

February 2025

FOCUS

Issue 291



Parish Magazine of St Stephen's, Hightown



Candlemas Sunday 2nd February





Editor's Note

As I sit here, on this gloriously sunny January day, I am reminded that we are already halfway through winter. What a happy thought!

It has been such a wet one that, on occasions, driving down Moss Lane out of Hightown, towards Little Crosby, has seemed like travelling along a causeway between islands, for the Lancashire Plain, and The Moss, in particular, is both made up of, and defined by, water. In its pristine, original state, the area around Hightown must have looked pretty much like the recently flooded fields and have been a precious haven for those creatures that depended on water, such as wading birds and wildfowl, which, we are still lucky enough to see down on the beach. In fact, over the last few days, I have seen five white egrets wading in the flooded field at the side of White Edge Farm (on the left as you leave Hightown.)

Nicholas Blundell, in his diary written between 1702 and 1728, describes the small number of dwellings, in the area that we would now call Hightown, as 'the houses on the moor' and notes the difficulty in accessing the cottages. The sight of the flooded fields in the last few weeks makes one think how easily, without human intervention, nature could reclaim its own.

I love the changing seasons and all the excitement that they provide, but by the time you read this there'll only be one more winter month to go. I, for one, am looking forward to some warmer, drier weather. There's no harm in being optimistic!

Enjoy February,

Entries for future issues of Focus to be sent to

Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk

Please submit before last day of month

Dear Friends,

As I sat at my desk to write, the Beatle's song 'All You Need Is Love', just came into my mind! So, I found it on YouTube and listened to it!

They sing about there being nothing you can do that can't be done...All you need is love, love, love is all you need.



There is a truth there. We all need love. We need to feel loved, and we need to be able to love others too.

February is often thought of as the 'Month of Love', with St Valentine's Day right in the middle, on the 14th.

At Christmas we sang, 'Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine'.

Love did indeed come down at Christmas: the Love of God, our Father God, sending his Son Jesus to live and die for us and the love of Jesus Christ for each and every one of us, in his arms opened wide on the cross, to pay the price for our wrongs.

The Holy Bible has a lot to say about love and St Paul, in his letter to the Church at Corinth, tells us that even if a person can do the greatest of things, if they do not have love, then they have nothing. He continues to say that love is patient, kind, doesn't boast, is not envious, keeps no record of wrongs, rejoices with the truth. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes and always perseveres. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

The Apostle John writes, 'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. God showed his love among us by sending His one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love. Since God so loved us, we ought to love one another.'

There is no end to the love of our Father God and His Son Jesus Christ. There is no end to the love that they have for us. With love, everything is possible. Love is all you need.

God Bless,

Keith

Magazine part-sponsored by John Gibson - notary services

St Stephen's Church Services for February

Sunday 2nd Candlemas	10:30	All-Age Eucharist
	18:00	Evensong
Wednesday 5th	10:30	Eucharist
Friday 8th	09:30	Morning Prayer
Sunday 9th - 4th Before Lent	10:30	Eucharist
	16:00	Toddler Church
	18:00	Evensong
Wednesday 12th	10:30	Eucharist
	19:00	Sanctuary @ Seven
Friday 14th	09:30	Morning Prayer
Sunday 16th - 3rd Before Lent	10:30	Eucharist with Anointing and Healing Prayer
	18:00	Evensong
Wednesday 19th	10:30	Eucharist
Friday 21st	09:30	Morning Prayer
Sunday 23rd - 2nd Before Lent	10:30	Eucharist
	18:00	BCP Holy Communion
Wednesday 26th	10:30	Eucharist
Friday 28th	09:30	Morning Prayer

RENEWAL OF THE ELECTORAL ROLL OF ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, 2025

Periodically, the Electoral Roll of members and supporters of our parish church has to be completely renewed to ensure that it contains accurate details of those on the Roll. This has to be done to be presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which will be held this year on a Sunday in April or May. The exact date is yet to be announced.

Therefore, all who are registered on the existing Electoral Roll will receive a letter inviting them to renew their membership by completing the attached form and returning it to the Electoral Roll Officer. Anyone who is not already on the Roll and wishes to be included should contact me – details below. Membership shows your support for St Stephen's and its Christian mission in Hightown and confers the right to have a say in how our church is administered.

Beth Cresswell, Electoral Roll Officer

Prayer prompts February



Wk 1. My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for the revelation of the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.

Luke 2: 30-32

Wk 2. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made lowAnd all mankind shall see God's salvation.

Luke 3: 4-6

Wk 3. Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15: 20 and 22

Wk 4. Jesus said " You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last so that the Father will give you whatever you ask Him in my name."

John 15: 16

For the people of:

Riverside, Sandhills, Bankside and all those living on local farms.

Celebration Time

A very warm welcome to the latest members of our congregation. It was an honour for Reverend Keith to baptise these two lovely little boys and welcome them all into our larger, Christian family.



Festive Times, Christmas 2024





'MASSIVE THANK YOU'

Towards the end of last year, a member of our congregation, Sue Taylor, who runs the Craft Group in the church hall, received a lovely letter from The Alzheimer's Society.

It was to thank Sue, and the group, for creating and donating the 'amazing twiddlemuffs for their service users in Sefton.' The representative from the society explained that 'twiddlemuffs really help a person living with dementia to relax and feel less agitated.'

In case, like me, you have no idea of what a 'twiddlemuff' looks like, Sue has kindly produced a photo. I think you will have to agree that they are fabulous!



Coffee Morning



Saturday 1st Feb 10.00am–12 noon

St Stephen's Church Hall

Come and enjoy a bacon/sausage barm and a cup of tea or coffee

Brass Rota
February
Shirley Burns



Sunday Coffee Rota Feb

2nd Jan Williams
9th Dave Phillips
16th Margaret bate
23rd Jane Croxton

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Revd Keith Thornborough
at**

**St Stephen's
on 0151 929 3097**

Who's Who at St Stephen's

Vicar	Revd Keith Thornborough
Warden	Judith Welch
PCC Secretary	Beryl Howard
PCC Treasurer	Keith Aldis
Gift Aid Secretary	Brian Taylor
Safeguarding	Cath Marshall cathmarshall47@yahoo.co.uk
Electoral Roll	Beth Cresswell
Sacristan Team	Hazel Roberts
Health and Safety	<i>TBA</i>
Flower Rota	Sue Taylor
CMS Secretary	Berenice Gibson
St Stephen's Youth Club	Jane Croxton
Church Hall Bookings	Sally Fraser
Focus Editor	Colette Hudson: Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk
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St Stephen's Church Website	StStephensHightown.org.uk



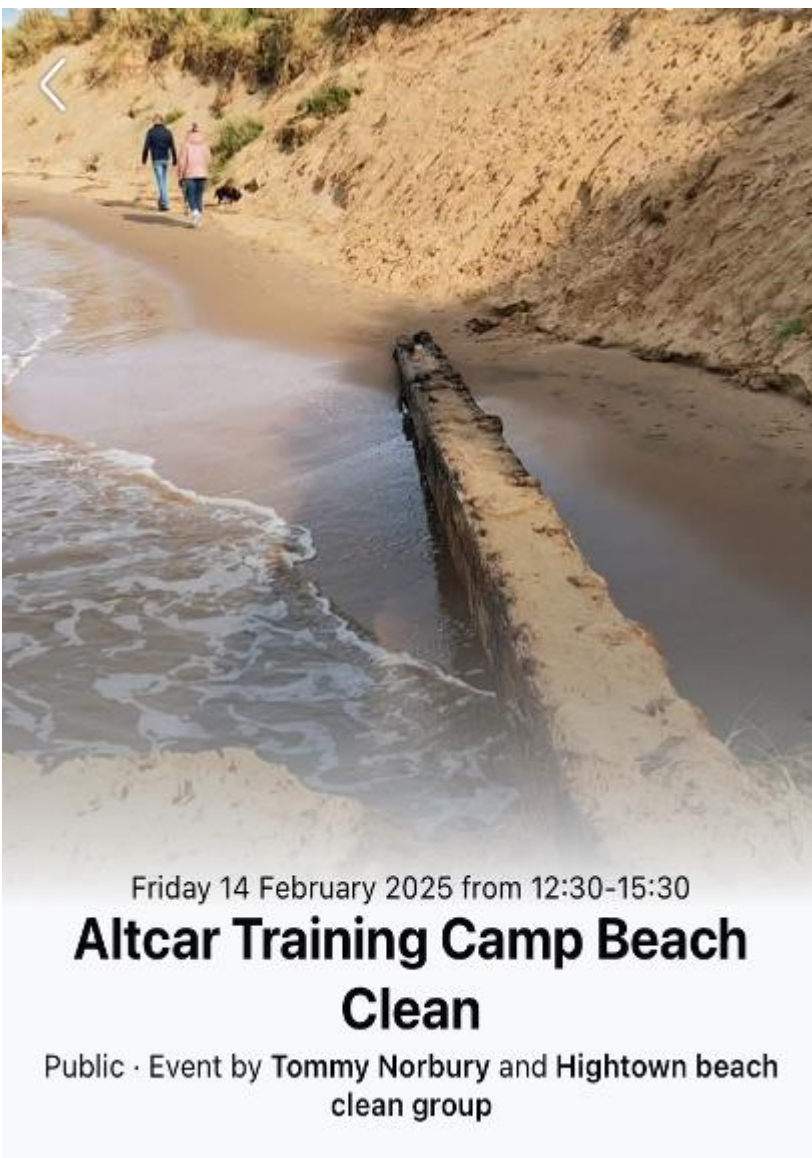
Eco Church



For the love of God's good creation

At St Stephen's Church , we are proud of having obtained our bronze eco award and we are working towards our silver award. We have always supported all the wonderful work that Tommy Norbury and his family undertake along our coastline. He, his family and his group, work regularly, cleaning up our very own Hightown beach and further afield too.

Do you think you could help him on Valentine's Day?



What to expect

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Hightown, L38 7JE

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A form of ID will be required

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*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright
 Winter will have another flight
 But if Candlemas Day be cloud and rain
 Winter is gone and will not come again.*



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

Caroline Speakman

Member of the Society of Willwriters

Email: southportwills@gmail.com

Phone: **07926 587776**

Website: www.southportwills.com





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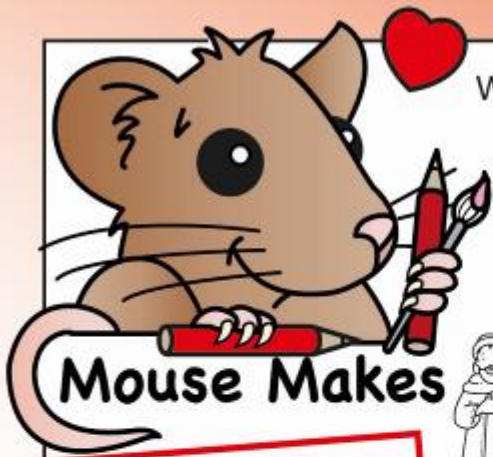
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Village Organisations and Activities

Tuesday Group, St Stephen's Hall Tuesday morning 10.30am	Beryl Howard & Jan Branigan
Hightown Friendship Group 1st Wed at 8pm—St Stephen's Hall	Marjorie Walker
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 RohanPickard@gmail.com Deryk Johnson DerykJ@gmail.com
Yoga Classes, Hightown Club	Rose Billinge
Flower Show	Debbie Underhill underhillsathome@aol.com
Open Mic Poetry Group—3rd Thursday 7.30pm—St Stephen's Church hall	Sally Anne tapiabowes@gmail.com Alex
Craft Group, Every Thursdays 1.30-3.30pm, St Stephen's Hall	Sue Taylor
Hightown Parish Council	Jenny Farrar clerk@hightownparishcouncil.uk www.hightownparishcouncil.uk
Community Library, Alt Centre, Lower Alt Rd. Mon 12-2, Tues 1-3, Weds 1-4, Fri 10-12	Linda Munro lindamunro@hotmail.com
Zumba Gold, Dance for all aged 55 plus, Mondays 9.45-10.30, St Stephen's Hall	Nicky Garsforth
Creo Dance Company—Mon Tues Wed Thurs Sat.—Children 3 to 18 years	Georgia Cardwell



Mouse Makes

Who were the first couple?

_____ and _____

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

Matthew 1:5



Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

_____ and _____ Romans 16:3

FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT
 KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
 MFU OPU NBO
 TFQBSBUF.

NBSL
 UFO WFSTF
 OJOF

CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

ADAM	ELIZABETH
ABRAHAM	MARY
ISAAC	HANNAH
JACOB	PRISCILLA
BOAZ	EVE
ZECHARIAH	RUTH
ELKANAH	REBEKAH
AQUILA	RACHEL
JOSEPH	SARAH

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God

See 1 Kings 11:1-3

E	E	Z	R	E	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	R	ABRAHAM
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H	R	U	T	A	E	V	P	O	A	I	E	B	H	I	ISAAC • JACOB
S	A	R	A	H	L	T	H	B	M	A	R	Y	S	D	JOSEPH • MARY
P	R	I	S	C	I	L	L	A	Q	U	I	L	A		PRISCILLA
															RACHEL
															REBEKAH • RUTH
															SARAH
															ZECHARIAH

The parable of the Shrewd Manager



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

ONCE JESUS TOLD A STORY ABOUT A RICH MAN...

...AND HIS SERVANT, WHO MANAGED THE RICH MAN'S PROPERTY.

THE RICH MAN HAD HEARD THAT THE MANAGER HAS BEEN WASTING MONEY.

YOUR MANAGE IS A CHEAT!

SO HE CALLED THE MANGER TO ACCOUNT FOR HIMSELF!

OH NO! I AM GOING TO GET THE SACK!!

THE MANAGER AGREED TO LET THE RICH MAN'S TRADERS FIDDLE THEIR BOOKS!

YOU OWE THE BOSS 1000 SACKS OF WHEAT

100 OIL 50

SO THEY ALTERED THEIR DEBTS - AND STAYED FRIENDS WITH THE MANAGER.

JESUS EXPLAINED THAT THE MANAGER HAD BEEN WISE IN MANAGING HIS FUTURE... EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BEING DISHONEST.

JESUS WAS TRYING TO ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT THEIR OWN FUTURES TOO. BUT IT'S A HARD PARABLE TO UNDERSTAND!

BROCCOLI, CHIVE and PARMESAN FRITTATA



This is a lovely, easy antidote to all the calorie heavy, rich goodies we have been subjected to over the last few weeks. I have slaved over a hot stove for ever it seems so this is a good dish to try or, even better, get someone else to give it a try and you a well-earned rest. Serve it with a healthy leafy salad and some boiled miniature potatoes.

Ingredients

300g purple sprouting broccoli	8 large eggs
50ml semi-skinned milk	2 tblsp chopped fresh chives
100g Parmesan cheese, grated	Salt & black pepper
2 tblsp olive oil 1 garlic clove, fresh Parmesan shavings	

Method

Trim and wash the broccoli, then chop into small pieces about 1cm in length.

Crack the eggs into a bowl. Add the milk, chives, Parmesan, salt and pepper. Beat together with a hand whisk until amalgamated and set aside.

Heat the oil in a large non-stick frying pan. Add the garlic and broccoli and fry over a low heat, stirring frequently until tender. Season lightly. Preheat the grill.

Pour the egg mixture over the broccoli, covering the whole of the bottom of the pan. Cook over a medium heat for 3-4 minutes stirring gently until the egg begins to set.

Transfer the pan to the grill and cook for a further 2-3 minutes until the top is set and golden.

Portion up with a sharp knife, top each slice with parmesan shavings and serve with a salad and potatoes.

Serves 4

A Good Read *by Colette Hudson*

Continuing our exploration of Hightown, in past times, courtesy of Miss Chris Scott's book

Well , whoever knew that Hightown had once been a centre of aviation in 1910? And so much more exciting than playing on a screen!

Miss Scott had received the following , very interesting information on this subject from Mr. E. Pownall. In 1910 he lived with his family at 'Harefield', Alt Rd and subsequently retired to the Isle of Man.

Miss Scott quotes from his letter:

'Some three or four years before the outbreak of the 1914/18 War, Hightown became a centre, (or at least the geometric centre), of early aviation. H. G. Melly was operating at Waterloo Sands and Compton Paterson, R.C. Feniwick and others at Freshfield with Hightown between them. Early in my 'teens' I became very keen on flying and made many models, for which the sandhills were fine testing ground. Some were just gliders but many were driven by twisted elastic and carved wooden propellers. In 1912, a school friend decided to make a glider which could carry either of us. It was a bi-plane of about 20 ft span. The framework was of slender bamboo poles. Free gliding was not a success, so we decided to do towed flights on the sandhills with long ropes, one to each wing tip and two or three lusty helpers pulling on each. One day we met with disaster—the plane was on the ground near 'Westwood' in Windermere Rd when a sudden and heavy gust of wind picked it up and wrapped it round a lamp-post. An ignoble and!

During the 1914/18 War I joined the Royal Flying Corps as a pilot , becoming a Flight Commander. After the war, I joined the Aeronautical Inspection Dept in the Air Ministry and served with the Dept until I became Head of the Aircraft Inspection Division, retiring in 1956.....I sometimes shudder at my amateur efforts and risks taken in my very early experiments at Hightown.'



Toddler Time

A new fun group for Toddlers 0-4yr and their carers!

St. Stephen's Church Hall

Fridays 10am-11:30am term time

Play- Craft- Snack- Story- Songs- Fun!

ALL WELCOME!

Toddler Church

St Stephen's Church

Sunday February 9th 4pm

A service for pre-schoolers and their families

Fun songs, a bible story, craft and refreshments

We look forward to meeting you!

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**