

# THE LEADER



## St Christopher's Church

Blackpool Road, Lea, Preston PR2 1QS

**Parish Magazine**  
**February / March 2022**



# Christingle Weekend 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021

## Alice making her Christingle



**Making Paper  
Lanterns**



## Enjoying Lunch!



## Ready for Sunday Morning

## Sam Edwards releasing her inner child





## With God all things are possible



I expect most of you reading this magazine have already heard the news that I am moving on from St Christopher's in April, to become the next vicar of Bolton-le-Sands near Carnforth. I will have completed nearly eight years here, and it has been a wonderful journey in so many ways.

It is hard to know what to say in the opening page of this edition. St Christopher's was a small church when I arrived, and it is still a small church - and yet deeply special. Much has been achieved. Many people, young and old, have been blessed through the things we have done together, and I have had a great time.

It has always been a struggle sustaining what we have due to our limited human and financial resources. If you've ever watched a swan gliding elegantly through the water, underneath its feet are paddling like mad! This is how it feels for the small group who sustain things at St Christopher's, and as the vicar now prepares to leave, it may raise uncertainties about the future.

God will surely lead this church into new things after my chapter here ends. Life is a journey of faith, and faith by definition involves trusting in God through uncertainty. This morning my bible reading included Jesus saying, 'with God all things are possible' (Matthew 19:26). This really is true! My sense is that if this church is a community of people who talk to God in prayer, like one talks with a friend, then there is nothing to fear. Stay close to the LORD, be committed to Him, both personally and collectively. With God all things are possible, so let's not try to do things without him.

Whatever happens, all that we have done as a church during my time here has been very worthwhile, and deeply special. I hope you will be able to join me in celebrating this on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April as we share a tea time meal together, and make our farewells.

With my love in Christ, *Peter*

# Times of Regular Worship

## Sundays in the month

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	9.30 am	Family Communion service with Junior Church
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	9.30 am	Service of the Word with Junior church
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	9.30 am	Family Communion service with Junior Church
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	9.30 am	Service of the Word with Junior Church
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	9.30am	Family Communion service with Junior Church

## Thursdays

10.30 am Midweek Holy Communion Service

## Festivals and Special Services

<b>Valentine's Themed All-Age Service</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> February 9.30am</b>
<b>Ash Wednesday Holy Communion at St. Cuthbert's</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> March 7.30pm</b>
<b>Family Communion with Archdeacon David</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> March 9.30am</b>
<b>Mothering Sunday Family Service</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> March 9:30am</b>

## Looking Ahead

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 9.30 am.  
Peter's last Service as Vicar of St. Christopher's**



# Midweek Activities

## Mondays

6.00 – 7.00 pm Beavers (From February half term)

7.30 – 9.00 pm Guides (term-time)

All Contact for Rainbows, Brownies and Guides at - [Girlguiding.org.uk](http://Girlguiding.org.uk) and register your daughter.

## Tuesdays

1.30 – 3.30 Tuesday Brews 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month

6.00 – 7.30 pm Cubs (term-time)

7.30 – 9.00 pm Scouts (term-time)

Contact for Cubs and Scouts is via their Facebook page



Facebook:  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Lea Scouts*

## Wednesdays

2.30 – 4.00 pm Fellowship Group – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday in month  
*contact Suzanne Wharton 492951*

7.00 – 9.30pm Women’s Institute – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month  
*contact Val Owen 736396*

## Thursdays

6.15 – 8.00 Illusion Pole Fitness- contact Donna Hardman  
07936 150527

## Fridays

4.30 – 5.30 pm Rainbows (term-time)

6.30 – 8.00 pm Brownies (term-time)

## Saturdays

Booking on website Axperience Axe Throwing  
Terry Watters 07929 538804 ([axperience.co.uk](http://axperience.co.uk))

**CHURCH WEBSITE:**

[www.stchristopherslea.org](http://www.stchristopherslea.org)



**FACEBOOK:**

“St Christopher’s Lea”

# Coffee Morning St Christophers

Saturday 5th February  
10am- 12

£1.50 for Coffee/Tea & Cake  
(Reductions for children)



# Church Fellowship Group

## Looking Back....

### December

A quiz (supplied by Beryl) took place which was won by Judith Potter, there was a free raffle to all who attended, and everybody received a prize. There was also a guess the baby/child picture competition which was completed by the group, followed by mince pies and a brew.

### January

The speaker was Ann Berry who talked about childhood days at Eldon Street School. She brought various items, reports, sewing items etc. It was a very interesting talk and brought back memories of our school days.

## Looking Forward....

**February 9th** – 1.30 pm Meal out at 'The Pig & Whistle'. Please note the earlier start time. Please meet in 'The Pig & Whistle'.

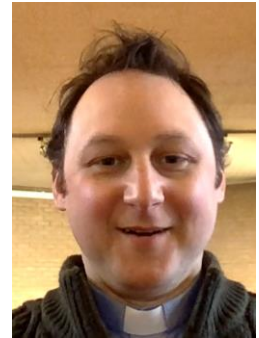
**March 9<sup>th</sup>** – 2.30 pm A humorous talk on 'the Banker' by Ross Bullock

**April 13<sup>th</sup>** – 7.30 pm a talk on 'Piers in the Nort West' by Jennifer from Savick Library. Please note that we are meeting at 7.30 pm for the summer months.



# Peter's Farewell

## Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 4.30pm



## Bring and Share buffet

# Flowers in Church

Would you like to sponsor flowers for the church to commemorate a family occasion, an anniversary, a birthday, or as a remembrance of a loved one? You could have a flower arrangement in church on the nearest Sunday to the appropriate date (but check the list on the notice board). The cost of this is dependent on the type of flowers requested. If you would like to participate in this sponsorship, please speak with Mary Clarke (729690).



# Interactive Touch Screen

This was installed in the back room on 13<sup>th</sup> January (see photo in the inside back cover). Junior church have been using it for their music. This has been paid for by grant funding from Blackburn Diocese Vision Fund and The Harris Charity. It is a great asset, and we are thankful to both bodies for supporting us.



# BARN DANCE



**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

**7.00 – 9.00pm at St Christopher's**

Tickets: £7.00 Adults  
£3.50 children

**Refreshments Provided**

# Church Social Group

## **TBC – Watch This Space!**

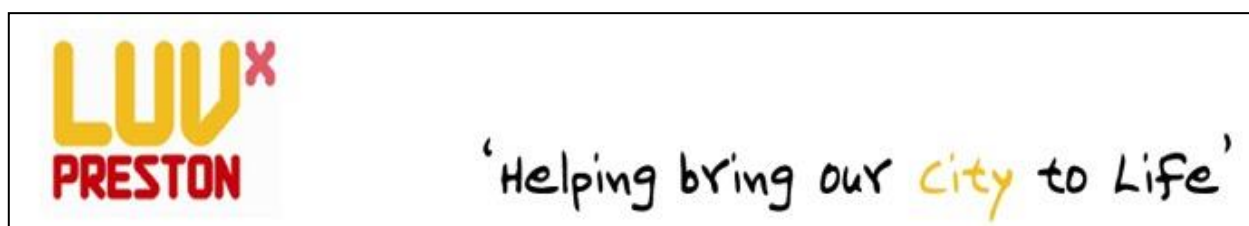
The social committee is looking at what events can be run in the upcoming months and hope to have some dates for your diary soon. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions feel free to approach Louise Gover or Debbie Williams.

## **WHAT'S ON AT EMMANUEL – Events in 2022**

Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Chocolate Bingo	7.00pm
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Spring Celebration	3.30pm

Everyone is welcome to join with our friends from Emmanuel church at the above events, to be held at the Plungington Community Centre.

## **LUV PRESTON FOOD BANK**



Debra Foster continues to take on the role of transporting food to the Food Bank and assisting them on a Friday. Thank you to Debra for continuing with this role.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE FOOD BANK**

# Tuesday Brews

Tuesday Brews is a community-based group which meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month 1.30 – 3.30pm. We offer a warm and friendly welcome to everyone who comes along to join us for tea/coffee, biscuits, and most importantly chat.

Since our last report we have only had 2 sessions due to the bank holiday on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December, and a break on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January. Things return to normal on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January, and we look forward to seeing everyone.

On 14<sup>th</sup> December we celebrated our first Tuesday Brews Christmas. The room and tables were decorated for the festivities. As well as our usual tea and coffee there was homemade mince pies (thanks to a valiant effort by Ethel), Christmas cake, individual chocolates. Once again, we enjoyed one of Beryl's quizzes which had some people resorting to Google for answers!



There was a raffle which proved a big success, as all monies raised were to be donated to St Catherine's Hospice. As a result of everyone's generosity we were able to donate £100.00. An enjoyable afternoon for all.

Looking Forward: Dates for February and March are 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

*The Tuesday Brews Team*

# Christingle Weekend



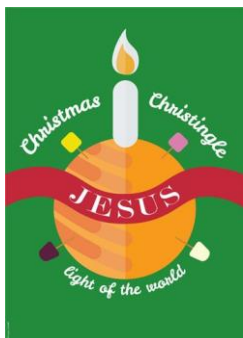
This was on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 11am – 1pm. Our theme for Messy Church was 'Jesus the Light of the World.'

Our first Messy church in 2 years was a fun event with various crafts and activities to do, from making the Christingles for Sundays service, shine Jesus' star, decorate a cake /milky star, colouring table, Walk of Fame, play dough to create different size stars, Christmas card, lanterns, decorate glass jar, star scratch art, and take your photo in the stable.



For food there was a choice of Tomato, Vegetable or Chicken soup with bread and butter followed by chocolate rolls and of course Tea, Coffee, and juice.

A fun time was had by all who came.



On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am Our Messy Church Team led the Christingle Service. Included in the service was making an interactive Christingle with the congregation representing the orange. This was led by Louise Gover.

I would like to thank the team for all the help from planning to volunteering your time.

*Dawn Edwards*





# EASTER SPECIAL

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH HALL

GOOD FRIDAY 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022.

11.00am to 1.00pm



**COME AND JOIN US**

# Church Calendar

## February

### **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

10.30 am Midweek Holy Communion Service

### **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February – Coffee Morning in aid of church funds**

10.00 am – 12 noon Coffee, tea & cakes in the church Hall

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent**

9.30 am Holy Communion with Junior Church

### **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February**

1.30 pm – Tuesday Brews until 3.30pm

### **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

1.30 pm – Church Fellowship Meal at 'The Pig & Whistle'

### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

10.30 am Midweek Holy Communion Service

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

9.30 am All-Age Service with a Valentine's theme

### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> February**

7.00 pm – Women's Institute

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

10.30 am Midweek Holy Communion Service

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent**

9.30am Holy Communion with Junior Church

### **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

1.30 pm – Tuesday Brews until 3.30 pm

### **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February**

10.30 am Midweek Holy Communion Service

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February – Sunday next before Lent**

9.30 am Service of the Word

## **March**

### **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Ash Wednesday**

7.30 pm – Holy communion at St. Cuthbert's, Lytham Road, Fulwood

### **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

10.30 am Midweek Holy Communion Service

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

9.30 am Holy Communion with Junior Church

### **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March**

1.30 pm – Tuesday Brews – until 3.30pm

### **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

2.30 pm – 4.00pm Fellowship – 'The Banker' with Ross Bullock

7.30 pm – Emmanuel PCC

### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

10.30 am Midweek Holy Communion Service

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

9.30 am Service of the Word with Junior Church

### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

7.00 pm – Women's Institute

### **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

10.30 am Midweek Holy Communion Service

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

9.30 am Holy Communion with Junior church

### **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

1.30 pm – Tuesday Brews – until 3.30pm

### **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

7.30pm – Parochial Church Council Meeting

### **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

10.30 am Midweek Holy Communion Service

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday**

9.30 am All-Age service



## WHAT'S ON THE MENU TONIGHT?

Food, Glorious Food – and guess what's on the Menu!! – *How did you do? Did you get them all right? Answers to our Christmas quiz below.*

<u>Soup:</u>	A letter of the Alphabet (3 letters) - <i>Pea</i> Fool a French River (7) - <i>Consommé</i> Fly Swisher (6) - <i>Oxtail</i>
<u>Entree:</u>	Woman's weapon (6) - <i>Tongue</i> Sugared loaf (5,5) – <i>Sweet Bread</i>
<u>Fish Course:</u>	Locality (6) - <i>Plaice</i> Be aware of the Red one (7) - <i>Herring</i> Immortal part (4) - <i>Sole</i> Voice from the depths (4) - <i>Bass</i>
<u>Poultry/Game:</u>	News Carrier (6) - <i>Pigeon</i> Footballer's misdeed (4) - <i>Fowl</i> A grumbler does this (6) - <i>Grouse</i> Failure at Cricket (4)- <i>Duck</i>
<u>Main Course:</u>	Eve was made from ... (5,3) – <i>Spare Rib</i> Another grumbler! (4)- <i>Beef</i> 18 <sup>th</sup> Century essayist (4) - <i>Lamb</i> Son of Noah (3) - <i>Ham</i>
<u>Vegetables:</u>	Father's a hairdresser (8) - <i>Parsnips</i> Bad news for ships (5) - <i>Leeks</i>
<u>Sweet Course:</u>	To start a race: (4) - <i>Sago</i> My cry for help (3,5) - <i>Ice Cream</i> Of little importance (6) - <i>Trifle</i>
<u>Dessert:</u>	History is full of these (5) - <i>Dates</i> Ark animals came in ..... (5) - <i>Pears</i>
<u>Wines:</u>	Pretend anguish (9) - <i>Champagne</i> Between knee and fetlock (4) - <i>Hock</i>



## Churchwardens Update January 2022

Dear Friends,

The update for this month as I am sure you all expect is to provide information to all our members following Peter's news that he has been appointed to a new post in Bolton-le-Sands.

I am sure you will all join us in wishing Peter and his family well in this new venture and we hope he can utilise the skills learned from his past 7 years with us to take his career forward.

Peter will be sadly missed by us as a community and many people will feel like they are losing a good friend. I am sure we will all keep in touch, especially with modern technology making this easy to do for lots of us. I don't expect Peter will forget us easily!

At risk of sounding uncaring we have to think about what happens next. I am new to the church warden role and Darren has not managed us through a period of vacancy. I believe this is going to be a huge challenge to us both and to the PCC, however I do know there is lots of knowledge out there in the congregation about what happened in previous vacancies and what is important to consider as we discuss the vacancy. We will value any input in this area as I feel we can't be too prepared for the challenge ahead. Please get in touch and share your experience, thoughts, concerns, and suggestions. I am sure like us, many of you feel this is a daunting time for our church community, in particular coming so soon after the pandemic, but we can also view it as an opportunity:

- An opportunity to celebrate the strengths of the mission and ministry of our church and how we want to build on it for the future.

- An opportunity to recognise where we are ready as a church, to change and grow.
  - An opportunity to 'take stock' and prepare for our next chapter together.
- We need to see it as an exciting challenge as we look to the future and to the new direction God is leading us and our church.

Things that have possibly been running through your thoughts are:

- Will the diocese support us having a new vicar?
- Will we still be amalgamated with Emmanuel
- Will there be further or different amalgamation?
- Can we afford to keep the church going financially?

The churchwardens from St Christophers and Emmanuel are meeting with the archdeacon on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and I am sure the above questions will form part of the agenda.

If we get approval to fill the post in some form, we need to consider what our Parish needs in a vicar. We would like as much input as possible. It is important that everyone has the opportunity to say what they think our parish needs. The more diverse the input from you all at this stage the more we can prepare a person specification and parish profile that is accurate and suits our needs.

Please talk to the churchwardens after the services over coffee, catch a member of the PCC and ask questions or let them know your views. Telephone or email one of us. Discuss your thoughts with Peter or Mike. All views will be brought together and collated, and in conjunction with the PCC from Emmanuel we will be in a position to prepare the documentation for the next stage of recruitment.

Now that we have outlined what is happening, we also need to ask for your help.

Without a vicar in post from the end of March will mean that there will be lots of things to do that the vicar normally did. I am starting to discover what a few of those may be but please remember the PCC and churchwardens are volunteers and do not have the capacity to cover all the things that will need doing.

Please let us know what you are good at, where you would be prepared to help and how much time you may be able to give to support the church through this challenging time. If you are not sure what you could help with, please ask. Some lists will be going on the notice board with some jobs that need doing but there are always things to do.

Some of you have heard me say many times 'I don't want our church to close on our watch.' I think we have lots of positives in our favour for taking the church forward to be available for future generations of people in the area. We should see it as exciting and challenge ourselves to work positively together to get through this time of uncertainty.

Please keep praying that God will make our direction clear to us and will help us to provide the support to one another throughout this time of vacancy. We ask God to give us courage and understanding of our community to ensure we follow the right paths.

Debra Foster      Church Warden  
Darren Shirley    Church Warden  
Debbie Williams   Assistant Church Warden

# Magazine Subscriptions

It's that time of year again! If you would like to receive the magazine for the next twelve months, the annual subscription is £10. If you pick up your copy in church, it will be left on the table for you. The magazine will continue to be delivered to those who request this. The bi-monthly cost is £2 per copy.

If you prefer to receive a digital copy of the magazine (and help to save some trees). Please email either:

Hilary Holderness: [admin@stchristopherslea.org](mailto:admin@stchristopherslea.org)

Louise Gover: [louiseannegover@gmail.com](mailto:louiseannegover@gmail.com)

If you receive your magazine digitally, would you consider making an annual donation of £5 which we can then use towards printing copies of the magazine for visitors to the church.

Deadline for April/May magazine - 13<sup>th</sup> March

## Fundraising



Do you have any loose change? If so would you consider donating it to the 'Drain Fund'. A few members of the church have donated the contents of their 'change jars' as following the pandemic cash seems to be used a lot less frequently.

If you could bring in your loose change we will count it for you and let you know how much was donated.

If you would like to donate 5 pence coins we have some miniature jam jars which when full hold £5. If you would like a jam jar, please ask Debra, Darren, Debbie or Hilary.



## Lost Property

There is lost property box under the table in church. Please check in the box if you think that you have left anything in church. Items in the box will be disposed of after one calendar month.



## FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> APRIL

# Chocolate Bingo



## More details to follow.

## A View from the Pew

Well, here we are already into February. Our last magazine saw us at the start of Advent when we are looking forward to Christmas and the birth of Jesus. That, and the New Year has already gone, and we have gone from one period of looking forward to another. Because Easter is a moveable feast, by the time that you are reading this we will almost be at the start of Lent. A time when Christians look forward to hearing, once again, about Jesus' ministry leading to his death and resurrection at Easter. We have hardly had time to celebrate his birth before we are having to face up to his death.

Lent is of course a time for reflection and preparation and as a part of that preparation it has become the custom for people to think about giving something up (usually biscuits, sweets chocolate or the like). But giving something up seems to me to be a negative thing and I would like to suggest we do something positive instead.

Personally, I am thinking of something simple like thanking God on a regular basis for all the blessings of this life. Those of us who are familiar with the Service of Morning Prayer will remember the words of the Prayer of General Thanksgiving – *'Almighty and most merciful Father.....we give you thanks for all your goodness.....and for all the blessings of this life'*.

Unfortunately, it's not always easy to be grateful for all the many positive things in our lives. A recent survey found that while people were concerned by international and political situations, they were most concerned about personal issues – finances, bills, debts, work, family problems etc. resulting in sleepless nights and, in some cases, depression. Against this background it becomes difficult to think about the many everyday blessings around us. But, reflecting on the positive things in our lives instead of dwelling on the negative

can be good for us.

If we look closely, we can see that there are many ordinary everyday blessings around us, which we take for granted but for which we should be thankful. Here are just a few to start with – home, family, friends, our health, the beauty of God's creation, clean water to make a cup of tea and a comfortable armchair to sit in and drink it. Where we thank God for all the good things in our lives, he will help us to overcome and deal with our worries.

So instead of giving something up when Lent comes why not be like me and try to do something positive instead.

*George Knowles*



## Art & Craft Group

Are you interested in attending an Art & Craft Group at Church. A lady called Jean Grey is looking for a new venue to hold classes/workshops. We have agreed to survey the congregation to see if this would be feasible for her. There is a survey form (on pink paper) which we would be grateful if you would complete and return to church.

You may recall that when we held our public meeting this was an activity that people expressed an interest in.



# Church Contacts

	Name	Tel
Vicar	Rev. Peter Hamborg	726987 / 07771 993004 revpete@stchristopherslea.org
Curate	Rev. Mike Clayton	mikeclayton@stchristopherslea.org
Church Administrator (part time)	Hilary Holderness	admin@stchristopherslea.org
Church Wardens	Debra Foster Darren Shirley Debbie Williams	07598 126502 739186, 07805 413220 07834 593534
PCC Secretary	Hilary Holderness	724384
Church Treasurer	Vacant	Contact Debra Foster (details above)
Magazine Team	Louise Gover Peter Hamborg	louiseannegover@gmail.com 726987 / 07771 993004
Magazine Distributor	Peter & Louise Walton	760763
Electoral Roll Officer	Louise Gover	louiseannegover@gmail.com
Vulnerable Adults' Rep.	Hilary Holderness	724384
Children & Y.P Rep.	Dawn Edwards	729702
Flowers	Mary Clarke	729690
Church School	Lea Endowed CE Primary School Lea Road, Lea, Preston PR4 0RA	729880



### Creative Fun at Junior Church





### Our New Screen being used by the Guide Groups



### Christmas Tuesday Brews

14<sup>th</sup> December 2021



An enjoyable social afternoon



Installation of our interactive touch screen 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022



**Junior Church  
9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022**



**Mike with his Fuzzy Felt board**



**Freya making biscuits**



**Fun with the streamers**

[www.stchristopherslea.org](http://www.stchristopherslea.org)