

AMDG



# PARISH EXTRA



NEWS, VIEWS AND INFORMATION FOR ST PETER'S,  
ST JOSEPH'S AND THE STONYHURST COMMUNITY

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## EDITORIAL

ISSUE NUMBER ELEVEN

CHRISTMAS 2019

Welcome to this year's bumper issue of the Parish Extra, a round up of what has been happening over the last year and a cheeky look forward to our plans for the year to come.

A special welcome to those who have moved into the village over the last year. I hope you feel at home in the community. You are most welcome to come to our church services and other parish activities.

This Parish Extra should give you a flavour of who we are and what we do.

A word of thanks to all of those who make our worshipping community a reality. Of course anyone else who would like to get involved is most welcome.

Contact us on:  
[www.stpetersstonyhurst.org.uk](http://www.stpetersstonyhurst.org.uk)

### Comfort and Challenge

There is a carol where we wish each other *Comfort and Joy* at the birth of Jesus. My wish this year is for *Comfort and Challenge*. The Christmas story is so familiar, it gives us comfort to hear the message once more through readings and song. We know the characters, the Shepherds, the Kings, the Inn Keeper with Mary and Joseph and the infant Jesus. The story of how Jesus came to this earth is one that allows us to feel the love of the Lord each year in a familiar way.

But the story is also a challenge. How is it that the ever living, almighty and all powerful God has chosen to become a human being just like the rest of the human race? What is my place in the story? I cannot be just a passive observer looking in from the outside. I need to have an active role in the story of human salvation. So let us look at the Christmas crib with fresh eyes and work out my part in the work Jesus has to



### Christmas Mass times

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec | Vigil Mass at 5.30pm in St Peters   |
| Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec | Mass at 9.30am in St Joseph's   |
|                          | Mass at 11am in St Peter's  |
| Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec | No Mass   |
| Tue 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec | Mass for Children at 5.30 in St Peter's<br>(please bring your baby Jesus) |
|                          | Carols at 5 pm  |
|                          | Mass of Christmas at 9.00pm in St Peter's                                 |
|                          | Carols at 8.30 pm   |
|                          | <i>There is NO Mass at MIDNIGHT this year.</i>                            |
| Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec | Mass in St Joseph's at 9.30am   |
| Thu 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec | No Mass   |
| Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Dec | Mass at 8am in St Peter's   |

Please take this Newsletter home with you at the end of Mass



## WELCOME TO HURST GREEN

*We sent our reporter out into Hurst Green to interview a family recently arrived from Syria. These are their answers.*

### ***What do you like most about living in Hurst Green?***

I like everything: I like my friends, I like Hope and I like the horses. I like school.

I like the mothers and toddlers group: they are good people. I like the river and the many big trees. I like going to Clitheroe Talk English Club (as does the baby) and I like being in the house.

I love playing football with my friends. I like my friends at school and in the village. I was very happy when Catriona came to help me at my school. I felt blessed on my birthday.

I like Stonyhurst College. I like the people of Stonyhurst and Hurst Green: they are nice people. People treat each other well here. The nature here is beautiful. The village is small, but the good deeds of its residents are large.

### ***Where are your favourite places around Hurst Green and the surrounding area?***

School: I want to go on Saturday and Sunday too, because I love school. I like to go to the river, where the horses are. I like to go to the ducks with Sarah's family and mine.

I like it down near the Old Bobbin Mill and the Dene: I like walking there. I like Stonyhurst College, the ponds and the ducks. I like the views from St Joseph's School with all the trees across the valley.

I like the swimming pool. I liked cycling at Dunsop Bridge with my friend's family.

I like Blackburn College. I like Dene Brook and the Sandrock. I like the sea at Blackpool.



*Photos of Sandrock taken by the family.*





***What has surprised you here?***

I was surprised by the school and by how quickly I made friends. I was surprised by Hope's patience with us and how she kept us busy, teaching us reading, writing and swimming. I was surprised by all the animals we saw on the school trip to the zoo.

I was surprised by the welcome we received and by the help for me and for the children. I had been apprehensive about wearing the scarf, but nobody mentioned it or told me to take it off. I was surprised by how quickly things happened. Thank you Hummingbird for helping me.

Being greeted at the airport, the welcome, there were lots of surprises – Hummingbird.

We were really surprised by the Hummingbird group which helped us in every way. We were surprised when we saw the beautiful house, after a tent previously.

***If you could change 3 things what would they be?***

To have a pony, for my friend to come to my birthday and for my grandma to be here. To be better at speaking, reading and writing English, so I can work. To see my mother. To improve my behaviour, not to get upset by little things, to be diligent at school and get a good job in the future. To be more like my friends.

I'd be good at English as soon as possible, so I can be self-reliant.

***Would you recommend Hurst Green as a place to live?***

All: Yes. It's very good. Thank you Hummingbird: thank you from all of us. Thank you, John Browne. It's a beautiful, quiet and good village. Its residents are very kind. Public transport is difficult and takes a long time. The treatment of us by the inhabitants of the village has been beautiful.

## **GREAT EVENTS OF 2019**

January: Ordination to the diaconate of Max Koch SJ

February: Christian Heritage Centre (Theodore House) opens

March: Lenten retreats of Eucharistic Ministers and Readers

April: Celebration of Easter with the Holy Week retreat

May: Apostolic Nuncio visits and confirms Stonyhurst pupils

June: Hummingbird Family Arrive

July: Blessing of the refurbished Our Lady Statue

August: Ecumenical Bar-B-Que in the village

September: RCIA programme launched

October: Retreat day for St Joseph's Staff

November: Remembrance Service in Hurst Green



## ST JOSEPH'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

We celebrate the end of another very successful and eventful year at St Joseph's when we welcomed fifteen new children to our reception class.

Working towards taking care of our common home has always been a priority for the school. The children of St Joseph's recognise that the crisis in climate change demands a response from each and every one of us in order to bring about lasting improvements. On the Wednesday of Holy Week the children, along with the teachers and members of, our neighbours, St John's C of E Church, came together to voice their concern over climate change by "Sounding Twelve Years"- a national call to show concern and to raise the profile of our 12 year timeline by creating bursts of 12 sounds. The bells of St John's were rung 12 times, and then the children gathered in the centre of the village,



### **Making Noise to save the planet**

banged drums, tambourines, shakers and pans, before suggesting ways in which we could all change our behaviours to combat climate change and species loss. Their suggestions were put in writing to Nigel Evans MP and to the Mayor of Longridge who has declared Longridge a plastic free town. We are all very proud of Jeannie, year 4, who read her letter to the mayor with eloquence and confidence at a meeting on climate change at the Longridge cinema.



Earlier this year as part of the Hummingbird project and in partnership with Stonyhurst and St Mary's Hall, the children and villagers welcomed a refugee family into our community. The project is named Hummingbird because tradition has it that when there is a forest fire the tiny hummingbird will fill its beak with water to drop onto the flames, knowing that it can't put out the fire but that every small effort will have some impact. The children know that millions of people have fled Syria for neighbouring countries to escape conflict and violence and although they cannot solve the refugee crisis, they can help to create something new and full of hope for the family we are welcoming into our community. We look forward to the many ways this family will enhance the diversity of the school and the children's understanding and empathy for those living in challenging circumstances.

The sporting achievement and academic results at St Joseph's, as always make us extremely proud and this year was no exception. Our Year 6 children left in the summer with outstanding results and are continuing to make us proud at their new schools, St Mary's Hall, Clitheroe Grammar and St Augustine's. In March this year we were visited by her Majesty's inspectors who had some lovely things to say about the school including: "The virtues of the Jesuit pupil profile and the commitment to "men and women for others" are the golden thread that binds this loving and harmonious learning community together. This is an exceptionally strong feature of St Joseph's."

May all of us at St Joseph's wish you a happy and Holy Christmas.

## COMMUNION CHILDREN

The following children made their First Holy Communion during this year

Matilda Blunden  
Neive Ireland  
Isla Morrow  
Edward O'Malley  
Isaac Smith  
Olivia Thomasson  
Tyler Turner  
Ava Cox (from SMH)  
Henry Meadows



*The Children on their First Holy Communion day*

The children due to make their communion in 2020 are Jacob Diffey, Michael Hodkinson,



## ST JOSEPH'S YOUTH GROUP

Another successful year at Youth Club has seen our membership increase to record levels. We received the kind donation of a pool/snooker table earlier in the year from a Longridge resident, and have just received a very useful donation from a local charity to buy some new equipment.

Our activities this year include:

A summer Jacob's Join at the Memorial Hall with our members and their families

A trampolining night in Accrington

A very successful fancy dress Halloween party

Christmas card-making crafts session

And we are now preparing for a Christmas disco at the end of term.

Just as a reminder, the Youth Club runs fortnightly during term time and is open to 9-14 year



olds. We have a tuck shop, table tennis, mini football, badminton, pool/snooker table as well as music. Come along to our next session and see for yourselves! All are welcome and we are currently looking for adult volunteers.





## A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE CHC

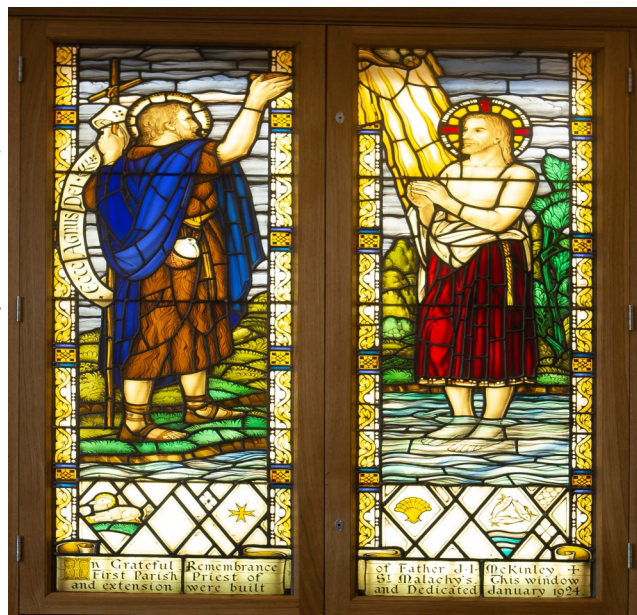
Set up some eight years ago, the charity called The Christian Heritage Centre finally opened the doors of its beautiful new home, Theodore House, last February. A large gathering of some two hundred people, which included Lord Shuttleworth, the Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire, and Right Reverend John Arnold, was presided over by Lord Nicholas Windsor. The Catholic royal unveiled a plaque to commemorate the opening of Theodore House, which was formerly a cornmill built in the 1840s to provide bread for the Stonyhurst community. Before the opening ceremony, Bishop John consecrated the Theodore House Oratory and celebrated Mass therein.

The foundation of the charity was inspired by the incredible collection of artefacts and relics that is held by Stonyhurst College. Amassed by the Jesuits since the foundation of St Omers College in France, the Collections bear a living testimony to some 600 years of English Catholic history: to its defenders and martyrs, to its innovators, and to the flourishing of a genuine, human culture that it enabled.

The charity's aim is therefore to offer learning and spiritual renewal inspired by this great heritage. It is essentially an educational project, with a broad remit of reaching out to any and all who are seeking truth, to offer them nourishment on their earthly pilgrimage, be it of a more intellectual or spiritual variety. Over the last few months, the charity has run its first series of public events. These have comprised a series of evening talks (which will resume monthly in January), on subjects including St John Henry Newman, Catholicism and Post-Modernism, and Gothic architecture; conferences on themes of faith in English literature and on the new evangelisation; and retreats and recollection days for laity and for clergy.

Looking forward to 2020, the area of faith and culture will continue to be explored with talks on European Art, explored through the eyes of John Ruskin, and on Caravaggio; and with a conference led by two Oxford professors on the Jesuits and Catholic culture during the Reformation. We will be running a first "family day" on Christian English history in March; retreats and summer camps for teenagers in Holy Week and in the summer; and we are working towards a first summer school for adults and a Christian Leadership Formation course for 6<sup>th</sup> form students.

We are also working with local schools and parishes to offer learning visits for key stage 2, retreats for First Holy Communion groups and marriage preparation courses. Whilst Theodore House primarily exists to enable this program, the charity also offers the residential and the retreat and conference facilities for private, group or corporate hire. Surrounded as it is by the tranquillity and beauty of the Stonyhurst estate, which no doubt many of us begin to take for granted after a while!, it is an attractive venue for individuals wanting a quiet stay, groups wanting a retreat venue, or businesses wanting a meeting room or conference venue with a difference. Please do help us out by spreading the word about our facilities, as ultimately the day-to-day running of Theodore House is only enabled by the income it can generate.



*A stained glass window donated to the centre*

We are always delighted to welcome guests to Theodore House, even if you only want to drop by, say hello and pick up a leaflet. Please do keep an eye on our events here – [www.christianheritagecentre.com/events](http://www.christianheritagecentre.com/events) and don't hesitate to contact us on [bookings@christianheritagecentre.com](mailto:bookings@christianheritagecentre.com) for more information or with any queries. All of us at the CJHC



# The Umbrella page

## We've got you covered!

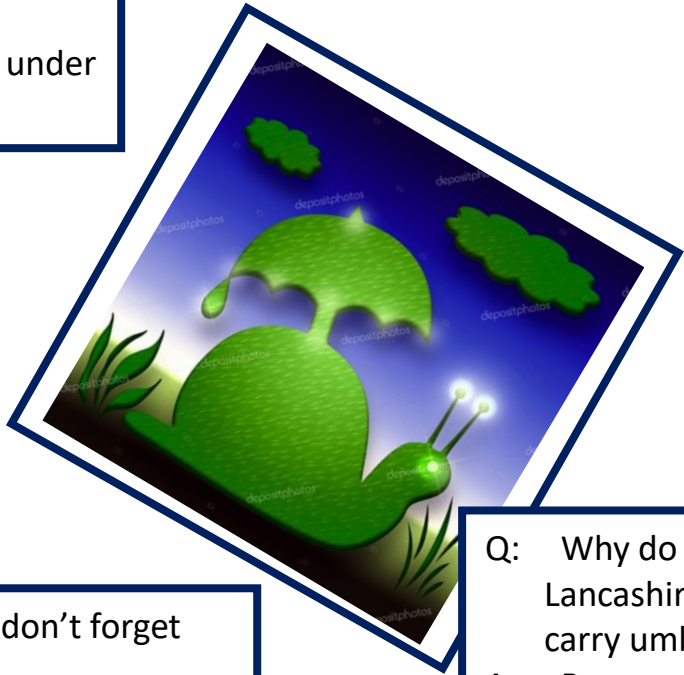
The Man who invented the Umbrella was going to call it the "Brella" – but then he hesitated!

Q: Why does James Bond carry an umbrella?  
A: He often has to work under cover.

Q: Why was the umbrella feeling sick?  
A: Must have been under the weather.

Q: What do you call Paddington without an umbrella?

I know lots of jokes about umbrellas – but if I tell you – they will just go over your head!



Mrs Santa: Santa – don't forget your umbrella dear.  
Santa: Now why would I need an umbrella?  
Mrs Santa: For the rain dear.

Q: Why do people in Lancashire often carry umbrellas?  
A: Because umbrellas

