

November 2022

FOCUS

Issue 271



Parish Magazine of St. Stephen's, Hightown



The Remembrance Issue



Editor's Letter November 2022

Hello and welcome to the November issue

What age were you when you realised that you were not immortal?

I reached the ripe old age of eight when, that morning at school assembly, it occurred to me that I may actually die one day. Immortality was a very brief experience for me as it is for most of us, I expect. I hoped my demise wouldn't be any time too soon, so I took a mental register around the hall to check there was no one missing. I comforted myself with the fact that all pupils were present and nobody's name had been called out as having met an untimely death overnight. Phew!

For many years, I satisfied myself with the thought that this business of death was so far away that there was no need to think about it, let alone worry. Then gradually, it dawned on me that the rules of mortality brook no exception. At forty, I lost a good friend to cancer. You turn fifty, then sixty and it becomes a little more vivid until, finally, you realise that it's more or less tomorrow. I had a friend, Fred Smith, who was eighty five years old and lived in Mark Rd. He made me laugh when he told me that he wasn't going to any more funerals as he'd be at his own soon enough. Time allows us to embrace the concept and become more accepting..

But what about the poor children in war-torn countries? Their concept of death in relation to themselves must be entirely different. For them, gone is the comfort and childish luxury of a far away event. Their mortality and that of their parents, grandparents and siblings must be only too clear to them. What a worry for a little one to bear!

Let us remember these children in our prayers this November. Let us pray for peace in our world.

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



Remembrance Day

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of the year 1918 saw the end of the First World War, that ended fighting on land, sea and air between the Allies and their last remaining opponent, Germany.

We remember the day, as “our boys” escaped from the muddy trenches, threw off their hair shirts and returned their weapons. They were promised “Peace In Our Time” and they were happy.

They could not envisage that their futures would be unpredictable and uncertain as one global crisis led to another. Twenty seven years later, the world would be embroiled in yet another world war with Germany. World war II with Germany was an awful war for which there was some justification for Germany to rebuild its nation but not for us. Hitler, a truly evil man, wrapped himself around sycophants and sadists. He was responsible for the mass extermination of the Jews, Poles and Romanies. The fact we won the war allowed Britain to be independent and develop as a strong nation.

Every year, when we remember those who fought in the war, we remember lives lost on the battle field and young families torn apart.

It is also time to reflect that wars never stop: The Falklands war, Afghanistan, the oil conflicts and wars in the Middle East and even in our own country with the conflicts in Ireland. One thing after another. For whatever reason, we cannot stop fighting. It seems to be in our blood. The Bible’s old testament is not a good role model for peace. Mass uprising, crowd killings and religious feuds are not a blue print for peace and neighbourliness. God placed in his Son’s hands, a different plan for life. Jesus was a man of peace and we should live by his example. On Armistice Day we will honour the dead, and remember those who sacrificed their lives for us. Just as Jesus did on the cross.



Sunday Coffee Rota

November

6th Sue Taylor

13th Shirley Burns

20th Jan Dawkins

27th Hilary Munro

Sanctuary Flowers

November

6th Colette Grove

13th Remembrance Sunday

20th Pauline Goodchild

27th Advent greenery

St Stephen's Church Rota for November

Wednesday 2nd	10.30 Morning Prayer	TBA
Sunday 6th	10.30 Eucharist 6.00 Evening Prayer	Ven Ricky Panter Colin Goodyear
Wednesday 9th	10.30 Morning Prayer	TBA
Sunday 13th	10.30 Eucharist 6.00 Evening Prayer	Remembrance Sunday Rev Sue Smith Colin Goodyear
Wednesday 16th	10.30 Morning Prayer	TBA
Sunday 20th	10.30 Eucharist 6.00 Evening Prayer	Rev Canon Janet Eastwood John Gibson
Wednesday 23rd	10.30 Eucharist	Rev Sue Smith
Sunday 27th	10.30 Eucharist 6.00 Evening Prayer	Rev Ted Woods John Gibson
Wednesday 30th	10.30 Morning Prayer	TBA

Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th November

10:00 — 12:-00

St. Stephen's Hall

All Welcome!





Who's Who at St. Stephen's



Vicar	To be appointed
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	To be appointed
Church Hall Bookings	Mrs. Sally Fraser
Focus Editor	Colette Grove Focus.Magazine@StStephensHightown.org.uk
Focus Advertisements	To be appointed
Focus Distribution	Mr. and Mrs. K. Bradshaw
St. Stephen's Church Website	https://StStephensHightown.org.uk

PRAAYER PROMPTS FOR NOVEMBER



- 1st. **All Saints' Day** - Today we remember all the saints and martyrs of the Church.
For the people of St Stephen's Road and Hester Close.
- 2nd. **All Souls' Day** - On this day, Christians remember and pray for family members and friends who have died.
For the people of Briary Croft and Riverside.
- 3rd. For our beautiful village of Hightown, our gardens, parks, countryside and coastline. Help us to look after them responsibly.
For the people of Elmcroft lane, Windermere Road and Holmfield.
- 4th. For wisdom to care for the earth and till it. Help us to act now for the good of future generations and all your creatures.
For the people of School Road and Sandilands Grove.
- 5th. For all those who will be enjoying fireworks tonight, either at home or at events. Keep them safe from any harm.
For the people of North End Lane, Moss Lane and the local farms.
- 6th. **3rd Sunday before Advent.** For our Hightown churches, Our Lady of Victories and St Stephen's. For their leaders and all who worship there. Help us all to work together in Christian unity.
For the people of Sandhills and Bankside.
- 7th. For St Stephen's Church Hall, and all church and village organisations who use it. Thanking God for the new ceiling and refurbishment, enabling more to benefit from this facility.
For All The People Of Hightown.
- 8th. For all those who work locally in the GP Surgery, Hightown Dental Practice, Pharmacy, Pub, Village Store, Hairdresser's and all other businesses, thanking them for all they do.
For the people of Blundell Avenue and Oakfield Road.
- 9th. For our children and young people, that you will keep them safe at school and places of education this winter..
For the people of Blundell Road.
- 10th. For teachers and lecturers in schools, colleges and universities, that you will strengthen them and guide them in all aspects of their work.
For the people of Whitefield Close, Langley Close and Richmond Close.
- 11th. For parents, guardians and care givers, that you will fill them with love and compassion.
For the people of the Range and Altcar Camp.
- 12th. For everyone of us, that we may have a spirit of compassion for all those in need, whatever their race or creed.
For the people of Old Acre and Larkhill Grove.
- 13th. **2nd Sunday before Advent, Remembrance Sunday.** Today we remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. We remember the Armed Forces and their families, from Britain and the Commonwealth.
For the people of St. George's Road and Grasmere Road.
- 14th. For all those who currently serve in our armed forces. For the work of Altcar Training Camp.
For all the people of Hightown.



- 15th. For peace in our world, as we remember those in areas of conflict.
For the people of Mark Road.
- 16th. For all those in Ukraine affected by war in so many devastating ways.
For the people of Village Way and The Round Way.
- 17th. For the leaders of countries and governments, that they may work together towards peaceful solutions.
For the people of Alt Road, Lower Alt Road, and Thistledown Drive.
- 18th. For all refugees from every nation, as they seek to find safety, welcome and permanent homes.
For the people of Tudor Gardens and Rathbone Road.
- 19th. For all victims of natural disasters. For relief agencies around the world. For the homeless and hungry.
For the people of Gorse Lane, Orrell Hill Lane, and Delph Road.
- 20th. **Christ the King.** On this day Christians celebrate Jesus Christ as Lord over all creation.
For the people of Wignalls Meadow and Moorhouses.
- 21st. For growth in God's Church. For vision in planning, wisdom, action and the power to witness.
For all the people of Hightown.
- 22nd. For the Church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community.
For the people of Emerson Close and Mayfair Close.
- 23rd. For all those who are unable to practice their faith fully because of persecution or discrimination.
For the people of Thirlmere Road and Brentwood Close.
- 24th. For the teachings of the Bible. That we may take time to read it and be open to its wisdom and truth regarding today's world.
For the people of Withins Field and Blundell Grove.
- 25th. For all those who are sick and suffering, in mind, body or spirit.
For the people of Marston Crescent and Alton Close.
- 26th. For all those who work in our NHS and all other health care settings, and for all emergency services.
For the people of Sandy Lane and Thirlmere Mews.
- 27th. **1st Sunday of Advent.** For the beginning of the Church year and preparation, in joy and hope, for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas.
For the people of Elvington Road.
- 28th. For those who are struggling to pay their bills this winter.
For all the people of Hightown.
- 29th. For all those who are lonely, isolated or alone at this time.
For the people of North Dunes and Westway.
- 30th. **Andrew the Apostle** – For the Mission to Seafarers and all who work or live at sea, that they may know the love of Jesus Christ and be kept safe.
For the people of Thornbeck Avenue.

Birthdays in November

Sienna Violet Wallworth

Amber Ray Wallworth



Brass Cleaning

November

Gill Rowe

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



St Stephen's Church Hall

TODDLER GROUP

Term time

Every Friday 9.30 to 11.30am



Christenings for children of all ages

St Stephen's Church

Ring our church warden Michael to book

0151 929 3915

Remembrance 1939 - 45: The Battle of The Atlantic

Support the 80th anniversary commemoration in May 2023

Graham Goodchild, Old Acre

"Imagine you are standing watch on the deck of a warship in the winter darkness of the open ocean. It is freezing cold, the sea is high, a gale is blowing. You are alone, tired, scared, praying that God is on your side." Peter England

Shortly before his death last year, my Liverpool friend, Peter England, a former merchant seaman, entrusted me with some papers about the sinking of HMS Itchen in the Atlantic Ocean on the night of 23 September 1943 and the consequent loss of an 18-year-old family member, Arthur Joseph England. Peter strongly supported efforts to commemorate lives lost in the Battle of the Atlantic.

HMS Itchen, a River-class frigate, had sailed from Liverpool on 15 September 1943 to join a large convoy escort group. Despite the strength of the group, German U-boats were successful in sinking the Canadian destroyer HMS St Croix and the British corvette, HMS Polyanthus. HMS Itchen had picked up the survivors of both ships but was later sunk herself. Only three men from the three ships' companies survived. Six merchant ships were lost.

HMS Itchen



The longest battle

The Battle of the Atlantic was the longest battle in the Second World War. From the outbreak of war in 1939 until its conclusion in 1945 Hitler's Germany sought, with varying degrees of success, to destroy transatlantic convoys carrying vital food, fuel and munition supplies to war-torn Britain. It was a brutal and complex battle fought in the vast expanse of the Atlantic Ocean against a largely unseen U-boat enemy hunting convoys singly or in massed packs. The menace and terror of the battle are vividly captured by Liverpool born author and wartime naval officer, Nicholas Monsarrat, in his great novel, *The Cruel Sea*, later turned into a film starring the late Jack Hawkins

The fall of France in 1940 and the consequent German capture of French Channel and Bay of Biscay ports meant that southern English Channel ports were no longer safe havens for convoys. The Admiralty ordered that in future all ocean convoys should be routed around the northern coast of Ireland through the North Channel. Convoys were redirected to west coast ports on the Rivers Clyde and Mersey. With its excellent road and rail connections, its extensive dock provision and its easy sea access, Liverpool quickly became Britain's main transatlantic convoy port, hosting an average of four convoys every week.

In September 1940 the decision was taken to establish a Western Approaches command in Liverpool. Derby House, behind Liverpool Town Hall, was chosen as the new command headquarters. Over the next few months, the building was converted into a fully staffed and equipped war centre that included an underground bomb-proof operations room from which the strategy of the Atlantic campaign was directed. From 1942 onwards Western Approaches was commanded by Admiral Sir Max Horton, KCB, DSO whose inspired

leadership made a vital contribution to ultimate victory. The War Rooms are open to the public daily, 10am to 6pm, entrance in Rumford Street.

While Liverpool's Derby House was the strategic heart of the Atlantic campaign, Bootle's Gladstone dock was the Centre of naval activity. From mid-1941 onwards the dock grew rapidly to accommodate the growing number of Royal Navy convoy escort vessels of all classes, including destroyers, frigates and corvettes.

The most famous convoy escort commander was Captain F J (Johnny), Walker CB DSO, who was responsible for sinking more U-boats during the Atlantic campaign than any other Allied escort commander. Between June 1943 and January 1944, the escort ships under his command sank 15 U-boats using his innovative methods of search and attack. His unrelenting drive led to his early death in July 1944. More than one thousand people attended his funeral at Liverpool Anglican cathedral. His statue by Liverpool sculptor, Tom Murphy, typically posed, looking out to sea, was unveiled by the Duke of Edinburgh at Liverpool's Pier Head in October 1998. Walker House on Exchange Flags is named in his honour. The building opposite is named Horton House.

At the start of the War the Royal Navy could spare only two escort vessels for each convoy. Hitler's U-boat fleet took early advantage of this weakened protection. Convoy losses rose steadily from 349 merchant ships in 1940 to 609 in 1942. 1942 was the most alarming year of the Atlantic campaign, spurring Britain and her Allies to raise their game against the U-boat menace .

The Turning Point

May 1943 was the turning point in the battle. Thanks to code breaking successes at Bletchley Park, improvements in anti-submarine technology, greater use of long-range air power and new methods of protecting convoys, the tide turned in Britain's favour. 47 U-boats were sunk and then in September a further 39. Averaging the loss of one U-boat every day, Germany was forced to curtail its U-boat activity in the Atlantic. Although it continued for the rest of the War, German successes were fewer and fewer. More and more British and Allied convoys were able to cross the Atlantic without incident. Hitler had failed to sever Britain's Atlantic lifeline.

Britain and its Allies paid a high price for victory in the Battle of the Atlantic. A total of 2,232 merchant ships and 176 warships were sunk in the North Atlantic. Some 30,000 merchant seafarers and 23,000 Royal Navy and Allied Navy sailors, including RAF Coastal Command support air crews, lost their lives in the campaign.

The 80th anniversary of the battle will be commemorated in May 2023. A light show casting the names of ships and sailors who served in the battle on to a Liverpool landmark will be the centrepiece. Other projects are planned. Watch for details and date.





The Tumble Dryer

By Chris Cresswell

Climate change prevention starts at home

Dear wife, how, may I please enquire,
To counter world climate-change do you aspire
On this point, to correct you, you know I won't tire.
What point insulation? Why a wood fire?
When you dry your towel in a tumble dryer.

The girl in the adverts, soft towel to her cheek,
Just doesn't realise the future is bleak.
In order to stop the sea drowning our nation,
We need rough towels, and exfoliation.
When the sea rises up, and we live in the loft,
It's a high price to pay for a towel that is soft.

I grumble and grumble
But still you're not humbled
You're hypocrisy's rumbled
Your eco-cred crumbled
Future-proofing fumbled
Your shout for ecology comes out as mumbled
When everyone knows that your towel's been tumbled.

I could say "Do not use it, your master has spoken!"
Or just take the fuse out and pretend that it's broken
I could parade nude with placards, that really would show-em
Or wimp out as usual, and just write this poem.

Written to the weekly background hum from the garage and read to the Hightown Poetry Group, September 2019. Chris Cresswell

Note from Beth:

Dear Husband, I have stopped using it now and our towels are rigid!!!

People In Our Parish

This month we meet Sue and Terry Lodwig. They moved to Hightown from Headcorn, a village in Kent, in 2014. They came here to be closer to their daughter and son-in-law, Debbie and Mark.



Sue and Terry met each other at a very young age, when Sue was age eleven and Terry was age thirteen. Time flew by and the childhood sweethearts were married when Sue was eighteen and Terry twenty years old. Terry had, by this time, enlisted in the British Army and was based in Germany. Sue couldn't join him straight away as there were no married quarters available. Eventually, Sue was able to join Terry and they spent four years in Germany, where their daughter Debbie and son Neil were born.

After that period in Germany the family moved on to an army base in Hampshire, then back again to Germany, where they moved round quite a few times. They then had a spell in Hong Kong, after which they returned to the UK to live in Winchester.

The children attended boarding school in Basingstoke and flew out to visit during the school holidays, to wherever Sue and Terry were stationed.

During one period abroad Sue and an army friend set up and managed a nursery school. Sue says it was not uncommon for young mothers to feel lonely, away from home and families, and that the school was an invaluable way for them to meet other young families in similar situations.

Alongside army duties, Terry was keen on maintaining personal fitness and enjoyed sports and jogging for many years. He was Regimental Sergeant Major and was commissioned to the rank of Captain, before retiring after twenty-five years of loyal duty.

Then began their second career lifestyle!

Always interested in cookery (Sue is a wonderful cook), they decided to set up a catering company. Sue is a fund of knowledge, with a collection of wonderful recipes and many helpful handy hints. Just ask her!

Whilst Sue was busy cooking,, Terry kept himself busy by working part-time at a nearby golf club.

During this period, Sue and Terry were visiting Hightown frequently, as their daughter and son-in-law had moved here (Mark had retired from the Army and

taken up the appointment of Chief Executive of the R.F.C.A for the North West and the Isle of Man). Incidentally, Sue and Terry's son Neil is also a career soldier.

Sue and Terry loved visiting "up north". They loved the place and the people and so decided that they would like to sell up and make the move to Hightown. Sue estimates that they have moved twenty times over the years! They have embraced Hightown life fully. They have participated in many social events over the years, have become members of the Sailing Club and Sue judges the cake classes at the annual Flower Show.

Sue, Terry and their family have organised some marvellous fundraising events for the "PODS" at Altcar Training Camp with St Stephen's Church becoming a major supporter of the "PODS" fundraising. Sue, Terry and family have worked tirelessly over the years and they have given of their time and energy very generously.

Regular coffee mornings and other memorable events held at Altcar Camp have been enjoyed by many Hightown residents over the years. The family continue to volunteer at St Stephen's coffee mornings .

Sue and Terry – you have enriched our Hightown community and we thank you for that. You say that it was your best decision ever, for you to come and live here and we totally agree!

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA



All Welcome



St Stephen's Church Hall

Saturday November 26th 10am to 2pm

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From Hilary's Kitchen

Hilary Munro of Riverside thoroughly recommends her chocolate cake recipe. She says it's easy to make and is moist and fudgy.



Ingredients

225g plain flour	350g caster sugar
85g cocoa powder	1 1/2 tsp baking powder
1 1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda	2 free range eggs
250ml milk	125ml vegetable oil
2 tsp vanilla extract	250ml boiling water

For the chocolate icing:

200g plain chocolate
200ml double cream

Method

Preheat the oven to 180/ 160 C fan/ Gas 4 . Grease and line 2 x 20cm sandwich tins.

For the cake, place all the ingredients , except the boiling water, into a large mixing bowl. Using an electric whisk, beat the mixture until smooth. Add the boiling water to the mixture, a little at a time, until smooth and liquid.

Divide the batter between the sandwich tins and bake for about 25 to 30 minutes, until the top is firm to the touch. Remove from oven and cool in their tins.

For the chocolate icing, heat the cream and chocolate in a saucepan over a low heat until the chocolate melts. Remove pan from heat and whisk the mixture until smooth and thickened. Leave to cool for 1 to 2 hours or until thick enough to spread over the cake.

Sandwich the two halves with the mixture and spread the remaining mixture over the top.

Enjoy!



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
Yoga Classes, Hightown Club	Rose Billinge
Flower Show	Ian Wear
Open Mic Poetry Group 3rd Thursday 7.30pm, St Stephen's Church Hall	Tony Higginson Sally Anne
'Drop In', Thursdays, 1.30—3.30pm St Stephen's Hall	Sue Taylor
Village Singers, Our Lady of Victories Hall, Mondays 1.30—3pm	Chris Payne
Hightown Parish Council	Jenny Farrar
Community Library, Alt Centre, Lower Alt Rd, Mon 12—3, Fri 11-1.30	Linda Munro
Zumba Gold, Dance for all aged 55+, Mondays 9.45-10.30 St Stephen's Hall	Nicky Garsforth
Creo Dance Co, Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat Children 3-18 years	Georgia Gaudi

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS/WEBSITES

Hightown Doctor's Surgery— 0151 929 3603

Hghtown 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



With many thanks to



Cassidy's Fruit and Vegetable Shop
in Formby for donating the fruit and vegetables to decorate
our church at Harvest Festival.

Home Remedies from Gill Rowe

For painful corns on both human and canine feet:

Mix 1/2 lb lard with comfrey root before bedtime and apply to corn. Cover and repeat nightly.



What are you doing to help beat the bills this winter?

Please do write in with your tips and to share advice with your fellow Hightonians.

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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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Keith Aldis: 0151 929 3612



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