

# OUTREACH

## Parish Magazine

February & March, 2026



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



*an Inclusive Church*

**Burnley**

**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 March Parade/Family Service  
will be on Mothering Sunday, 15th*

---oooOooo---

### MID-WEEK SERVICES

Tuesdays	10.00am	Said Eucharist
Thursdays	7.00pm	Parish Prayers
Fridays	10.00am	Lady Chapel
		Said Eucharist

## FROM THE VICAR

Hello Everyone,

First if I haven't seen you, please accept my belated good wishes for 2026. Returning from sabbatical was fabulous, straight into the busy period of Advent and Christmas, and I must tell you it was joyful.

I'm not really driven by 'numbers' but we saw really exceptionally good numbers over this period which is a great encouragement, going into a new calendar year.

I'd like us to focus on being a joyful church in the early part of this year. With so much bad news around, good news gets lost in the mix but we have much to celebrate at St Matthew's. When you put all our activities into a big bowl of ministry, we are in constant need of a bigger bowl. People's endeavours and commitment to the church is spectacular and deeply humbling, which is in itself completely joyful.

This year will surely provide ups and downs, comings and goings, and it would be my hope that we can continue in our journey of nurturing disciples, and growing our Christian Community. I believe there is a real yearning for something different, and for some that might be exploring faith, or church, or Jesus - and hopefully all three.

So let's start the year on a positive note, let's be joyful, and encouraging to those we know and love, and to those we are yet to meet.

May this time of year be joyful for us all, or as much as it possibly can be.

'Til next time,

**Fr Alex**

# From the Church Registers

## BAPTISMS

November: Craig Young  
Gracie-Mae Young  
Olympia Gibson  
Pria-Rose Ormerod  
Isabelle-Willow Townley  
Emilia Wadsworth



## FUNERAL

December: Ursula Shephard



## Diocesan Centenary Year

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.



## **Rev'd. Kat writes ...**

As many of you will know, Esther and I were offered the opportunity to move into St. Matthew's Vicarage and made that move between Christmas and New Year. At the time of writing there are still boxes to unpack but we're already enjoying the extra space and our dog is loving racing around the garden! Moving is an upheaval, but the change is often worthwhile.

As Fr. Alex mentioned in his Epiphany sermon, this year (like most years) is likely to be a year that involves some significant changes. I don't think it's a coincidence therefore that I woke up one morning a few days after moving with this worship song chorus in my head:

*Yesterday, today, and forever,*

*You are the same, You never change.*

*Yesterday, today, and forever,*

*You are faithful, and we will trust in You.*

This is from a song by Vicky Beeching which is based on the Bible verse; "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever." (Hebrews 13:8)

Some of us love change but many of us get anxious or apprehensive about it. I find it helpful to remember that God is always with us, steadfast, "always loving, always true, always merciful and good" as another line in the song goes. Sometimes we don't realise how God has been working within us and around us until we look back, but we can be confident from looking back that God will continue to be faithful going forward.



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## The 10.30 Eucharist – what on earth’s going on?

We may have been coming to St. Matthew’s for decades; we may only have been coming for a short time. Perhaps we come week-in- week-out, perhaps less often. Whatever - sometimes, we can actually forget what it’s really about, and how important the Eucharist is. Or we might suddenly find ourselves wondering why we do one particular thing – or even any of it!

This year, on four Sundays in Lent, the sermon-slot will be exploring, unpacking the Eucharist. And there’s so much to explore! There are two layers to this: what’s going on in the sense of, say, why we ‘process’ the Gospel; but the much deeper, mystical, spiritual ‘what is actually going on at the altar’ - what happens to the bread and wine.

It’s a fair observation that the Jesus who sat at table with his friends, on the first ‘Maundy Thursday’ evening, might wonder how we’ve got to ‘10.30 at St. Matthew’s’! So we’ll look at how things have developed from Last Supper to ‘High Mass’, and see how ‘what we do’ depends on ‘what we believe’. And I hope we’ll come to admire the way Church of England Eucharists allow us all to have slightly different ways of looking at things, yet still worship together in unity.

If, after hearing the talks, you have questions (or if you already have!) any of the clergy will be delighted to chat them through with you. We aren’t telling you what to believe; we’re just longing for your experience of Sunday worship to grow deeper and wider, and to bring you greater and greater joy.

The word *Eucharist* simply means *thanksgiving*, and I hope that this journey of exploration will lead us all to give deeper, more joyful thanks for all that God has done - and continues to do - for us, through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Who will, without a doubt, continue to be with us every Sunday morning!

**Mtr. Enid.**

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**Please register your interest with Fr Alex**

**Commencing 25th February 7-8 pm**

THE APRIL / MAY *OUTREACH*  
will go for proof-reading & printing during March  
so contributions, please  
AT THE BEGINNING OF MARCH

**REMINDER: If you haven't yet  
brought your Children's Society  
box to church to be included in  
our annual donation, please do  
so as soon as possible.**



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## Fr. Rod writes ..... Exploring Healing

At the Parish Eucharist for Epiphany the figures of the wise men were placed in the crib and their gifts were symbolically celebrated. For the gift of myrrh we heard this prayer offered:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe:  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
As you give medicine to heal our sickness  
and the leaves of the tree of life  
for the healing of the nations,  
so anoint us with your healing power  
that we may be the first-fruits of your new creation.  
Blessed be God for ever.

The prayer asks specifically that we be 'anointed with healing power'. In response to God's call to follow the ministry of Christ the Healer we are continuing to explore and develop the ministry of healing at St Matthew's, and we will be offering opportunities to receive prayer and/or anointing in our services over the coming months.

At the Parish Eucharist on **Sunday 8th February** and **Sunday 8th March** we will offer this prayer as part of our eucharistic liturgy. We hope to continue with this pattern **every second Sunday** of the month.

At the **Friday morning Eucharist** there will also be opportunities to receive prayer on a regular basis, probably once a fortnight. Look out for information on the weekly bulletin.

Our Parish Prayers which take place every **Thursday evening at 7pm** also provide a space to explore the ministry of Christian healing, and once a month we will follow the formal prayers with a time of teaching and conversation about this ministry which all are welcome to. The next date will be **Thursday 26th February**.



Many aspects of the church's worship have a healing dimension. At each Eucharist we say a prayer of confession and hear the words of absolution as we bring before God our sins, failings and weaknesses. There are times when we can be troubled by these things and, whilst the shared confession of our public worship does give us real assurance of forgiveness, we might need to benefit from the invitation to share with a priest, in confidence and to hear the priest pronounce God's forgiveness to us personally. Those of us who have experienced this can testify to the profound spiritual healing it brings. The priests at St Matthew's want you to know that the ministry of sacramental confession, perhaps more accurately known now as the sacrament of reconciliation, is always available for any who need it. If you're unsure then have a quiet word about it. All priests are able to offer this ministry. I am also a member of Bishop Philip's College of Confessors, having received some additional training recently which focused on such matters as confidentiality, safeguarding and good practice.

The Christian healing ministry is non-intrusive, respectful, pastoral and compassionate. It is available as a means of grace and all are invited to receive at whatever level they choose.

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## JAFFA Club: Pledges we made during Advent

Belinda writes...

World peace, crumbling economy and hiking living costs may be our worries at this very moment. With people suffering in wars and disasters, have we ever prayed in the way Habakkuk did, *'How long must I call for help, but you do not listen?'*

### Children are no exception.

Air-drying clay pledges of faith

What are the fears of our children? A new school year, exams, health, relationships with family and friends... They face challenging times as we do. They carved on some air-drying clay a cross symbolising Jesus, a heart for love or words like **Jesus, faith, courage, love** to remind themselves to hold onto faith that Jesus is with them, giving them strength at hard times.



Biscuit pledges to practise how to hear God's voice

With some children asking why God has not answered their prayers, which feel like silence or delay, seven ways to listen to God's voice were explored. Children picked a way or two for practice and made a pledge on biscuits.

### Pledges to love

In the last session of JAFFA during the Advent, we read about Joseph's struggles. After the angel had appeared to him, Joseph abandoned his previous thought of leaving Mary but listen to the angel. He chose obedience and love. The children drew an angel with a heart in the middle or at the back as a pledge to be obedient to God and to spread God's love.

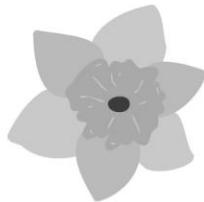


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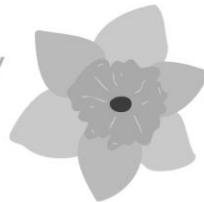


# Mothering Sunday Family Service

**SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2026  
10.30AM**



An informal child-friendly  
service giving thanks for  
those who offer us love,  
nurture and support

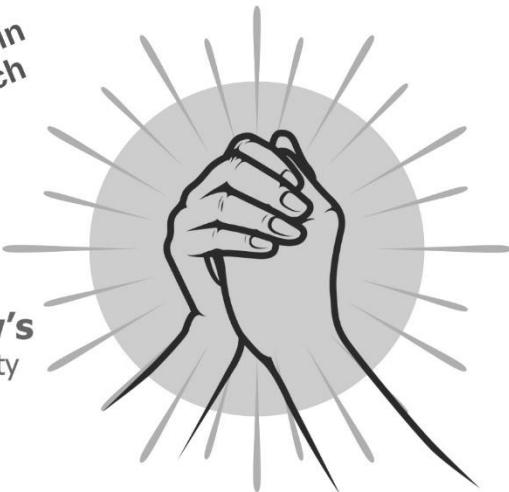


All welcome

You're invited to join in  
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 1 Feb, 1 & 29 March	Weeks starting 8 Feb & 8 March
St Matthew's Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Weekly worship</li> <li>● Organist and Choir</li> <li>● Priests, ALM ministers &amp; servers</li> <li>● Wardens and PCC</li> <li>● Financial resources</li> <li>● Safeguarding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Baptism ministry</li> <li>● Fun Church</li> <li>● Youth Choir</li> <li>● JAFFA Club</li> <li>● Uniformed Organisations</li> <li>● Growth</li> </ul>
Community Services	<p><u><i>Schools/ Education</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Holy Trinity School</li> <li>● Broadfield School</li> <li>● Rosewood School</li> <li>● Coalclough Academy</li> <li>● Cherry Fold School</li> <li>● Christ the King RC School</li> <li>● St James Alternative School, Healey Wood</li> <li>● The Rose School</li> </ul>	<p><u><i>Health/Care</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GP Practices</li> <li>● Dentists</li> <li>● Pharmacies</li> <li>● Community health teams</li> <li>● Emergency services</li> <li>● Care Homes</li> <li>● Social Services</li> <li>● Tay St Family Hub</li> <li>● Funeral Directors &amp; Cemetery</li> </ul>
Local Neighbourhoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Westgate</li> <li>● Accrington Road</li> <li>● Healey Wood</li> <li>● Brun Lea Heights</li> <li>● Barclay Hills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Burnham Gate</li> <li>● Coal Clough</li> <li>● Spring Hill</li> <li>● Bleakhause</li> <li>● Griffin</li> </ul>
Local Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Changing the spiritual temperature</li> <li>● Poverty</li> <li>● Litter, fly tipping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Community cohesion and care</li> <li>● Reconciliation, acceptance, affirmation</li> <li>● Domestic violence</li> </ul>

Weeks starting 15 Feb & 15 March	Weeks starting 22 Feb & 22 March
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mental health</li> <li>● Healing ministry</li> <li>● Lunch Club</li> <li>● Wednesday Group</li> <li>● Discipleship</li> <li>● Creation Care</li> <li>● Developing Leaders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Funeral ministry</li> <li>● Marriage ministry</li> <li>● Pastoral care</li> <li>● Toddler Group</li> <li>● Social outreach</li> <li>● Prayer Breakfasts</li> <li>● Spirituality</li> </ul>
<p><u><b>Community Centres/Nurseries</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vanguard CC</li> <li>● West End CC</li> <li>● Coal Clough CC</li> <li>● Valley Street CC</li> <li>● Little People</li> <li>● Giant Leap</li> <li>● Happy Faces</li> <li>● Taywood Nursery</li> </ul>	<p><u><b>Businesses and Services</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Small Businesses</li> <li>● Local Shops</li> <li>● Industrial estates</li> <li>● Local Councillors</li> <li>● Community Grocery</li> <li>● Bus services</li> <li>● Refuse disposal</li> <li>● Police</li> <li>● Scott Park</li> <li>● Coal Clough Library</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Piccadilly</li> <li>● Rosehill</li> <li>● Habergham Eaves</li> <li>● Stoops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hargher Clough</li> <li>● Glen View</li> <li>● Parklands</li> <li>● Rossendale Road</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Aspiration and opportunity</li> <li>● Housing standards and supply</li> <li>● Alcohol abuse and other addictions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mental health and well-being</li> <li>● Drug supply and use</li> <li>● Family support</li> </ul>

## **Eco Church News**

Last October, I attended Blackburn Cathedral's first ever Creation Care Conference. It was a very interesting and encouraging weekend. The Diocese is committed to achieving 100 Parishes with an Eco Church Bronze Award. In Burnley, St Matthew's and St Stephen's both achieved this last year. One of the talks I attended was by a Church in Clitheroe that recently achieved its Gold Award. Although the idea of St Matthew's reaching this level is way into the future, I did pick a few interesting ideas about easy ways for individuals to be more environmentally friendly:

1. switch your Browser (usually Google or one of the other big names) to Ecosia. I use it on my phone and tablet and it works as well as any other search engine. 'We use all our profits for climate action, with the majority going into tree-planting projects around the world.'
2. next time your mobile phone contract runs out, consider switching to Eco Talk . It describes itself as 'the world's first mobile network to use its profits to restore nature.'
3. Phone Apps are a fun accessible way to find out more about wildlife. I particularly like the Merlin App which accurately identifies birdsong for you. I've used it in Scott Park early in the morning and was amazed what was around, including the tiny rare Goldcrest. There are several good ones for wildflower recognition too. iNaturalist is my favourite.

## **Medicine Blister Packs Collection**

Many thanks to the enthusiastic recyclers out there. We are now well on the way to filling our 3rd bag. These are packaged up and sent to Terracycle for processing into useful new products. It would be a great help to me if you removed the rubber bands or small plastic bags that some people include: it would then also mean you could re-use them for sending in your next collection! Unfortunately, this service is not free. I would appreciate any donations towards the cost of buying the bags.

## **Fundraising**

Because St Matthew's struggles to cover its running costs, any money we wish to dedicate to environmental projects such as bee-friendly wildflower planters will need to be raised specifically by ourselves. It has been suggested to me that some people would be willing to increase their regular giving to support

the Eco Church programme. If this is so, please could you have a word with myself or Howard, the Church Treasurer, to arrange for this amount to be credited regularly to Eco Church.

Our first ever Christmas Market stall raised £62. We sold Charity Christmas cards, bamboo toothbrushes, shampoo bars, and other plastic-free products, plus assorted plants. As a small ongoing fund-raiser, I am looking to have a small permanent plant sale on a trolley in the porch. Donations would be welcome at any time. I have a few daffodil plants which will be available soon, hopefully.

### **Litterpicking**

Because Burnley Council provide the equipment, having regular litter-picking events is a great free way of supporting Eco Church. When the weather improves in the Spring, we will be asking for ideas for new places to clean up. **Please get in touch if you'd like to be more involved in Eco Church.**

**Thank you!**

**Barbara Baldwin**



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# 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'*

Happy New Year from everyone at Holy Trinity!

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and are feeling relaxed and recharged for the year to come. Last term was extremely busy for us all here and I know everyone was looking forward to a well-deserved break!

All the School came together to celebrate a special Christingle service at the end of term. We heard readings from our Worship Ambassadors in school. The children were extremely sensible with their lighted candles and I am pleased to report we had no injuries! Many Parents came into school in the morning to help the children make their Christingle candle and it was lovely to see so many parents joining in, making us all feel very festive.

Prior to Christmas, we had a very busy time in School. We raised £318.83 for Children in Need by holding a Non-Uniform Day and we also took part in 'Save the Children' Christmas Jumper Day' and raised £149.00 for this charity. We all looked amazing in our Christmas jumpers and we also had our children's Christmas dinner on this day, so we had lots of fun. We also had a Christmas disco and raised £805.95 for School.

Our Key Stage 1 children took part in a Nativity play called 'A Wriggly Nativity' and performed twice to a packed hall of parents and friends. The children all looked fantastic in their costumes and again I was really proud of them all for their fantastic singing, acting, listening and speaking.

During the last week of term, Father Christmas dropped in and very kindly brought a small gift for all the children. He told me that although he was extremely busy, he always enjoyed coming to see the amazing children that we have here at Holy Trinity!

Oh yes we are! In January, we are taking all the children to see 'Aladdin' at the Colne Muni, which the children and staff are greatly looking forward to. We paid for the visit using some pupil premium funding. It will be wonderful for the children to experience a live performance and enjoy this very English Christmas tradition.

We look forward to another busy term when we will be able to prepare ourselves for Easter.

**Alison Whitaker**

**Head Teacher**



Look out for St. Matthew's HOLY WEEK booklets, available from Mothering Sunday (15<sup>th</sup> March).

Designed, not only to guide us through this important time in the Christian Year, but to give out to others – making it easier to invite friends and neighbours to come along.

Remember – the more faithfully we keep Holy Week, especially Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, the more joyfully we can celebrate on Easter Sunday!

## CHURCH WARDENS' NOTES

We are already a month into the new year and Christmas now seems quite a while ago. The weather, hopefully, has been improving from the very cold start to 2026.

At this time of year, we are always happy to offer our grateful thanks to the many volunteers that we are so lucky to have at St Matthew's. We have great teams of people, who just get on with whatever needs to be done and we are pleased to see people of all ages getting involved.

As always, we would like to thank our clergy- Father Alex, Rev. Kat, Mother Enid and Father Rod, for all their hard work, not just conducting services, but organising and supervising new courses for people to learn about the Bible. Also, the various groups and activities that they get involved in, growing our Church Community and bringing us closer together all the time. We are truly blessed to have them all.

We also want to thank our choir, who continue to provide support at our weekly services and the also at the special services we have throughout the year. Also, we are, as always, truly thankful to have Peter Harrison as our organist and choirmaster, his talents are very much appreciated by us all. During last year, Peter gave some recitals at Blackburn Cathedral, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all who went to listen to him play.

Grateful thanks to the servers, who take part in most services. It is great to see the numbers volunteering for these important roles, still increasing.

Thank you to our organisations, who take part in a lot of the services we hold throughout the year. It is great to see our young people getting involved, along with the JAFFA club, (our Sunday School) who, having enjoyed a session of their own in the Church Hall, always come into Church and take part towards the end of our 10.30 am Sunday Service.

We would like to thank the wonderful band of people who clean the Church and Church Hall, maintain the outside areas of the Church, grass cutting, pruning, weeding etc. and do lots of other jobs that need doing, so that our Church always looks great.

We would like to thank the ladies who provide the flower displays that we see in Church. They have created a lot of fabulous arrangements all year on a shoestring budget. Also, those who volunteer to make brews and clean up, after the Sunday morning service. And a big ‘Thank You’ to our maintenance team, who have kept on top of all the jobs that need to be done, to keep St. Matthew’s running efficiently throughout the year.

Grateful thanks to all those who volunteer to run/help at some of the groups that we have, in particular Fun Church, Toddler Group, Lunch Club and the *ad hoc* events that we have held throughout the year. We also have a developing Youth Choir, which is wonderful: it was great to see them taking part in some of the Christmas events that were held.

We are again indebted to Esther and all her team who work so hard, creating some great functions, markets and Fairs. Their ideas are wonderful and we are very grateful to them for their efforts to increase funds for St Matthew’s.

We apologise if we have missed anyone out but be assured that we appreciate all the help that St Matthew’s receives. St Matthew’s has a brilliant community!

We were so sorry to hear of the death of Mrs Ursula Shepherd in December, who had been a long-time member of our congregation and was a regular attender of the Sunday 10.30 am service, until illness prevented this over the last couple of years. She celebrated her 100th Birthday earlier in 2025. We offer our sincere condolences to her family.

If you are a regular member of St Matthew’s congregation and haven’t yet put your name to the Church’s Electoral Roll, and would like to, please speak to one of us: we can help you with any queries you may have, regarding the application form - or what the Church Electoral Roll is.

As the evenings start to get lighter and hopefully the weather gets warmer, we now turn our attention to the next important events in the Church calendar – Lent and Easter.

With very best wishes to you all,  
**Audrey, Harry, Stuart and Walter**

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**Please pray for Sarah Mullally, who (following a very long process!) legally becomes the Archbishop of Canterbury on 28 January and will, on 25 March, be formally installed at Canterbury Cathedral and begin her public ministry as Archbishop.**



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**Need some colour in your life?  
Try the QUIZ! (answers on page 29)**

1. What colour are school buses in America?
  2. What name is given to the 8,650 figures found in a Chinese field in 1974?
  3. What colour were Elvis' suede shoes?
  4. Which planet is known as the Red Planet?
  5. What colour are Mickey Mouse's shoes?
  6. Which animal's milk is naturally pink?
  7. What colour is wisteria?
  8. What creature has three hearts and blue blood?
  9. What colour is the Statue of Liberty?
  10. What colour sounds like you put fruit in the toaster?
- 

**Company of Servers Blackburn and Liverpool Chapter**

Our next event will be our Annual Festival Eucharist on Saturday 21 March 2026 at St Aidan's Church, Station Road, Bamber Bridge PR5 6QL. It will commence with refreshments from 1100, Festival Eucharist at 1200, Lunch at 1300 and the Annual General Meeting at 1400 hrs. Please bring a packed lunch but hot drinks will be provided.

As always, everyone is welcome to join us on this special occasion. You don't have to be a server.

**Howard Mitchell**

**Chair**

## **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 1900 to 2030 hrs.

**Vacancies:** We currently have vacancies in Beavers and limited vacancies in Cubs and Scouts so it may be possible to start immediately on completion of a Membership Application Form. Simply contact Howard.

**Flexible Volunteering for Adults:** Helping our young people is very rewarding and equally enjoyable. We are always pleased to have a chat to anyone interested in helping even if you are unable to commit to every week. Once or twice a month is fine! Simply speak to Mandi or Howard for a taster session!

### **THANK YOU**

May I say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Christmas Market on the games and tuck shop stalls and attended the District Carol Service at Sacred Heart in Colne and our Community Carol Service in St Matthew's.

### **A PERFECT WAY TO START THE YEAR**

We started the New Year with the whole Scout Group visiting Burnley Pantomime Society's production of "Rapunzel – The Pantomime" at the Mechanics Theatre. We were delighted to support another local voluntary organisation who have such similar objectives and values to Scouts. As usual, it was another perfect performance by an enthusiastic talented cast!

Our volunteer leaders held a planning meeting at the start of the year to ensure that all our young people will get the most out of being a member of our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Whilst we focus on gaining many of the wide variety of Activity Badges and the Challenge Awards through the weekly programmes and outdoor activities, we also make sure that our young people have lots of fun too! Ultimately, we are training young people to gain new skills and improve their confidence and their ability to work together as a team.

Our first Scout Camp in 2026 will be in March to Hebden Hey which is situated in the steep wooded valley of Hardcastle Crags but watch this space for details of other outdoor adventure during 2026.

## **COFFEE, BUNS AND BINGO** Wednesday 11 February 2026

Everyone is welcome to enjoy a few games of fun bingo with a cup of coffee/tea and a selection of yummy buns plus a raffle. 1800 to 1930/1945  
Admission £2 per person.

## **OPEN NIGHT AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday 4 March 2026

A celebration of what our young people have achieved during the last year.  
1830 to 1930/1945 Everyone welcome.

## **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 if this is suspended during the holidays or if we are on camp.

## **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: [howardmitchell@btinternet.com](mailto:howardmitchell@btinternet.com)

**MV:** M: 07780 684262    E: [mandivercoe1@gmail.com](mailto:mandivercoe1@gmail.com)

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## **Confirmations**

**Do come along to support and pray for our Confirmation Candidates on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00. Bishop Philip will be leading what is sure to be a joy-filled service!**



## 7<sup>th</sup> Burnley with St Matthews Guide Company

### **Rainbows**

We started the New Year with a show and tell: we asked the Rainbows to bring one of their Christmas presents to show us and it was nice to hear what they had been up to during the Christmas break.

We have started work on a new badge "Communication" which we should be able to complete by Easter and then award the badges.

On January 16th we had our annual visit to the Mechanics theatre to watch the pantomime which this year was 'Rapunzel' and all the Rainbows ... and Leaders! ... had a great time.

In February we celebrated World Thinking Day which this year was extra special as it was the 100th Anniversary of when Thinking Day first started. We were able to present a special Thinking Day anniversary badge to each Rainbow, and Daphne, Charlotte and Poppy also made their promise.

We also welcomed some new Rainbows.

### **Guides**

We came back in January after a refreshing break, with renewed enthusiasm for the New Year starting with a games night, welcoming 2 New Guides, Emma and Georgia who had 'flown up' from Brownies and awarding badges for 'Parliament Week' which took place in November.

During January and February Guides continued to work towards their theme badge 'Skills for the Future' and interest badge 'Upcycling', having already gained their Skill Builder badge 'Lead'. The highlight of January/February was the visit to the Mechanics to see the Panto 'Rapunzel' which was a company event and 'Glow sticks' night wear. Guides wore black clothing with Glow Sticks attached to them: a fun night!!

We were sad to learn that Jess, due to family and work commitments, is unable to return to Guides, after the birth of her daughter Poppy last May.

Jess has been in Guides for a long time and has been a leader for over 10 years. We wish her and her family well for the future and are sure we will keep in touch. We are delighted that Vicky has now returned to Guides as a regular leader and is a great asset to our team.

In February we paid our Annual Subscriptions to Guiding which has gone up considerably this year, leaving funds low at the moment; so we are hoping to have a fund raising event in the next month or so.

**From all the Leaders.**

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## **TODDLER GROUP**

Our toddler group offers a vibrant and friendly atmosphere for children to grow and socialise led, by Sally, Sharon, Senoth, Catherine, Nancy and Jim. We meet **in the church hall every Thursday (9:30 -11:00) during the school term.**

We firmly believe in the power of play and we have an extensive range of toys, along with craft sessions and water play. Whether you are a regular or a first-time visitor (always welcome) you will find a warm welcome and a team that truly loves getting involved with the children.

There is no charge, but donations are always welcome.

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

If you want to ask your computer, tablet, etc., to read the pdf to you, and aren't sure how to, ask Mike Seymour!

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**QUIZ answers:** 1 yellow 2 Terracotta Army 3 blue 4 Mars 5 yellow  
6 hippopotamus 7 purple 8 octopus 9 green 10 burnt orange

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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**  
mob: 07814-052-919  
home: 411-860  
alexthevicar@yahoo.com

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**Rev'd. Kat Gregory-Witham**  
07397-775-388

revkatgw@gmail.com

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

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Rev'd. Enid Briggs  
545-951  
enid\_briggs@hotmail.com

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#### **CHURCH WARDENS**

Walter Jackson 458-889  
Audrey Palmer 420-076  
Harry Rowe 549-356  
Stuart Smith 422-928

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#### **SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS**

Nigel Baldwin 455-180  
Mandi Vercoe 07780-684-262

**PCC TREASURER**  
Howard Mitchell 436-907

**PCC SECRETARY**  
Linda Clark 968-034

**HALL BOOKINGS**  
Stuart Smith 422-928

**JAFFA CLUB:** Sarah Boyden  
sarah.boyden@hotmail.com

**CHURCH SCHOOL HEADTEACHER**  
Alison Whitaker 434-368

**ANNA CHAPLAIN,  
SIGHT LOSS FRIENDLY CHURCH  
& CHRISTIAN AID**  
Mike Seymour 07885-831-868  
mikeseymour169@gmail.com

**CREATION CARE**  
Barbara Baldwin 07539-665-488

**SCOUT GROUP**  
Howard Mitchell 436-907

**GUIDE COMPANY**  
Linda Smith 703-560

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