August 2023



Parish Magazine of St Stephen's, Hightown



Welcome To Our August Issue

Editor's Letter

It's holiday time once again and many of you will be looking forward to taking that well deserved break from your usual routine.

Does the Bible have anything to say about holidays? Well actually, yes, it does:

Mark 6: 30-32

The apostles gathered round Jesus and reported to Him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.

The French word for holidays is "vacances" and, of course, the Americans call it "vacation", both words stemming from the root word, "vacate". From time to time we have a need to vacate our minds, switch off from everyday life and leave behind the pressures of work and/or school. We need to refresh our minds and replenish our energy levels. This is essential to our wellbeing both physically and mentally.

Even if we haven't got sufficient money for a holiday away from home, we can still enjoy a "staycation" and take walks around our beautiful countryside and coastal areas in Sefton. For the children, there are a great many museums and art galleries in Liverpool and on The Wirral, all completely free.

Enjoy your summer, Colette



Entries for future issues of Focus to be sent to

Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk

Please Note New Email Address

Please submit before the last day of the month.

Thank you for your welcome!

Thank you so much to everyone for your wonderful welcome to St. Stephen's Hightown for me and my family, from before my licensing service on 25th June, in getting the vicarage and grounds ready, to the wonderful 'Welcome Reception' after my collation. We have all appreciated it so much. It's been lovely to meet so many folks already.



It's really fitting that the Holy Gospel, for my first Sunday here with you, sees Jesus telling his disciples:

"Whoever welcomes you, welcomes me and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me".

+Matthew 10:40

Welcome was, and is, important to Jesus. One of the things that attracted me to discern a calling here, was the welcome I had received from the congregation whilst helping out during the vacancy. During that time, it was clear that 'welcome' is really important to the church community here. We claim on our website to be "welcoming and joyful in worship". I believe we are!

If you have not been to St Stephen's for a while, or never been and don't attend anywhere else, then come and see us at one of our Sunday or midweek services. You will be very welcome.

Best wishes and God bless,

Keith













Revd Keith's Welcome Reception



Page 4

St Stephen's Church Services

Sundays 10.30am Eucharist

6.00pm Evening Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)

N.B. The Eucharist will be available at Evening Prayer every 4th

Sunday in month

Wednesdays 10.30am Morning Prayer

ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL THE HIGHTOWN FLOWER SHOW 2023













Congratulations!

to Michaela and Paul who were married in St Stephen's Church recently.

We wish them every happiness for their future together.









Tuesday Group

Beryl has been running the Tuesday Group for many years with the help of Jan and Robin. It is a group for women and men of any denomination or no denomination, from



Hightown or not from Hightown. They meet every Tuesday morning for coffee, a chat and usually a quiz. They enjoy organised outings to a variety of places and occasionally will have a guest speaker.

Recently, it was Jan's birthday and they celebrated with cake and home-made chocolate cookies made by a young parishioner who wanted to contribute to her local community. They were very much appreciated. Thank-you, Lizzie!





Who's Who at St. Stephen's

Vicar	Revd Keith Thornborough
Reader	Mr. John Gibson
Wardens	Mr. Geoff Bailey
PCC Secretary	Mrs. Beryl Howard
PCC Treasurer	Mr. Keith Aldis
Gift Aid Secretary	Mr. Brian Taylor
Safeguarding	Mrs. Sonia Bunyard
Wills and Legacies	To be appointed
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs. Beth Cresswell
Sacristan Team	Miss Hazel Roberts
Health and Safety	Mr. Stanley Alty
Flower Rota	Mrs. Hilary Munro
CMS Secretary	Mrs. Beryl Howard
St. Stephen's Youth Club	Jane Croxton
Church Hall Bookings	Mrs. Sally Fraser
Focus Editor	Colette Grove Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk
Focus Advertisements	Colette Grove Adverts@StStephensHightown.org.uk
Focus Distribution	Mr. and Mrs. K Bradshaw
St. Stephen's Church	StStephensHightown.org.uk

Prayer Prompts For August



- 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. **St John–Baptiste Vianney, Cure d'Ars 1859.** 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. **9th Sunday after Trinity**. 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 the results needed. For the people of Thirlmere Road.
- 11th. Pray for those struggling with mental illness and for those who care for them. 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 Gorsey Lane.
- 13th. **10th Sunday after Trinity**. For all those recently married. 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. Pray to 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. 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. **11th Sunday after Trinity**. Pray for William and Catherine Booth, founders of the Salvation Army 1912, and all who continue to work and volunteer for the service. *For the people of Windermere Rd and Sandilands Grove.*
- 21st. For those who have lost connection with the church. For the people of Thornbeck Avenue.
- 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 the life of Bartholomew, the Apostle. For the people of Tudor Gardens and Thirlmere Mews.
- 26th. Pray for all those struggling both emotionally and 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. **12th Sunday after Trinity**. Pray for the work of Churches Together and Our Lady of Victories.
 - For the people of 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 Road.
- 31st. Pray for those displaced across the world due to war or conflict. For the People of Windermere Road and Sandilands Grove.

Words of Hope

By Revd Canon Doctor Rod Garner

A very early start last Thursday morning. The alarm rang at 5.45am in order to drive to Chester cathedral for the funeral of a young woman I had the privilege of baptising over thirty years ago. Caring relationships lie at the heart of ministry and frequently extend over



a generation. This was an unexpected death leaving a husband, two young children, and grandparents to face a devastating loss. The cathedral choir turned out for the service. Becky had been a valued chorister for a number of years with a powerful voice. Her husband, again a talented musician, played a tribute piece on the piano that he had chosen for the occasion. Her father spoke movingly of a daughter who had made a significant contribution to the Chester community through her legal work, often representing clients ill-equipped to face life or the requirements of the law. Solemn words were spoken throughout the service: prayers, readings and psalms reflecting a belief that love is never finally lost, not even in the face of that which all fear most.

Over refreshments afterwards, there was time to reminisce and ponder what the future now held for Becky's family. Despite the sadness of a life still rich with promise taken too soon, there were smiles and laughter as precious and telling moments were recalled. With fewer baptisms and marriages now taking place, a funeral is often the only time when families and friends come together to remember and celebrate what they once shared.

The sun shone as we drove back from the cathedral. It was now approaching lunchtime so we stopped at a village cafe for a short break. Halfway through, in came three bikers — older guys with the helmets and all the gear, and some lovely, shiny machines parked outside. Spotting my dog collar, one immediately cautioned his mates: 'Watch your language lads, it's the vicar!' Quite a bit of banter followed between us as they sat at the next table. The most talkative

and combative had lots of questions and criticisms of organised religion: it was the cause of wars, full of hypocrites, disproved by science etc, etc... All familiar objections that I either agreed with or tried to answer. But we needed a lot more than fifteen minutes. The second biker found our conversation amusing and said his mate was always like this. The third amigo was fairly quiet but mused that his general rule was that life was beyond understanding and you had to live each day as best you could without help or explanation until it was over, end of. There was little point in fretting over imponderable questions.

We parted amicably, probably never to meet again but in some small way changed a little by this brief encounter. I warmed to their enthusiasm and obvious regard for each other, the pleasure they took in their machines, and their passion for the open road. Slippers and a warm fireside seemed far from their thoughts or ambitions. They were manifestly alive and happy to be so. A week on however, I'm left pondering what their reaction might have been to the death that I had commemorated with others earlier that morning. Seizing the day and sharing friendship and the ride while it lasts are good things. But when the wheels come off and there is blood on the tracks what sort of words are available then to mend what has been broken or taken? What kind of hope might be offered when the journey ends prematurely or tragically and death closes down the horizon?

Children's Jokes

Qu. Why did the scarecrow win the Nobel Prize?

A. He was outstanding in his field.

Qu. What did the mother cow say to her calf?

A. It's pasture bedtime.

Qu. How does a vampire start a letter?

A. Tomb it may concern.

Qu. What did one plate say to the other?

A. Dinner is on me!



Baptisms

Charlotte Louise Harrison Grace Rose Harrison



Birthdays

Nathaniel Wood





St Stephen's Church Hall

TODDLER GROUP

Term time
Every Friday 9.30 to 11.30am

Sanctuary Flowers

6th Di Short 13th Hazel Roberts 20th Hilary Munro 27th Barbara Hope

Prices for advertising per annum:

Full page: £550

Half page: £275

Quarter page: £135

One eighth page: £70

Contact:

Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk

Brass Cleaning

Beth Cresswell/ Shirley Burns

Sunday Coffee Rota

6th Beryl Howard 13th Beth Cresswell 20th Judith Welsh 27th Val Bailey

From Beth's Kitchen

SALMON IN A PARCEL/SAUMON EN PAPILLOTE



This is a quick and easy way to cook fish and looks spectacular when served for a special meal. I have used salmon but also whole sea bass fillets but any delicate white fish would do. The parcels can be prepared in advance and kept in the fridge until it is time to cook them. Serve in the parcels but take care when opening them as hot steam may rush out.

Ingredients

5 sticks of celery, finely sliced 4 shallots, finely sliced

A bunch of flat-leaved parsley, chopped Sea salt

Freshly ground black pepper 1 lemon cut into 6 wedges

6 salmon fillets, skinless (or other fish)

Method

Heat the oven to 200C/gas 6. Cut six 25 cm circles out of baking parchment. I use a large dinner plate as a template.

Put the celery and shallots in a bowl, add the parsley and seasoning and mix well.

Arrange the circles on the work surface. Place a spoonful of the vegetable mixture in the middle of each paper and top with a fish fillet and a wedge of lemon. Close up each parcel, securing the contents by twisting the paper above the fish like an old-fashioned purse or Cornish pasty. Place on a baking tray and bake for 15 minutes. Serve in the paper parcels with boiled new potatoes and a selection of green vegetables.

Serves 6

Village Organisations and Activities

Tuesday Group, St Stephen's Hall Tuesday morning 10am	Beryl Howard Jan Branigan
Hightown Friendship Group 2nd Wednesday at 8pm, St Stephen's Hall	Margaret Wear
Gardening Club 2nd Monday St Stephen's Hall 8pm	Hilary Munro
Bowling Club, Sandy Lane	Diana Killen
Hightown Club	Chris Scrine
Blundellsands Sailing Club	Rohan Pickard—Rohan.Pickard@Gmail.com Deryk Johnson—DerykJ@Gmail.com Chris Williams—Cwill1951@virginmedia.com
Yoga Classes, Hightown Club	Rose Billinge
Flower Show	lan Wear
Open Mic Poetry Group 3rd Thursday 7.30pm, St Stephen's Church Hall	Tony Higginson—tonythebook@live.co.uk Sally Anne - tapiabowes@gmail.com
'Drop In', Thursdays, 1.30—3.30pm St Stephen's Hall	Sue Taylor
Village Singers, Our Lady of Victories Hall, Mondays 1.30—3pm	Chris Payne—payne-c@sky.com
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+, Mondays 9.45-10.30 St Stephen's Hall	Nicky Garsforth
Creo Dance Co, Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat Children 3-18 years	Georgia Gaudie



The Will Writing Guild (UK) Ltd or The WWG has been established for over 25 years, providing Will services across the North West. During this period, we have prepared thousands of Wills, many of which have been referrals and recommendations by our existing clients.

We offer the following services:

- > Will and Updates
- ➤ Lasting Power of Attorney
- ➤ Probate Administration
- ➤ Protective Property Trust Wills
- ➤ Advice on Long Term Care
- ➤ Secure Document Storage
- ➤ Equity Release
- > Free Home Visits









We're here to help בו



01704 546688



Visit us online at thewwg.co.uk (



To request a home visit





n Brothers

Independent Family Funeral Services since 1827

Tel: 01704 872023

At Dean Brothers we are very proud to be nearly 200 years old, providing caring, supportive services to the local communities of Formby, Southport and surrounding areas.

> **National Award Winning Services** Low Carbon Footprint, green energy supplied

Luxury Chapels of Rest Prepaid funeral plans

Members of National Associations NAFD AND SAIF SAIF Bereavement Care support







www.deanbros.co.uk



Prices for advertising per annum:

Full page: £550

Half page: £275

Quarter page: £135

One eighth page: £70

Contact:

Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk



Local Electrician

Info@unime-group.co.uk

Over 20 years experience

No job too small. Free quotes

Tel: Stephen-07563825421





A Registered Insured NCFE Certified Company Call Paul for a Fast, Reliable, Professional Service

UPVC& **WOODEN DOOR SPECIALIST**

01704 369930 MOBILE 07932 718362 WWW.CALLPAULLOCKSMITH.CO.UK

- **Emergency Door Opening** UPVC Door Lock Upgrades
- UPVC Door Lock Repairs
 Wood Door Lock Changes
- **UPVC Door Lock Changes** All Work Guaranteed















For regular giving—Everyone benefits

For details, Please contact:

Brian Taylor: 0151 929 2720

Keith Aldis: 0151 929 3612





ABRAM FENCING

Est 1976 - "A Family Business" Tel: 01704 889185 Mob: 07711 549489





Quality Fencing at affordable prices

Supplied or errected FREE ESTIMATES Website: AbramFencing.co.uk

NICK STARK FCCA SE

- ★ accounts preparations for individuals, sole traders partnerships, limited companies
- **★** tax returns, corporate & individual
- * payroll
- **★ bookkeeping (SAGE a speciality)**
- * VAT
- ★ business reviews

27 Holmwood Gardens, Formby, Liverpool, L37 1NH

01704 778303



Specialists in all types of

- Flat Roofing
- Slating and Tiling
- · Leadwork Repairs
- Storm Damage
- Guttering

All Type of Roofing Repairs

Competitive Prices on UPVC Replacement Fascia



6 Elmcroft Lane, Hightown, Merseyside. L38 3RN

PROPRIETOR: DAVID FEALEY

for a FREE no obligation quote call

Tel: 0151 929 3615 Mobile: 07970 688880



Jeff

All aspects of Painting and Decorating

LambethDecoratingServices@Yahoo.co.uk

North West Areas, 20 Years Experience No job too small, Free Quotes 07837 463995



Hightown Physiotherapy Clinic physiotherapy and acupuncture registered with the Health and Care Professions council Tricia Blyth M.C.S.P. Back & Neck Pain Sports Triumise

Tricia Blyth M.C.S.P. 07967 140809 25 Blundell Road, Hightown

Back & Neck Pain Sports Injuries Arthritis Post-Op Rehabilitation Accupuncture



Highly qualified independent assessor offering private assessments to explore the possibility of a Specific Learning Difficulty (dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia).

All ages welcome

Sonia Bunyard, AMBDA, PATOSS, APC: 22/APC8105

07905 520680 or 0151 929 2047
 info@bunyard.co.uk

The Old Bank, 12 Lower Alt Road, Hightown, L38 OBB

Call, email or text for a no obligation discussion



Yoga At The Hightown Club

Monday: 10:30 - 12:00 & 18:15 - 19:45

Tuesday: 10:30 - 12:00

Drop in to the first class for free!

For more details contact:

Rose Billinge: M: 07900 017 608 Email: RoseBillinge@Yahoo.co.uk

MIKE'S POWERWASH

Industrial Power Cleaning of Patios & Drives

Phone Mike for your value price:

Tel: 0151 474 0760 Mob: 07738 304364







Wills and Powers of Attorney are powerful legal documents. The skill in preparing the right document for your circumstances comes from knowing to ask the right questions coupled with the experience and expertise to draft it correctly; and thereafter ensuring that the formalities of finalising the document are properly adhered to. If you cut corners there is a risk that your loved ones will only discover the problems when it is too late - causing them stress, heartache and unnecessary financial loss.

Don't leave it to chance.

Make sure you only use an individual who personally is:

- a qualified professional
- formally regulated by a recognised legal body
- a dedicated specialist
- · insured as per regulatory requirements
- highly experienced
- accredited member of Solicitors for the Elderly and STEP

Elizabeth Foggin TEP, Solicitor at Autumn Years Law is your local expert in:

Wills & Trusts

- Lasting Powers of Attorney
- Court of Protection/ Deputyship
- Probate & Estate Administration
- Lifetime & Inheritance Tax Planning Elderly client services

Our friendly approach is both compassionate yet professional and as a company we are committed to providing you with high quality legal advice. Free home/hospital visits are available if you have physical difficulties in being able to come to us.

Autumn Years Law, 22-24 Chapel Lane, Formby L37 4DU (inside Derbyshires) www.autumnyearslaw.co.uk Tel: 01704 870404 info@autumnyearslaw.co.uk



Family owned and run business by David and Claire Barrington. Offering care and support for a personal and relevant service for all your arrangements.

- Arrangements made in your own home.
- Pre-paid funeral plans available from Ecclesiastical Planning Services.
 - Private chapels of rest available.
 - Environmentally conscious funerals available.
 - Free estimates given without obligation.
 - Please visit our website for details of all our fees and charges.

www.barringtonsfunerals.co.uk







Offices:

28 Crosby Road North, Waterloo, L22 4QF - 0151 928 1625 38 The Marian Square, Netherton, L30 5QA - 0151 329 3525 49 Liverpool Road, Formby, L37 6BT - 01704 547851

FIND OUT WHAT YOUR HOME IN HIGHTOWN IS WORTH



Use My FREE Instant Online Valuation Tool

If you're thinking of moving, start by getting a **Hometrack Valuation Report** to see how much your home is worth.

This report normally costs £19.95 and includes ALL recent house sales near you!

Julie Hopkins Branch Director



EweMove respects any existing sole agency agreement already in place with another agent.





Blundellsands Sailing Club

Established 1907 Hightown



New sailing members welcome!

Whether you are a complete novice to sailing and want to give sailing a try or are an experienced ocean dweller you are more than welcome at BSC.

No boat required!

We sail all manner of yachts up to 30ft in length from moorings in the Alt between April and October. During the winter we fit out our boats in the boat yard with lots of socialising and events throughout the year at our club house overlooking the shore.

If you are interested in joining the club or trying some sailing with existing members, please contact:

Rohan Pickard - Commodore Rohan.Pickard@Gmail.com

Deryk Johnson - Vice Commodore DerykJ@Gmail.com



Here for you: 8am - 8pm 365 days a year









- Boiler Installations
- ✓ Boiler/Fire Servicing and Repairs
- Radiators
- Power Flushing
- Smart Thermostats
- Emergency Line



Proud sponsors of - The Hightown & St. Mary's Cricket Club www.towerheating.com



formbyflooringcentre

Specialists in Carpets, Laminates, Vinyls, Karndean

37 - 39 Three Tuns Lane, Formby, L37 4AQ Tel: 01704 834 371 - FAX: 01704 875 233

Ready when you need it...



FAST Same Day Print!

from supplied print ready files*

*only available on selected services

www.ThePrintQuarter.com Email: sales@pqsouthport.com Tel. 01704 543010 Eldon Court, 39-41 Hoghton Street, Southport PR9 0NS





FEELING FLABBY, UNFIT AND SICK OF DIETS?

WANT TO BE B-FIT + FABULOUS?

AS my FREE GIFT to you I will teach you how to:

Feel fabulous, toned, slimmer and healthier

Drop a dress size without calorie counting

Boost your energy and feel 10 years younger

Have the WOW factor

TO CLAIM YOUR FREE GIFT AND BOOK YOUR FREE B-FIT B-FABULOUS SESSION WORTH £60

Call Gaynor on 07748 298 728 or email: Gaynor@B-Fit.uk.com
Only 6 places available — For success stories visit www.B-Fit.uk.com



The Hightown Club

Thirlmere Road, Hightown, L38 3RQ

CRICKET (MENS, LADIES, GIRLS) * SQUASH * BOWLS * TENNIS
VETERANS FOTBALL * CROSBY ST. MARY'S R.U.F.C. * SOCIAL CLUB

The Hightown Club is a village Sports and Members Club, which encompasses the heart of the Hightown Community. We host a range of sporting activities for all age groups at casual and competitive levels and we actively encourage the local community to enjoy the facilities at the Club by attending our wide range and top quality events or just dropping in for a friendly drink in our Sports Bar.

Sports Bar Opening Hours

Monday & Wednesday Closed. Tuesday & Thurs 6-10pm. Friday 6-11pm. Saturday 6-12pm. Sunday 1-9pm

Function Room for Hire for Special Events

Ideal for Celebrations, Christenings, Holy Communions, Weddings, Funerals, Conferences and Community Events.

For Catering Enquiries, Contact: Janet Holmes: 0151 929 2330 or 07504 399 103 For Membership Enquiries, Contact: Chris Scrine: 07884 491 806 Private, ethical general practice

GP appointments to suit you

- Experienced GPs
- Longer appointments
- Face-to-face consultations
- Medical weight management
- Phone & video calls
- Coils for HRT
- Home visits

Formby GP 4 Victoria Buildings Victoria Road, Formby L37 7DB 01704 617050





www.formbygp.com

Easy Fundraising

St Stephens has have been using #easyfundraising to raise FREE donations for the Church when we shop online. We have just been paid! These donations will make a BIG difference and you can help during this difficult time too - it only takes 2 minutes to sign up and 4,500+ shops (including Amazon and Ebay) will donate for free, every time you shop online with them!

Why not visit:

easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ststephenschhightown/ payments/60537b0af62fd200266cbd30/ to find out more?

As that famous advertising slogan tells us: 'every little helps'.



We buy all kind of cars and we'd love to buy yours!

Get your car valued by an expert, not a computer. Any make, any model, regardless of age or condition. We always offer a fair price.

