### St Annes Parish Church Magazine

# Influence

MAY 2023 £1.00 £6 for a yearly subscription



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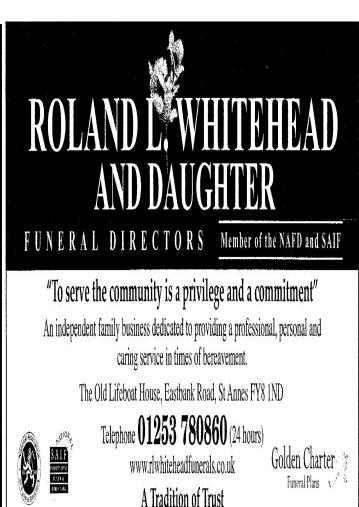
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# From the Vicarage ..... A Room with a View (or not)

Dear Friends

I recently came across this thought provoking story:

Two men were long-term patients in the same hospital ward. The ward had only one window. One of the men was fit enough to prop himself up, so the nurses gave him the bed next to the window. The other man was mostly flat on his back all day. He therefore had to ask his neighbour what could be seen out of the window. The propped up patient described a park with a lake, on which were ducks and a couple of swans. One day he described children playing football, and, on another, the spring flowers beginning to show through the borders of the lawns.

At first the bed-ridden patient was grateful for his friend's vivid description of life outside the window. However, as the weeks went by his gratitude gave place to jealousy. Why couldn't the nurses swap the beds round once in a while to give him the chance to see the park, the birds, the kiddies and the flowers? After all, with help, he was capable of sitting up for a few minutes most days.

One night there was a kerfuffle on the ward. Doctors and nurses were scurrying to and fro. The curtains around the bed by the window were being opened and closed at regular intervals. By morning the bed was empty. The body had been removed. With almost indecent haste, the other man asked if now he could be switched to the bed by the window. Somewhat reluctantly the nurses agreed to move him. The minute they left the ward the man painfully pushed himself up on one elbow and looked out of the window on to a blank wall

Taken literally, this story presents us with one rational and resentful man, and another man delightfully deluded. However that's to miss the point. The story is, of course, really a parable about contrasting attitudes to life: optimistic or pessimistic, half full or half empty, sunny or sullen. There are those who look on the bright side and those who see mostly doom and gloom.

They say life is what you make it. I don't altogether go along with that. It seems to me that some people do not get much of a chance to make much of life. Even so, there's enough truth in the saying for us to know what it means.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Fr Glen

# Worship & Prayer Diary - May 2023

Date	Day	Worship Times	Intention
Monday 1st		No Mass today Bank Holiday	The Apostolic Church
Tuesday 2nd	Athanasius, Doctor of the Church 373	10.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)	Teaching of the Early Church Fathers
Wednesday 3rd		9.00 am Low Mass	Poor, Exploited & Oppressed
Thursday 4th	English Martyrs	6.00 pm Low Mass	Persecuted Christians
Friday 5th		9.30 am Low Mass	The Coronation of HM King Charles & Queen Camilla
Saturday 6th			King Charles III & The Royal Family
+Sunday 7th	5th Sunday of Easter	10.30 am Parish Mass 6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Expectant Mothers
Monday 8th		No Mass today Bank Holiday	Spiritual life
Tuesday 9th		10.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)	Mothers' Union
Wednesday 10th		9.00 am Low Mass	Homeless People
Thursday 11th		6.00 pm Low Mass	Deacons
Friday 12th		9.30 am Low Mass	Religious
Saturday 13th			Conversion of England
+Sunday 14th	6th Sunday in Easter	10.30 am Parish Mass 6.30 pm Evening Prayer	Prisoners of War and Conscience
Monday 15th	St Matthias, Apostle	12 noon Low Mass	Those struggling with Debt
Tuesday 16th		10.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)	Anchorites and Anchoresses

# Worship & Prayer Diary - May 2023

Date	Day	Worship Times	Intention
Wednesday 17th		9.00 am Low Mass	Christian Unity
Thursday 18th	The Ascension of the Lord	6.00 pm Low Mass	Vocations to the Priesthood
Friday 19th	Saint Dunstan of Canterbury, Abbot and Bishop	9.30 am Low Mass	'To whom can we go?'
Saturday 20th	Alcuin, deacon, abbot, 804	9.30 am Low Mass	Our Healthcare System
+Sunday 21st	7th Sunday of Easter	10.30 am Parish Mass 6.30 pm Choral Evensong & Benediction	Mothers
Monday 22nd	Helena, protector of the Holy Places	12 noon Low Mass	Fathers
Tuesday 23rd		10.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)	Church Musicians
Wednesday 24th		9.00 am Low Mass	Christian Orthodoxy
Thursday 25th	The Venerable Bede, monk, scholar, historian 735	6.00 pm Low Mass	Peace
Friday 26th		9.30 am Low Mass Our Lady of Walsingham	Our Lady of Walsingham
Saturday 27th			Residential Theological Colleges
+Sunday 28th	Pentecost	10.30 am Parish Mass 6.30 pm Evening Prayer	The Apostolic Church
Monday 29th		No Mass today Bank Holiday	The Hope of Eternal Life
Tuesday 30th		10.30 am Holy Communion (BCP) with Homily	Our Church School & Nursery
Wednesday 31st	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth	9.00 am Low Mass	Thanksgiving for the Incarnation

# Coronation of King Charles III

On 6<sup>th</sup> May His Majesty King Charles III will be crowned alongside Camilla, the Queen Consort, in Westminster Abbey.

How can we pray for him, as he approaches this important event?

Paul says: 'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.' (1 Timothy 2:1,2).

#### For God's Presence:

To guide every aspect of King Charles' life as he prepares for his Coronation and future roles. At his Accession, he was proclaimed Defender of the Faith, the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Charles has talked about 'the Sovereign's particular relationship and responsibility towards the Church of England – the Church in which my own faith is so deeply rooted.'

#### For God's Wisdom:

As he provides leadership that will honour God and promote the wellbeing of our society. King Solomon prayed for wisdom for himself: 'So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.' (1 Kings 3:9).

#### For God's Love:

To strengthen all relationships within the Royal Family; for reconciliation, understanding, forgiveness and good communication.

#### For God's Purpose:

To be fulfilled through the work of the King and Queen Consort and their family in the years to come. He has said: 'and whatever may be your background or beliefs, I shall endeavour to serve you with loyalty, respect and love, as I have throughout my life.'



#### A Prayer for the New King:

Everlasting God, we pray for our new King. Bless his reign and the life of our nation. Help us to work together so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness flourish among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

# Coronation Weekend



### Friday 5th May

Eccleston Brass Band See page 20 for full details



Saturday 6th May

The Coronation Wass will be live-streamed in church for anyone who would like to come along and share in the celebrations.

Church will be open from 10 am

Tea & coffee will be provided but, you are very welcome to bring along your own drinks and nibbles.

### Sunday 7th May

Following the 10.30 am service we will be continuing our celebrations with a special 'royal' touch to our usual refreshments. We will be offering traditional 'afternoon tea' cakes & scones with prosecco alongside the usual cups of tea & coffee.

We do hope you will be able to join us for some or all of these wonderful events to celebrate the Coronation

#### **Coronation Prayer** by Daphne Kitching

Almighty God,

On the occasion of the crowning of King Charles III, we, the people, pray for him.

We thank you for him and for the calling on his life and we recognise the weight of responsibility that puts upon him. We know that he will need your help, Lord. We know that he will face many challenges, as did his mother, Queen Elizabeth.

We ask that, as he is anointed with oil, you will anoint him with your Holy Spirit, so that he will know in his heart, as his mother knew, that Jesus is alive and able to help him fulfil his unique vocation.

We pray that in all the days he serves as King, he will be aware that, first and foremost, he serves you, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. May his reign be one of wisdom, vision and integrity, inspired by the values of your Kingdom.

May your name be honoured and glorified throughout this land, Lord, as we pray, *God save the King!* Amen

### Mothers' Union from Christine Buckley



The marvellous month of May will soon be with us and hopefully we will enjoy some lovely warmer weather. I recently enjoyed a coach trip to Ripon on an unusually warm and sunny day. The countryside looked picturesque and many fields were occupied by sheep and their very cute new born lambs. As expected the roads were lined with the spectacular white blossom on a variety of trees. A spring festival was being held in the wonderful Ripon Cathedral where there were stalls of beautiful craftwork and food for sale. In the afternoon there were short concert performances by local choirs.

It was wonderful to see so many people in our Church on Easter Sunday to worship and celebrate together. On the following Tuesday, during Holy Week, our Mothers' Union met in church to worship together and meet socially. Father Glen kindly enrolled two of our new members, Irene and Kathleen.

I know many of our members appreciate a lovely garden, and at our next meeting, Tim Smith will be demonstrating how to create some wonderful plant arrangements in containers. We will be meeting on  $9^{th}$  May at 2 pm in Room 1 in the Parish Rooms.

May 2023 is, of course, a very special time as we will be celebrating the coronation of King Charles on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Many people will have their own parties or events. I can clearly remember the coronation of Queen Elizabeth when, as a child in St. Annes, we had many street parties. At that time television was definitely a new phenomenon. My parents had just acquired a nine inch wide television and with great joy we invited neighbours to watch the day with us. It was, of course, the same year that Blackpool won the FA Cup and we had a few guests to watch that as well.

This time last year many people were suffering from covid and hopefully we will all keep healthier this year, particularly our members who are housebound or frail. Our thoughts and prayers are with all our members and we hope we all have a healthy and joyful May.

### **Confirmation - April 2023**

It was a very exciting evening on Wednesday 29th March. We were delighted to welcome Bishop Philip, Bishop of Burnley, (Bishop of Blackburn, elect) to baptise and confirm several children from Heyhouses C of E Primary School and three adults.

We are pleased to welcome Erin Crook, Holly Holmes, Karen Harrison, Bode Hudson, Thomas Howcroft, Lia Murphy, Samantha Ramsey and Isla Wilson into the church family.

We asked the children to comment on this special event. When Mr Wilson, the deputy head teacher, asked the children for a few statements, in true Heyhouses tradition, they ALL wanted to write about the whole evening. Please enjoy and reflect on some of these beautiful phrases, from children aged only 10-11.



#### My Confirmation by Isla

"When I was confirmed, the date was Wednesday 29th March, it was at the Parish Church. There were 7 other people getting confirmed and some were baptised as well. I was overjoyed because most of my family were there.

Before we were confirmed, we sang many different hymns, and we were told to stand. The Bishop asked us if we wanted to be confirmed/ baptised and we all said 'yes!' Then after some people were baptised, we stood with them and were splashed with water!

When it was my turn to be confirmed, I was a little bit nervous and it felt great when it was done. As we were the newly confirmed we were the first people to receive Holy Communion and as we sat down, we were handed a candle in a paper container. We were told to stand and then they lit the candle and we walked to the back of the church. After the service we all had yummy chocolate cake! The Bishop wanted us to leave him chocolate cake otherwise we would be unconfirmed. My vicar took a selfie with the Bishop, me, his daughter and him in it!

The Bishop was very funny and nice when we went to the parish hall beforehand and he asked us all random questions (I now need a small white dog!).

When I went to my church, they showed the selfie that my vicar had taken and it was great!

What does my confirmation mean to me? It means that I was able to confirm my belief in God and I am a true Christian by my own choice and I can't wait to see what challenges life brings me as a true Christian".

#### My Confirmation by Holly Holmes

"On the 29th of March at the Parish Church, I was baptised and confirmed. With 5 people, Erin and I were also baptised and confirmed but the others didn't get baptised, because they had already been baptised. When we were confirmed, we ate some bread and drank some wine. We also sang some hymns before we were baptised and confirmed. When Erin, me and the two other ladies were baptised we went over to the font and had water poured on our heads and then afterwards we were splashed by the Bishop. Then we all went back to our seats and we were called to the front one by one. We would then kneel in front of the Bishop and he would give us the blessing. Then we went to receive our communion, so we knelt down and took the bread and the wine. We sat down and given a candle and they came round to light it.

The Bishop was very funny and kind to all of us. I think he was very proud of us for choosing for ourselves. The Bishop told us if we don't save him some chocolate cake he would unconfirm us so we had to save him some cake!

I'm very proud of myself for being able to pick that I'll put myself for God and put my beliefs in God. I have strong beliefs in God and Jesus now and the Bishop has made me believe even more. I'm also very happy to be a proper Christian and I will attend church even more. After everything that happened, we went to get some cake and drinks we really enjoyed the cake! Another good thing was that my family came to watch me and I got lots of presents from them which I'm very thankful for. All my family is very proud of me for being a true Christian. I think it was a big thing in my life and something that I will never forget. I'm very happy because I got a Bible from my nana and I have read some of it and I really enjoy learning about what happened to Jesus".

#### My Confirmation by Thomas

When I left the church that day, I felt that I was a new person, a person that is now following Jesus, like I have told my old life no and resurrected like Jesus did on Easter Day.

Confirmation is one step closer to becoming a full-fledged Christian. My beliefs, my thoughts, my feelings, my emotions and all of the above changed. After the ceremony there was lots of chocolate cake and treats, but the Bishop said that if there was not enough chocolate cake that he would unconfirm us! When we received Communion, we had some bread and the thing I enjoyed the most was the WINE!!! When we received the candle I said, "Do I have to burn it, it's so beautiful."

#### My Confirmation by Erin

"On the 29th of March at the parish church me and some of my other friends

from school were baptised and confirmed. We started off by singing some school hymns, including 'I the lord of sea and sky' and 'Be still for the presence of the Lord'.

Soon after we were told to stand and followed the Bishop to the font. I felt really comfortable and happy around the Bishop because I had already been given the opportunity to meet him before this occasion and before we went to the church.

We had a talk in the parish rooms and he ran us through what was going to happen. We walked towards the font one by one behind the Bishop and took our places around the font. I was called up first to be baptised and I was a little nervous at first but once I'd thought about it, I realised that this was the moment I was going to become a Christian. I was so happy!

My journey as a Christian had just begun. He baptised me and it was surprisingly short and sweet, but I loved every second! Then we were called back to our seats and sang a few more hymns. We were all really excited because we knew what was coming next! We were about to get confirmed.

My name was said first and I felt really nervous but it didn't stop me. I felt so confident walking back to my pew and enjoyed watching everyone else go through this momentous occasion! We were then called to the front to receive Holy Communion for the first time. I enjoyed the bread, but I took the tiniest sip of the wine. On my way back to my pew I saw the biggest smile on my dad's face!

When we arrived at the cake table my dad laughed at me because out of all the chocolate cake on the table I chose the only one that wasn't chocolate!!! I felt so, I don't know the right word to describe the feeling, all I knew was that it was a new beginning and a new start of life".

#### My Confirmation by Bode

Confirmation is special to me because a lot of my relatives were there- my mum, dad, nana, uncles and aunties.

It was a bit scary because I was the only person in my class, but I had a few people from school there. We sang a lot of hymns, for example 'I the lord of sea and sky' and 'Angel voices ever singing'

I chose to be confirmed, because it would be nice to be able to take Holy bread and wine.

Being a Christian means I am a good follower to God and Jesus and I am protected at night and day. But to be a good Christian you must do good deeds to God and be a follower.

When I got there the Bishop was very nice to me and my school friends.

After the confirmation we had cake!"



### Ringing Notes by Stuart Newton

The eight bells of St. Anne's, installed in 1890, rang out for the last time together on 26th March. In the following days, to take advantage of an opportunity to secure a reduction in the Taylor's price, all the stays, sliders and wheels were removed and the bearing bolts loosened by a willing group of our ringers, who had kindly volunteered their services.

The following week, the volunteers were back in action to support the removal of the bells, under the direction of Andrew Ogden of Taylor's. After carrying all the tools and winching equipment up the spiral staircase, the first main task was to construct a safety barrier around the ringing room trapdoor. Once completed, activity moved up to the bell chamber where the first challenge was then discovered – a 3-way rod for the clock faces had



been fitted right across the ceiling trapdoor void! Presumably, in 1899, the clock fitter never considered that the bells would ever have to pass through the trapdoor again.

Once cleared, work started on releasing the tenor bell, which sits directly above the trapdoor, and then manually lowering it on a chain winch. Over the next two days, using other winches positioned from the different steel beams above us, the remaining bells were each lifted and manoeuvred from their individual pits and attached to the main winch above the trapdoor, for their slow descent to the ground level. Despite the team having to take an extended lunch to accommodate a funeral service, the target of all the bells being safely down by Wednesday evening was achieved.

On Maundy Thursday morning, the flatbed wagon was already in position at the Lych Gate when the team arrived and, within an hour, each of the bells had been individually lifted onto a trolley, shuttled to the wagon and safely loaded.

A final brew and biscuits were enjoyed before the hoisting equipment and tools were brought down, tidying completed and the trapdoors closed.

In mid-June, we anticipate delivery of ten bells which will then be installed in the tower, again with the ringers providing labour support, in time for the church's 150th Anniversary of consecration on 6th August.

My thanks again all those people who have supported the Bell Project in any way. (Please see the stunning image on page 15).



# Christian Aid Week

14th to 20th May 2023



#### Pentecost in Jerusalem

On that long ago first morning of Pentecost, Jerusalem was crowded with thousands of visitors, for it was one of the most popular feast-days in the Jewish calendar – the Feast of Firstfruits, looking forward to the wheat harvest.

In one small room of that great city, a small group of people who had followed Jesus were praying. There was nothing else for them to do: Jesus had died, He had risen, and He had ascended, promising to send them 'a Comforter'. They were left alone, to wait at Jerusalem, so they waited – on Him, and for Him. They were not disappointed, for that morning the Holy Spirit fell upon that small room, and transformed those believers into the Church, Christ's body here on earth.

Pentecost was not the first time that the Holy Spirit came to the world – throughout the Old Testament there are stories telling of how God had guided people and given them strength. However, now His Spirit would use a new instrument: not just isolated prophets, but the Church, His body on earth.

Acts opens with the preaching of the gospel in Jerusalem, the centre of the Jewish nation. Within 30 years the Gospel had spread throughout the northern Mediterranean: Syria, Turkey, Greece, Malta... to the very heart of the Roman Empire: Rome. The Church was on the move – God was on the move! He was calling people from every nation to repent, turn to Jesus for forgiveness of their sins, and to follow Him.



#### A Prayer for Pentecost By Daphne Kitching

How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him... (Luke 11:13b) Heavenly Father,

In these troubled times we need your help, just like those first disciples did when Jesus came back to you after his resurrection. They must have wanted him to stay with them. They must have felt puzzled and bereft – and wondered how to go on. You, Lord, knew a better way.

You sent them a helper, the Holy Spirit to fill them with your life. We thank you so much that the same Spirit will be our helper too, if we are willing to ask you for Him.

We will be able to face each day, each challenge, with your Spirit living in us to guide and empower us, to enable us to carry on even when we don't understand.

Therefore, we pray, come Holy Spirit, fill us, encourage us to carry on sharing your love and life and truth, in the name of Jesus. Amen

# Come & Sing - The Crucifixion for Aid 26th March 2023

In 1887, just fourteen years after the consecration of our beautiful parish church here in St Annes, John Stainer collaborated with the Rev William Sparrow-Simpson, to produce the twenty movement cantata, "The Crucifixion". One hundred and thirty six years later, The Crucifixion is still being performed, as it was in our church a few weeks ago on Passion Sunday.

I arrived in church in the afternoon, along with another seventy keen songsters, some from different local choirs. It was lovely to meet strangers who had come together with a common goal, to take an active part in this worshipful composition, and to help to raise funds for UNICEF and the Fylde Food Bank. In doing so we were supporting the Ukrainian refugees in our area.

After registering and collecting the music, I took my place in my section of the choir and could feel the atmosphere of keen anticipation and excitement for the afternoon rehearsal. We were being led by our very own supremely talented Alistair MacKenzie, and along with Dr Kevin Morgan at the organ, we had a most formidable musical team to guide us through the whole work!

Pencils in hand and books at the ready, we then spent a couple of hours being taken through all the choral parts by Mr MacKenzie, paying great detail to the text, the diction, the phrasing, the musicality and, in particular, the emotion of this 'Meditation on The Sacred Passion of The Holy Redeemer.'

Time for a break! Ooh, tea and yummy cakes were available (for a donation to the cause). Then, fully refreshed, we returned to our seats to finish the rehearsal.

The complete work also involves two male soloists who had now joined us. Mr Michael Howarth (bass) and Mr Alistair Armit (tenor) both enthralled us by their sensitive interpretations and beautiful singing of their parts, as we choristers gallantly tried to implement all the advice and instruction we were receiving from Mr MacKenzie. We sounded pretty good by the time Alistair had finished with us!

Rehearsal over, and time for tea. Many of 'the choir' had brought their packed tea with them and more camaraderie was enjoyed during that time before the evening's performance.

The congregation/audience started to file in and soon it was time for the proceedings to commence. The composition not only involves choir, organ and soloists, but also congregation participation in five hymns, and thus, it was the congregation's turn to be put through their paces as they rehearsed those five hymns, ready for insertion at the appropriate points during the work.

The performance commenced with the sombre mood of the Garden of Gethsemane, and weaved its way through the Passion of Christ to His death on the cross. The soloists had us near to tears at times during the performance with their poignant and meaningful renditions and the choral singing was to be highly commended, thanks to Mr MacKenzie's kind but firm choral direction skills.

The whole performance was blessed by Dr Morgan's faultless organ playing, and the congregation played their part excellently, participating in the hymns, several of which are still used today in our hymnody.

At the end of the performance, the evening concluded with cake, biscuits, coffee and tea. All the

wonderful cakes, many of which were home baked, had been kindly donated, mainly by the singers, and every morsel was delicious.

This event raised over £2,600 for UNICEF and Fylde Food Bank. Thanks are due to the very hard work by the organisers, the musicians, the singers, the audience, the bakers, members of St Anne's Parish Church and the numerous volunteers who gave their time to help in so many ways. Finally, thanks to John Stainer for bringing the Passion of Christ to us in this most expressive way.

Here's hoping there will be another similar venture next year!









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#### After the Ascension

The New Testament tells us that Jesus ascended into heaven, and now intercedes for us at His Father's right hand. Have you ever wondered what this means?

Some have thought that the Lord is somehow constantly 're-offering' the sacrifice of His death before the Father in heaven, and in so doing is 'pleading' on our behalf. However, the New Testament is clear in its insistence that Christ's death was historically once and for all achieved.

Hebrews 7:25,27 tells us "...He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them....He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily.... Since He did this once for all when He offered up Himself...."

Instead, Jesus is now in heaven to 'represent us before the Father' (1 John 2:1). He is there to escort you into the Father's presence every time you turn to God in prayer. That is why Christian prayer always ends with 'In Jesus Christ's Name'. **He is our only way through**.

#### Pentecost - A Gift

We used to call it Whitsun – 'White Sunday' - because long ago children marched to church in white on that day. There are no processions nowadays, and we've even changed its name. It's now 'Pentecost', which is more accurate but needs explaining.

Pentecost marks a vital event in Christian history. It is celebrated 50 days after Easter. The year Jesus was crucified (which took place at the Passover), the remnant of His followers, just 120 of them, were together in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were afraid to show their faces in case the authorities arrested them. However, on the day of Passover, they had an amazing collective experience.

They described it in terms of wind and fire, a great surge of spiritual energy and confidence. Afraid no longer, they burst out on to the streets where crowds were gathering for the festival. Led by Peter they began to tell them about Jesus and His resurrection. As they did so, although many of the people in the crowd were foreigners who spoke other languages, everyone heard them in their own tongue. Peter told them that what they were seeing was the fulfilment of an old prophecy when God would pour out His Spirit on the human race, men and women, young and old.

As a result of His words and the extraordinary spectacle, 3,000 people believed and were baptised in the name of Jesus. They were the nucleus of what in 100 years would be a Church that would turn history upside down. For Christians Pentecost is in effect the birthday of the Church.

Many people find the whole idea of the Holy Spirit mysterious and elusive. It wasn't helped by the earlier title, 'Holy Ghost'. The spirit is not spiritually a 'ghost' but a precious gift.

# The Family Hub Over 65's

Are you free on a Thursday between 1:30-3pm?

THIS month on 11th & 25th May

Would you like to spend some time in our wonderful = EcoPod with peers and pupils of Heyhouses School?

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or drop into the main office at Heyhouses School







The EcoPod

Clarendon Road North, St-Annes-On-Sea, Lancashire, FY8 3EE

## Comgall - Saint for those in Education

Here is a great saint for all teachers, head teachers and principals of educational institutions, and indeed anyone whose vocation is to train and equip others.

For Comgall (c 516 – c 601) was founder and first abbot of Bangor, which became the largest monastery in Ireland. Here, large means LARGE – for including several daughter houses, the total population is reckoned to have been 3,000.

If you have ever run an educational institution of 3,000 pupils (!), you will know it takes a special kind of person to cope with that, and Comgall seems to have been perfect for the job. A biographer at the time called him 'the outstanding father of the monks in Ireland, known for his insistence on study and strict discipline.'

Comgall's rule had what it took to succeed. It was 'strict, holy and constant', both 'graced with the hope of salvation and made perfect in love', according to the 7<sup>th</sup> century writer Antiphoner of Bangor. Above all, followers were to love Christ, and reject the love of money.

Comgall also had a gift for friendship, for on the death of a close friend, he wrote in grief: 'My soul-friend has died and I am headless; you too are headless, for a man without a soul-friend is a body without a head.'

Like heads and principals today, Comgall knew a lot of important people. He had trained Columbanus and knew Columba, whom he visited on Iona. They even preached the Gospel together in Inverness, to the pagan chieftain Brude.

The Feast Day is celebrated on 10th May

### Notes from APCM - 17th April 2023

Details of the new PCC members, who were nominated and elected at the APCM on Monday 17th April.

#### Churchwardens:

Ann Fletcher Bernard Snape

#### New PCC Members:

Fiona Wilson James Andrews William Cousins Henry Gilbraith

PCC Secretary - James Andrews (co-opted)

#### Deanery Synod Reps:

Christine Campbell Brian Hankinson Pam Kinghorn

Fr Glen thanked Richard Baker for his long and dedicated service to the PCC of St Annes Parish Church as treasurer. This was Richard's 26th Annual Report to the PCC.

Janice Vause was also thanked for her role as secretary to the PCC over the recent years.

# ITEMS FOR SALE IN AID OF THE ST ANNE'S PARISH CHURCH BELL AUGMENTATION



**'St Annes Parish Church'** 

Unlimited Print (Extract) 'St Annes Parish Church Supplied unmounted in frame - A4 Frame Colour choice - White/Black/Gold/Silver	£20
Notelets 'St Annes Parish Church  Blank inside for your own message - A6  Supplied with envelopes in a packs of 4 cards	£5

#### For further information and how to buy copies please contact:

The Parish Office, 2A Oxford Road, St Annes, FY8 2EA

Tel: 01253 722736 E-mail: stannesparishoffice73@gmail.com

OR



**Stuart Newton** 

75 Highbury Road East, St Annes, FY8 2LG

Tel: 07541 668590

E-mail: bellmad75@outlook.co.uk



www.bellmad75.com/the-painting

#### 'St Annes-on-the-Sea'



Signed limited Edition print 'St Annes-on-the-Sea' Maximum print run of 150 Supplied with mount in frame size 83 cm x 63 cm Frame colour choice: White/Black/Grey/Natural wood	£150
Signed limited Edition print 'St Annes-on-the-Sea' Maximum print run of 150 Supplied unmounted, no frame	£140
Unlimited edition print 'St Annes-on-the-Sea Supplied unmounted in A3 size frame Frame colour choice: White/Black	£30

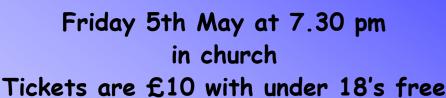
# Concert for the Coronation



With

**Eccleston Brass Band** 

on



The concert will include traditional brass band favourites and British music from Walton and Elgar

DON'T forget your flags!



# Dates for Your Diary 2023

Sunday 2nd July - Fr Ryan's Ordination St Georges Church, Chorley at 5 pm, details to follow Monday 3rd July - Fr Ryan's First Mass - 7 pm here at St Annes

Saturday 8th July - St Annes Carnival

July & August - events are currently being planned to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of St Annes Parish Church

Saturday 26th August - Afternoon Tea - TBC

Saturday 16th September - Heritage Open Day - TBC

Saturday 6th October - Pizza & Quiz Evening - TBC

**November - Concert by The Yard Dogs -TBC** 

9th-16th December - Christmas Tree Festival

See the Pew Sheet for further details of these and the new events which are being planned for the coming months

### **Refugees - Bishop of Durham Speaks**

The Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, who speaks for the Church of England on refugees, has recently issued the following response to the Home Secretary's statement on the Illegal Migration Bill.

He said: "No one wants to see people risking their lives to reach safety, but we must ask if this Bill the right response – one that is built on compassion, justice and moral leadership?

It's likely to push thousands of people, including children, into a prolonged legal limbo and imprisonment, and does nothing to support timely and effective consideration of asylum requests.

It would label all those crossing the Channel illegal entrants and therefore people to whom we do not owe a responsibility and would criminalise the act of claiming asylum – without acknowledging that many are highly vulnerable people escaping persecution and war, who have been left with no safe routes. Providing safe and legal routes is part of the solution and not one only to be explored after Channel crossings have ended.

The Home Secretary acknowledges the growing global refugee crisis, which we can't solve on our own, but it is disappointing that the Government has decided to not take on a greater role in leading the world to equitably support those forced to flee their home.

The consequences of this will be felt by vulnerable migrants, and by poorer countries in the global south already supporting the vast majority of the world's refugees.

We must not abdicate our legal and moral responsibility to some of the world's most vulnerable by simply treating asylum seekers as a group not to be welcomed or integrated, but detained and returned. We must do and be better."

#### **New Initiative to Tackle Housing Crisis**

The C of E has launched a new foundation to give practical advice and guidance to churches and dioceses hoping to help tackle the housing crisis in their communities.

The Church Housing Foundation will promote collaboration between churches and dioceses and experts in a range of areas, from community engagement around housing need to planning and legal issues.

Leaders, housing professionals, and those involved in or wanting to start local projects will be able to contribute to the Foundation and make use of the connections and resources offered.

The Foundation is being led by the Church of England's Lead Bishop for Housing, the Bishop of Chelmsford, Guli Francis-Dehgani.

It takes forward key recommendations from 'Coming Home', the landmark report published by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York's Commission on Housing, Church and Community.



# MARK F.H.RAE



When someone close to you dies, it is comforting to know that the dignified care you sought to provide for them as their life drew to a close will continue in the days after their passing. As an Independent Family Funeral Director with many years of experience in Blackpool and the Fylde, I can promise you a quality of dignified care, understanding and professional service second to none.

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A specifically tailored massage to relieve symptoms of arthritis, aches, pains & stiffness. Boosts circulation and lowers blood pressure.

Home visits and minimal undress needed

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### Valerie Cook



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Please call Valerie on 07311 227211











This takes place on the
First **Monday** in the month (not bank holidays)
An opportunity to meet at **10.30 am** in
'The Trawl Boat', St Annes

The idea is to support the community in helping to combat loneliness and encourage new friendships

All parishioners & friends are welcome

So please do come along and join us!
The next one is **MONDAY 1st MAY** 



# EASYFUNDRAISING NEEDS YOU TOO! Do you shop online?



DO YOU DO YOUR SHOPPING ONLINE, WHY NOT SIGN UP TO EASYFUNDRAISING AND, AT NO COST TO YOU, EARN ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR CHURCH? BOOKING YOUR HOLIDAY OR WEEKEND AWAY? WELL PLEASE LOOK AT EASYFUNDRAISING & REGISTER

Use Easyfundraising at ANY TIME of year and help generate funds for church at NO cost to you

HAVE A LOOK A really easy way to boost church funds when purchasing online

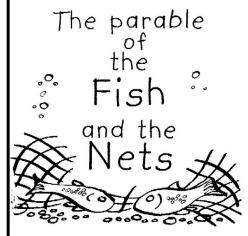
If you are doing any shopping online then do it through EASYFUNDRAISING. There are numerous shops AND travel agents who are part of the scheme including M&S, John Lewis, Argos, Amazon, Hotels.com, you will be surprised at who is involved in this scheme. To date we have raised £1,492.87, £12.50 raised in the last 30 days! Brilliant, keep it up! Thank you!

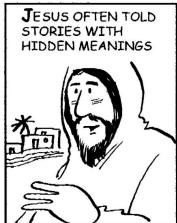
Don't forget if you are shopping, buying insurance, booking holidays etc, check it out first at Easyfundraising. We only have 27 members!!

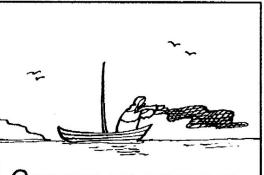
Please check it out!

If you are shopping online DO IT through Easyfundraising and church receives a donation

# Activities for the Young at Heart







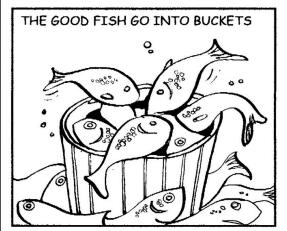
Once jesus said the kingdom of heaven was a bit like catching fish!

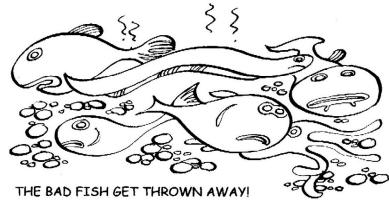






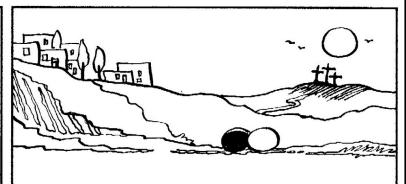




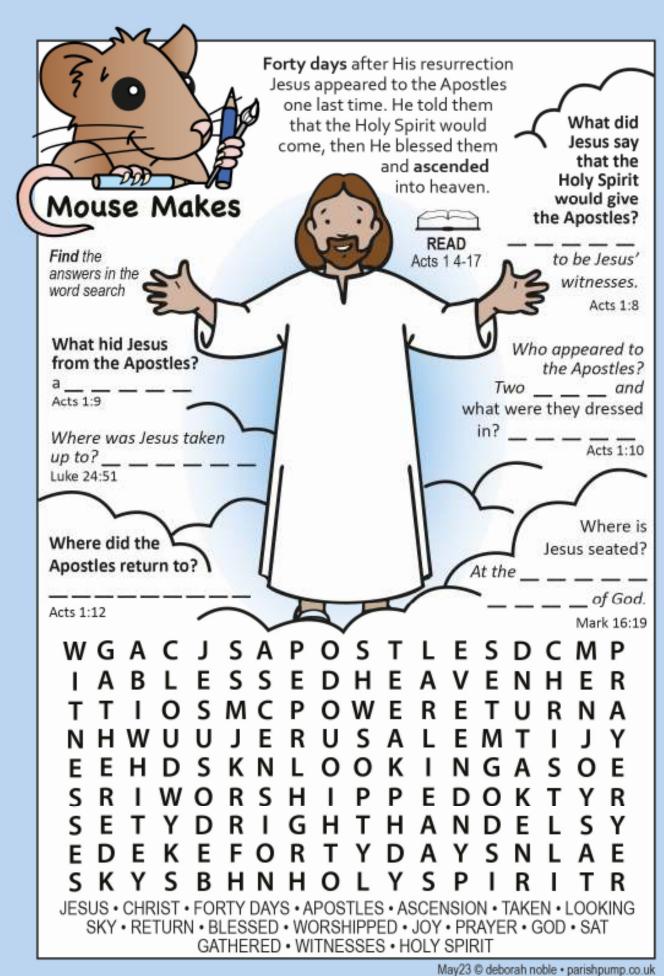


JESUS EXPLAINED THAT WE TOO WILL BE SORTED LIKE THE FISH. WE CAN CHOOSE TO DO GOOD OR BAD THINGS WITH OUR LIVES.





BUT EVEN IF WE MAKE TERRIBLE MISTAKES - WE CAN ALWAYS BE FORGIVEN - THAT'S JESUS' PROMISE.



# Notices from the Pew Sheet

- Sidespersons Anyone who is interested in jointing the Welcome Team on Sundays from June onwards, please speak to Margaret Imrie.
- ACS Please return your ACS box ASAP to church or the parish office.
- Babies & Toddlers We are looking for volunteers to help at the group on Wednesdays from 1:45-3:45 pm on an occasional basis, it is also term time only. Duties would include helping to set up activities, making drinks and clearing away at the end of the session as well as engaging with parents and children. If you are interested please contact Janice Vause on 0781 4834188.
- The Bells Our bells pealed for the last time on Sunday, 26th March.
  They have now been taken to Taylor's Bell Foundry. A day trip is being
  organised for Thursday 11th May to see some of the new bells being cast.
  For more information contact Stuart Newton, 01253 725958 or email,
  bellmad75@outlook.com.
- Coffee & Chat The next meeting will be on Monday 1st May at 10:30 am. We are aware that it is Bank Holiday, but there are 3 bank holidays in May!





# Quote for May



"Be yourself, everyone else is taken" Oscar Wilde

#### ·Note from the Editor:

Well here we are in the early days of May, how wonderful to see God's beauty springing into life.

Lots of short weeks this month! An additional Bank Holiday as we celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on 6th May, the first coronation for many of us.

There are lots of things to look forward to over the coming months, see page 20 for details. Dates will be confirmed over the coming weeks.

There are some slight changes to the publication of the magazine for the remainder of the year. There will be a monthly publication from June to August, with a double autumn magazine, September & October. A magazine will be published in November, then we revert back 'to normal' for the Winter edition, December & January.

 The June magazine will be published at the end of May, so if you have anything for the next magazine, then, as always, please send them to:

stannesparishmag@gmail.com. Thank you

# **Ascension Day** 40 Days with the Risen Christ

Forty days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands - and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection!

Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.





# Food Donations Supporting the Parish



There is a basket at the back of church for any tinned or other non-perishable donations which we are passing to our church school, Heyhouses C of E Primary School, each week

These items are used to support our school and thereby the families in our parish

Sadly, even within the sound of our church bells, some families face the difficult decision of heating or eating

So we extend a huge THANK YOU to everyone who donates goods

It is very much appreciated by our local community and the school

Donations can be brought to any of the church services and

CHURCH IS OPEN EVERY FRIDAY between 1-5 pm Please check that all items are well within their "Use by" date



## Walsingham Pilgrimage 2023



This year's pilgrimage to Walsingham will be from Monday 4th to Thursday 7th September.

The cost is £325, depending on the number of people attending. If you are interested please have a word with Kath Hall or Gerald Wilson.

New pilgrims especially welcome.

We celebrate Mass together as a group on the last Friday of the month.

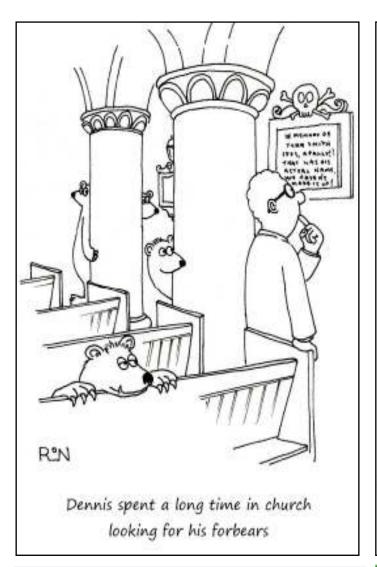
# Heyhouses C of E Nursery School

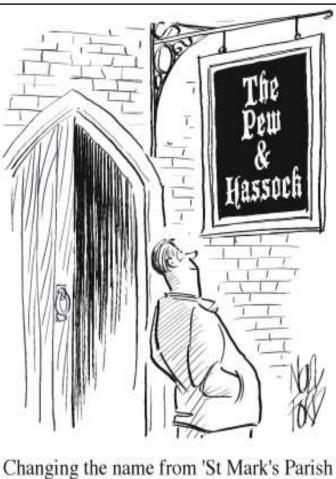


If you have a child aged 2.5-4 years old and you are looking for a nursery place, then you are invited to come along to our New Parents Evening on Wednesday 17th May at 7.30 pm to find out more about us. For further information contact Suzanne on 01253 640110.

#### **ALSO**

Why not join us at our Spring Fair on Sunday 21st May in The Nursery Garden from 12 pm. Lots of stalls & activities and BBQ! Please come along and join in the fun, you are all very welcome.







#### Heyhouses C of E Nursery School

Are you looking for a nursery place for your child?

If you are interested in a place at this outstanding nursery with close links to the primary school please contact us at

<u>suzanne.williams@heyhousesnursery.co.uk</u> or call either

> 01253 640110 07483 310160

#### **CHRIS DANBY**

Church', resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services

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Email: chris@chrisdanbymemorials.co.uk



## Baby & Toddler Group



We meet in the Parish Rooms from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm on **WEDNESDAYS** during **TERM TIME** 

Everyone is welcome - Mummies & Daddies, Grandparents, Childminders, Carers

You will all be given a warm welcome with your little ones
Come and have a cup of tea or coffee and a chat while your children
play in a safe environment

For more details contact the Parish office - 01253 722736

Church of St Anne Guide Book only £2.50, available from the church bookstall. Highly recommended

#### WE ARE A GIVING CHURCH - CHARITABLE DONATIONS 2022

We donate 10% of our planned-giving income to charity. Most recently we supported the Centre for Legal Aid Assistance and Settlement, North West Blood Bikes, St Anne's Friends of Trinity Hospice, The Stroke Association and other individual causes identified by the clergy. More information is on our website: www.stannesparishchurch.org

#### Nursery Praise

The worship, prayers and story time will be followed by refreshments

All young children are welcome, together with parents and carers

This will resume as soon as possible



#### Babies & Toddlers

Come and join us
in the Parish Rooms on
Wednesday afternoons
in term time from

2.00 pm - 3.30 pm

Everyone is welcome Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Childminders and Carers

Come and join us for tea and a chat with plenty of toys for the toddlers



#### Influence

Articles for inclusion in the magazine for

**JUNE 2023** 

should be handed in at the Parish Office or e-mailed to: stannesparishmag@gmail.com

before 12 pm on MONDAY 15th MAY

Thank you



### Church Registers



#### **Baptisms**



#### Marriages

#### Recently Departed



No Baptisms



Please pray for those who have died recently, among them:

Reg Atkins Stella Devine Wyn Hodge Marjorie Lester Colin Lyon Jean Parker Ron Rostron

'May they rest in Peace and rise in Glory'





#### Memorial Chapel Lamp

The Memorial Chapel Lamp is sponsored by Bill Bloss in Memory of Mike Fitzsimmons



#### Lady Chapel Lamp

The Lamp in the Lady Chapel is sponsored by The St Annes Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham



#### BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

It is possible to have names of departed loved ones placed in the Memorial Book. Please simply take a form from the back of church and return it to the Parish Office.

Donations given with names for entry will be placed in a special memorial fund, to be used in memory of loved ones, according to the church's needs.

#### Diocesan Communications Update

Information from the diocese is available to view on the diocesan website: www.blackburn.anglican.org. If you are reading this online you can click on this link <a href="Blackburn Diocese">Blackburn Diocese</a> or search <a href="https://www.blackburn.anglican.org">www.blackburn.anglican.org</a>

Lots of useful and interesting information with links to photographs, articles and diocesan initiatives.

#### **Contacts**

#### Church Officers and Organisations

Lay Reader:

Mr Bill Hembrow 721872

Director of Music:

Mr Alistair MacKenzie 722366

Verger: Mr Adrian Page 728577

Servers: Mr Gerald Wilson 730806

Hon. Secretary of PCC: 461636

Mr Jim Andrews

Hon. Treasurer of PCC:

Richard Baker 727878

Heyhouses C of E Primary School:

Mrs Elizabeth Hodgson: 722014 Ext 1 - Infant Dept, Ext 3 - Junior Dept

Nursery

Mrs Suzanne Williams 640110 Email: Suzanne.williams@heyhousesnursery.co.uk

Captain of Bellringers:

Stuart Newton 725958

Planned Giving Officer:

Richard Baker 727878

Electoral Roll Secretary:

Gerald Wilson 730806

Press Officer: Lesley Dawson 726589

Parish Rooms: Parish Office

Magazine Editorship:

stannesparishmag@gmail.com

Magazine Adverts: Parish Office

Flower Guild:

Hazel Preston Parish Office

Safeguarding Officers: Chris & Lisa Hale Chris' mobile 07421 359941 Lisa's mobile 07500 484844

Email: chris.hale54321@gmail.com

Mothers' Union:

Christine Buckley 728666

Babies and Toddlers:

Janice Vause 07814 834188

Children's Church:

Contact the Parish Office 722736

Nursery Praise: Parish Office

Nursery Praise: Parish Of Operatic and Dramatic Society:

Alison Thornton 739235

Handbell Ringers:

Christine Buckley 728666

Uniformed Organisations

For details of our uniformed groups contact the Parish Office

#### Usual Services at St Annes Parish Church

#### Sunday

10.15 am Children's Church (2nd & 4th Sundays) (Unable to meet at present, awaiting new leadership)

10.30 am Parish Mass

6.30 pm Evening Prayer (see Worship & Prayer Diary for details)

#### **Weekday Services**

The Mass is usually celebrated at the following times:

 Monday
 12.00 noon

 Tuesday
 10.30 am

 Wednesday
 9.00 am

 Thursday
 6.00 pm

 Friday
 9.30 am



#### Parish Information

#### Parish Office

2a Oxford Road, St Annes on Sea

FY8 2EA

#### 01253 722736

stannesparishoffice73@gmail.com

Open Monday to Friday 9.30 am - 12 pm

For information regarding Weddings & Funerals please contact Fr Glen - 01253 728358

For information regarding Baptisms please contact the Parish Office - 01253 722736

#### Churchwardens

Ann Fletcher - 01253 720812 Bernard Snape - 07925 407863

#### Website Administrator:

Paul McMahon paulmcmahon1@aol.com Registered Charity No: 1155188