| 24 <sup>th</sup>      | Cecilia Hayhurst      |
| 27 <sup>th</sup>      | Terence John Jackson. |



## ***50 YEARS AGO IN 1970***

The Youth Club organised a Silent Vigil on behalf of East Lancs Society for Deaf & Dumb. They raised £100. This was to go to their Building fund for the Society's new more spacious premises on Preston New Road. Miss Susan Llewellyn succeeded Mrs Joan Field in charge of the cubs.

### ***HOLY BAPTISM***

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 8 <sup>th</sup> March  | Lee David, son of William & Maureen Betts                |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup>       | Ruth Claire, daughter of Thomas Watkin & Janet Singleton |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup>       | Janet, daughter of Henry & Irene Chesterton              |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> April | Victoria Clare daughter of Frederick & June Dunbar       |

### ***HOLY MATRIMONY***

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 14 <sup>th</sup> March | Kevin Hodgkinson & Susan Shaw             |
| 21 <sup>st</sup>       | Raymond Wyatt & Elaine Margaret Groom     |
| 28 <sup>th</sup>       | Fred Gregson & Doris Hesmondhagh          |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> April  | Allan Hargreaves & Dorothy Elizabeth Noon |

### ***IN MEMORIAM***

|                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 29 <sup>th</sup> March | Arthur Barlow age 73yrs        |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> March | Martin David Godfrey age 37yrs |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> March | Clara Maude Briggs age 78yrs   |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> April | Jane Stancliffe age 88yrs      |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> April | Annie Cook age 67yrs           |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> April | Arthur Sefton age 81yrs        |

## Scam calls - Beware!

Fraudsters can phone people and pretend to be from your bank, the police, or other well-known companies. Scam calls can sound real and professional. But stop and think - is this call genuine?

What to look out for:

- Unexpected calls - If you didn't expect the call then it could be a scam. If you're not sure, you can call back.
- Pressure calls - Fraudsters want to hurry you into making a quick decision. They may also ask you to 'keep it quiet' and not tell anyone about the call. Don't trust anyone who does this.
- A need to transfer money - Scam calls can try to get you to transfer money for security purposes or to a safe/secure/holding account. Do not do this. A bank would never ask you to move money to a 'safe' account.
- Refunds - If a call offers you a refund it's a scam. Banks would never call you about a refund.
- Test transactions - If a call asks you to do a test transaction then it's a scam. The bank would never ask you to do this.
- Calls from the police - It's very rare for the police or Scotland Yard to call. If they do call, they'll always follow up with a visit from an Officer with photo ID and a warrant number.
- You're asked to log on to your computer - A scam call may tell you there's something wrong with your computer or ask you to download something. They could pretend to be from your broadband provider or trusted software company. But if you didn't ask for this call, it's a scam.

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## ST STEPHEN'S IN THE COMMUNITY:

### COMMUNITY CAFE

#### Luncheon Club

*Catering for the Senior Citizens of the Parish*



The Luncheon Club is very much enjoyed and appreciated by all who attend. Many thanks to all who help every week. Our Luncheon Club takes place each Thursday at 12 noon. Lunch on the first Thursday of the month begins with a short service of Holy Communion. *All welcome*



Every Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Every Saturday, from 10 a.m. Tea and Toast in the Lounge.  
Pop in for a brew, a bite to eat and a chat.

A warm welcome awaits all.

#### FOOD BANK &

Thanks to all the people who continually donate to Nightsafe and the Food Bank. It really is appreciated

**Nightsafe**



Mens socks, towels, single sheets, boxer shorts, single duvets, pillowcases, ladies briefs, double knitting wool, tins of tuna, pasta, coffee (most young people prefer coffee, sugar, dried milk and tin-

openers - Wilko – *no use having a tin if you can't open it!*)

### **Book Exchange**

Our Book Exchange is held in Church each week after the Church Services. Thank you to everyone who donated books (and Jigsaws) – the scope of our Book Exchange library is excellent! Do come and 'join' the already enthusiastic 'members'! It costs £1 for your first book, and only 50p if you bring one back to exchange



### **The church cleaning rota 2020**



W/C 1<sup>st</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> March inc. Marian Harrison, June Dunbar.

Jean Jackson (R) Barbara  
Hanslip

15<sup>th</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> March inc. Joan Whaley, Margaret  
Wilson,

Irene Watson, Steven Phillips,  
Barbara Pickin

29<sup>th</sup> March/5<sup>th</sup> April inc. Linda Ingham, Sheila Jacques

12<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> April inc. Marian Harrison, June Dunbar.  
Jean Jackson (R) Barbara  
Hanslip

26<sup>th</sup> April/5<sup>3rd</sup> May inc. Joan Whaley, Margaret  
Wilson,

Irene Watson, Steven Phillips,  
Barbara Pickin

|   |   |        |
|---|---|--------|
| <b>St<br/>Stephen's<br/><br/>Building<br/><br/>Club<br/><br/>Draw</b> | <i>Thank you to all who contributes to the 100 Club. We have had a few extra people join so we have added an extra prize of £10 per month. The next draw will take place week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020</i> |        |
| <b>January</b>  |   |        |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> prize   | £50   | No 49  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> prize   | £30   | No 11  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> prize   | £20   | No 90  |
| <b>February</b>   |   |        |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> prize   | £50   | No. 88 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> prize   | £30   | No 66  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> prize   | £20   | No 36  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> prize   | £10   | No 85  |



## St Stephen's Church Rota March 2020

| <b>Date<br/>2020</b>                                    | <b>Service<br/>10.45 am</b> | <b>1<sup>st</sup><br/>Reading</b> | <b>Psalm</b>           | <b>2<sup>nd</sup><br/>Reading</b> | <b>Prayers</b> | <b>Sides-<br/>people</b> |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup><br>March<br>1 <sup>st</sup> of<br>Lent  | H/C                         | David                             | Margaret<br>L          | Fran                              | Steven         | Barbara P<br>Sheila      |
| 8 <sup>th</sup><br>March<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> of<br>Lent  | H/C                         | Fran                              | Jean<br>Jackson<br>(T) | Eileen                            | Margaret       | David<br>Bob             |
| 15 <sup>th</sup><br>March<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> of<br>Lent | H/C                         | Alan                              | Bob                    | Irene                             | Reg            | Margaret<br>Joan         |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup><br>March<br>4 <sup>th</sup> of<br>Lent | Morning<br>Prayer           | Jean<br>Jackson<br>(T)            | Fran                   | Margaret<br>L                     | Sheila         | Steven<br>Barbara<br>P   |
| 29 <sup>th</sup><br>March<br>5 <sup>th</sup> of<br>Lent | H/C                         | REG                               | Linda                  | Jean<br>Jackson<br>(R)            | Joan           | Margaret<br>Joan         |

If you find you are unable to read on the appointed day please exchange your readings with another reader and amend the Rota accordingly. Thank you.



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Please could you submit notes and articles to [reginald.smith4@ntlworld.com](mailto:reginald.smith4@ntlworld.com) for the May/June Magazine by Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Thank you

## The See

Now that our magazine is produced every two months rather than each month, please make sure you pick up your monthly copy of *The See* (the newsletter of Blackburn Diocese) in between times.



Carol singing at Florence House



## Who's Who

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Revd Sarah Siddique Gill  | Vicar   |
| Rev. Joanne Macholc<br>email:<br><a href="mailto:revjmacholc@gmail.com">revjmacholc@gmail.com</a>       | SSM Assistant Curate<br>(Thursday, Friday &<br>Sunday only) |
| Mr Reg Smith<br>Tel:209853  | Licensed Reader   |
| Mrs Joan Bolton<br>Tel: 722091  | Churchwarden  |
| Mrs Anne Thornber<br>Tel: 496192  | PCC Secretary   |
| Mrs Sheila Jacques<br>Tel: 249107   | PCC Treasurer   |
| Mrs Jean Smith<br>Tel: 209853   | Electoral Roll Officer                                      |
| Mrs Margaret Lewis  | Gift Aid Secretary  |
| Mrs Joan Bolton and<br>Mrs Anne Thornber  | Luncheon Club/Café  |
| Mrs Barbara Hanslip   | Monday Club   |
| Mrs Joan Bolton   | Flowers: Altar &<br>Pedestal                                |
| Mrs Jean Smith  | Linen Chest   |
| Mrs Dawn Gouldthorpe<br>email: <a href="mailto:psoststephens@outlook.com">psoststephens@outlook.com</a> | Safeguarding Officer  |