

OUTREACH

Parish Magazine

October & November, 2025



**The Parish Church of St. Matthew the Apostle
with Holy Trinity, Habergham Eaves,**

Burnley



an Inclusive Church

ECO CHURCH

REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES AT ST. MATTHEW'S

SUNDAYS (except the First Sunday of the month)

9.00am..... Said Eucharist

10.30am.....**PARISH EUCHARIST**
(our main service of the week, including hymns)
..... and **JAFFA Club for Primary-aged Children**

---oooOooo---

On the **FIRST SUNDAY** of the month, services are **usually**

9.00am.....Said Eucharist

10.30am.....Family Service
with Uniformed Organisations' Parade

6.30pm.....Evensong

HOWEVER, the November Parade Service will be on
9th - Remembrance Sunday

---oooOooo---

MID-WEEK SERVICES

Tuesdays 10.00am Said Eucharist

Thursdays 7.00pm Parish Prayers Lady Chapel

Fridays 10.00am Said Eucharist

From the Church Registers

BAPTISMS

July: Oscar Crocker
Rose Rudokas
Edward Greenwood
Aug: Harry Burton



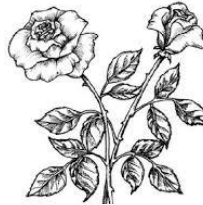
WEDDING

July: Megan Sínead MacDonald
and Joshua Paul Helps



FUNERALS

July: Doris Jackson
Aug: Frances Tyson



Harvest Thanksgiving
and the return of
PARADE SERVICES

5th OCTOBER



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Rev'd. Kat writes ...

Lots of exciting things have been taking place in the life of our church since the last Outreach magazine was published. I particularly enjoyed the commissioning service for our new Authorised Lay Ministers at the beginning of September. Congratulations to Barbara, Belinda, Joanna and Terri on the hard work they have put in over the last year. We look forward to them continuing to share in the mission and ministry of our church.

It was also wonderful to receive a grant towards the work of St. Matthew's Lunch Club from Lancashire & South Cumbria Integrated Care Board and Burnley Pendle & Rossendale Council for Voluntary Service. This grant will enable us to keep Lunch Club free, and will also mean we can purchase some new kitchen equipment. Thank you to Mandi Vercoe for the time and effort she put into the grant application. We continue to be in a challenging financial position as a church - meaning that every contribution is extremely important. Thank you to all of you who gave generously to our Gift Day on the 21st September.

These months whilst Fr. Alex is on Sabbatical are busy ones, so I want to thank everyone who has stepped up to take on extra responsibilities during this time. It's been lovely to welcome some visitors to our church during this time. We look forward to welcoming Rev'd. Michelle Delves on Sunday 26th October, Canon James Lawrence on Sunday 23rd November and Bishop Philip North on Sunday 30th November. We continue to pray for Fr. Alex, that this time of retreat and reflection would be nourishing, and we look forward to his return at the beginning of Advent.

Before Fr. Alex began his Sabbatical we had a clergy 'Away Day' at Shekinah Christian Centre near Newchurch-in-Pendle, when Fr. Rod led us through some reflections and discussions about healing ministry. ➡

We spent time praying together and Fr. Alex invited Fr. Rod, Mother Enid and me to look at ways we could develop the healing ministry offered at St. Matthew's. Watch this space!

I am looking forward to celebrating Harvest Festival on Sunday 5th October. I'll also be leading celebrations with the local schools in the weeks following our service in church. We continue to partner with Burnley Community Grocery, who are extremely grateful for all the Harvest gifts they receive.

Following Harvest, we move into the season of remembrance. Our Remembrance Sunday Eucharist and Parade Service, including an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, will begin at 10.30am on Sunday 9th November.

Through our observance of Harvest, Bible Sunday, All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance Sunday there is a thread of gratitude. We give thanks to God for the many gifts we receive. We seek to recognise the value of all that God gives us and seek to use it well. I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve God alongside you all in South West Burnley. Together may we continue to point people to the Light of Christ this autumn.

~~~~~

**Company of Servers: Blackburn and Liverpool Chapter**

Our next event will be on Saturday 4 October when we are planning to attend the Saturday morning concert in St Peter's Parish Church before visiting the recently restored Towneley Hall. As always, all servers, clergy and friends are welcome! Full details available soon.

**Howard Mitchell** **Chair**

## **Linda Clark brings ..... News from your Church Council**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) meets every couple of months throughout the year. As we want to try harder to keep you up to date with what has been discussed, from now onwards I shall (try to!) make a regular brief report in the magazine. Before each meeting, I shall post the agenda at the back of the church, so please look out for that and pray for us as we consider important matters. Once the minutes have been confirmed - at the following meeting – you will also find them posted in the same place.

We met in May, immediately after the APCM and one of our first actions was to confirm the vote for Treasurer (Howard Mitchell), Secretary (Linda Clark) and Lay Chair (Nigel Baldwin). At each meeting we discuss the church's financial position and any issues we face in keeping the church running. It is always a challenge to ensure that we have sufficient funds, as you can imagine. A new requirement has been received by churches to register with the Charity Commission, so the treasurer, secretary and wardens will be meeting to complete that on your behalf.

One major item which we discussed (and continue to do so) is the potential application to Blackburn Diocese for funding a Pioneer post which would help to build on and continue the sterling work of Revd. Kat in her community outreach role. The PCC would greatly appreciate your ongoing prayers for this, as it is a major concern. Thank you.

At each meeting we consider Safeguarding issues – this is extremely important for us as a church. While we cannot report on any individual issues, be assured that all PCC members and volunteers working with vulnerable adults take the training and guidance very seriously.

Other issues discussed in May were improving our communications, streamlining the church accounts and moving forward on St. Matthew's becoming more environmentally aware and eco-friendly – which will be led by Barbara Baldwin as she finishes her ALM accreditation in this subject.

If you have any matters that you want the PCC to discuss, please let me know. Until the next time!

**Linda**

**Linda.clark@gmx.com**

## JAFFA Club – Summer Delights

*Belinda writes...* Summer Delights were meant to create lasting memories through shared experiences: children in JAFFA Club could join in simple fun, educational and exciting activities they had suggested.

Tenpin bowling at Burnley Bowl in mid-July was the first Summer Delight

*Sophie writes...* For the end of year JAFFA Club trip, we went bowling. The Leaders gave us a Ribena and a fudge to give us extra energy boost before we went in. We all played really well and got some exceptionally high scores. It was a nice end to the fun year we had at JAFFA Club.

It's the first time William, Divine & Samantha had bowled:

*William says...* It's good!

*Samantha says...* It's fun and easy!

*Divine says...* It's the first time I bowled and it's fun!

After a sport week was a running quiz that involved a lot of running between the signs of TRUE and FALSE to tease the mind, to test our Biblical knowledge and to reinforce what we have learnt this year.

*Tomí writes...* My favourite was the quiz because it was fun answering the questions.

August, brought creative and fun activities, beginning with a new baking recipe – baking cookies! Yum!

*Keíron writes...* I like baking cookies the most as it's fun!

We built a church with junk cards, with stained glass windows made with coloured tissue paper and junk plastic trays, and doors made with toilet paper rolls on St. Bartholomew's Day. Our sharing finished with Xyon's little prayer.

With creativity in mind, how could we forget puppets?

We had mini puppet shows with scripts about Noah's story and a prodigal son. Bella wrote a script for a puppet show in a spur-of-the-moment scenario to share with the congregation. Well-done, Bella!

Our summer delights programme finished with a dancing party and an open-heart chat with each of us sharing worries and excitement with a new school year ahead.

*Emma writes...* One of our summer activities was dancing with Rev. Kat. We did Just Dance and learnt part of a song to perform. It was really fun and a great end to the summer holiday.

*Lillie writes...* We did a dance a party and we played musical statues. We introduced what year we are in.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome the children who've recently joined JAFFA Club. One of them, Lillie shared her excitement with me.... JAFFA Club is so welcoming and fun. Everyone is really friendly.

## **Grace Allum and Lola Andrew write about ...**

### **St Matthew's Youth Trip to Blackpool**

Our trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach was an amazing day filled with fun, thrill and excitement. We all had a really good time and we're thankful for all the leaders who joined us and made it fun.

From some who went on the bigger rollercoasters and some who went on the smaller ones, there was something for everyone, and it was wonderful to gather as a church family and have a day full of fun. We shared food, wandered around the park together, and made the most of every moment, creating memories as a big group.

Before we went to the park we went and visited Holy Trinity Church, South Shore. The church was amazing and really interesting to learn about. We also found out some interesting things about the area.

This was more than just a day out. It was a chance to meet new people and grow together and come together as a community and have fun. We were able to support one another and have fun. We all came home tired but with huge smiles. We are grateful for all the team leaders who tagged along and made this trip possible.

**Grace.**

I went on the Youth Trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach. We visited a church in Blackpool first. I found it very interesting as it was so big and really nice inside.

When we arrived at the Pleasure Beach we all got split into groups and went with a leader. My leader was Rosie. At first everybody in my group went on a ride. I was a bit anxious and decided I was not going to go on the ride. Rosie stayed with me while the others went on. After seeing how much fun everybody had, I plucked up my courage and with lots of reassurance from the others I went on some rides.

I'm so glad I did because I really enjoyed it. My favourite ride was Valhalla, I went on this twice.

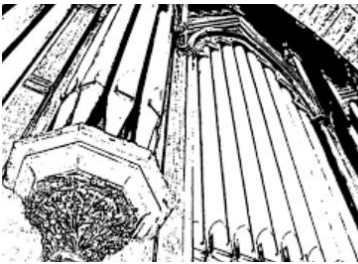
Going on rides is something I have just watched others do before, especially high and fast rides. I was so glad I had the confidence to go on them in the end, I really liked it.

We went to Burger King for lunch and visited the gift shop before coming home. The whole day was great. I keep nagging my parents to take me back so I can go on Valhalla again.

**Lola**

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## **Organ Recital**



**Our wonderful Organist, Peter, has once again been invited to give an Organ Recital at Blackburn Cathedral!**

**Do come along to support Peter on 8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER.**

**STARTING AT 12.15**

**and lasting for about 45 minutes.**

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## **STOP PRESS!!!**

### **Afternoon Tea, Bingo & Memories**

Tuesday 4th November 2pm-3.30pm, Church Hall, Albion Street

Free afternoon tea and Bingo, donations welcome, raffle tickets available to purchase on the day. Booking essential, limit of 50 spaces .

Book by signing up at the back of church or by phoning 07378 503 155

## **Fr. Rod writes ... Journeying in Health and Healing**

At St. Matthew's we reach out with care and support to all in need. Week by week in our intercessions in public worship we pray for people who are struggling with health issues. Week by week, through pastoral care, both formal and informal, we offer the touch of Jesus, the good shepherd who cares for his sheep. Our inclusive church principles help us to offer welcome and hospitality to all we come into contact with.

Recently St. Matthew's clergy spent half a day exploring how the ministry of healing could be developed from these foundations; Fr. Alex has asked us to continue this journey during his Sabbatical. To help us do so, we will celebrate the ministry of St. Luke the Evangelist on Sunday, 19th October. Luke was a doctor as well as the author both of the gospel which bears his name and the Acts of the Apostles. The sermon that day will focus on Jesus' call to his disciples to be a community of healers, who extend the touch of Jesus through word, sacrament and prayer.

The explorations in prayer will continue through our Parish Prayers which will for the next couple of months take place on Thursday evenings at 7pm. We realise that many have deep questions about health, wholeness and healing, and so we will offer a couple of opportunities after these prayer meetings to explore what the Church of England teaches about the healing ministry, to outline the principles of safeguarding and good practice which surround the offering of this ministry, and to introduce some of the healing material found in Church of England liturgies. All are welcome to these conversations – whether curious, sceptical or intrigued. Look out for further details in the Sunday notices and via our other communication platforms.

As clergy, we want you to know that prayer for healing and wholeness is always available to those who ask, and that an opportunity will be available from early October, after each Friday morning Eucharist, for any who wish to receive prayer with the laying on of hands, or anointing for healing (or both).

If any of you have questions about Christian healing, and want to discuss them, please contact me.

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# November - A Time of Remembrance

## All Souls' Day

A time to remember those we have lost, over the years. Names will be read out during the Said Eucharist on

**Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> October at 10.00am.**

Please ensure your loved one's name is on the list at the back of church, or speak to Jackie.



## Memorial Service for those lost more recently

A shorter, less formal, non-Eucharistic service with hymns, on

**Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> November at 11.00am.**

The names of loved ones who have died in the last year will be read out, and there will be an opportunity to place a lighted candle in front of the altar in their memory. It is, of course an opportunity to quietly remember anyone who has died in recent years, and to light a candle for them.

Please send names to Mtr. Enid.



## Remembrance Sunday

Bringing our whole church family together on **9<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am**, this service will be a **Parade Eucharist**, finishing around 11.30.



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# Auction of Talents

at St. Matthew's Church

**What could you do for someone else for  
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**People will place bids\* for your time  
and talents!**

**25th October,  
doors open 7pm**

**to donate your 'lot' to  
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or text: 07378 503155**

*\*More information:*

Each bid will be hidden from others, submitted on a paper  
bidding slip and the winning amount won't be announced.  
No bid is too small - if no-one else bids, you might win!

Bids will be counted, and winners  
of each lot announced:  
**25th October, approximately 8.30pm**  
*Bids close at 8pm*



# Holy Trinity CE Primary School



*Vision statement - Holy Trinity CE Primary School is striving to be a fully inclusive School that serves our local community.*

*Through the love of Jesus Christ, we are preparing our children to be future caring, responsible citizens in a diverse society. Our children will be given every opportunity to grow spiritually, academically, socially and to achieve their full potential within a safe, happy, Christian school family.*

John 10 v 10:

'Life in all its fullness'

What a tremendous start we have had to the new academic year. It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome all our pupils back to school this year, and the enthusiasm and excitement from both children (and parents!) has been truly heart-warming. The eagerness I witnessed as families arrived for the new term, with everyone keen to ensure punctual arrivals, fills me with great optimism for maintaining our excellent attendance throughout the year ahead.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all our dedicated staff members who have worked tirelessly over the summer holidays, preparing their new classrooms and planning engaging learning experiences for their pupils. Their commitment and professionalism continue to be the cornerstone of our school's success, and it is this dedication that enables us to provide the exceptional education our children deserve.

It brings me joy to report that all our pupils have settled remarkably well into their new classes and have already demonstrated their commitment to learning through their hard work and positive attitudes. I have been particularly impressed by how smart and proud our children look in their full school uniforms – they truly embody the values and standards we hold dear at Holy Trinity.

This week, we have already begun the important process of selecting our Worship, Leadership and Sports ambassadors from each class, and I am confident that these young leaders will serve as wonderful role models for their peers throughout the year. Additionally, our pupils have engaged thoughtfully with this term's God's Big Question: "If God were a chocolate bar, which one would he be?" Their responses have been both creative and spiritually insightful.

Life at School continued to be very busy as we ran up to the end of term. We arranged some fun activities for the children over the last few weeks. Reverend Kat, supported by her volunteers, led 'WOW worship' sessions for all of the different classes in School. The children enjoyed thinking about the different ways you can pray and having some reflection time in their busy lives. The feedback was really positive from the children and staff, and we look forward to being able to continue to do this again in the future, to support the spiritual development of the children.

I am delighted to share some the news regarding our recent Sponsored Colour Run. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity and support of our entire school community, we have raised over £6,000 for Abigail's Footsteps. This wonderful sum will enable us to purchase two Cold Cots for Burnley General Hospital, which will be imprinted with "Donated by the community of Holy Trinity CofE Primary School, Burnley, in loving memory of Jude Michael Shevlin 21.09.2024." As the beautiful saying reminds us, "There is no foot too small that it cannot leave an imprint on this world." My heartfelt gratitude extends to every member of our school community who contributed to this tremendous achievement.

The whole school enjoyed trips to the Fylde Beach School at Lytham. We all spent some time with the beach school; collecting minibeasts on the sand dunes, looking for wildlife in the rock-pools and combing the beach for different shells and other strange looking things washed up on the shore! We also had some free time playing on the beach, building sandcastles and feeling the sand between our toes. Everybody had a great time and this is something we plan to do again next year. ➡

Our Year 6 children held their Leavers’ Assembly and then left our school for the very last time. They left via the main entrance and we had something special planned for them. We are very proud of them and all that they have achieved this year. The children received their Leavers’ Hoodies at their end of year performance of ‘Aladdin Trouble’ and were wearing them for the last part of the term; they also received an autograph book, class photograph and Bible as a gift from School. We hope that they will have lots of happy memories of Holy Trinity as they look back on their primary school education over the years.

It has been a very busy year and we have so much planned for next year already. We are lucky to have such an amazing team of staff and even more amazing children. I am excited about what we have already achieved this year but also about what is to come.

Thank you for your support.

**Alison Whitaker**

**Head Teacher**

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QUIZ

As the nights draw in, out come the old board games!

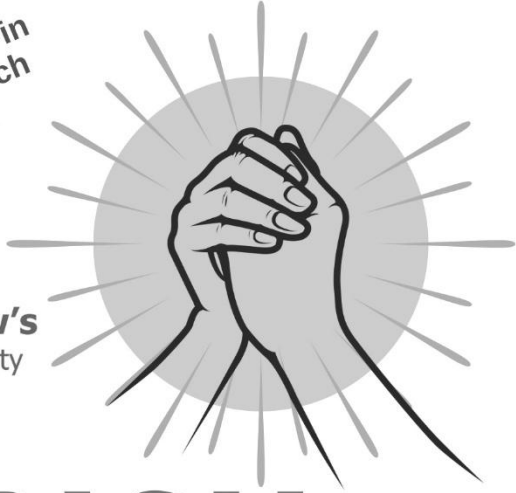
answers on page 25

- 1. You get these as winter approaches, too!
- 2. A rush to get a seat at the table to play?
- 3. Has a major power taken over the PM’s country residence?
- 4. To be avoided if you suffer from ophidiophobia.
- 5. An economic market-structure.
- 6. If you don’t ‘get’ this one, you’ll need the first part of it.
- 7. Establishment figures hiding behind dispensable folk?
- 8. Latin for ‘I play’.
- 9. A butcher’s cut?
- 10. Are you lonesome tonight?

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prayer for our church
and community



St Matthew's
with Holy Trinity
Burnley



PARISH PRAYERS

Every Thursday
Evening
7.00
in the Lady Chapel



St. Matthew's Prayers – the Four-Week Cycle

Theme	Weeks starting 12 Oct & 9 Nov	Weeks starting 19 Oct & 16 Nov
St Matthew's Church	• Weekly worship • Organist and Choir • Priests, ALM ministers & servers • Wardens and PCC • Financial resources • Safeguarding	• Baptism ministry • Fun Church • Youth Choir • JAFFA Club • Uniformed Organisations • Growth
Community Services	<u>Schools/ Education</u> • Holy Trinity School • Broadfield School • Rosewood School • Coalclough Academy • Cherry Fold School • Christ the King RC School • St James Alternative School, Healey Wood • The Rose School	<u>Health/Care</u> • GP Practices • Dentists • Pharmacies • Community health teams • Emergency services • Care Homes • Social Services • Tay St Family Hub • Funeral Directors & Cemetery
Local Neighbourhoods	• Westgate • Accrington Road • Healey Wood • Brun Lea Heights • Barclay Hills	• Burnham Gate • Coal Clough • Spring Hill • Bleakhouse • Griffin
Local Issues	• Changing the spiritual temperature • Poverty • Litter, fly tipping	• Community cohesion and care • Reconciliation, acceptance, affirmation • Domestic violence

Weeks starting 26 Oct & 23 Nov	Weeks starting 5 Oct, 2 Nov & 30 Nov
● Mental health ● Healing ministry ● Lunch Club ● Wednesday Group ● Discipleship ● Creation Care ● Developing Leaders	● Funeral ministry ● Marriage ministry ● Pastoral care ● Toddler Group ● Social outreach ● Prayer Breakfasts ● Spirituality
<u>Community Centres/Nurseries</u> ● Vanguard CC ● West End CC ● Coal Clough CC ● Valley Street CC ● Little People ● Giant Leap ● Happy Faces ● Taywood Nursery	<u>Businesses and Services</u> ● Small Businesses ● Local Shops ● Industrial estates ● Local Councillors ● Community Grocery ● Bus services ● Refuse disposal ● Police ● Scott Park ● Coal Clough Library
● Piccadilly ● Rosehill ● Habergham Eaves ● Stoops	● Hargher Clough ● Glen View ● Parklands ● Rossendale Road
● Aspiration and opportunity ● Housing standards and supply ● Alcohol abuse and addiction	● Mental health and well-being ● Drug supply and use ● Family support

Creation Care Co-ordinator Barbara writes ...

I've recently been authorised, at the Cathedral, as St. Matthew's Creation Care co-ordinator! 'Co-ordinator' is the word - I'm here to help you all to Care for Creation: the earth was created by God and caring for it is everyone's responsibility. We're all aware of ways in which we human beings are damaging it, and all other living things, by not sharing it equally, through over-exploitation of its resources and by spending more money on war than on working for peace. We've reached the stage now that our climate is being permanently changed by our selfish behaviour.

My first task after completing the Creation Care course has been to complete the Eco Church online survey, and by answering truthfully about what we are currently doing, and making several commitments to things we realistically can do in the next year, I am pleased to say we have qualified for the Bronze Award. **see ➔**

A requirement of the Award was a commitment to celebrate 'Creation Season'. If you've never heard of this, don't be surprised, as it's the first time it's been celebrated at St Matthew's: it's quite a new idea, especially in the Church of England. The Season runs for the whole of September, which fits in nicely with celebrating Harvest Thanksgiving on the first Sunday in October.

Another commitment is to occasionally worship outdoors, and this led to our holding our first Creationtide celebration not in church, but at Mother Enid's house, where we could admire her lovely, colourful garden, including the new project of a wildflower lawn.

Unfortunately, the weather was such that we had to worship indoors! Twenty of us (and one cat!) squeezed into her dining room, with views of the garden and church. Mother Enid provided a lovely service sheet with colour photos (on recycled paper!) and, instead of a sermon, gave a short talk about the beauty and colour of a garden being life-giving. It was a unique and very moving service following which people did get the opportunity to wander around outside. The refreshments, very kindly also supplied by Mother Enid, completed a lovely afternoon.



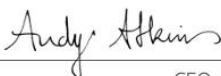
Bronze Eco Church Award Certificate

This is to certify that

St Matthew's Church with Holy Trinity, Burnley

has won a Bronze Eco Church Award in recognition of their efforts
to care for God's earth in each of the following areas (as applicable):

Worship and Teaching
Management of Buildings and Land
Community and Global Engagement
Lifestyle

Signed 

Date 18 August 2025

CEO, A Rocha UK



ecochurch.arocha.org.uk
arocha.org.uk



**STOP PRESS!! Recycle the blister packs from your medications!
Bag at the back of Church.**

CHURCH WARDENS' NOTES

The summer months were, in the main, very kind to us with the weather this year. We hope that you have been able to take advantage of it to enjoy yourselves. Now schools are back in full swing and we are getting ready to celebrate Harvest Time.

We held our Summer Market and uniform exchange in August, which was well attended. There were lots of different stalls and many prizes in the raffle. Our grateful thanks go to Esther and the team for all the hard work organising the whole thing, and also to the stallholders who did a great job too. The final total of money raised is £1,146.34. We are truly grateful to everyone who came and supported St. Matthew's at this event. There were several other organised events that took place during the holidays and we were delighted to welcome the Canal Ministries team back this year. It was great to meet other members of the team too, and we thank Paul and Sue for all that they did.

On behalf of all at St. Matthew's, we offer our prayers and sympathy to the families of Mrs Frances Tyson, who after many years' membership of St. Matthew's Church and the Mothers' Union, died in August after a long illness. Also, to the family of Norman Bell, who had given many years as a governor of Holy Trinity School and staunchly supported his late wife, Christine, during her many years' membership of our Church. Also to Susan Belton and Carol Martin, plus their families, on the sudden death of their brother, David Entwistle. The Entwistle family have been strong supporters of St. Matthew's for many years.

The Bishop of Burnley gave the sermon on St. Matthew's Day this year. It was lovely to see him on our Church's 'special day'. A big 'thank you' to everyone who has given support to St. Matthew's by donating to our Gift Day. We really appreciate your kindness, especially in the current financial climate. At the time of writing this article, we don't have a total, but we will let you know as soon as is possible, on the weekly sheet. It's still not too late to make a donation to the Gift Day, and there are envelopes available to use for this at the back of Church. Please ask one of the wardens, if you can't find them.

We have always known at St. Matthew's, what a gem we have in Peter Harrison, our Choirmaster and Organist. This is emphasised by the fact that for the second year, he has been asked to give the monthly organ recital at Blackburn Cathedral. This will take place on Wednesday, the 8th October starting at 12.15 pm. There is no entry fee, but the Cathedral welcome donations. If you can get to Blackburn to hear Peter play, you will not be disappointed.

As we move into October, we start to prepare for the events that lead to one of the favourite times of the year in the Church calendar, the birth of our Lord.

We send our best wishes to you all, stay safe and take care,

Walter, Audrey, Stuart and Harry.

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FAMILY AND PARADE SERVICES, 2026

MONTH	DATE	THEME, if applicable
February	1	Candlemas <i>(Scouts)</i>
March	*15*	Mothering Sunday
May	3	
June	7	
July	5	Youth Take-Over!
August	2	<i>no Parade Sunday (Family Service)</i>
September	6	<i>no Parade Sunday (Family Service)</i>
October	4	Harvest
November	*8*	Remembrance Sunday
December	6	

THE DECEMBER / JANUARY *OUTREACH*
 will go for proof-reading & printing during November
 so contributions, please
AT THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER

Ken Spencer, local historian and good friend to St. Matthew's, has drawn our attention to the death, on 1st July, of stained glass artist **Sir Brian Clarke**.

Sir Brian was born in Oldham in 1953, and always maintained that his art was created for working-class people like himself. He was first drawn to stained glass by a childhood visit to York Minister, when he was so overwhelmed by the effect of light through the 15th century east window that he fainted! His second influence was the punk movement, and he re-invented stained glass for this generation, using a method which allowed him to create large-scale works without the need for supporting leadwork.

At 13, he became a full-time scholarship pupil at Oldham School of Art, where he was regarded as a prodigy; but when he and his family moved to Burnley he found that, at 15, he was too young to gain entrance to Burnley College of Art: he lied about his age and was accepted on the strength of his previous work! At 17, he began a course in architectural stained glass at North Devon College of Art and Design. During a trip across Europe to study religious art, he was drawn to the work of Germany's post-war stained glass artists, and his own first major work, in 1975 - at the age of only 22 - was a set of 20 windows for St. Lawrence's Church, Longridge. Probably the nearest work to us is his 1976 east window in All Saints', Habergham.

However, work for the Church of England came to an abrupt end in 1978 when he publicly condemned what he considered the architecturally unsympathetic restoration of St. Gabriel's Church, at Brownhill, Blackburn, which affected - amongst other things - windows which he had designed.

Over a 50-year career, his output also included sculpture, painting and mosaics - and stage designs for two of his friend Paul McCartney's world tours. But his major works include the Holocaust Memorial Synagogue in Darmstadt and the Royal Mosque at King Khaled International Airport in Riyadh. His last work, in 2024, was stained glass windows for the new extension to Westminster Coroner's Court, which he said were *not to give people an artistic ecstasy, but to say 'I am with you', 'I know what you're going through', to put an arm around people's shoulders*.

Why might our readers be interested in Sir Brian? In 1972, at St. Matthew's, he married Elizabeth (Liz) Finch, daughter of our Vicar, the Rev'd. John Finch.

Church Treasurer Howard writes

THANK YOU FOR THE SUMMER FAIR AND GIFT DAY

Thank you to everyone who generously contributed to our Summer Fair and Annual Gift Day! It gives our income a welcome boost so it is very much appreciated! We are so grateful to everyone who helps to make our fund-raising events so successful, either by helping to organise and run the events or by simply attending them. The events are planned to bring the community together in our sacred church building or cosy church hall to share the warm fellowship and enjoy the various fun activities, a hot drink and a bite to eat in a welcoming atmosphere. A high number of people attending usually merits positive comments indicating a successful event. However, if only a small number attend and benefit from the event it is still regarded as a success. If we raise some money for the church funds or a specific purpose it is a bonus which is ranked second to the success of each event.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Christian Stewardship is not a programme, nor is it about raising money. Instead, it is part of our life-long discipleship journey. Stewardship is a way of life in which we regard ourselves and our possessions as being held in trust from God, to be used for His service. God has made us His stewards or managers of everything that He has given to us: our time, our abilities, our possessions, our money, our whole lives!

Stewardship for Christians is not about giving money so that the church can “make ends meet” but rather acknowledging how generously God has given to us and then generously giving back to God and seeing His church grow.

JOYFUL GENEROUS STEWARDS

The Diocesan Vision 2026 calls us to give generously of our time, talents and money to the cause of Christ. We really value the time that you give to our vibrant Parish life, the time that you devote to prayer and exploring the bible and to sharing worship and the celebration of Holy Communion. We admire your many wonderful talents such as singing, baking and flower-arranging plus the equally vital ability to make our buildings clean and tidy or change a light bulb and top up the supply of loo rolls! We also value your generous donations to the cost of running our busy Parish. We sincerely hope that you give joyfully in the knowledge that you are giving generously to enable the work of God to flourish in our Parish.



As disciples, our giving is a sincere way of showing our love for God and an expression of our thanks for His endless care and generosity. Please remember that God gave His only Son that we might live.

We all give presents joyfully and generously to our families and friends at Christmas and birthdays so we hope that you will give joyfully and generously to God's work here at St Matthew's.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS REGULAR GIVING

We also thank everyone who generously contributes to the cost of running our church by weekly envelopes, monthly standing orders or simply cash on the collection plates. It really is your church, as we receive no funding from the government and we need to be self-financing so we are very grateful for all contributions – no matter how small or large. As well as paying for insurance, heating, lighting and other running costs, we need to pay our Parish Share to the Diocese so that we may be eligible to request a Priest of our choice and benefit from their administrative and financial support. (It is worth noting that many churches need to share their vicar with other churches or experience a long wait for a new vicar.)

THE PARISH SHARE

What exactly is the Parish Share? Where does the money go; how is it spent and what impact does it make?

The Diocese explains: "We would like to say a big 'thank you' for your contributions to Parish Share. We're really grateful for your generosity and for all you do in the service of Jesus Christ in our communities across the Lancashire area. The vast majority of these contributions come back to parishes to keep the ministries of our churches running. We believe that stipendiary clergy are a critical part of the ministry of the Church in Lancashire and our commitment to maintain clergy numbers at their current level is only possible because of your generosity.

The Diocese of Blackburn is made up of 231 parishes with 272 churches, serving a population of around 1.4 million people. We are all part of one Diocese and, brought together, our Parish Share contributions help us to foster healthy churches that, in turn, transform communities across Lancashire. So let's take a look at where the money goes; how it is spent and the impact it makes.

The first bit of good news is that most of the money you contribute comes back to you in one form or another: as ministry, services and support. Every parish gives, and every parish receives. The largest portion of Parish Share, around

70%, is allocated to parish ministry. This includes placing priests in every benefice. It also covers stipends, pensions, clergy housing and training for current and future clergy.

As a type of charity, it's important we have robust administrative and governance processes that are transparent and efficient. We manage to do this for less than 1% of share contributions. Five per cent goes to the national church, including contributions to retired clergy housing and national training. Another 5% is used to support our churches through investment in community projects, mission, outreach and initiatives for children and young people. This includes clergy study days, Diocesan Conferences and much more. And a further 5% is dedicated to lay ministry and formation, including training, from which so many of our churches benefit.

Around 10% of the funds support the work of 'enabler teams' at the Diocesan Offices who keep everything running smoothly, including safeguarding, property management, communications, HR, stewardship, accounting support and some support for Whalley Abbey. People sometimes think we get money from the government but, just to be clear, we really don't!

And while we are dispelling myths, contrary to what some people think your Parish Share does not pay for anything at our Cathedral in Blackburn. All Church of England cathedrals are structurally independent from dioceses and they receive a limited amount of direct funding from the Church Commissioners.

While we can (and do) secure funding from the national church for specific projects, the money from these rigorously assessed bids can only be used for the projects it is allocated to.

For everything else the responsibility rests with us collectively as a Diocese, through Parish Share contributions. In fact, the majority of our income comes from parishes. The balance of our income is made up of rents, grants for specific work and projects, and interest and dividends on our investments. Thank you for being a beacon of hope in Lancashire and making a lasting impact on the communities we serve in the County; it's your generosity that makes the difference!"

St Matthew's has always managed to pay its Parish Share and a Diocesan Certificate is proudly displayed in the Narthex. We hope and pray that we will be able to continue to do so.

Thank you once again for your faithful support!

Howard Mitchell

Treasurer

St. Matthew with Holy Trinity Scout Group

Meeting times are as follows and any changes will be emailed to parents/carers. Beavers: Wednesdays from 1800 to 1900 hrs. Cubs: Wednesdays from 1910 to 2015 hrs. Scouts: Fridays from 1915 to 2030 hrs.

Vacancies: We have limited vacancies in some sections so it may be necessary to go on a waiting list so don't delay if you are interested in a place for your young person. Simply contact Howard Mitchell.

CONGRATULATIONS

Warm congratulations Andrew, Dominik and Joe on achieving the coveted Chief Scouts Gold Award before they recently progressed to the Burnley and Pendle Explorer Unit for Scouts aged 14 and over.

SCOUTING IN THE AUTUMN

Our Scouts have recently returned from their Autumn Adventure Camp at Sandiway in the Delamere Forest in Cheshire when they enjoyed the opportunity to build shelters and sleep outdoors, cook food on open fires and try kayaking or paddle boarding!

OUTDOORS OR INDOORS?

Our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be spending more time indoors as the evenings lengthen and focussing on sectional badges and awards all of which contribute to their Chief Scouts Awards. We will, however, still enjoy the outdoors whenever possible!

THE CHIEF SCOUT (UK)

Did you know that Bear Grylls resigned as Chief Scout just over a year ago? **Dwayne Fields** is the UK's 11th Chief Scout. An explorer, adventurer and TV presenter, Dwayne's been seen in BAFTA nominated Channel 5 series *Race to the Pole*, on BBC *Springwatch*, *Countryfile*, *National Geographic* and *Disney+*.

Among his many achievements, Dwayne was the first Black Briton to reach the North Pole. He is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, was awarded the Freedom of the City of London, and is the co-founder the #WeTwo Foundation, giving opportunities to young people from inner city backgrounds.

A Cub Scout in north London as a child, Dwayne was a highly engaged Scout Ambassador for seven years before becoming Chief Scout in September 2024. He has supported hundreds of Scout events - locally, nationally and internationally, from County Camps to the 25th World Scout Jamboree in Korea.

SCOUTS RECYCLING PROJECT

Hall users will be aware that we provided large plastic boxes to enable paper, card and clean tins and bottles to be taken by our Scouts to add them to their recycling at home. However, this only works when Scouts meet in the hall on a Friday night so we apologise for having to suspend this during the Summer. We are pleased to say that this project is now functioning again!

COMPLIMENTARY COFFEE AND CAKE AFTER THE MONTHLY PARADE FAMILY SERVICES!

Yes, coffee and cake, tea and biscuits, together with blackcurrant, will be available after the Family Service which is usually on the first Sunday in the month. Donations in aid of Christian Aid will be appreciated.

Please join us for some cake and a chat. You know that you'll enjoy it!

Howard Mitchell & Mandi Vercoe Joint Group Scout Leaders / Lead Volunteers

HM: T: 01282 436907 M: 07743 850350

E: howie.mitchell@btinternet.com

MV: M: 07780 684262 E: mandivercoe1@gmail.com

~~~~~  
Please note that, following a hacking incident,  
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Please delete the old address from your systems.  
~~~~~

If you would like to receive this magazine as a pdf,
just let Mtr. Enid know.

7th Burnley with St Matthews Guide Company

Rainbows

We have a packed programme to take us up to Christmas and we started the first meeting of the new term with a holiday 'show and tell': we asked the Rainbows to bring a postcard or a souvenir of their holiday or day out to show everyone what they had been doing during the summer break.

We awarded Siska with her First Year badge, and Layla her Second Year badge, and Lucy and Freya made their Rainbow promise.

At our second meeting welcomed Daphne, Charlotte, Haley and Poppy to Rainbows, and also had a teddy bears' picnic.

Brownies

Before the Summer, our Brown Owl Nancy achieved a first class honours degree in social work, we are very proud of her! We worked hard last term to achieve our 'Lead Stage 2' and 'Live Smart Stage 2' badges. We also took part in World Chocolate Day where the girls were more than happy to join in our chocolate tasting! *[Editor: Am I too old to be a Brownie??]*

St. Matthew's Brownies have some exciting events coming up! We will be completing a football session with women's football coaches from BFC, we thought this would be a great way to empower the girls and help give them an opportunity to try football if they haven't already. In October, we are attending a county trip called 'Adventures by the Mountains' to take part in lots of adventurous activities!

Guides

We came back in September refreshed after the summer break, with a seasonally planned programme up to Christmas. We hope all our Guides are now well settled into their new schools/classes. Guides enjoyed a County Trip to Alton Towers at the end of September, which was a fun-filled day for all involved.

Congratulations to Nya and Evie, our Young Leaders, on their GCSE results: they can now carry on with intended courses after leaving Unity College. Also well done to Georgia on completing her Young Leaders' Certificate - and going on to her Adult Leadership qualification, which we are very pleased about.

We are delighted that Waddow has now reopened and we are looking forward to camping and using the facilities there once again, as we have really missed going to Waddow!!

At the church Winter Market we will be running our usual two bottle stalls, 'Wine or Water' and an ordinary bottle stall, so any contributions would be appreciated.

From all the Leaders.

Linda Smith adds a personal note: I started Guiding in October 1985, learning from the late Sheila Harris and Steph Burrows, whose knowledge of Guiding was vast, and this October will be my **40th year as a Guide Leader**, in which I have enjoyed watching many girls grow through guiding giving them confidence and life skills as well as having a great deal of fun!!

On behalf of St. Matthew's, thank you, Linda, for all you've done for Guiding and for the Church!

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Regular Activities at St Matthew's

*The majority of the activities listed below only run
during school term time*

Mondays 3.30-5.00pm - Fun Church
in Church

Tuesdays 5.30-6.30pm - Youth Choir
in the Church Hall (Albion Street)

Wednesdays 9.15-10.45am - Wednesday Group
in the Church Hall (Albion Street)

Wednesdays 12.30-1.30pm - Lunch Club
in the Church Hall (Albion Street)

Thursdays 9.30-11am - Toddler Group
in the Church Hall (Albion Street)



St Matthew's
with Holy Trinity
Burnley

VICAR: Rev'd. Alex Frost

on Sabbatical
1st September to 30th November

~~~~~  
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**07397-775-388**  
revkatgw@gmail.com

~~~~~  
Rev'd. Rod Clark
968-034; 07773-221-550
rod.clark1958@btinternet.com

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Rev'd. Enid Briggs  
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