

May 2022

FOCUS

Issue 267



Parish Magazine of St. Stephen's, Hightown

An
invitation to give
to
Christian Aid
using the
envelope
provided.



The envelope can
be either handed
in at the village
shop or posted
through St
Stephen's Church
letterbox.

Christian Aid Week -
15th May - 21st May 2022

The May Issue

Editor's letter May 2022

Hello and welcome to the May issue

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing these lines, for on May 8th, Rev. Jan will be retiring as vicar of St. Stephen's Church, after five and a half years with us in Hightown. This does not mean that she will be retiring from the priesthood altogether, to the contrary, she has many ideas.



We have much to thank Jan for. She has not only been our vicar, but our good friend as well. With the help of Chris, her husband, and their considerable IT skills, she guided the parish through the lockdowns online, enabling us to retain a sense of unity. When, finally, we were allowed a little more freedom, Jan offered her reassuring physical presence, by returning to cycling around the village, stopping to greet people and chat: Our very own vicar 'en velo'. We thank Chris, also, for his skilful playing of the organ and accordion for us in church

Their dogs, Dougie and Treacle, will be greatly missed by the Hightown canine community. My dog, Mack, will certainly miss stealing Dougie's balls and chasing Treacle. Dogs and many other animals, and their owners, enjoyed Jan's annual animal service, none of which were ever as eventful as the one held by the vicar of Dibley. Thank goodness!

So, on behalf of your church congregation and the wider Hightown community, I wish you a very happy and fulfilling retirement, Jan. Enjoy every minute! We will certainly miss you!

Colette

Entries for future issues of Focus to be sent to:

Focus.Magazine@StStephensHightown.org.uk

Please submit before the last day of the month.

Dear All,



Us church people, and others, used to do a house to house collection in Hightown for Christian Aid, and people who wanted to give were generous. However, after some reconsideration, we've decided cold calling is a thing of the past, but there's a chance still to give: either using the envelope enclosed, which you can drop off at our village shop, post through the letter box outside church, or give online, the words donate Christian Aid will find the site.

Can I commend Christian Aid to you for two reasons? Firstly, they are a charity which responds well in emergencies. They are part of the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC). Thirteen charities form this Committee, including the more well known ones such as Oxfam, Save the Children and Red Cross. When there's a disaster, the DEC can quickly respond and charities get together and work together, so there's no overlapping aid, plus each charity can bring its own expertise to the area of need. Christian Aid's area of expertise is temporary housing; they provided this last year, when Haiti experienced a devastating earthquake.

The second reason why Christian Aid is worth supporting, is the work it does, long term, in areas of the world where situations have changed, for example: because of war or through climate change. This is especially true in countries which have a Christian presence. Christian Aid works with local churches to offer long term help and aid - these churches know the local need and usually the solution to the problem and hence can bring money to where it's most needed.

Let's give generously once more; let's give, as a way of being grateful that we live in a relatively safe area.

Blessings

Jan





Sunday 8th May at 10:30am

with meal in the Church Hall
afterwards.

For meal please book- Jan - 07734927575

The church rules that vicars must retire when they are seventy and yes, I'm seventy in August, so retire I must. I'm trying to be upbeat about retirement hence the drawing in the sand, in the picture above. But at the moment, I can't imagine what it's like to have nothing in my diary. If I'm honest, it feels a bit scary! No doubt, God will have some work for me to do. A measure of trusting God and patience is needed at the moment.

I've been in Hightown five and a half years and enjoyed myself. I've worked with a team who attempt to put Jesus' commandment to 'love one another' into action. I've enjoyed the friendliness of Hightown and its situation next to the coast. I now know what a knot bird is and have seen a murmuration; also I know about red shanks and plovers.

I'm moving to Bootle, to a tiny house, so am busy downsizing! I've kept so much stuff from years past - I found my secondary school reports and read them. It wasn't a pleasant experience - there were many poor results and comments which were not positive. Yet, I was called into ministry when I was 8 years old, and looking back, I learnt so much about life before applying to the bishop to be ordained. I also had to do so much living first - which I think has informed my ministry.

The new vicar will be different from me and will do things differently. And I know you'll make them welcome.

You're welcome to come to my final service on Sunday 8th May at 10.30am. If you'd like to come for the meal afterwards do let me know - 07734927575.

Blessings on this lovely village.



Hightown Jubilee Festival Thursday 2 June to Saturday 4 June

Thursday 2nd June Evening - Beacon Lighting and BBQ at Sailing Club - 7.30pm start.
Lighting of the Beacon at 9

Friday 3rd June Afternoon - Children's party at Hightown Club 3pm - 5pm. Also sports tasters for both adults and children- Bowls and Tennis

Evening - Hightown Club Live music from The Merseycats and disco 8pm. £10 on entry. Contact Chris Scrine on 07884491807. Food available to buy.

Saturday 4th June Morning - Coffee Morning Plus at St Stephens Church Hall

Afternoon - Entertainment from Hightown Pub in TBA

Sunday 5 June Afternoon - Children's entertainment on the grass outside the Church Hall

There may be alterations to these events.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police (Non-Emergency) – 101

NHS (Non-Emergency) – 111

Sefton Council Main Number – 0345 140 0845

Adult Social Care – 01704 704389 (North) / 0151 529 3761 (South)

Children's Social Care – 0151 934 3114

Children's Safeguarding Concerns – 0345 140 0845 (8am-6pm)

Sefton Council Emergency Duty Team (weekends) 0151 934 3555

Sefton Council for Voluntary Service – 0151 920 0726

Healthwatch Sefton – 0800 206 1304

Sefton Security – 0151 934 4746

NHS Southport and Formby CCG: 01704 395 785

Sefton Carers Centre (helpline) – 0151 288 6060

Stop Hate UK - 0800 138 1625

Sefton Women's & Children's Aid - 0151 922 8606

National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247

St. Stephen's Church

Rota for May

Sunday 1st May	10.30am - All-Age Eucharist for the 3rd Sunday of Easter 6pm - Evensong - Jan's Final Evensong.
Wednesday 4th May	10.30am - Eucharist + Extended Prayer Time
Sunday 8th May	10.30am - Eucharist for the 4th Sunday of Easter + Jan's final service 6pm - Evensong
Wednesday 11th May	10.30am - Morning Prayer
Sunday 15th May	10.30am - Eucharist for the 4th Sunday of Easter 6pm - Evensong
Wednesday 18th May	10.30am - Morning Prayer
Sunday 22nd May	10.30 Eucharist 6th Sunday of Easter 6pm - Evensong
Wednesday 25th May	10.30am - Eucharist
Thursday 26th May	7.30pm - Deanery Service for Ascension Day
Sunday 29th May	10.30 Eucharist for the Sunday after Ascension Day 6pm - Evensong

Sanctuary Flowers May

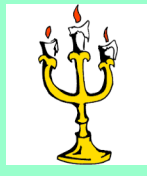
1st Easter Flowers
8th Elizabeth Richardson
15th Judith Welsh
22nd Margaret Wear
29th Jan Williams

Sunday Coffee Rota May

1st Janet Dawkins
8th Vickie Clark and Shirley Burns
15th Hazel Roberts
22nd Sue Taylor
29th Jane Coxtan

Brass Rota May

Gill Rowe



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Baptisms

Scott Hooper 3rd May

Sienna Violet Wallworth

27th May



Can you help us?

St. Stephens Church Hall is in regular and popular use by the Hightown and neighbouring communities by young and old. The ceiling is in poor condition and needs attention before there is further deterioration.

The Church has plans to replace the ceiling and the lighting, estimated to cost about £20,000.

People have been very generous and we have so far raised just over half of that sum.

Please send donations via our Just Giving:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ststephenshightown

By cash or cheque (made payable to **St. Stephens PCC**), placed in an envelope and posted through the Vicarage Letter Box

By electronic transfer to our bank:
Sort Code: **01-03-25**

Account Number: **27525155**

Account Name: **St Stephens Church Hall**

Your donations would be gratefully received.

Thank you

£20,000

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OFF TO
A GREAT
START!

Birthdays

Oliver Charles Stevenson

28th May



PRAYER PROMPTS FOR MAY



- 1st. **3rd Sunday of Easter.** We remember the Apostles Philip and James. and pray for all church clergy, priests, ministers, and other leaders.
For the people of Alt Road and Lower Alt Road.
- 2nd. May we value each person we meet today as a child of God, loved by the father and saved by the son.
For All the people of Thistledown Drive.
- 3rd. Pray for the safety of those working in public transport, and for their passengers.
For the people of North Dunes and Westway.
- 4th. Pray for all the families where children have been adopted or fostered.
For all the people of Thornbeck Avenue.
- 5th. Pray for the families and children in our church congregation.
For the people of St Stephens Road and The Roundway.
- 6th. Pray for governments and rulers throughout the world, and that they may act for the good of all in their communities.
For the people of Sandhills and Blundell Grove.
- 7th. For all refugees and those exiled from their countries.
For the People Of Grasmere Road.
- 8th. **4th Sunday of Easter.** Pray for the safety of those who bring medical aid, in situations of natural disaster or conflict..
For All the people of Village Way and Hester Close.
- 9th. Pray for peace in our hearts, especially in those places where we nurse unresolved bitterness or resentment
For the people of North End Lane, Ackers Lane and local farms.
- 10th. Pray for our missionaries Becky and Evaldo and their continued work.
For the people of Riverside and Wignall's Meadow.
- 11th. Pray for all organisations working to improve the lot of the very poor in the majority world, and for their employees
For the people of Marston Crescent.
- 12th. Pray for worker's co-operatives working to improve the lot of the very poor in the majority world, and for their employees.
For the people Bankside and Withins Field
- 13th. Pray for the work of the Salvation Army with the needy in Britain and overseas.
For the people of Moorhouses and Briary Croft.
- 14th. Few remember , with gratitude, all who have been good influences in our lives
For all the people of Hightown.
- 15th. **5th Sunday of Easter.** Pray for all seafarers and the coastguards who watch are coast
For the people of Elvington Road.
- 16th. Pray for people and organisations engaged in fair trade with producers in developing countries.
For All the people of The Range and Altcar Camp.
- 17th. Pray for ourselves, and for our spiritual lives.
For the people of Alton Close and Blundell Avenue.

- 18th. Pray for those working in the National Health Service
For all the people of Hightown
- 19th. Pray for all the staff and patients in local hospitals.
For the people of St. Georges Road and Langley Close.
- 20th. Pray for the staff and residents of local residential and nursing homes.
For the people of Mark Road.
- 21st. Pray for all who have lost loved ones to Covid 19 Pandemic.
For the people of the Mayfield Close and Tudor Gardens.
- 22nd. **6th Sunday of Easter.** We remember all parts of the world where there is conflict. We pray for an end to hatred and for the attainment of lasting peace.
For the people of the Blundell Road.
- 23rd. Pray for those who are dependent on others for their physical care; may they retain their sense of self-worth.
For the people of Windermere Grove and Sandilands Grove.
- 24th. Pray for all those who are low in spirit at this time.
For the people of Larkhill Grove.
- 25th. Pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.
For the people of Old Acre and Orrell Hill Lane.
- 26th. Pray for those who have been made homeless by war and violence, or by natural disasters. May despair give way to hope and the ability to return home safely.
For the people of Thirlmere Road and Thirlmere Mews.
- 27th. **Ascension Day.** We remember the Ascension of Jesus and rejoice that we continue to experience his presence.
For the people of School Road and Rathbone Road.
- 28th. Pray for the work of Sightsavers and their partners in Africa and Asia in preventing blindness, restoring sight and training those whose sight cannot be destroyed.
For the people of Elmcroft Lane and Emerson Close.
- 29th. **Sunday after Ascension Day.** Pray for terrorists and all who seek to achieve their aims by violence; that they may turn to other means.
For the people of Sandy Lane and Oakfield Road.
- 30th. We give thanks for the fruitfulness of the earth and pray for a more equitable distribution of its bounty.
For the people of Whitfield Close and Moss Lane
- 31st. Pray for the leaders and congregations of Churches together in Formby, Altcar and Hightown.
For the people of Richmond Close and Brentwood Close..





Wish You Were Here



The origins of the Spanish Tapa by Jayne Cudby



Perhaps one of the first clues to deciphering the mystery is in the origin of the word itself: the word tapa comes from the verb tapar, meaning to cover, and in Spanish a tapa is also the word for a lid. According to one of the most popular accounts of the emergence of the tapa, barkeepers started to cover their customers' drinks with a slice of bread and small piece of cheese and ham, as a way of preventing dust and flies from entering the patron's glass. Hence, the tapa really did act as a lid protecting the drink.

Whatever the origins of tapas are, it is hard to imagine that the inventors could have guessed the popularity that the custom would enjoy, globally, in centuries to come. Today, tapas style restaurants are growing in popularity across the world and continue to be one of the most-loved culinary customs.



It always amazes Mike and I, how in just half a day, you can be transported into such a different culture, the country of Spain, with its colourful fiestas and vibrant atmosphere. The buzz of the Plaza Mayor, (the main square), every town has it's own square, with many coffee shops serving tapas. Sitting in the sun, you can easily forget the hustle, bustle and stress of your 'other' life! Somehow, Costa Coffee in Formby just doesn't cut it for me!!!

Thank you to all you who are part of,
and will work hard this summer,
keeping our beach clean.

Hightown Beach Clean Group

See the Facebook page
for more information





Mary Magdalene

A major player in the Easter story

The Easter season extends until Ascension Day, later in May, so let's hear a little about one of the major players in the Easter story - Mary Magdalene.

Mary is one of the most misrepresented figures in history, and the right hand woman of Jesus Christ. So close was Mary to Jesus that many scholars believe her to be not just a disciple or follower, but a true apostle. Mary came from Magdala on the shore of the sea of Galilee. She was the sister of Martha and Lazarus (whom Jesus raised from the dead). At some point, early in Jesus' ministry, she received profound healing and became a grateful follower of Christ, supporting and encouraging him in his mission. Six days before the Jewish feast of Passover, Jesus was having supper at the house of his friend, Lazarus. Mary Magdalene and Martha were also there. Martha served and Mary washed the Lord's feet with her most costly perfume, made of pure nard, and with a modern day value of £18,000. She then dried them with her hair.

Mary stayed by the cross as Jesus was dying, even though this meant putting herself in danger for being associated with Jesus, and then helped take his body to the tomb. Two days later, she returned to the tomb to find the stone rolled away and the body gone. She went back to report the missing body to Peter. Returning, once again, to the garden, where the tomb was, she noticed someone, whom she took to be a gardener. When she asked if he had taken the body, he replied, "Mary". It was Christ. She was the person he chose to reveal himself to, before anyone else. The most important moment in the entire Christian story. He commissioned her to go and tell the disciples that he had been resurrected, and in obedience, she and the other women, did so. Mary's closeness to Jesus and her pivotal role at key moments in His story, may have left some of the men, who recorded history, uneasy. Over time she became confused with the life of another Mary, a woman who had been a prostitute. Mary's role as an apostle was downplayed: she was too crucial to be written out of the story, but she was depicted as a repentant sinner, rather than, as is far more likely, according to scholars, a wealthy supporter and one of Christ's closest friends.

Let us give thanks and pray for the many women who have listened to and responded to God's calling: for Rev. Jan, on the verge of retirement, and for our very own, Julie Butcher, very soon to be ordained.



St Stephen's Church Hall

Next Coffee Morning - towards church funds

Saturday 7th May 10am to 11.30am



Christenings for children of all ages

St Stephen's Church

Ring our church warden Michael to book

0151 929 3915

St Stephen's Church Hall

TODDLER GROUP

Every Friday 9.30 to 11.30am



Who's Who at St. Stephen's

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

HIGHTOWN FLOWER SHOW 2022



For the last two years the pandemic has meant that we have been unable to hold our annual village event, The Hightown Village Flower Show.

However, at last conditions are such that we are able to safely stage the show. So St. Stephen's Church Hall is now booked for the usual Saturday in July - this year the 16th.

The format will be the same with show schedules delivered to every household in Hightown. All residents are able to enter INCLUDING their grandchildren - even if they are not resident in the village.

We are planning all the usual classes for adults and children: flowers arrangements, fruit, vegetables, home produce, photographs, paintings, handicrafts - plus some new, exciting classes this year, as will be seen in your schedule, with prizes, cups and trophies being presented to the winners.

The usual afternoon refreshments will be available, so do start planning your entries - 'the more the merrier'. Be sure to put the date in your diary, so that we can make it a most memorable day for the village and all its residents.

Looking forward to seeing you 'on the day'.

Chairman Clive Harris and the committee.



Village Organisations and Activities

Tuesday Group, St Stephen's Hall Tuesday morning 10am	Beryl Howard Jan Branigan
Hightown Friendship Group 2nd Wednesday at 8pm, St Stephen's Hall	Margaret Wear
Gardening Club 2nd Monday St Stephen's Hall 8pm	Hilary Munro
Bowling Club, Sandy Lane	Diana Killen
Hightown Club	Chris Scrine
Blundellsands Sailing Club	Rohan Pickard Chris Williams
Probus Club	Clive Rowley
Yoga Classes, Hightown Club	Rose Billinge
Flower Show	Ian Wear
Open Mic Poetry Group 3rd Thursday 7.30pm, Hightown Hotel	Tony Higginson Sally Anne Tapia-Bowes
Craft Group, Thursdays, 1.30—3.30pm	Sue Taylor
Village Singers, Our Lady of Victories Hall, Mondays 1.30—3pm	Chris Payne
Hightown Parish Council	Jenny Farrar
Chair Fitness for health and balance Wednesdays 11.30—12.30, St Stephen's Hall	Gaynor Mc Hugh

From Gary's Kitchen



A touch of Malaysian cooking in Hightown Pork Belly Braised in Soy Sauce and Spices

Gary, originally from Malaysia and now living in Hightown, sent in this tasty recipe. Gary is vegetarian and includes the veggie option, if you wish. Thank you, Gary!

Ingredients

500g pork belly/ bean curd	1 star anise
1 cinnamon stick	2 cloves
5 cloves garlic, crushed	4 hard boiled eggs, shelled
1 tbsp cooking oil	2 cups water, approx.
2 tbsp dark soy sauce	4 tbsp light soy sauce
3 tbsp sweet soy sauce	Salt to taste
2 carrots	

Method

Scald the pork belly briefly in boiling water. Remove and cut into cube size pieces, (use bean curd if you are vegetarian).

Heat the oil in a pot . Add the cinnamon stick, the star anise, the cloves and the crushed garlic, stir fry until fragrant.

Add the pork slices and brown on both sides. Add light soy sauce, dark soy sauce and sweet soy sauce. Stir well to coat all the pork.

Add water to cover and bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer for about 1 and a half hours or until tender. 2 sliced carrots could be added at this

point to add a little more sweetness and fibre.

If adding hard boiled eggs, add in last half hour. Taste and adjust with more water or light soy sauce.

Serve with rice.



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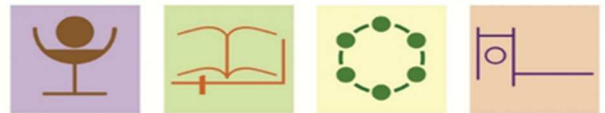


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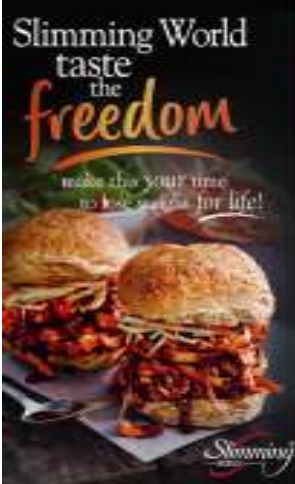
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Keith Aldis: 0151 929 3612



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www.slimmingworld.co.uk/real-life-stories - or come along and find out more - St Stephens Church Hall, every Wednesday at 9.30am

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

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Blundellsands Sailing Club

Established 1907 Hightown



New sailing members welcome!

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

No boat required!

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

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

Rohan Pickard – Sailing Secretary
rohan.pickard@gmail.com

Chris Williams – Rear Commodore
Cwill1951@virginmedia.com



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