

Parish Magazine June 2026



Suggested

Donation: 50p

We are the Anglican Parishes of St Stephen's Elton and Kirklees Valley, which is comprised of All Saints Brandlesholme and St James Woolfold. We exist to worship God in the Anglican tradition, to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to serve our neighbour in thought, word, and deed. We are warm, welcoming, and friendly communities in the Liberal Catholic to central tradition of the Church of England. We are proud to be the spiritual home of people of a variety of backgrounds and ages, and we love to welcome newcomers to our services and community events. We also host a variety of non Church-based activities in our buildings, and are always keen to support and welcome new community initiatives and activities.

Our Sunday Services:

All Saints 11am

St James 11am

St Stephens 9am

We share a single Vicar, Rev. Sam Eccleston, who can be contacted on brseclestonop@gmail.com. Our Curate is Rev. Ellise O'Hara. We are also served by a team of very generous and able Clergy, Readers, and ALMs, to whom we are greatly indebted.

Vicar's Letter

In this month's magazine you will find my usual reflection, an account of a royal event, news of forthcoming events and Diocesan appointments, messages of farewell, a new recipe of the month, and much more.

Every month there are thanks due to those who work so hard to contribute to the life of our churches. Of particular note are all those involved in the St Stephen's litter-pick, particularly the caterers, Ellise and Val for their work on social events, Josie for covering an extra service, Joe Walk for his many years of service at evensong,



Tempus Fugit

I recently found myself at the Parish church for the funeral of Kath Pollard. In many ways it was quite an odd experience; not because the service itself was unusual—in fact it was deeply familiar— but rather because Kath had died so suddenly. There is something very jarring about sudden death; about one moment talking or corresponding with someone in the usual fashion, the fashion that presupposes their continued presence in the indefinite future, and the next mourning their final and irreversible absence. It feels something like sitting through half a concert, to find that, at an arbitrary point in the score, the orchestra simply downed their instruments and left, with no explanation.

It's not that there is no explanation of death— clearly there is a physical one— it is that, so often, its timing does not fit well with our sense of human biography; it seems out of place, and out of time; it interrupts the play of meaning across the surface of events.

This impression was only reinforced by other features of the day. Touchingly, lots of the younger members of the choir had come to bid a tearful farewell to Kath. This was, of course, a lovely tribute to what her presence amongst the choir meant, but it was also another index of the discontinuous way change often happens. For me, it feels that in a short period of time, the children of the choir who I knew have become teenagers; the teenagers have become young adults. They have aged in a way that older people don't—they were, and are, suddenly different people— taller, perhaps, and in some cases with deeper voices, but more than that, speaking no longer with the awkwardness of childhood, but rather with the fresh assurance of maturity. This, in a sense, is a good thing— it is an achievement, a natural development. But it is also accompanied by a feeling of sadness, for the children they once were are no longer amongst us, despite the fact that, uncannily, they are still present in an older form.

In a sense then, the day was characterised by the experience of time itself suddenly passing very quickly; time, for us, is a marker of change, but change does not happen in a uniform or predictable way, and so sometimes it feels like a lot of time has passed in a short period—

Vicar's Letter

this was one of those times. And this fact about time, that, from our perspective, it occasionally leaps forward in an ungovernable way, provokes a feeling of insecurity. It prompts us to remember that this journey we are all embarked upon is less like a walk, on which we dictate the pace, and during which we can decide to stop and rest, and more like being adrift on a river, which has a current of its own which is beyond our control.

Part of the function of funerals and other religious observances is to help us mark the time, to bring it, however partially, back into the universe of human meaning; to help us feel that we have, in however small a way, taken part in that onward flow of time, rather than been passively subject to it. By gathering and acting in a time-hallowed way, we bring these discontinuous events back into continuity with other past events; we put them in a series or a category alongside others, and learn to accept them as such.

For religious people, particularly theists, it is also why there is a widespread conviction that God must be beyond time; he cannot be subject to the kinds of disjunctions and seemingly arbitrary changes and losses that human beings are— rather, he must exist in a dimension which is not temporal, or at least is not 'timed' in the same sense that ours is. Perhaps God's sense of time permits change and development but only in one direction and only at a particular rate or speed; so that those in God's presence, for example, can continue to grow in love and holiness forever. In this sense, eternity might be outside of 'time' but nonetheless not reducible to a merely static condition.

This, of course, is a comforting thought. Another source of comfort was found in the presence of the Christian community, who had come together, along with Kath's family, to recognise the loss of one of their own. And in order to do so, they did that thing that had joined them to Kath in the first place; worship. And in this, a sense of continuity which had been interrupted by death was, in a way, restored— those things that mattered to Kath still matter; those things she loved will go on; those social bonds of which she was a part endure.

Interestingly, Rev. McVeety, who was presiding, took this connection one step further. Reflecting on Kath's love of music, he pointed out that the Christian conception of eternity is continuous with its notion of the church— heaven, for Christians, is nothing more or less than worshipping God in his immediate presence. In a sense, then, every time we worship, we join with those who do likewise in eternity, which is why, in the eucharistic prayer, we talk about being in the company of the saints.

All of this, of course, has further implications, one subset of which is for mission. What helps religion to 'land'; to feel vital and relevant and to be perceived as a source of goodness and truth and hope, is precisely the way that it addresses that intersection of time and eternity. It is here that faith becomes not only obviously appropriate— eternity cannot be defined,



Vicar's Letter

quantified, dissected, or experimented upon— but also entirely necessary; the choice we are faced with, when contemplating mortality and eternity, is faith or despair.

There is something in all of this which helps explain the relative decline in religious observance in recent centuries. It is a commonplace untruth that there are 'no atheists in foxholes'; this isn't accurate, and it isn't fair to the bravery of atheists, and yet it does contain the important truth that religion, whatever else it is about, has to be about time, mortality, and eternity. In recent decades, our proximity to the kind of disjunction, the kind of sudden closure of an otherwise open horizon that we meet at funerals or in the rapid maturation of young people, has become less of a commonplace experience. We are more insulated from change and risk than we ever were; we age, on average, more slowly, we have more confidence in the predictability and manageability of our surroundings and our entitlement to our fair share of the fruits thereof. Not only this, but electronic media, beginning with television and intensifying with the online world, give us the illusion of being able to step out of time. We watch reconstructions of the past or anticipations of the future; we barely notice programmes recorded in advance and we can re-watch old favourites; often, the precise when and where of the events depicted on our screens is unimportant, and in some cases is unspecified— the drama is set nowhere, and nowhen. This is even more the case in the hours we spend 'scrolling'; the short clips or images we watch are almost entirely decontextualised and uncoupled from any specific time and place. This is perhaps what is comforting about them; how they help us to relax and decompress from the inexorable flow of events. And yet, these distractions are also dangerous, providing as they do an ersatz form of eternity, they lull us into a false sense of security regarding the exchangeability and retrievability of the present moment, which, in reality, is gone forever the moment it passes. It therefore shields us from precisely the conflict that faith addresses; it prevents us from taking the first step on the path up Mount Sinai.

The missional task, then, is not just to call people to church, or to call people to be disciples, but to call people back to reality, and away from comforting distractions. It is to continue to hallow time, as we do at funerals, weddings, and baptisms, and to try to teach people as we are doing so why such things must be done; to help them to see change as a window into eternity, rather than yet another set of brute, and meaningless facts in a long list of identical vacuities. It is a difficult task, but one the church must rise to.



Faith Online

There is a lot of fantastic Christian content online; it comes from Christians of different denominations, traditions, and languages, and encompasses everything from Bible Study and Theology to Christian music, architecture, and art. Every month I will aim to share some of it with you.

Bishop Rowan Williams discusses the subject of his latest book with the **Institute of Art and Ideas** here: [link](#)

Rev. Malcolm Guite discusses lessons from a life in ministry here: [link](#)

A short visit to a **Carmelite ossuary** church in Portugal here: [link](#)

The **Alma Consort** perform 'Be Thou My Vision' here: [link](#)

EvanBnormal interviews a retired Vicar here: [link](#)

The **Gesualdo Six** perform 'Most Holy Mother of God' here:

[link](#)

More + **Rowan**, this time discussing American politics with the **Spectator Podcast** here: [link](#)

The Maries take a break from their usual musical fare to sing a more contemporary hymn here: [link](#)

The LifeRoad Singers perform a Korean version of a popular contemporary hymn here: [link](#)

Commander Reid Wiseman talks about the religious dimension of his recent space mission here: [link](#)

The Stanley Brothers perform a contemporary worship song here: [link](#)

The Pope's official DJ playing live in Chile here: [link](#)

The Petersens perform 'In Christ Alone' here: [link](#)

The Sisters of Aquinas perform part of the traditional Easter liturgical chant here: [link](#)

Dr Wes Huff discusses the symbolism of the Easter Narrative here: [link](#)

A mass outbreak of hymn singing in **Rotterdam central station** here: [link](#)

Professional footballers discussing **Christian faith** on their team here: [link](#)

Study Group is typically recorded in an audio file as are sermons -if you have missed a session/service and wish to listen please contact the Vicar.



Revd. Canon Simon Cook to be the next Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton



We are pleased to share the news that the Revd Canon Simon Cook has been appointed as the next Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton. Simon succeeds the Ven Dr Rachel Mann, who will retire at the end of July after many years of faithful ministry in our diocese. Simon brings significant experience of parish leadership and collaborative ministry, having served as Area Dean of Bolton for the past five years alongside his recent work supporting the archdeaconries as Acting Assistant Archdeacon. Accepting this new role, Simon said:

“I am humbled and delighted that Bishop David has invited me to become the next Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton in succession to Rachel, following careful discernment and a robust interview process. I dare to believe that God has called me into this role for this exciting new season in our diocese, as we begin to pray and work together to deliver our new vision and strategy for the glory of God and for the increase of his Kingdom.

“I have loved serving as Area Dean of Bolton for the past five years and will miss many aspects of that ministry, but I am thrilled that I will continue to serve the deaneries of Bolton, Bury and Rossendale, and Salford and Leigh in this new role. I look forward to meeting many new, and reconnecting with familiar, friends and co-workers for Christ in the coming months. “I am very conscious that Rachel’s shoes are big ones to fill and that I will have much to learn, so I would ask for your patience and your prayers as I prepare to leave my current role and take up this new post. At the same time, we continue to hold Rachel in prayer as she prepares for retirement, with deep thanksgiving for all she has given us through her ministry as Archdeacon. Above all, may this time of transition be marked by anticipation and excitement for what God is going to do in the Archdeaconry of Salford and Bolton in the years ahead.”

On the day of the announcement, Bishop David said:

“I am delighted to appoint Simon as the next Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton. He has already demonstrated strong leadership as Area Dean, walking alongside parishes across Bolton with wisdom and generosity of spirit. We look forward to welcoming him to the Bishop’s Leadership Team as he takes on this new role.

“Simon succeeds Rachel Mann, whose ministry as Archdeacon has been characterised by insight, creativity and devoted service. I am confident that Simon will build on the strong foundations she has laid and help carry forward the delivery of our diocesan vision. I hold both Simon and Rachel in my prayers as they navigate this time of change and new beginnings, giving thanks for all that has been and trusting God for what is yet to come.”



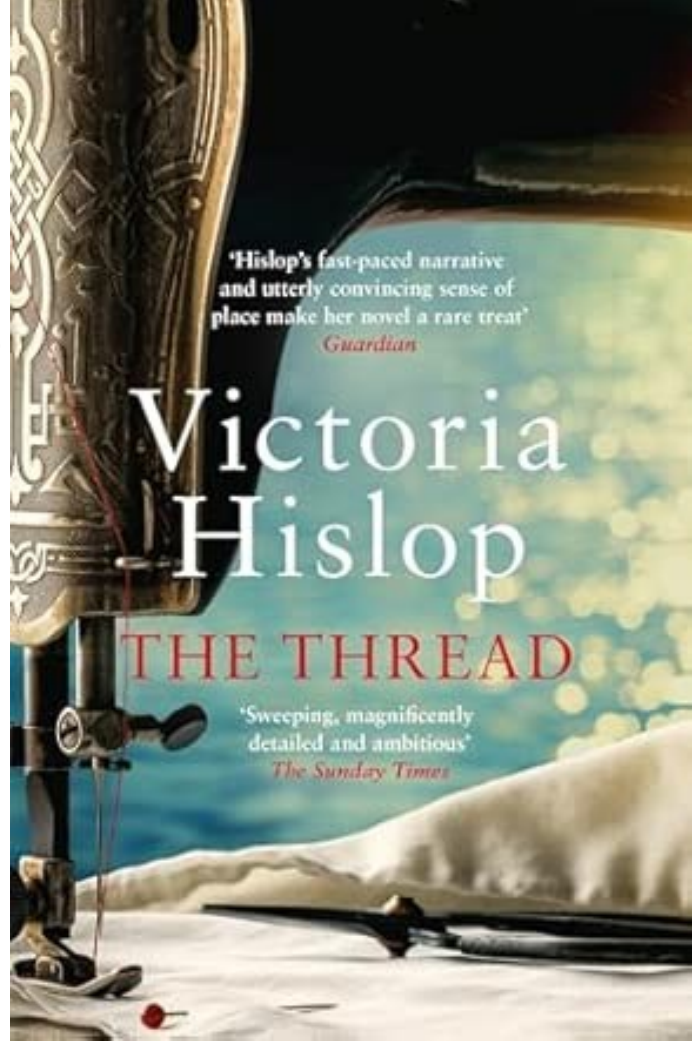
Church Book Club.



The official title of the book club (which we need because we borrow sets of books from the library) is:

The Kirklees Valley Church Book Club.

The next book we are reading is "The Thread " by Victoria Hislop.



ST STEPHEN'S
RACE NIGHT



SATURDAY 20th JUNE 2026
 — 7.30PM • CENTENARY ROOM —

TICKETS £10
 Pie & Pea Supper
 + Stake for Each Race

Bring Your Own Drinks & Nibbles

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:
VAL EUSTICE • 07933 986785
BARBARA INGHAM

**CHURCH TRIP TO
 CHESTER CATHEDRAL
 TO SEE THE EXHIBITION
 'THREADS THROUGH THE BIBLE'
 MONDAY 8TH JUNE**



Tea with the King!

On 6th May I attended a Buckingham Palace Garden Party after being nominated in recognition of my volunteering for Bury Hospice for 35 years. It was a wonderful day - the King, Queen, Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh and Princess Royal were in attendance, plus 8,000 guests.

This was a great honour and for which I was truly grateful.

Joyce Keeble

Congratulations and well done Joyce from all of us at St Stephens!



St Stephen's Litterpick

The (now seemingly annual) litter pick was a success once again with 27 bags of litter removed from the streets of Elton. Interestingly, there seemed to be less litter on the streets compared with last year, which can only be a good thing. Thanks to all who came and helped out, whether litter picking or catering.



THE BIG BURY BALSAM BASH!

IS RETURNING TO BURRS COUNTRY PARK WEEKLY!

HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE HIMALAYAN BALSAM IN OUR PARKS AND GREEN SPACES!

EVERY FRIDAY @ 6:30PM

MEET BY THE CHIMNEY

ALL YOU NEED IS A DRINK, GLOVES AND STURDY SHOES.

ALL AGES AND ABILITIES WELCOME!



PULL IT - SNAP IT - STAMP IT



ICONS ON AMMO BOXES

SEE THESE INCREDIBLE ICONS HERE AT ST. EDMUND'S FALINGE, ROCHDALE

22 ICONS INCLUDING 10 ICONS NEVER SEEN BEFORE OUTSIDE OF THE UKRAINE

📅	SUNDAY 31ST MAY	2PM - 4PM
📅	MONDAY 1ST JUNE	2PM - 6PM
📅	WEDNESDAY 3RD JUNE	2PM - 5PM
📅	FRIDAY 5TH JUNE	2PM - 5PM
📅	SATURDAY 6TH JUNE	12 NOON - 6PM
📅	SUNDAY 7TH JUNE	12 NOON - 4PM

ON SATURDAY WE WILL BE JOINED BY THE WONDERFUL

Cadence SINGERS

FOR AN INFORMAL AFTERNOON OF SONG FREE

Churches Together in Bury Presents

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY BANGERS

Re-wind time with some old-skool hymns and songs!



Saturday 20th June 12-1pm

Mill Gate Shopping Centre, Bury (outside T.J. Hughes)

**Yoga and
Exercise at
St James'
Church Hall**

GENTLE CHAIR EXERCISE CLASSES FOR FUNCTIONAL MOVEMENT, MOBILITY, CONFIDENCE AND COMMUNITY



**NO KNEELING or LYING DOWN
NEW TERM BEGINS TUESDAY, 9TH JUNE**

- **09:40 - 10:30 - OPTIONAL BREW
AND CHAT AFTERWARDS**

OR

**11:10 - 12:00 - OPTIONAL BREW AND CHAT
BEFORE**

**ST JAMES CHURCH CENTRE, OFF WALSHAW
ROAD, BL8 1TD**

£5.50 PER CLASS BOOKED AS A BLOCK



YOGA Timetable

MONDAY

10:30 - 12:00 - Mum and
Baby Yoga
18:15 - 19:45 -Pregnancy
20:00 - 21:00 - Beginners

TUESDAY

09:50 - 10:40 - Chair Yoga
11:10 -12:00 - Chair yoga
18:45 - 19:45 - Slow Flow
20:00 - 21:00 - Slow Flow

SATURDAY

07:00 - 08:00 - VINYASA
08:10 - 09:10 - PRIMAL
FLOW
09:20 - 10:00 - YOGA
SHRED (HIIT)

SUNDAYS (MONTHLY)

YIN YOGA
RESTORATIVE YOGA
PLEASE SEE BOOKWHEN
FOR NEXT DATES

**COMMUNITY
CLASSES
PROMOTING
WELLNESS
FOR ALL**

A photograph of a yoga studio with wooden floors. Several blue bolsters are placed on mats. The text 'COMMUNITY CLASSES PROMOTING WELLNESS FOR ALL' is overlaid in a glowing, purple, bubbly font.

Archdeacon's Visitation 2026

Visitation services take place each summer following the election of churchwardens at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Held at various locations across the diocese, these services formally admit elected parish churchwardens to their office, with sidespersons and PCC members also making declarations of support.

These services are an important part of the Church calendar, carrying special legal significance. A churchwarden is not considered to be in office until they have been officially admitted by an archdeacon. Historically, when churchwardens were admitted, they would report on the moral standing of the clergy, the condition of the parish and church buildings, and the administration of divine service. Today, visitation services focus on prayer, encouragement, and support, providing an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the vital ministry of churchwardens. Visitation services also offer a chance to meet fellow churchwardens, Area Deans, and your Archdeacon.

Our local visitation is at 7:30pm on Wednesday 8th July at Christ Church Walshaw.



Farewell Evensong for Archdeacon Rachel



As Rachel prepares to retire from her role as Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton, all are invited to a special service of Evensong. We look forward to gathering together to celebrate her ministry and bid her a fond farewell.

5:30pm on Sunday 5th July
Manchester Cathedral

Exploring Church Architecture

This month's style for your consideration is Baroque. Baroque church architecture emerged in late 16th-century Italy as a direct expression of the Catholic Counter-Reformation's desire to inspire faith through awe and emotion. Rooted in Renaissance classicism yet transformed by theatricality, it sought to engage worshippers' senses and hearts rather than merely their intellect. Architects such as Carlo Maderno, Gian Lorenzo Bernini, and Francesco Borromini used dynamic curves, dramatic light, and rich ornamentation to create spaces that seemed to move and breathe with divine energy. The style spread rapidly

across Europe and Latin America, becoming a visual language of triumph and devotion that fused art, architecture, and liturgy into a single, immersive experience

BAROQUE CHURCH ARCHITECTURE

FACADE DESIGN

INTERIOR PLAN

BAROQUE DOME

ARTISTIC DETAILS

INTERIOR ELEVATION

THE EVOLUTION OF BAROQUE CHURCH ARCHITECTURE

17TH & 18TH CENTURIES

ITALIAN BAROQUE

ROME & ITALY

CENTRAL EUROPEAN BAROQUE

PRAGUE & VIENNA

SPANISH COLONIAL BAROQUE

THE AMERICAS

CLASSICAL & THEATRICAL

OPULENT & DRAMATIC

RUSTIC & DEVOTIONAL

BAROQUE CHURCH INFLUENCES SPREAD ACROSS EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS

A Farewell Message From Joe Walk



A fond (though not total) farewell.

I started my training as a Reader in 2018 and in the autumn awaited with some nervousness where I was to work in my Parish Placement. I was allocated St Stephen's Elton. I looked up where you were on the map and all about you on A Church Near You. The Good Lord must have had something to do with this offer being made and in persuading me to accept it.

I was in placement from Feb to May 2019. I was welcomed from the outset (helped somewhat by already knowing Barbara Ingham and John Ratcliffe) by all who both welcomed me into the community and guided me on my training path. I owe so much in particular to Paul, Celia, Harold and Tony. I still use the notes that Harold gave me for Evensong. I won't attempt to list everyone for fear of missing somebody out. Just an enormous thank you to all

I felt so attached to St Stephen's that when my training was over, with permission, I continued as part of the team leading Evensong. I have done so ever since but now due to circumstances beyond my control I will have to cease. I wish you all well at St Stephens, I will miss you.

God Bless,

Joe

PBS Chaplain

On the 24th of May at a service of Choral Evensong at Bolton Parish Church I was inducted as Chaplain to the Manchester Branch of the Prayer Book Society by Bishop Mark. It was a fantastic service, with several combined choirs leading the singing, and +Mark preaching. It was also a scorching hot day, so choir dress was hardly ideal, but it was cool enough inside church.

Sam



FAITH, FRIENDS, FUN



St Stephen's Sunday School

All Welcome

Weekly during the main service

Speak to Leanne or the Vicar



0-5

Baby and Toddler Group

EVERY WEDNESDAY

9:30AM-11:30AM

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

HEBBURN DRIVE, BURY, BL8 1ED

ALL WELCOME

FREE TO ATTEND



BIBLE STUDY COURSE

THE GOSPEL OF

LUKE



ALL SAINTS CHURCH

WEDNESDAYS 1.30PM

25th Anniversary of Ordination as a Priest



You are invited to a Eucharist to celebrate the
25th Anniversary of Ordination as a Priest of

Rev Canon Anne Joan Edwards

Tuesday 30th June 2026 6:30pm

All Saints Church, Hebburn Drive,

Brandlesholme Bury BL8 1ED

Followed by refreshments

RSVP anne@sajm.net or 07891574690

Poem of the Month

W.B. Yeats 1865-1939 poet, Nobel prize winner, Irish senator, mystic. You can read more about him here: [link](#)

The Second Coming

*Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.
Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.
The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out
When a vast image out of Spiritus Mundi
Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.
The darkness drops again; but now I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?*



At St James' church hall

**GOLDEN
OLDIES NIGHT**

IT
E
BLE
ET

**13th June
7 PM
supper included**

£5 a ticket



**ANGLICAN
SAINTS**

St Stephen's Church
Mondays, 7pm



Come and join us at **St. James' church hall** for the very best of 50's, 60's and 70's. Bring your dancing shoes and have some great fun with friends remembering the greatest music of all time!! At just 5 pound a ticket you get a supper, but feel free to bring snacks and your own drinks. Tea and Coffee will be provided. It's on 13th June at 7pm. For more details and to purchase a ticket please do see Ellise.

A reflection on the Book of Ruth Chapter 4

A story ends but seeds are sown for another story Or The End of the Beginning

I suggest you read all of Ruth chapter 4

We have been through a journey, of sorts, reading through and reflecting on aspects the Book of Ruth. The Book of Ruth shows us the value of stories. A story which starts in unsettled times, times which require some hard decisions. The decisions required journeying out, leaving the normal behind but knowing where you wish, hope, to get to but not sure it would work out. It was a dangerous, stressful and uncertain journey and yet despite this Naomi and Ruth arrive safely, I imagine exhausted but relieved, nonetheless. In our imagination we have walked with Naomi and Ruth, from Moab, modern day Jordan, back to the home country and the town of Bethlehem and having arrived set about building a new life, finding food and building relationships. It was something to celebrate.

The Book of Ruth ends with some negotiating by Boaz in order that he can marry Ruth and bring the security that Naomi desires for Ruth. These practice details are important and effectively make a contract that cements Naomi's and Ruth's role in the establishing a lineage that take us from Boaz through to David, the descendants Boaz's son is Obed (Servant of God), Obed's son is Jesse, and Jesse is the father of David, King David. Our scriptures point out the importance of the union of Boaz and Ruth. Naomi and Ruth return to Bethlehem, and the roots of David are in Bethlehem. Ruth and Boaz give the explanation as to why Jesus was born in Bethlehem according to Luke's account of the Nativity! The Carol 'Oh little town of Bethlehem' is probably one of the favourite Christmas Carols. Singing the carols and writing this piece brought back memories of Bethlehem. We have visited Bethlehem, as pilgrims, on a few occasions, our favourite place in Bethlehem is The Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation (BASR). It started as a Leonard Cheshire Home and was handed over to the Bethlehem Arab Society in 1975 and the current site was developed in the 1990's.

The BASR is a non-profit non-government organization that is nationally recognized for the comprehensive medical and rehabilitation services it gives to beneficiaries from all over Palestine. The hospital is open to all, regardless of gender, age, religion or social class and is committed to enhancing the overall quality of a patient's life. The hospital has a holistic approach to treatment with specialist departments in physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and also surgery. Integration into community life is a key objective.

Edmund Shehadeh the then director writes:



“Our goal is to change people’s attitudes towards disability so that the disabled are recognized as fellow human beings with great potential.”

(Source McCabe Pilgrimages)

We visited the centre and had lunch there, rather than a commercial restaurant. There was a peace there despite signs of the opposite. There in this peace children were being nursed but then looking up we could see bullet holes in the glass of a new extension. Bethlehem was a dangerous place, a Palestinian town surrounded by Israeli troops and roadblocks, when we visited. The words of the Carol ‘Oh little town of Bethlehem’ had a rough edge



‘Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by

The next line the next line gives hope

Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light
The hope and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight

The Rehabilitation Centre was a light of hope that did reach out bringing together those two unlikely bedfellows Hope and Fear. As we continue to look to the future with our hope and fears let us try to see the flame of the everlasting light shining through in the gracious generosity, care and compassion of friends, family and strangers. We are all on the journey, let us walk together. In silence let us reflect on our time together as we journeyed through the Book of Ruth.

Lord, we thank you that you were there during our journey. You know we were not always conscious of your presence, but you equally know at times we have struggled with all the events of the last year. There have been trials, losses and really tough days but the Christmas story, did remind us of Your light. Thank you that your light reminds of the new life you bring and the peace, hope and joy. Fill us with this peace, hope, and joy. May your Spirit direct our hearts and minds and remind us you are with us as we celebrate and journey through this New Year but also strengthened that you are with us when things seem broken. Amen

Below are the words ‘O little town of Bethlehem’ it is not just for Christmas!.

If you use YouTube, you can find a link to the song below. An alert the advertisements that appear in YouTube are random.

O little town of Bethlehem,
 How still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 The silent stars go by;
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth
 The everlasting Light.
 The hopes and fears of all the years
 Are met in thee tonight.
 For Christ is born of Mary
 And, gathered all above
 While mortals sleep, the angels keep
 Their watch of wond'ring love.
 O morning stars, together
 Proclaim the holy birth,
 And praises sing to God the King,
 And peace to all on earth!
 How silently, how silently
 The wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts to human hearts
 The blessings of his heav'n.
 No ear may hear his coming,
 But in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive him,
 still
 The dear Christ enters in.
 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
 Descend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin and enter in,
 Be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels
 The great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us,
 Our Lord Immanuel!



Prayerful thoughts to close this reflection.

May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us. Amen
 (Teresa of Avila)

Fr Derek

FAMILIES OF ST. STEPHEN'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

fundraising
CAR BOOT SALE

£10 PER CAR

£15 PER VAN

£1 ENTRY PER ADULT
 CHILDREN FREE

REDUCE
 REUSE
 RECYCLE

SATURDAY 27TH JUNE 8-10AM
 ST STEPHENS PRIMARY SCHOOL, COLVILLE DRIVE, BURY, BL8 2DX
 PLEASE CONTACT SCHOOL TO BOOK: 0161 764 1132

YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJqgspX57C0>

Recipe of the Month-

Roast Chicken with Parmentier Potatoes

Breathe new life into your next roast chicken dinner by 'butterflying' the chicken and serving it with these deliciously crispy potato chunks.

Ingredients

2 large floury potatoes such as Maris Piper, cut into small chunks
1 tbsp dried mixed herbs
2 large skinless and boneless chicken breasts
200g cherry tomatoes (a mix of colours if possible), halved

Method

Get your oven warmed up to 220°C/ fan 200°C/gas 7.

Cook the potatoes in a saucepan of boiling water over a high heat for 4 minutes, then drain and leave to dry in the pan.

Put the potatoes and half of the dried herbs in a non-stick roasting tin and spray with low-calorie cooking spray. Toss well and roast for 25 minutes.

At the same time, put the chicken breasts between 2 sheets of baking paper and lightly bash with a rolling pin until they're about 2cm thick. Sprinkle with the remaining herbs and a little seasoning and spray with low-calorie cooking spray.

When the potatoes have had nearly 25 minutes, preheat your grill to high. Stick the chicken under the grill for 10 minutes or until cooked through, turning halfway.

Stir the tomatoes through the potatoes and scatter the kale around the tin, then spritz with low-calorie cooking spray and sprinkle some salt over the kale. Put the tin back in the oven and cook for 10 minutes or until the potatoes and kale are nice and crispy.

Keep an eye on the kale - it can burn in the blink of an eye!

Serve the chicken with the potatoes and veg. 200g kale, thick stems discarded, leaves shredded



Parish Information

Pastoral Teams

Visiting those who are infirm and providing home communion. If you would like to receive home communion, or join the team please contact the Vicar or:

All Saints

Mark Cresswell

Lynne Williamson

St James

Ann Redding

St Stephens

Rev. Ellise O'Hara

Study Group



Regular Events/Groups

Mon: Community Café Brandlesholme Community Ctr. 11am-1pm, **Ladies Club** 2nd Mon of Month 2.00pm St Francis House

Wed: St Stephen's (Centenary Room) **Midweekers** 1.30pm weekly, **Mothers' Union** 1st Weds of the Month 7.00pm, **Games evening** 7.30 pm 2nd Weds of the month, **Prayer meeting** 7pm 4th Weds of the month.

Thurs: Prayer Group 4th Thurs of month All Saints Church 10am **Arts and Crafts** Group weekly 2pm St Francis House

Children's Activities and Uniformed Organisations

St Stephen's Junior Church: every Sunday **Toddler Group:** Wednesdays 9.30 All Saints

Beavers: Mon 5.45 **Cubs/Scouts:** Mon 6:45 St Stephen's School **Rainbows:** Wednesdays 5.45pm St Stephen's School

Thursdays 4.30 St James' Centre **Brownies:** Wednesdays 6.45pm St Stephen's School

Drama Group: Thursdays 7pm at St Stephen's Church

June Rota

07.06.26		Pres	Preach	Deacon	Colour	Green
	AS	11 S. Eccleston			Readings	Genesis 12:1-9 Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
	SS	9 S. Eccleston		E. O'Hara		
	SJ	11 E. O'Hara	E. O'Hara			
14.06.25	AS	11 J. Partridge			Colour	Green
					Readings	Genesis 18:1-15, 21-17
	SS	S. Ec- 9 cleston	E. O'Hara			Matthew 9:35-10:8
		S. Ec- 6 cleston	S. Eccleston		Evensong	
	SJ	11 S. Eccleston		E. O'Hara		Baptism
21.06.26	AS	11 D. Akker			Colour	Green
					Readings	Genesis 21:8-21
	SS	S. Ec- 9 cleston	E. O'Hara	E. O'Hara		Matt 10:24-39
	SJ	S. Ec- 11 cleston	F. Nuttall	E. O'Hara		
28.06.26	AS	11 Joint Service	SJ		Colour	Green
					Readings	Genesis 22:1-14 Matt 10:40-end
	SS	9 S. Eccleston				
	SJ	11 E. O'Hara		First Eucharist		

July Rota

05.07.26		Pres	Preach	Deacon	Colour	Green
	AS	11 S. Eccleston			Readings	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-end Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-end
	SS	9 S. Eccleston		E. O'Hara		
	SJ	11 E. O'Hara	E. O'Hara		Baptism	
12.07.26	AS	11 J. Partridge			Colour	Green
	SS	S. Ec- 9 cleston	E. O'Hara		Readings	Genesis 25:19-end Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
	SJ	11 S. Eccleston		E. O'Hara	Evensong	
19.07.26	AS	11 D. Akker			Colour	Green
	SS	S. Ec- 9 cleston	E. O'Hara	E. O'Hara	Readings	Genesis 28:10-19a Matt 13:24-30, 36-43
	SJ	11 S. Eccleston		E. O'Hara		
26.07.26	AS	11 S. Eccleston			Colour	Green
	SS	9 S. Eccleston			Readings	Genesis 29:15-28 Matt 13:31-33, 44-52
	SJ	11 S. Stonestreet				

Contact Details

Vicar: Fr. S. Eccleston O.P. brseclestonop@gmail.com 07851121800

All Saints' Contacts:

Warden: Sue Stonestreet 07763 147598

Art and Craft Group: Joyce Abraham 0161 764 2247

Bible Study: The Vicar

Pastoral Visiting: Mark Cresswell 07521087791 Lynne Williamson 07722 624847

Choir: Stuart McArthur 07821 287018

Prayer Group: Joyce Abraham 0161 764 2247 Lynne Williamson 07722 624847

St Francis' Ladies Club: Lynne Williamson 07722 624847

Room Hire at All Saints/St Francis: allsaints.kirkleesvalley@gmail.com 07368 460378

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16034/

www.allsaintsandstjames.com

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsbury>

St James' Contacts:

Mothers' Union Ann Redding 0781 112 9355

Room hire at St James' Centre Ann Redding 0781 112 9355

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16046/

www.allsaintsandstjames.com

St Stephen's Contacts:

Warden: Carol Heyes 07354902873

Email: ststephenelton@gmail.com

News sheet/rotas: Tony Parsons tony.parsons67@gmail.com

Room Hire: Keith Hughes hughes_k4@sky.com

Website www.ststephenelton.com

<https://www.facebook.com/people/St-Stephens-Church-Elton/61575109828589/>