

July 2025

FOCUS

Issue 296



Parish Magazine of St Stephen's, Hightown



Summer Celebration



Editor's Note

When we read the daily news and watch TV, it can sometimes seem as though the world is devoid of any God. When God created humankind, he gave each of us the power to choose; good or bad/right or wrong. We are not puppets in God's hands. When we take time to think about things, it soon becomes clear that it is not a loving God who is inflicting all these terrible wars or events upon us, but we ourselves.

However, Jesus, the Son of God, says, "I am with you always to the very end of time", (Matthew 28:20).

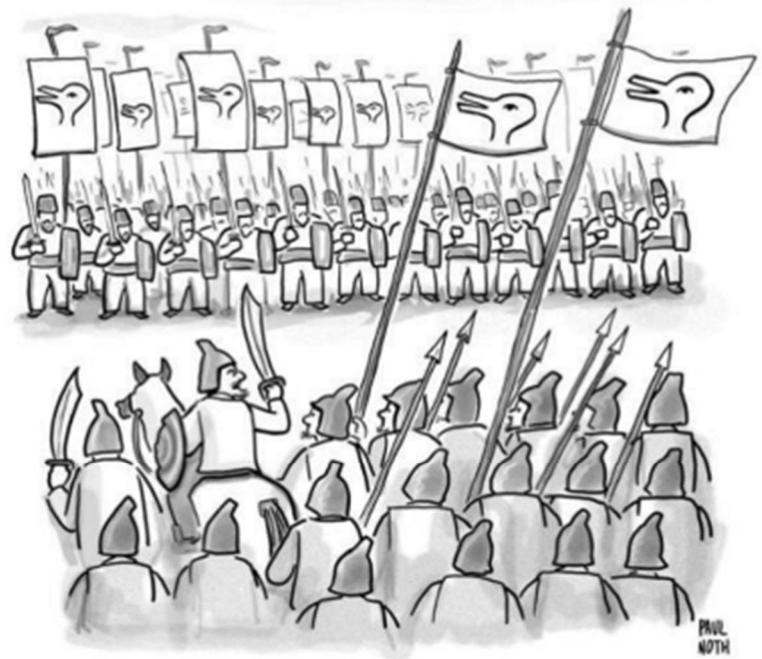
So where is Jesus Christ in all of these horrific events?

He is the hands and feet of the doctors and nurses tending the injured, the rescue services, valiantly digging people out of the rubble or wreckage, and the aid workers taking food to the hungry, to mention just a few.

This week, we read about the dreadful plane crash of the Air India Dreamliner. Reading through the list of people who lost their lives, I was struck by the fact that these people came from diverse

backgrounds: Hindus, Muslims, Christians, people of no faith, British, Indian and more, all on the one journey together. I believe that they, all of them, regardless of creed, colour or race have reached their destination, reunited with the one true God in their heavenly home.

Colette



"There can be no peace until they renounce their Rabbit God and accept our Duck God."

Entries for future issues of Focus to be sent to

Focus.Mag.2023@StStephensHightown.org.uk

Please submit before last day of month

Dear Friends,

“One more step along the world I go, one more step along the world I go. From the old things to the new keep me travelling along with you”.



Words from a much-loved hymn, that always comes into its own at this time of year. It is a favourite school hymn and is often used at school leavers' services as children prepare for changing schools or moving out into the wider world.

It was a pleasure for me to attend Trinity St Peter's School last month, to take an assembly there. I used the text from 2 Corinthians 12: 10-12 about how in our weaknesses, the power of God in us makes us strong. A good thought to keep with us. One more step for me though, is not just a hymn, but a prayer. A prayer for children that they will always know God's presence, strength and love with them wherever they go, but also a prayer for us as we face changes in our lives.

Later this month, I will be reading 'Banns of Marriage' for the first time at St Stephen's, and that's a real joy! Oriana and Callum will be getting married here, next month, and we pray that they will know God's love and presence with them as they travel into this new phase of their lives together. For others, this time of year can mean a change of jobs or moving house. We pray for good endings and joyful new beginnings.

Change can be a scary thing, but it is necessary for us to grow and to experience new things.

Even going away on holiday is a change, though hopefully a change that will bring us rest and refreshment. It can broaden our horizons as we visit new places, bring us into contact with new people, different cultures and the option to try out new things. Even if we are not going away, it often feels as if there is a change to the pace of life as the days are longer, and perhaps we don't have to rush around quite as much to get things done. Here's hoping!

It's always good to give thanks to God for all that He gives us, and for all the challenges and new chapters in our lives that come our way. So, whether or not there are changes ahead for you this summer, remember the chorus of the hymn;

“And it's from the old I travel to the new, keep me travelling along with you”.

***God Bless,
Keith***

St Stephen's Church Services for July

Wednesday 2 nd	10:30	Eucharist
Friday 4 th	09:30	Morning Prayer
Sunday 6 th Trinity 3	10:30	All-Age Eucharist
	18:00	Evensong
Wednesday 9 th	10:30	Eucharist
	19:00	Sanctuary @ Seven
Friday 11 th	09:30	Morning Prayer
Sunday 13 th Trinity 4	10:30	Eucharist
	16:00	Toddler Church
	18:00	Evensong
Wednesday 16 th	10:30	Eucharist
Friday 18 th	09:30	Morning Prayer
Sunday 20 th Trinity 5	10:30	Eucharist
	18:00	Evensong
Wednesday 23 rd	10:30	Eucharist
Friday 25 th	09:30	Morning Prayer
Sunday 27 th Trinity 6	10:30	Eucharist
	18:00	BCP Holy Communion

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Colin
Goodyear, who died on 5th June 2025.



May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



Coffee Morning



Saturday 5th July

And every first Saturday of each month

10.00am–12 noon

St Stephen's Church Hall

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

Magazine part-sponsored by John Gibson - notary services

Prayer prompts July



From the writings of Julian of Norwich

- Wk 1.** The smallest thing will not be forgotten: Is there something that happened that strikes you and counterproductive? Do you think that no good can come of it? Remember it now and in faith bring it to God. Let God assure you of its hidden significance.
- Wk 2.** “What is impossible for you is not impossible for me. I shall honour my word in everything, and I shall make everything well.”
- Wk 3.** Our failure does not prevent Him from loving us. Our courteous Lord does not wish his creatures to lose hope.
- Wk 4.** All life is founded in love and without that love, life is impossible. God is our protector when we ourselves are disturbed, and he continually labours to bring us to rest.

-oOo-

Let us pray for the people of:

Tudor Gardens, Rathbone Rd and the farms in Gorsey Lane.

Thank You!

On behalf of the PCC, I would like to thank all those who have kindly made donations to St Stephen's during the last year.

Your gifts are very much appreciated and have been faithfully applied in our mission, here, in Hightown.

God bless and thank you, again, for your generosity.

Rev Keith

Christian Aid

Hightown raised £500!

We extend our grateful thanks to all who helped raise this amount by distributing the envelopes, the Village store for collecting them and all those who returned them.

Eco Church

For The Love of God's Good Creation

The owners of this garden, in The Kingdom of Fife, are setting a really good example in the simple measures that they are taking to reduce waste plastic, whilst recycling and putting it to good use.



By cutting strategically placed holes in plastic containers and bottles, they have created a way of protecting their young plants from a late frost or little nibblers, without any expense to themselves.

Don't Step on a Bee Day – 10th July

Have you ever wanted to step on a bee? Hopefully most of us haven't – but the eye-catching name of this annual event aims to remind people of how important bees are in our ecosystem, and of the need to promote their protection.



Don't Step on a Bee Day highlights the crucial role bees play in pollination, and also that their populations are declining, because of habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change.

If you want to help the bees, here is what you can do:

Plant Bee-Friendly Flowers: Grow a variety of flowers in your garden that attract and support bees, such as lavender, sunflowers, and marigolds.

Avoid Using Pesticides: Reduce or eliminate these in your garden, to create a safer environment for bees.

Support Local Beekeepers: Purchase honey from local beekeepers, to help support sustainable beekeeping practices.

Create a Bee Bath: Place a shallow dish of water with stones in your garden to provide bees with a safe place to drink.

Educate Others: Share information about the importance of bees and how you protect them with friends, family, and on social media.

Brass Rota

July

Beth Cresswell

August

Shirley Burns



Sunday Coffee Rota July

6th Jayne Cudby

13th Beth Cresswell

20th Sue Taylor

27th Hilary Munro

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These two members
of our Toddler
Church had fun
celebrating
Pentecost, in June.

Smile Lines

Churchyard maintenance is becoming increasingly difficult, so it will be appreciated if parishioners cut the grass around their own graves.

The vicar announced that an additional font would soon be placed in the church, so that babies could be baptised at both ends.

'Word Together'

Bible Study

Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday

2pm

Who's Who at St Stephen's

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

MUSHROOM SOUP



Here is another recipe from FOCUS ON FOOD. It is the first in the book and the one I use most often. It was given to Elizabeth Richardson when she was having afternoon tea with the Mayor and Mayoress of Sefton at a past Flower Show. Elizabeth explained to the Mayoress, Valerie Francis, all about the recipe book and invited her to submit one for inclusion. This is the one she sent but sadly the list of ingredients was incomplete, it did not contain any mushrooms! Hence, the editors had to make an executive decision, I think we made a wise choice and the resulting soup is delicious.

INGREDIENTS:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 50g butter | 1 medium onion, finely chopped |
| 25g green pepper,
finely chopped (optional) | Salt and Pepper |
| 250g mushrooms, chopped | 500ml chicken or vegetable stock |
| 2 dessertspoons plain flour | Parsley |
| | 250 ml milk |

METHOD:

Melt butter in a heavy based frying pan and fry onions and pepper (if using) until just soft, not brown. Add mushrooms, salt and pepper, cover and cook over a low heat for about 10 minutes, being careful not to burn.

Stir in flour, add stock and bring to the boil. Simmer for 5 minutes, add milk cool and liquidise.

Reheat, stir and serve, scattered with the chopped parsley.

Serves 4 with good crusty bread.

Beautiful soup, so rich and green

Waiting in a hot tureen

Who for dainties would not stoop

Soup of the evening, beautiful soup

Lewis Carroll

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

Caroline Speakman

Member of the Society of Willwriters

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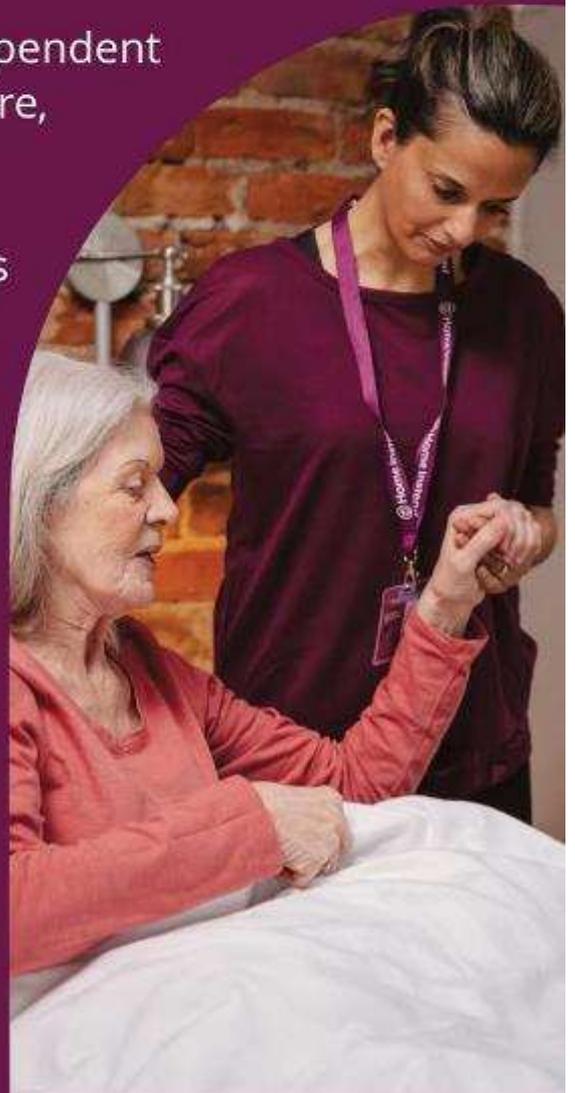
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A Good Read *by Colette Hudson*

based on the book, 'At Random', by Miss C Scott

The Church Hut: This was an old army hut, erected by the church as a temporary measure, until funds were available to build a proper hall. Concerts, sales of work etc. were held in the hut.

Mr S Farmer had written several plays, two of which were performed at the church hut, one entitled 'The Verdict', one 'The Picture'. The play, 'The Verdict' was broadcast on the BBC North Regional Programme on March 11th 1932.

The St Stephen's drama section of the youth club, presented a play entitled 'A Day In The Life Of Colonel St George', during the festival of Britain. This play was written by the late Mr S M Farmer. Mrs G Clayton painted the scenery for these plays.

Later, plays were produced by the Misses Cannell and the late Miss M Nicholl. These were performed on two nights and the hut was filled to capacity. The now St Stephen's Hall, as we know it today, was purchased with money left to the church by the late Miss Barton. We owe her a debt of gratitude.

(Editor's Note; When I was a child, the Misses Cannell lived together in the first house on the right hand side, as you go down Thornbeck Avenue. They looked very alike and I always supposed them to be twins. They always had perfectly coiffured blonde hair, rolled under at the ends; likewise, they always dressed immaculately. As far as I was aware, the sisters never went out to work, and were probably ladies of their own means.)



Pantomime group, 1930s, possibly in the hut. The clergyman is Rev. WRH Hall (St Stephen's 1929 - 33); below him is Ruth Beswerther-ick, who was born in Hightown and whose father was headmaster at the Truant School. She

trained as a nurse and nursed King George V during his last illness. (From My Hightown, 3rd Edition, Joe Bulman)

A Good Read (cont.)

The Hightown Flower Show: These shows were held in the army hut, known as the church hut, when the number of entries were few and in the Truant School as the number of entries increased and more space was required. Mr and Mrs Watson, (headmaster and matron), gave us help in every way - not to mention the use of the kitchen for teas!



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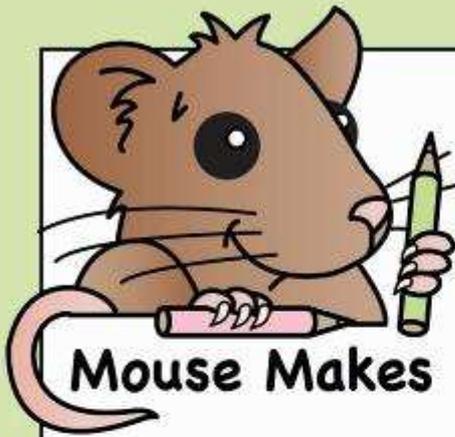
"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." *Abraham Lincoln*

"Only those who do not desire power are fit to hold it." *Plato.*

"Truth needs no flowers of speech" *Alexander Pope*

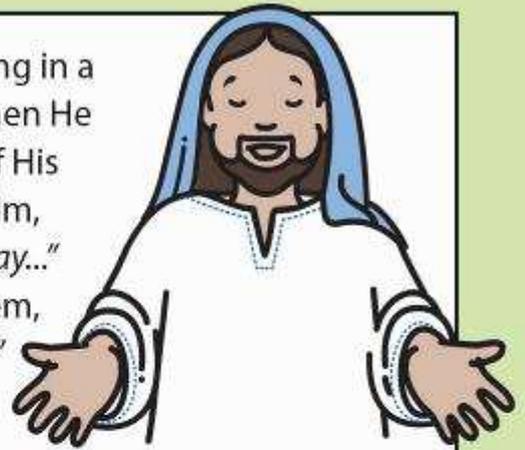
Village Organisations and Activities

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



Mouse Makes

"Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray..." And He said to them, "When you pray, say..."



Our _____
in _____,
hallowed be your
_____, your
_____ come,
your _____ be done,
on _____ as it is in
_____.

Give us today our daily
_____.
_____ us our
S _____ as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into

_____ but _____
us from _____.
For the kingdom,
the _____ and
the _____ are
yours now and forever.
Amen

D T E O P R G O D
F E E B R E A D I
O M G T O P P G S
R P W R T E O L C
G T L E E N W O I
I A O S C T E R P
V T R P T A R Y L
E I D A I N A M E
N O S S O C D A S
E N P S N E V F W
S K P E V I L A I
S I R S I N S T L
Y N A E A R T H L
G Y H E A V E N
I D E L I V E R E
F O R G I V E V E
A M E N W O R L D
I L F L J E S U S



Fill in the missing words of the Lord's Prayer then find them and these extra words in the word search:
LORD'S PRAYER
DISCIPLES
JESUS
GOD
WORLD
NEEDS
FORGIVENESS
TRESPASSES
PROTECTION
REPENTANCE



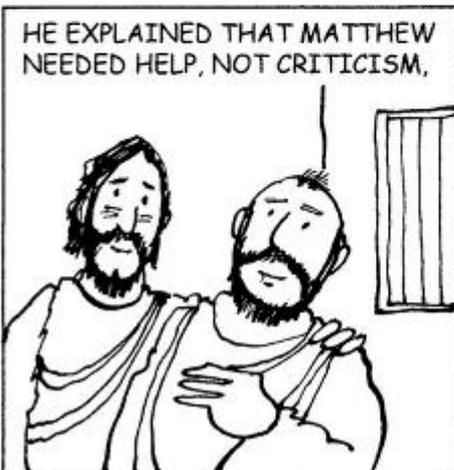
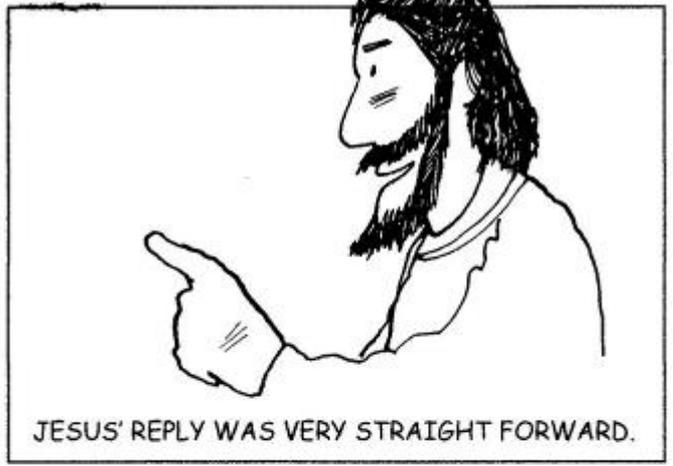
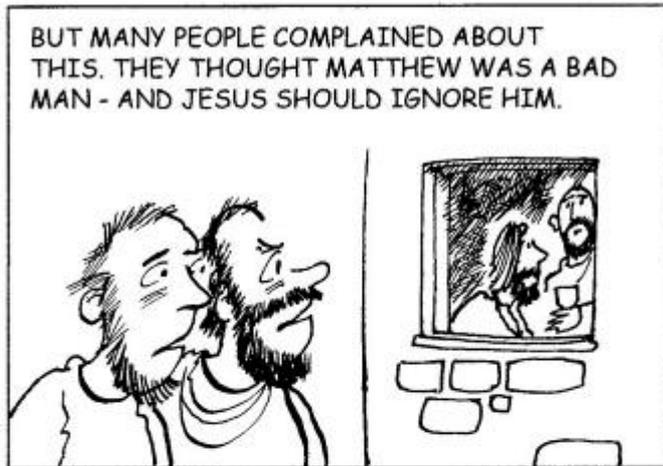
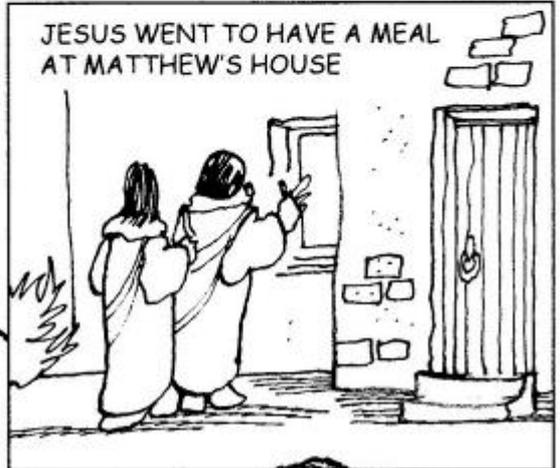
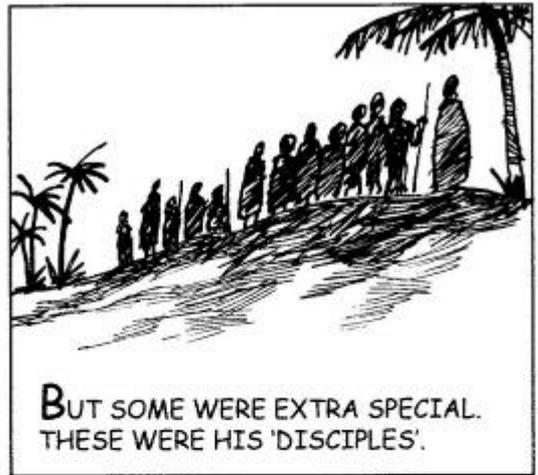
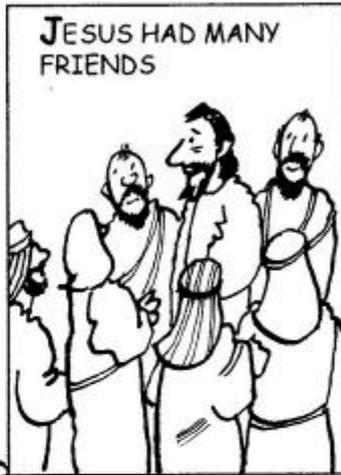
The versions of **The Lord's Prayer** we say today come from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Which version do you use in your church?



Read Matthew 6:9-15 and Luke 11:1-4



The Doctor and the Patient





Toddler Time

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

St. Stephen's Church Hall

Fridays 10am-11:30am term time

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

ALL WELCOME!

Toddler Church

St Stephen's Church

Sunday July 13th 4pm

A service for pre-schoolers and their families

Fun songs, a bible story, craft and refreshments

We look forward to meeting you!

Youth Club

From age 7

Friday Evening Term Time

6pm until 7.15pm

£2.50 includes snacks and drinks

Contact: Jane Bessant 07776 305 660

**Please note that there will be no youth club
during school holidays**



ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL



EVERY 3RD SUNDAY @ 10:30AM

