

October 2022

FOCUS

Issue 271



Parish Magazine of St. Stephen's, Hightown



HIGHTOWN:

A strong community of thoughtful people

Editor's Note October 2022

Hello and welcome to the October issue



- It is with the greatest sorrow and sadness that we mourn the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty was the epitome of duty, stability, wisdom and grace. Hers was a life of service which will echo through the ages. We will be forever grateful.
- Whilst we respectfully remember the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and feel sorrow at her departure, we send our warmest wishes to King Charles III on his accession to the throne of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and we wish His Majesty good health and strength throughout his reign.
- Get your hankies out to read the touching story of how Sniffy the cat was reunited, after nine years, with his owners, John and Mike, from Blundell Rd, Hightown.
- Meet Helen Newlove, Hightown's very own Baroness, and learn about the work she does in Westminster.
- Read about the family who founded the Sunnyfields Nursery and Farm Shop.
- Switch off the TV, gather round with family or friends and have a go at answering the questions in The Autumn Quiz.
- Why not try the recipe from Beth's kitchen? They really are tried and tested.

*Whatever you do, enjoy the best of the season,
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.

Letter from Michael Cudby, Church Warden



CHOICES

Jesus was an advocate of choice, whatever we do and decide has our 'Choice' footprint. It's a great idea to pre-empt the process of blame. I have a situation of ill health, which is likely to take my life. Choice must be considered when I look back at the possible reasons I am in this situation. Along the way I had choices, the fact I made the wrong choice affected the next stage of my journey towards the end result.

We must not use the blame game to justify results, otherwise we lose all credibility with Jesus, who gave us the power to decide our own fate without his divine interference.

If you love life and believe in God's holy word, the choices you make will explain our situation and we can proceed with life on the understanding that whatever happens, we are in control of our destiny.

All we can say is, with some certainty, is human beings will always use prediction to remain one step ahead of choice. Take for example, Liverpool's game of football. Klopp strengthened his squad by shrewd transfer of players and Liverpool won the game. He did so because he made the right choice. The opposite (had they lost) would be because he made the wrong choice.

I leave you with this thought that, everything in life has a meaning which can be explained by choice. When disaster strikes and an ill wind blows, look out the window, speak to God and find out if the word 'choice' is etched on the glass.

We always have a choice....

Sunday Coffee Rota

October

2nd	-	Jan Williams
9th	-	Kevin Howard
16th	-	Beth Cresswell
23rd	-	Judith Welch
30th	-	Val Bailey

Sanctuary Flowers

October

2nd	-	Diane Aldis
9th	-	Sheila Bradshaw
16th	-	Jean Johnson
23rd	-	Diane Warren
30th	-	Gill Rowe

St Stephen's Church

Rota for October

✝ Sunday 2 nd	10:30am	Eucharist	Zarah Ross
		<i>Harvest Festival and Eco Service</i>	
	6:00pm	Evening Prayer	John Gibson
✝ Wednesday 5 th	10:30am	Morning Prayer	Judith Welch
✝ Sunday 9 th	10:30am	Eucharist	Canon Janet Eastwood
	6:00pm	Evening Prayer	John Gibson
✝ Wednesday 12 th	10:30am	Morning Prayer	Geoff Bailey
✝ Sunday 16 th	10:30am	Eucharist	Revd. Natalie West
	6:00pm	Evening Prayer	Colin Goodyear
✝ Wednesday 19 th	10:30am	Eucharist	Revd. Sue Smith
✝ Sunday 23 rd	10:30am	Eucharist	Revd. Gordon MacLeod
	6:00pm	Evening Prayer	John Gibson
✝ Wednesday 26 th	10:30am	Morning Prayer	Hazel Roberts
✝ Sunday 30 th	10:30am	Eucharist	Revd. Sue Smith
	6:00pm	Evening Prayer	John Gibson

Saturday 1st October

10:00am-12:00 noon

Coffee Morning

St Stephen's Church Hall

Proceeds towards PODS



Who's Who at St. Stephen's

Vicar	<i>TBA</i>	
Reader	Mr. John Gibson	929 2044
Wardens	Mr. Michael Cudby Mr. Geoff Bailey	929 3915 929 2145,
PCC Secretary	Mrs. Beryl Howard	929 3617
PCC Treasurer	Mr. Keith Aldis	929 3612
Gift Aid Secretary	Mr. Brian Taylor	929 2720
Safeguarding	Mrs. Sonia Bunyard	07905520680
Wills and Legacies	<i>TBA</i>	
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs. Beth Cresswell	929 2259
Sacristan Team	Miss Hazel Roberts	929 3731
Health and Safety	Mr. Stanley Alty	929 2289
Flower Rota	Mrs. Hilary Munro	929 2761
CMS Secretary	Mrs. Beryl Howard	929 3617
St. Stephen's Youth Club	Jane Croxton-Bessant	07776 305660
Church Hall Bookings	Mrs. Sally Fraser	929 2370
Focus Editor	Colette Grove Focus.Magazine@StStephensHightown.org.uk	
Focus Advertisements	<i>TBA</i>	
Focus Distribution	Mr. and Mrs. K. Bradshaw	
St. Stephen's Church Website	https://StStephensHightown.org.uk	

PRAYER PROMPTS FOR OCTOBER



- 1st. We give thanks for the splendour and changing colours of Autumn, which many enjoy, and the Joy of Harvest time.
For the People of Riverside and Marston Crescent.
- 2nd. 16th Sunday after Trinity. For those who attend church and those unable to attend.
For the People of Alt Road and Lower Alt Road.
- 3rd. We give thanks for the sunshine and showers.
For the People of Thornbeck Avenue and Grasmere Road.
- 4th. For all the people enduring famine, floods, and other major disasters. Francis Assisi 1226
For the People of North Dunes and Westway.
- 5th. For seafarers and the coastguards who watch our coast.
For the People of Bankside and Wignalls Meadow.
- 6th. We remember William Tyndale, Translator of the Scripture, Reformation Martyr 1536 and also students returning to university.
For all the People of Withins Field and Holmfield.
- 7th. For farmers and all who work on the land.
For the People of Blundell Grove and Larkhill Grove.
- 8th. For older people who might find life difficult.
For the People of St. Stephens Road and the Roundway.
- 9th. 17th Sunday after Trinity. For the attractive flower arrangements in St. Stephen's Church
For the People of Hester Close and Village Way.
- 10th. For musicians and wonderful music.
For the People of North End Lane, Moss Lane and farms.
- 11th. For our heritage.
For the people of Moorhouses and Briary Croft.
- 12th. For laughter in our lives.
For the People of the Range and Altcar Camp.
- 13th. For members of our Royal family. *For all the People of Alton Close and Richmond Close.*
- 14th. For cloud formation.
For the People of St. Georges Road and Langley Close.
- 15th. For safety on our roads.
For the People of Brentwood Close and Blundell Avenue.

- 16th. 18th Sunday after Trinity. For care and guidance on our roads.
For the People of Mark Road and Mayfair Close.
- 17th. For all medical staff, nurses, doctors, and surgeons.
For the People of Delph Road and Ackers Lane.
- 18th. Luke the Evangelist and Doctor.
For the People of Thistledown Drive.
- 19th. For pray for all in hospital.
For the People of Old Acre and Orrell Hill Lane.
- 20th. For all who visit the Altcar Range and Camp.
For the People of Sandy Lane and Oakfield Road.
- 21st. For all the lonely.
For the People of Thirlmere Road and Thirlmere Mews.
- 22nd. For our families and friends.
For the People of Windermere Road and Larkhill Grove.
- 23rd. Last Sunday after Trinity. For the clergy at St. Stephens and St. Michaels Altcar and Parish priest at Our Lady of Victories. Bible Sunday.
For the People of School Road and Rathbone Road.
- 24th. For children attending new schools.
For the People of Sandhills and Blundell Grove.
- 25th. For those working while we are sleeping. Crispin and Crispinian, Martyrs at Rome c.287
For the People of Old Acre and Tudor Gardens.
- 26th. For people improving life for all. Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons, Scholar,899
For the People of Elmcroft Lane and Emmerson Close.
- 27th. For new beginnings – Hope where there has been doubt.
For the People of Tudor Gardens.
- 28th. For the many social groups.
For the People of Whitefield Close and Gorsey Lane.
- 29th. For our local shops.
For all the People of Hightown.
- 30th. 4th Sunday before Lent. For popular hymns.
For the People of Elvington Road and Sandilands Grove.
- 31st. For peace through the world.
For the People of Brentwood Close.





The Cat that Came Back

Sniffy (short for Snefru) first came on the scene in 2008. We were living in Sheffield at the time, and a friend at work told me a stray kitten had appeared in her garden

needing a home – but he looked more like a baby jaguar! Initially he was quite ill with terrible stomach problems – I used to joke that he was getting through his own weight in cat litter every day – but a few weeks of care soon sorted that out. At two years old, he was severely injured in a car accident, but made it through. He's quite a survivor!

In 2012 we moved to a larger house with a larger garden, and expected Sniffy and our other cat would be delighted with the extra space to explore. We kept them in for six weeks getting them used to things, performed the age-old paw buttering ritual and opened the door. When Sniffy got out he immediately did a runner. We got him back from a neighbour's front garden, but the second time we let him out he simply disappeared. We guessed he wouldn't go hungry, as the house was just up the hill from a whole load of takeaways, but the takeaways lined a major road incorporating a tramline, and he'd already shown he didn't really know how to handle traffic. Several hundred leaflets later there was still no sign, and we resigned ourselves to his loss.

We moved to Hightown in March 2021, and began thinking about getting a pet. I prefer cats to dogs; my partner is more of a dog person, so a year after moving to Hightown we hadn't made our minds up. Then in May this year, we got an email from a cat charity in Sheffield, saying that a stray cat had been reported hanging about the gardens of people living just 6 minutes' walk from where we'd lost Sniffy - the wonders of microchipping. The email said he was very thin and some of his teeth needed seeing to, but they would arrange to have him treated by a local vet and we could collect him in a couple of weeks. The big day arrived when we drove to Sheffield to collect him. We visited a large pet store just outside the city centre kitting

(kittening?) him out with feeding bowls, catnip toys and tasty food options, then went to collect him. We wondered if he would recognise us and run to us for a dramatic reunion but when we arrived, he was already packed into a pet carrier ready for departure so we never got to find out. We'd invested heavily in Pet Remedy to help keep him calm during the car journey. When we got to Hightown we opened the door of the carrier and out he came. Sure enough Sniffy had returned! He's now settled into his new life in Hightown, and after a suitable interval (but without paw buttering), he now spends most of his time sleeping in his back garden.

But where had he been for ten years? Living rough? Did he move in with another family (or several other families)? He's never apologised and never explained so we'll never know! All that really matters is ... he's Sniffy, the cat that came back.



John Heney

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Hightown Flower Show 2022

After an absence of 2 years due to the Pandemic the Hightown Village Annual Flower Show was again held in St Stephens Church Hall on Saturday 16th July. We were blessed with a beautiful day, sunshine and a gentle breeze which allowed the awarding of trophies and afternoon tea to be held in the community garden. The standard of entry was exceptionally high in all sections and classes which no doubt 'tasked' the judges. However their



decisions reached the trophies and prizes were awarded by Baroness Helen Truelove who was greeted by committee chairman Clive Harris and his wife Debra.



Clive thanked everyone for their help and support in 'making the show happen' , for all the help 'on the day' , for all the exhibitors, judges and escorts' and for everyone for attending - he then reminded all to annotate the date of next year's show in their diaries .

Ian Wear

Trophy Winners 2022.

Isaac Jones Cup	Mrs Beryl Howard	Reg Grundy Rosebowl	Mrs Kate Holmes
George Salt Cup	Mrs Barbara Hope	Herbert Rosebowl	Mrs Barbara Brown
E R Allen Cup	Mrs Victoria Clark	E R Taylor Cup	Mrs Evelynne Rogers
Domville Cup	Mrs Carol Fielding	Rowe Baker Trophy	Mrs Kate Holmes
HTG Silver Jubilee	Mrs Debra Harris	Des Kennedy Trophy	Mr R Gale
FC Pinnington Cup	Ellen Blakey	William Fothergill Cup	Lateisha Niescier
Derrick Irons Cup	Addie Liu	Children's Art Cup	Beatrix Fielding
David Warren Cup	Mr J Wilson	A & MM Thomas Cup	Mrs Joan Almond
Kathleen Rouse Cup	Mrs Carol Fielding	James Barnes Cup	Mrs Barbara Brown
Rollo Challenge Tpy	Addie Liu	Festival Trophy	Mrs Barbara Brown

St. Stephens Church Hall “New Ceiling”



The much needed refurbishment work has now been completed on St Stephen's Church Hall and what a transformation it is! The new ceiling, colour scheme and curtains have totally updated the look of the hall. We are delighted with the work undertaken by Rob Sawyer and his team from DGR Building and Maintenance from Southport.

All of the work was made possible by fundraising and generous donations from local people. We are still accepting and are grateful for donations towards the refurbishment costs as we remain somewhat short of the actual sum spent.'

Baptisms - October

Oliver Charles Stevenson—13th
Elsie Frances Rachel Davies—20th
Evie Rose Elisa Davies—20th



Brass Cleaning

October

Kevin Bradshaw



You don't have to be
Bear Grylls to
volunteer.



St Stephen's Church Hall

TODDLER GROUP

Term time

Every Friday 9.30 to 11.30am

It would be so good to start Beavers,
Cubs and Scouts here, again, in
Hightown.

Might you be interested in leading or
helping a group?

If so, please contact Michael Cudby, in
the first instance, on 0151 929 3915

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From Beth's Kitchen

PUMPKIN PIE



It is coming up to the time when pumpkins for Halloween will be on sale in supermarkets and from the farm on the way out of Hightown. Every year I buy a medium sized one to make soup, use in a risotto, freeze to roast later on and to make a pumpkin pie which is traditionally served in the United States on Thanksgiving Day, the last Thursday in November. Below is the recipe for the pie. Which can be made as a single dish or as 6-8 individual tarts.

For the pastry:

225g plain flour	pinch of salt
115g butter	2 tblsp caster sugar
Finely grated rind of 1 lemon	1 egg, beaten
Cold water as necessary	

Make the pastry as usual, roll into a ball, wrap in foil and chill in the fridge for at least 30 minutes

Roll out the dough and use to line the loose bottomed flan dish or dishes. Place them on a baking sheet, prick the base and then chill in the fridge for a further 30 minutes.

For the filling:

454g pumpkin puree	1 small can evaporated milk
2 tblsp honey	100g brown sugar
Juice of 1 lemon	1 tsp ground ginger
1tsp ground cinnamon	1/2tsp grated nutmeg
Pinch of salt	2 eggs, beaten

Put all the filling ingredients into a bowl and stir well to combine. Pour into flan case. Use any left- over pastry to make a lattice on top of the filling. Bake in a fairly hot oven – 190C/Gas Mark 5 – for 45 minutes until the filling is set and the pastry golden. Remove from the oven, cool and serve on a platter with plenty of whipped double cream

Serves 6-8

Village Organisations and Activities

Tuesday Group, St Stephen's Hall Tuesday morning 10am	Beryl Howard Jan Branigan	929 3617 929 3531
Hightown Friendship Group 2nd Wednesday at 8pm, St Stephen's Hall	Margaret Wear	929 2033
Gardening Club 2nd Monday St Stephen's Hall 8pm	Hilary Munro	929 2761
Bowling Club, Sandy Lane	Diana Killen	0151 284 8941
Hightown Club	Chris Scrine	07884 491807
Blundellsands Sailing Club	Rohan Pickard Chris Williams	rohan.pickard@gmail.com Cwill1951@virginmedia.com
Probus Club	Clive Rowley	929 2842
Yoga Classes, Hightown Club	Rose Billinge	07900 017608
Flower Show	Ian Wear	929 2033
Open Mic Poetry Group 3rd Thursday 7.30pm, St Stephen's Church Hall	Tony Higginson Sally Anne	tonythebook@live.co.uk tapiabowes@gmail.com
'Drop In', Thursdays, 1.30—3.30pm St Stephen's Hall	Sue Taylor	0151 929 2720
Village Singers, Hightown Library (Lwr Alt Road) Mondays 12:30—2:00pm	Chris Payne	payne-c@sky.com
Hightown Parish Council	Jenny Farrar	07421 354877 clerk@hightownparishcouncil.uk www.hightownparishcouncil.uk
Chair Fitness for health and balance Wednesdays 11.30—12.30, St Stephen's Hall	Gaynor Mc Hugh	07944 989140
Community Library, Alt Centre, Lower Alt Rd, Mon 12—3, Fri 11-1.30	Linda Munro	07599502577 lindamunro@hotmail.com
Zumba Gold, Dance for all aged 55+, Mondays 9.45-10.30 St Stephen's Hall	Nicky Garsforth	0791 614 2992
Creo Dance Co, Mon, Wed, Thurs, Sat Children 3-18 years	Georgia Gaudi	07857 289795



Hightown Garden Club

Look forward to meeting our speaker on 10th October **Margaret Hughes** who will advise on "Plants For Problem Areas".

Visitor's are welcome £3:00 each.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS / WEBSITES

Hightown Doctor's Surgery—0151 929 3603

Hightown Railway Station—Merseyrail.org

Hightown Hotel—0151 929 2492

Blundellsands Sailing Club—Cwill1951@virginmedia.com

Hightown Club—07884 491 806 (Chris Scrine)

Local taxi—Formby Village Radio Cars 01704 877777

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

The Autumn Quiz

- 1) What is Autumn known as in North America?
- 2) Which English Romantic poet composed "To Autumn" after a walk near Winchester one autumnal evening?
- 3) Pumpkin fragments dated between 7,000 and 5,500 BC have been found in which country: China, Egypt, Germany or Mexico?
- 4) Who did Autumn Kelly marry in May 2008?
- 5) Bonfire Night takes place every November but in which year did Guy Fawkes try to blow up Parliament?
- 6) And which king did Mr Fawkes try to blow up?
- 7) What are hedgehogs' spines or quills made from?
- 8) With around 400 players participating, what are the WCC, which are held annually on the second Sunday in October in Northamptonshire?
- 9) In Australia, Autumn begins in which month?
- 10) In 2009, Autumn was the 81st most popular name for girls born in which country?
- 11) Name the pigment which trees stop producing, thus causing leaves to lose their green colour?
- 12) Pheasant shooting season starts at the beginning of which month?
- 13) Which federal holiday in the United States is often said to mark the end of summer and the start of autumn?
- 14) In Britain, the autumn internationals or November internationals take part in which sport?
- 15) SAD is sometimes known as Autumnal depression, what do the initials in SAD stand for?
- 16) The Oktoberfest is held annually in which German city?
- 17) Which celebration is influenced by the Celtic autumn festival, Samhain?

Answers: 1. The fall 2. John Keats 3. Mexico 4. Peter Phillips 5. James 7 Keratin 8 World Conker Championships 9. March 10USA 11 Chlorophyll 12. October 1st 13 Labour Day 14. Rugby Union 145 Seasonal Affective Disorder 16 Munich 17. Halloween



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We are regular a guest choir for services at Blackburn and Chester Cathedrals. We have sung in Liverpool, Durham and Wakefield Cathedrals, Southwell Minster, Hexham Abbey, Tewkesbury Abbey, Liverpool Town Hall and even at Liverpool Football Club, Anfield. We sang at Lancaster Priory for the High Sherriff of Lancashire's Shield Ceremony, and were invited to Vienna for an International Conference of Radiologists.

We have visited and sung in Paris, Venice, Granada, Segovia and Prague. We have sung Evensongs at Clare College and Selwyn College, Cambridge, and Merton College, Oxford.

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Established 1907 Hightown



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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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