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PARISH EXTRA



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

You can contact Father Curtis directly by telephone 01254 826268 or email stpeterschurchstonyhurst@btinternet.com

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the ninth issue of your Parish Extra; this is the news, views and information for your Parish by your Parish.

Our previous editions have been well received and we hope that you will continue to be involved with news ideas, articles and requests for any information or requests in the future.

We try to increase the articles and news in each edition but we rely on you to keep in touch with your questions or requests, or articles you would like to submit for future issues.

Getting in touch could not be easier; Contact the Parish Priest or members of the Pastoral Committee—details on the back page or our website: www.stpetersstonyhurst.org.uk.

ISSUE NO. 9

A message from Father PETER GRIFFITHS SJ PARISH PRIEST

The story of Christianity is about a journey - Jesus' journey from Heaven to Earth, and once on earth as a man, he had to travel still.

Even in his mother's womb, Jesus travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem and hardly is he born than he must set off again in the arms of his mother and St Joseph, fleeing from Herod's jealous anger, to the safety of Egypt. A restless babyhood.

Once he grows up and decides upon his future, he begins a life which is marked with travel. He begins by leaving the family home to meet his cousin, John, by the river Jordan to be baptised by him, thence into the desert for forty days and nights, followed by two or three years when he is constantly on the move, preaching the word and working miracles of healing and grace wherever he goes. His glorious, final journey is back to Heaven, whilst remaining here on earth in the form of the Holy Spirit.

In imitation of the journeying Christ, Bishop Arnold is asking you to become 'missionaries' and missionaries are people who journey, who travel to take Christ to people who live 'out there'. Most of you won't have to travel very far to find people who are totally ignorant of Christ and his message. They are all around you. Taking that message to others never-the-less is sometimes hard and challenging. The message of Christmas is - don't give up; live in hope and trust, as Mary & Joseph did that first Christmas. Then, as Julian of Norwich reminds us, 'All will be well, all manner of things will be well.'

I wish you and your families every blessing and good wish for this Christmas season and the New Year.



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



The Nativity





St Joseph's RC Primary school

2017 has been a busy year at St Joseph's and a year of much change. Last summer we said farewell to Cathy Poloczek, who had been our much loved bursar at the school for 24 years. Cathy, together with family and friends celebrated her time at St Joseph's with a Mass in the school chapel followed by a social event in the Bede room.



We also said goodbye to Father Peter, who is leaving at the end of the year after many years service to the school and Parish. All of us at St Joseph's wish him a long and happy retirement.

At the start of the autumn term we welcomed our new bursar, Heather Shuker. Seven children joined our nursery class this year and have settled in very quickly. We also welcome Aaron, Maria, Archie, Cyrus, Able, Ruby, Rocco and Alex who have joined us during the year.



The children have enjoyed a number of visits outside of school this year. The key stage 2 children travelled to Manchester for a visit to the Science Museum and a theatre visit to the Lowry. They also enjoyed a trip to Tower woods for a week of outdoor pursuits. The



highlight of the year for the KS2 children was the two day challenge to climb the highest peak in the country and row the length of the longest lake. We are all very proud of the remarkable determination and resilience the children showed in completing this challenge - I am sure it is an experience they will never forget. The reception and KS1 children had a lovely day at Mrs Dowson's farm where they sampled a whole range of delicious ice creams and all children enjoyed a trip to the pantomime at Christmas.



The new school building is now fully operational and the Bede room has proved invaluable as a venue for meetings and out of school events. We would like to extend an invitation to the Parish and wider community to consider the use of this room for community events and hope that it will become a focus for village meetings in the future. The children are now enjoying the field behind the KS2 classroom for outdoor learning and play. Many thanks to our neighbours at Stonyhurst for this gift.

As always, the friends of St Joseph's have been very active organising events throughout the year to support the school. The summer term concluded with a beach themed party, which was great fun for the children (and parents). The very successful Christmas fayre was much enjoyed by all who attended, including Father Christmas, and raised valuable funds for the school. We are hoping to use these funds to buy toys and outdoor resources for the use of the nursery and reception children.

All of us at St Joseph's wish all of you a happy and holy Christmas.



ST JOSEPH'S YOUTH CLUB



After nine successful years as an adult volunteer and latterly as Chair of the St Joseph's Youth Group, Guy McLennan has retired from running this active Parish group.

His place has been taken by Darren Turner whose family live at Hodder Court.

The activities this year so far include:

- ◆ .A summer BBQ held at Stonyhurst College
- ◆ Bowling night in Blackburn
- ◆ A very successful fancy dress Halloween party
- ◆ 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 and badminton as well as music. Come along to our next session and see for yourselves! All welcome! Especially adult volunteers.





SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME AND THE CHURCH REPOSITORY

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

The season of Advent is a very important time in the life of St Joseph's School. The children are involved in many activities, contributing enormously to the joy of this season, as we look forward to the Second Coming of Christ and remember his first coming, the birth of the Saviour.

We especially remember in our prayers the Year 3 children who are being instructed by Mrs Sarah Hodgkinson (parish catechist) together with school, in their faith journey towards Holy Eucharist & Confirmation. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was celebrated by Father Peter, in a lovely service after school, with the children and their families on Monday 4th December. Please remember the following children Leo, Sebastian, Lawrence, Evelyn, Dominic, Grace, Jeannie, Tom and their families in your prayers.



Repository

St. Peter's repository is situated at the back of the parish church and for many visitors may just go unnoticed. But for the local parishioner it has long been a source of Mass cards and small gifts for children making their sacraments at both the local village primary school and Stonyhurst St Mary's.

In recent years we have tried, to stock a few more items - wedding cards, birth congratulations, retirement, new home, birthdays to name but a few.



There is a good selection of rosary beads, children's books, crosses, saints medals and candles. Sacramental gifts are also stocked. Seasonal gifts such as advent calendars, diaries, Christmas cards are available at both St.Peter's and now at St. Joseph's Chapel.

The Catholic Truth Society book stand is also situated at the back of St. Peter's and is stocked with some beautiful titles written especially to deepen your faith. Please take a moment to visit these parish resources and if there are any items you would wish to see stocked please let Father know



THE LATE JOHN HOLDEN an appreciation.

Sadly, John Holden, or 'John at Winkley' as he was affectionately known, died on October 1st, and what a huge gap he has left in the parish and the village.

John was a fount of information about so many local matters, whether it was the lay out of the graves in St. Joseph's Cemetery, or anything to do with the Memorial Hall, which he helped to build.

He was a stalwart of the Village Fete for which he worked endlessly, especially building the swing boats and other attractions for its early days, and then continuing to help in any way he could, particularly as its chairman. He was a staunch member of the Memorial Hall Committee and guided it through many of its early years.

John was always very actively involved in St. Peter's Parish, organising the May Processions, making and erecting the Christmas Crib and putting up the October Rosary Banners. He organised the Readers and Eucharistic Ministers and generally knew what would be needed by generations of Parish Priests.

He was a loyal supporter of Lourdes Pilgrimages for over thirty years, tirelessly working with the sick and handicapped.

John was a very humble artist and craftsman leaving behind three excellent pieces of work – the crucifix in St. Joseph's Cemetery, the statue of St. Joseph near the school, where he was a governor and the Nativity scene, which is placed with the Christmas tree in the centre of the village. All of these are happy reminders of a selfless, generous man who will be missed greatly.

John was often helped in his endeavours by members of his family, and latterly by his widow, Rita, who continues to live in Warren Fold





January 2017



July 2017



September 2017

October 2017

Work continues apace in the Parish cemetery. We have a small but dedicated cutting crew lead by Bernard Holden and he ensures a team is assembled to take advantage of the weather conditions. General strimming, grass cutting, hedge trimming, ornamental trees cutting, pathways litter tidied up, and other maintenance are all part of the variety of work undertaken.

In addition, the 'big tree management' programme continues, and we are grateful for the Parish funding a local professional tree surgeon to undertake some of the more specialised branch and tree cropping. As you can see from the photograph, it is a dangerous occupation and we are grateful for Peter Winstanley's expertise.

We hope you see for yourself on any future visits some of the changes taking place but the above before and after photographs give some indication of the work.

The plans for the future include cutting back the branches which overhang the cemetery from outside; taking down two large trees which are leaning over in a precarious way; and focussing on the central tree area management, in particular, to try and encourage more light and therefore stronger grass growth.

We would also like to pay tribute to the late John Holden who acted as the go-between local funeral directors and Parishioners for such a long time. His knowledge and expertise was extensive and he was a valuable source of information. I'm sure he will keep an eye on us as we continue our work!

John's role has been passed on to Niall Macfarlane, so please do not hesitate to make contact with Niall on any thoughts or concerns (07786 432360) The Parish website also has reference to the guidance and policy for burial in the cemetery which was checked and approved by John Holden earlier in 2016.

Thank you again to all the Parishioners and visitors who have helped the cemetery crew safely manage the regular mowing and maintenance during the Summer season by keeping the decorative features at the grave sites to a minimum. The volunteers' safety has to be kept in mind and it is much appreciated.

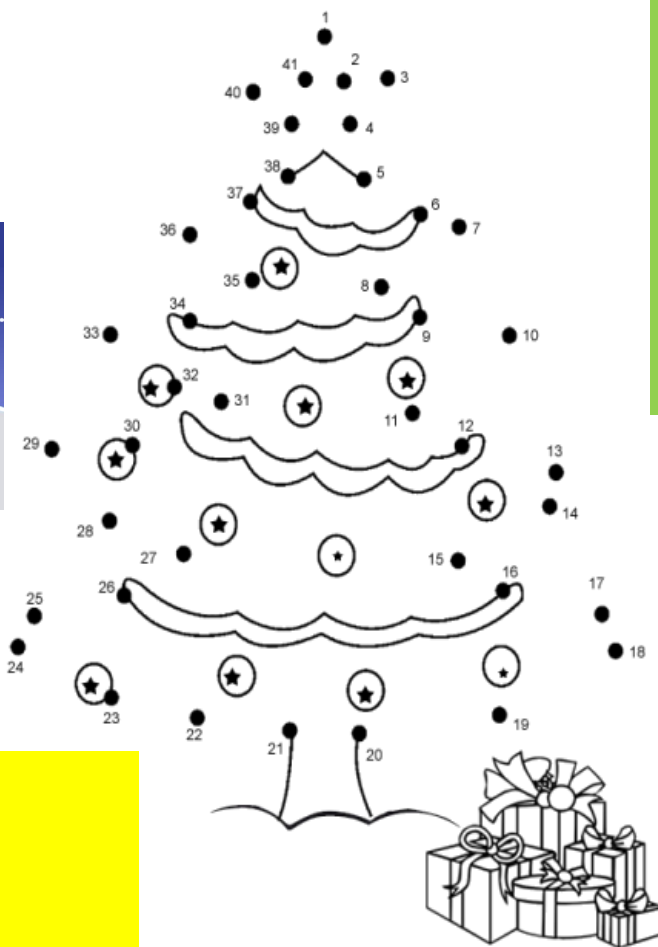




A BIT OF FUN!

**What carol is heard
in the Desert**

O camel ye faithful



**WHY DO
GHOSTS
LIVE IN THE
FRIDGE.
BECAUSE IT'S
COOL!**



**What's green,
covered in tinsel and
goes 'ribbet
ribbet'?**

A Mistle-toad



**Why is every-
one so
thirsty at the
North Pole.**

**No well,
No well,**

**KNOCK, KNOCK
WHO'S THERE?
HAROLD
HAROLD WHO
HARK THE
HAROLD ANGELS
SING!**



PARISH VOLUNTEERS

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Parish life has many facets and responsibilities: with the shortage of clergy being the reality of Diocesan life, the involvement of the laity is key in running the Sacramental programme, the Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Youth Club and so forth.

We rely on volunteers supporting our Parish Priest so that his job is made easier and we have the opportunity to put our faith into action.

New blood is always welcome. It allows us to refresh some of the regular activities, promote new ideas and ensure the delivery of some of the important routines.

So what is on offer?

We need volunteers in the following areas: (we have added the current Lead volunteer name)

Children's Liturgy (Sarah Hodkinson)
St Joseph's 10am Mass set-up / cleaning (Mary Bailey)
Readers at St Peter's (John Thomasson)
Pastoral Committee (Niall Macfarlane)
St Joseph's Cemetery grass cutting (Bernard Holden)
Eucharistic Ministers (Julie Macfarlane/Tom Eccles)
Music (Fr Peter)
Occasional assistant to Fr Peter at funerals (Fr Peter)
Finance Committee (Les Bury)
Parish website (Peter Nicholson)
St Joseph's Youth Group (Darren Turner / Jessica Nutter)
Readers at St Joseph's (Tom Eccles)
Offertory collectors (Gordon Nicholson, James Slater, Bill Holden)



If you feel that you _____ can contribute in some way, please do not hesitate to speak to Fr Peter, or any of the people involved in the various roles within our Parish.

Thank you

LDS



Ecumenical Churches in Hurst Green



This year has seen the arrival of the Rev Canon Brian McConkey. Brian is resident at the vicarage at Ribchester and has responsibility for St Wilfred's Ribchester, All Hallows, Mitton and us here at St John's. He has quickly become a well known face in the village and has forged friendships with all sections of our community.

Brian is keen to build on the strong ties we already have with St Peter's and St Joseph's that have been developed with the support of Father Peter Griffiths. It is on that note that we have to express our sadness at his departure. His spiritual and physical support for St John's Church has been immense. He is a good friend to our Church and we shall miss him.

However we look forward to the arrival of Father Tim Curtis and pray that our work together can continue to bring the love of Christ to our communities.

Our work together has included:

- Fairtrade fortnight, St John's and St Joseph's School supported this initiative by sharing a Fare Trade stall highlighting third world farmers
- Sharing mid week worship together followed by lunch on 3 occasions.
- Being invited to worship together at the beautiful St Joseph's Chapel, a highlight for many people at St John's.
- Giving each child at St Joseph's School a 'Real' Easter egg with the Christian Easter message as a gift from both communities.
- Worshipping together outdoors in August with a guest speaker from CAFOD.
- Raising over £600 for CAFOD
- Good Friday workshop at St John's Old School involving children and adults from all the community.

'Harvest' workshop in October at St John's Old School where children and adults came together to support the CAFOD 'BOB BOX' initiative.

The list could go on but simply indicates that there is much more that keeps us together than separates us.

In June 2017 we were delighted to welcome to a Sunday Worship a Syrian refugee family, Mussab, his wife Myrwa and their 2 year old daughter. Many people from St Peter's joined our congregation to listen to Mussab telling his story of travelling from war torn Syria to the safety of Lancashire.

Our Coffee Stop continues to be well attended from all in the community and could not operate without the support of wonderful volunteers from both churches.

We are delighted to be able to support the 'Hobbits' parent and toddler group in the village. St John's organises a rota of volunteers from all the community who provide refreshments and support for the group.

We pray that the Christian values we share will continue to help us work together to make the world a better place.





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you at the end of Mass**



L.D.S.