

August 2024

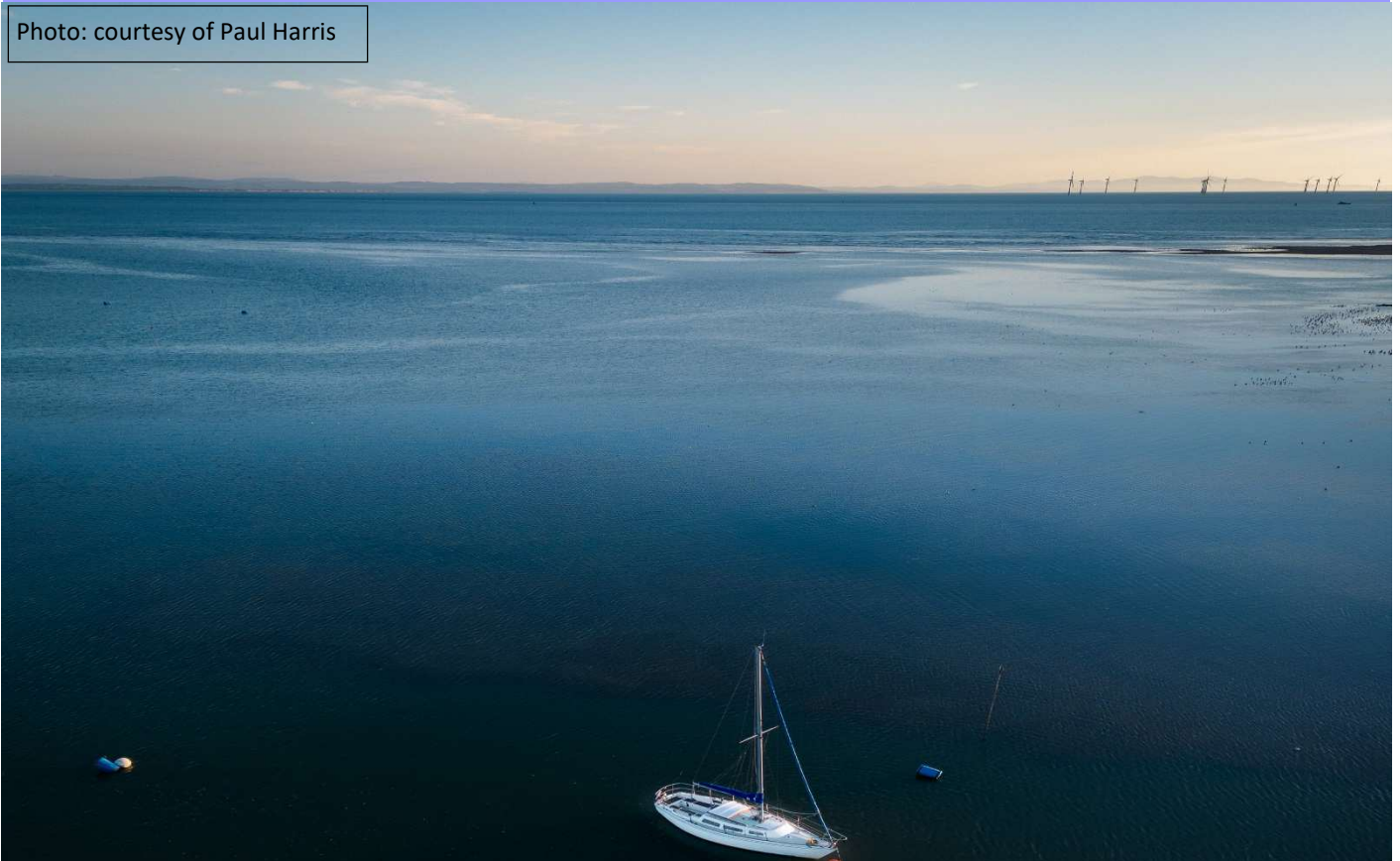
# FOCUS

Issue 287



## Parish Magazine of St Stephen's, Hightown

Photo: courtesy of Paul Harris



In wisdom you have made them all.  
There is the sea spread far and wide.  
Wherein move creatures beyond number, both small and  
great.  
There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan, which  
you have made to play in the deep.



## Editor's Note

What do you do at 9pm every Sunday night?

If, like me, you go online to join Reverend Keith in his regular Sunday night prayers, you will recognise the words written on the front of the magazine this month. They are taken from Psalm

104 and poetically summarize God's creation, as found in the first chapter of Genesis. The words give us an exuberant and masterful survey of God's good earth. Attributed by scholars to King David, it focuses on the Spirit's work in creating the world and in sustaining it, even though it is now fallen. Before redemption was necessary, and as redemption is still ongoing, the Spirit of God was active and remains active in creation.

When I hear Reverend Keith reading these words on a Sunday evening I feel elated, because not only can we see the beauty around us, but we are part of that beauty, and the beauty witnesses to the glory of God. I recall Louis Armstrong's gravelly voice singing the iconic 'What a Wonderful World'. But there's a huge difference between that more modern song and this ancient song. Armstrong stops with the world's beauty, while the psalm is designed to sing about God's role in that beauty. It is a hymn of praise to the God who created nature and beauty and the psalmist's use of the word 'wisdom' suggests that he believes there is a mind behind this creation.

Why not read the psalm for yourself?

Many thanks to Paul Harris for his stunning photograph of our beautiful Hightown coast.

Colette

Entries for future issues of Focus to be sent to

**[Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk](mailto:Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk)**

*Please submit before last day of month*

Dear Friends,

The holiday season is upon us, and I have heard so many people say that it's a shame the weather doesn't seem to know this!!

As I write, at the start of July, it has been unseasonably cool, and I know several folks have resorted to using a 'little extra heat', and even turning the heating on for an hour or more!

Let's hope we do get some further sunny days to enjoy being outside in God's creation.

Our holidays have their origin in Holy Days, a day of dedication to religious festivals, and saints.

Apparently, the Romans were the first civilisation to indulge in holidays. But rather than the week or two, or if we are very fortunate, three, that we have, wealthy Romans would go away for up to two years!

The holiday is a break away from usual routine and lots of our groups will take a break over the summer.

Our Parent and Toddler Group, that meets on a Friday morning, after the summer break, will be having a refresh: a new name, a slightly new time, and new activities for our toddlers. Watch out for more exciting information in the September issue of Focus!

Churches Together in Altcar, Formby and Hightown are having a "Holiday at Home" again, this August, and St Stephen's is hosting a Beetle Drive and Afternoon Cream Tea on Wednesday 14th.

Rest is important. God finished his work of creation on the seventh day, and then he rested from all his work. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy. This is our Sunday, a day when we meet together in the House of the Lord to worship, give thanks, receive in Word and Sacrament and rest in His presence.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest". +Matthew 11:28

If you have not been to church for a while, or never been, do come. You will be made most welcome.

Whatever you are doing, wherever you are over the summer holidays, I hope you find some time for rest and refreshment.

God Bless,



# St Stephen's Church Services – August

FRIDAY 2ND	09.30	MORNING PRAYER
<b>SUNDAY 4TH</b>	10.30	EUCCHARIST
<b>SUNDAY 4TH</b>	18.00	EVENSONG
WEDNESDAY 7TH	10.30	EUCCHARIST
FRIDAY 9TH	09.30	MORNING PRAYER
<b>SUNDAY 11TH</b>	10.30	EUCCHARIST <b><u>NO</u></b> TODDLER CHURCH TODAY
<b>SUNDAY 11TH</b>	18.00	EVENSONG
WEDNESDAY 14TH	10.30	EUCCHARIST
FRIDAY 16TH	09.30	MORNING PRAYER
<b>SUNDAY 18TH</b>	10.30	EUCCHARIST
<b>SUNDAY 18TH</b>	18.00	EVENSONG
WEDNESDAY 21ST	10.30	EUCCHARIST
FRIDAY 23RD	09.30	MORNING PRAYER
<b>SUNDAY 25TH</b>	10.30	EUCCHARIST
<b>SUNDAY 25TH</b>	18.00	EVENSONG
WEDNESDAY 28TH	10.30	EUCCHARIST
FRIDAY 30TH	09.30	MORNING PRAYER

## Sunday Coffee Rota

4th Jan Williams  
11th Hilary Munro  
18th Margaret Bate  
25th Jane Croxton

For Baptisms, Weddings  
and Funerals or any  
pastoral need, please  
contact the Vicar,  
Revd Keith Thornborough  
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**St Stephen's**  
on **0151 929 3097**

**Watch this Space**  
for the new look  
**Toddler Group**  
coming to  
**St Stephen's Hall**  
next term



## Brass Rota

# August

Shirley Burns



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# Prayer Prompts For July



- 1st. For the start of a new month, may we be truly thankful.  
*For all the people of the Range and Altcar Camp.*
- 2nd. May we give thanks for the beautiful weather we have been having.  
*For the people of Hester Close and St Stephen's Road.*
- 3rd. In memory of our congregational members who are no longer with us.  
*For the people of Old Acre and Riverside.*
- 4th. **10th Sunday after Trinity.** For the workers in front line charities in areas of conflict.  
*For all the people of Hightown.*
- 5th. Pray for our new vicar and those who support and guide him.  
*For the People of St George's Road and Rathbone Road.*
- 6th. Reflect on the transfiguration of our Lord.  
*For the people of this parish.*
- 7th. Pray for our missionaries.  
*For all the people of Grasmere Road.*
- 8th. Pray for the families and children in our church congregation.  
*For the people of Wignalls Meadow and Oakfield Road.*
- 9th. In memory of Mary Sumner, founder of Mothers' Union 1921.  
*For the people of Whitfield Close and Oakfield Road.*
- 10th. Pray for those receiving their A level results. May they gain their desired results.  
*For the people of Thirlmere Road.*
- 11th. **11th Sunday after Trinity.** Pray for those struggling with mental illness.  
*For the all the people of Hightown.*
- 12th. Pray for those receiving their GCSE results. May they be pleased with their success.  
*For the people of School Road and Gorse Lane.*
- 13th. In memory of Florence Nightingale, 1910.  
*For the people of Sandhills and Briary Croft.*
- 14th. Pray for those fighting physical illness and those who care for them.  
*For the people of Holmfield and Moss Lane.*
- 15th. Give thanks for the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
*For the people of North End Lane.*
- 16th. Pray for our beautiful Village, may we be truly thankful.  
*For the people of Mark Road and Sandy Lane.*

## Prayer prompts (contd)



- 17th. Pray for those struggling in mind, body and spirit.  
*For the people of Langley Close and Richmond Close.*
- 18th. **12th Sunday after Trinity.** For nature and all creatures great and small.  
*For all the people of Hightown.*
- 19th. Pray for those who are lonely. May they find a friend to brighten their day.  
*For the people of Marston Crescent and Larkhill Grove.*
- 20th. Give thanks for William and Catherine Booth, founders of the Salvation Army 1912  
*For the people of Sandilands Grove.*
- 21st. For those who have lost connection with the church.  
*For the people of Windermere Rd.*
- 22nd. Pray for those who serve in our Armed Forces both in the UK and abroad.  
*For the people of Blundell Road and Emerson Close.*
- 23rd. Pray for those in the NHS .  
*For the people of Alton Close and Blundell Avenue.*
- 24th. Pray for our church wardens and members of the PCC  
*For the people of North Dunes and Westway.*
- 25th. Give thanks for Bartholomew the apostle.  
*For the people of Tudor Gardens and Thirlmere Mews.*
- 26th. **13th Sunday after Trinity.** Pray for all those struggling both emotionally/ financially.  
*For all the people of Hightown.*
- 27th. Pray for the different groups meeting in our church hall and those who run them.  
*For the people of Village Way and Roundway.*
- 28th. Pray for the work of churches together and for Our lady of Victories  
*For the people Withins Field and Blundell Grove*
- 29th. Pray for the kindness we may show to strangers as well as friends.  
*For the people of Elmcroft Lane.*
- 30th. Pray for those who are housebound.  
*For the People of Orrell Hill Lane and Delph Lane.*
- 31st. Pray for those displaced across the world due to war or conflict.  
*For the people of Thornbeck Avenue and Mayfair Close.*

## The Parish Giving Scheme

*Extract Taken from the Liverpool Diocesan website*

We are lucky to have a treasurer who saw the benefits of the PGS and introduced it to our church. Membership has fluctuated, as people have joined and left our congregation, and currently we have twenty two members. We are a small church but we are growing in number again and will be introducing our new friends to the PGS in due course.



At first, some of the congregation were not happy, as they liked to put their envelope on the plate. But we overcame that by providing a couple of tokens to each giver and, as a back-up, having some spares on a table to be picked up as you came into church.

During Covid and lockdown it was such a benefit to the church, as giving income kept coming in via the scheme, and helped greatly with church finances Without PGS we would have really struggled.

Now that banks and post offices are closing, (we have neither in our village), it is more difficult to obtain cash which is another reason to encourage the PGS.

We still do not 'pass the plate', but it is on a table and taken to the altar with the bread and wine. In this way, givers can still put their token on the plate. Recently, our vicar has started giving thanks for gifts given via the PGS and the card machine. So, however the congregation gives, it is acknowledged in prayer.

This is the experience of one member of our congregation:

"I originally gave to St Stephens via Gift Aid envelope scheme.



Whilst this was okay it often meant I was scrambling around on Sunday mornings looking for cash to put into the envelope, and occasionally I had to put in a cheque. Also, if I missed church, I didn't always 'double up' to cover my absences.

Originally, the only way to join the scheme was by completing and sending off a paper form. Nowadays, however, one short and simple telephone call to the helpful people at PGS is all you need to join, revise your gifts or even make a one-off gift. You can also do this via their website. I have taken advantage of these arrangements and would recommend the scheme as the most efficient way to donate to your church."

Our Gift Aid Secretary works closely with the Treasurer, and is aware of the benefits of the PGS to the church, both financially and in terms of the reduction in administration time. The reduction in cost of purchasing the envelopes is a secondary financial benefit to the church.

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## A Taste Of The Good Old Days

Many villagers enjoyed a Sunday afternoon in St Stephen's Hall, tucking into a delicious afternoon tea, including home made cakes. Songs were sung with great gusto, lead by Reverend Keith and a happy time was had by all.



## Who's Who at St Stephen's

Vicar	Revd Keith Thornborough
Warden	Judith Welch <a href="mailto:Judith.Churchwarden@StStephensHightown.org.uk">Judith.Churchwarden@StStephensHightown.org.uk</a>
PCC Secretary	Beryl Howard
PCC Treasurer	Keith Aldis
Gift Aid Secretary	Brian Taylor
Safeguarding	Cath Marshall <a href="mailto:cathmarshall47@yahoo.co.uk">cathmarshall47@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Electoral Roll	Beth Cresswell
Sacristan Team	Hazel Roberts
Health and Safety	<i>TBA</i>
Flower Rota	Sue Taylor
CMS Secretary	Beryl Howard
St Stephen's Youth Club	Jane Croxton
Church Hall Bookings	Sally Fraser
Focus Editor	Colette Hudson <a href="mailto:Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk">Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk</a>
Focus Adverts	Colette Hudson <a href="mailto:Adverts@StStephensHightown.org.uk">Adverts@StStephensHightown.org.uk</a>
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[Rohan.Pickard@Gmail.com](mailto:Rohan.Pickard@Gmail.com)

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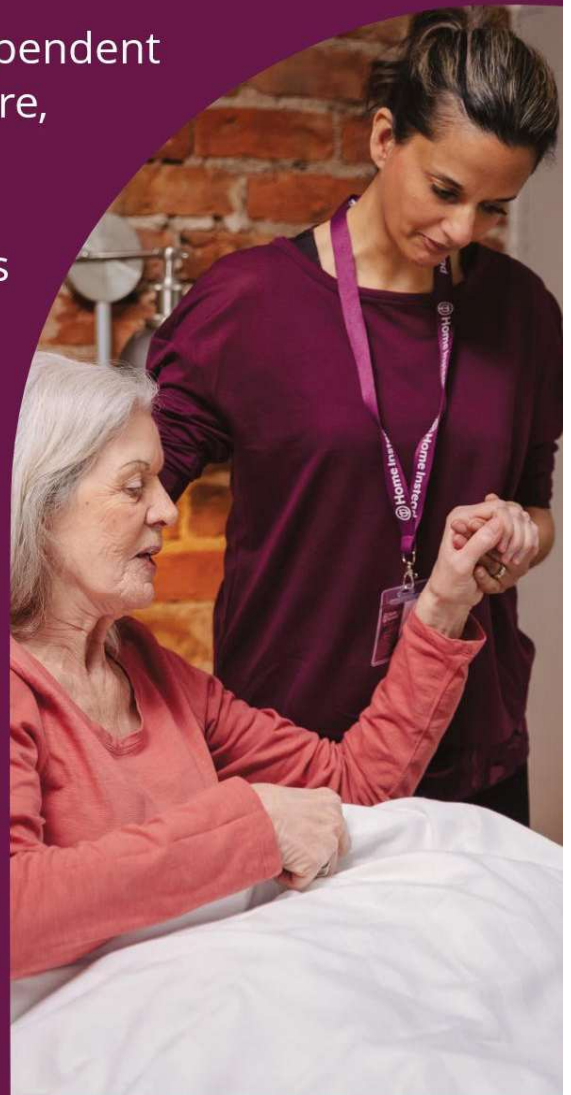
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**On Sunday 14th and  
Wednesday 17th July  
we celebrated the  
laying of  
St Stephen's  
foundation stone**



**AUGUST** eco tips from A Rocha Assist local wildlife during hot weather.

Provide hedgehogs with a juicy snack like mealworms or canned dog food as their prey of slugs, snails and worms diminishes, and ensure a safe exit for them and other small mammals if you have a garden pond. Help garden birds by maintaining a filled bird bath and supplying supplementary food including black sunflower seeds, pinhead oatmeal, soaked sultanas, raisins, currants, mealworms, waxworms, and a nutritious seed mixture, when natural supplies become scarce. More tips can be found at:



[arocha.org.uk/looking-after-wildlifein-the-heat/](http://arocha.org.uk/looking-after-wildlifein-the-heat/)

# A Fond Farewell For Colonel Gordon Black And His Wife, Val.



And a warm welcome to Carl Gardner



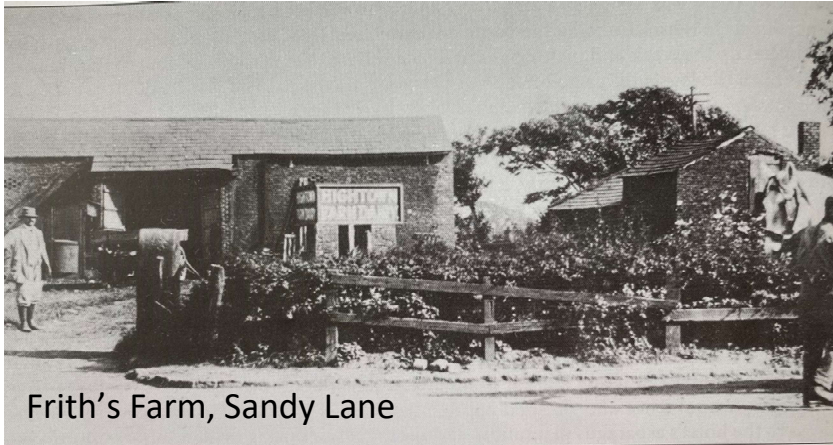
Enjoy your retirement,  
Gordon and Val!



# A Good Read *by Colette Hudson*

Continuing our exploration of Hightown in times past

## Blundell Road, Horses and Eggs



Frith's Farm, Sandy Lane

Prior to the 1914/18 war, according to Miss Scott, the houses in Blundell Road, beyond Blundell Avenue, were built before the road was completed. People moving into the houses there had their furniture man handled along the road through the

sand. Mrs Berry, who then lived at Frith's Farm, told this interesting story to Miss Scott about this:

Before the roads were built on the shore side of the railway line, horse-drawn pantehnicon (furniture removal vans) came out to Hightown as far as the railway crossing. These horses, from the town, were not used to treading on sand, stopped at the farm, (which was then situated at the rear of Our Lady of Victories Church Presbytery), where they were exchanged for farm horses to complete the journey.



Our Lady of Victories - Hightown, Liverpool

At a later date, when I was a child, Mrs Berry, lived at Hamgate Farm (1st farm on the left as you leave Hightown). She was quite a feisty, elderly lady, who was living with her two spinster daughters. They kept hens and we would be frequently sent for eggs. It was a 'collect your own' affair from the haybales in the barn. You had to keep your fingers crossed that their fearsome sheep dog was not on patrol at that time, or you may not have had fingers to cross the next time you went! Her two daughters delivered milk to the houses in Hightown on a daily basis. When I was about twelve years old, I used to help them deliver on a Saturday morning. This was great fun, as it involved standing on the back step of their van and hanging onto the back doors as the van travelled from one group of houses to the next. I would jump on and off to place the bottles of milk on the doorsteps. It was the highlight of my week! The Berry girls, as they were always known as, even into their dotage, lived out their years in a house at the top of St George's Road.

## Village Organisations and Activities

Tuesday Group, St Stephen's Hall Tuesday morning 10am	Beryl Howard Jan Branigan
Hightown Friendship Group 1st Wednesday at 8pm St Stephen's Hall	Margaret Wear
Gardening Club 2nd Monday 8pm St Stephen's Hall	Hilary Munro
Bowling Club, Sandy Lane	Diana Killen
Hightown Club	Chris Scrine
Blundellsands Sailing Club	Rohan Pickard— <a href="mailto:RohanPickard@gmail.com">RohanPickard@gmail.com</a> Deryk Johnson— <a href="mailto:DerykJ@gmail.com">DerykJ@gmail.com</a>
Yoga Classes, Hightown Club	Rose Billinge
Flower Show	Debbie Underhill— <a href="mailto:underhillsathome@aol.com">underhillsathome@aol.com</a>
Open Mic Poetry Group 3rd Thursday 7.30pm St Stephen's Church hall	Sally Anne— <a href="mailto:tapiabowes@gmail.com">tapiabowes@gmail.com</a> Alex
Craft Group, Every Thursdays	Sue Taylor
Hightown Parish Council	Jenny Farrar <a href="mailto:clerk@hightownparishcouncil.uk">clerk@hightownparishcouncil.uk</a> <a href="http://www.hightownparishcouncil.uk">www.hightownparishcouncil.uk</a>
Community Library, Alt Centre, Lower Alt Rd. Mon 12-2, Tues 1-3, Weds 1-4, Fri 10-12	Linda Munro— <a href="mailto:lindamunro@hotmail.com">lindamunro@hotmail.com</a>
Zumba Gold, Dance for all aged 55 plus, Mondays 9.45-10.30, St Stephen's Hall	Nicky Garsforth
Creo Dance Co Mon Tues Wed Thurs Sat Children 3 to 18 years	Georgia Gaudi



**Youth Club**

**From age 7**

**Friday Evening Term Time**

**6pm until 7.15pm**

**£2.50 includes snacks and drinks**

**Contact: Jane Bessant 07776 305 660**

**Please note that there will be no youth club during school holidays**

**Craft Group in St Stephen's Hall will resume on  
Thursday September 5th**

**Please note that there will be no  
Toddler Church during August**

**Coffee Morning**



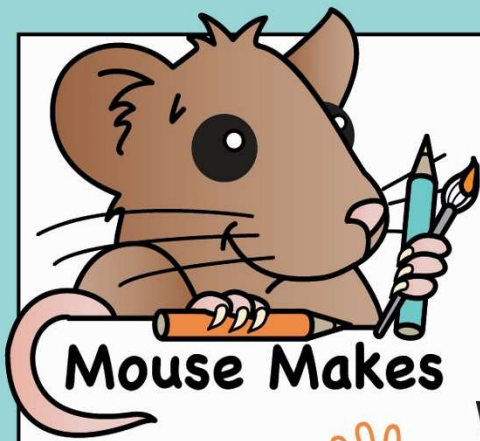
**Saturday August 3rd  
10am - 12noon**



**St Stephen's Hall**

**Everyone Welcome!**

Magazine part—sponsored by John Gibson—notary services



# Mouse Makes

“AND WHEN YOU PRAY,  
PRAY THEN LIKE THIS ...”

Where does Jesus say  
to go to pray?  
*Matthew 6:6*



What does God know  
before you ask Him?  
*Matthew 6:8*



What can we ask God  
to deliver us from?  
*Matthew 6:13*

If you forgive others  
what will God do?  
*Matthew 6:14*



“Always be full of **joy**.  
**Never** stop praying.  
Whatever happens,  
always be **thankful**.”  
*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

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ROOM • PRAY • ASK • NEEDS • HEARD • JESUS

LORDS PRAYER • OUR • FATHER • HALLOWED • HONOURED

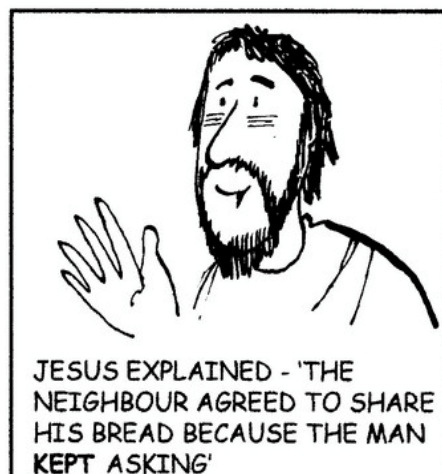
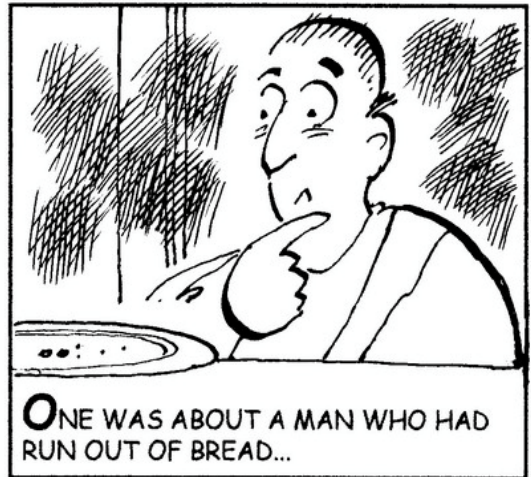
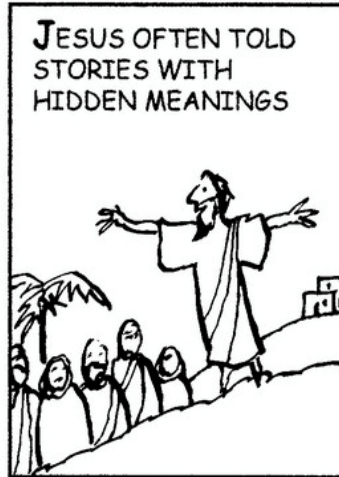
NAME • THY • KINGDOM • COME • YOUR • WILL • DONE

EARTH • HEAVEN • DAILY • BREAD • FORGIVE • DEBTS

SINS • TEMPTATION • DELIVER • EVIL • AMEN

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The Tale of   
The Friend  
at  
Midnight



## To All Who Give To St Stephen's Church

LIVERPOOL L38 !  
HOME STUDIO & MOBILE



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MOBILE APPOINTMENTS + £5

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If you would like some information or some guidance, please email me or send a message through the Website.

You can also contact me on 07926 587776 to make an appointment.

**Caroline Speakman**

**Member of the Society of Willwriters**

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