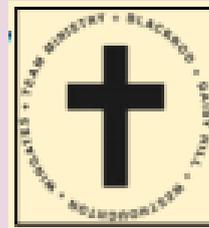


# St Katharine, Blackrod Newsletter



Sunday 18th April 2021

## Third Sunday of Easter

### Church open for services

Church is now open for Services at 11am on Sundays and 9.30 on Tuesdays. Please observe 'Hands, Face, Space' and do not attend if you have any symptoms of Coronavirus. Ring Valerie on 01204 456619 to book your place at the services.

You can find all the Sunday Services, sheets and newsletters on the website at:

<https://stkatharine.net/news>

And the recorded services at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDx266HLh95hYeBJnON8ODg>

We are working through the repairs required by the Quinquennial Inspection and making the changes needed to reduce St Katharine's carbon footprint but it certainly isn't easy during a pandemic! We have little opportunity to fundraise so we are again asking you to support St Katharine's and

### 'Chip in for Church.'

If you are able to contribute anything to help us through these difficult times please put your contribution in an envelope and leave at church, post through the vicarage door or give online at [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stkatharineschurchblackrod/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_content=cpl](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stkatharineschurchblackrod/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=cpl)

Thank you



### Confirmation 2021

We hope that Confirmation Services will be held later this year. If you are a young person in Year 6 and above and would like to consider this, please ask an adult to get in touch and we will forward you a registration form to complete. If you are an adult who would like to consider confirmation, again please get in touch. Registration forms will also be available in our church buildings from this Sunday. The deadline for completing the form is the 9th May 2021. Please note, if we already have your details from last year when Confirmation Services had to be cancelled, you don't need to apply again. We still have your details and will be in touch soon. Thank you.

### APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) & Annual Vestry Meeting

The APCM will be held on Thursday 20th May at 7.00pm in church if restrictions will allow, otherwise by Zoom. This year five members of the PCC will complete their terms of office so now is the time to be thinking about whether you can offer a bit of time to help by volunteering as a member of the PCC. Being a PCC member involves some decision-making on behalf of St Katharine's Church and the Blackrod parish. The PCC meets regularly to discuss current issues, and open discussion and an understanding of what is in the best interests, long-term, for the Parish, ensures the right decisions are made. Please think about it. If you feel you have time to offer and would like to support St Katharine's in this way, we are looking for parishioners with enthusiasm and ideas who would enjoy being part of this area of parish life. Meetings happen about once every six weeks and you would be made very welcome. You must be on the Electoral Roll to be eligible. See notice about the revision of the Electoral Roll. Please contact Revd Angela or the churchwardens for further information.

There will also be the annual Vestry Meeting to elect two Churchwardens immediately prior to the APCM. Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting the vicar or wardens.

### Revision of Electoral Roll

The Electoral roll will be revised. New names can be added and names removed. If anyone wants to have their name added to it please contact Sheila Kinrade on 01204 695642 before Sunday 25th April. The Electoral Roll allows you to be on the PCC and vote at the Annual meeting.



Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you all well. It is warming up a bit this week which is good news for the outside diners! It's certainly wonderful to have a little more freedom in what we can do and where we can go and a relief to see businesses being able to open up again. I know quite a few of you have already had that long awaited haircut



and that in itself lifts the spirits!

Last week the death of HRH Prince Philip was announced. All our sympathies are with her Majesty and the Royal Family. The Queen described Prince Philip as her "strength and stay". In the Queen's role you can imagine just how important it would be to have that dependability in a spouse. Their marriage has certainly been a wonderful example of commitment and dedication to duty. We've heard and seen this week just how much Philip contributed to our Nation. I was surprised at what I learnt and happy to be reminded of his interest in environmental matters. Much to my shame I had rather taken him for granted recently but now I appreciate more how hard he worked as consort and finding his own voice and establishing his own purpose in the partnership. I wonder how aware young people are of his many interests and talents. Of course he wasn't perfect by any means but there's a great deal to be learnt from his life and we are all the poorer for his loss. I'm sure we all agree that, at ninety-nine years of age he has earned his rest! We hope and pray that his funeral, subject to those same Covid restrictions as many others, will go well on Saturday. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

In church we continue to celebrate the risen Christ. In the Gospel reading from Luke, Jesus appears to his disciples. It's still the first Easter Day. He deepens their knowledge of the scriptures that foretell of the Messiah and how he must suffer and die and be raised again. He tells them they must go and be his witnesses to all nations. In the Acts of the Apostles a lame man has been miraculously healed by Peter. Not in his own strength but in the name of Jesus, the author of life, the man whom the Israelite had put to death in exchange for a murderer. Peter explains how God has raised Jesus and that the disciples are Jesus' witnesses. Peter boldly proclaims to the Israelites that through Jesus sins are forgiven; even the sin of killing the Messiah. He urges them to repent and be forgiven.

We so often carry around guilt and shame over the sins we have committed, or we worry over the things we should have done but haven't. From these readings we can be encouraged that there is no sin that Jesus cannot wipe out. No guilt or shame that he cannot take away. We just need to bring them to his feet, place them in his hands and believe that by his wounds we are healed.

I hope and pray that you have a good week and will enjoy God's peace in all things.

God bless,

Angela.



**Need support?**  
Our COVID 19 community response line is now open offering vital help to people who need food or essential items.  
**01204 337221**  
8.30am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri and Sat 9am - 1.30pm

0800 804 8044  
**DailyHOPE**  
A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

**CONTACTS** **Keeping in touch**

**VICAR** The Revd Angela Wynne, The Vicarage, Blackhorse Street, Blackrod, BL6 5EN  
Tel: 01204 468150 Email: Revawynne@gmail.com

**Churchwardens** Valerie Marron 01204 456619 and Janet Hollick 01942 731164

**Websites** www.stkatharine.net and Www.westthoughtonchurches.org.uk

**Facebook:** St Katharine's Church, Blackrod Email: stkatharineschurch@btconnect.com

**Team Rector:** Revd Carol Pharaoh Tel: 01942 859251 Email: carol.pharaoh@gmail.com

**A Church Near You** <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16047/>

**SHOPPING?**

Raise **FREE** donations for St Katharine's when you Shop on-line. Find us at **Easyfundraising.org.uk**

And now you can also make a direct donation to St Katharine's through Easyfundraising.

Just click on the **Donate** button.

# Readings and Prayers for the 3rd Sunday of Easter

## **FIRST READING Acts 3. Verses 12-19**

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people: 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.'

## **Psalm 4**

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; you set me at liberty when I was in trouble; have mercy on me and hear my prayer. How long will you nobles dishonour my glory; how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood? But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness; when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me. Stand in awe, and sin not; commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness and put your trust in the Lord. There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?' Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us. You have put gladness in my heart, more than when their corn and wine and oil increase. In peace I will lie down and sleep, for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

## **SECOND READING 1 John 3.1-7**

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you.

Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

## **GOSPEL READING Luke 24. Verses 36b-48**

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.'

## **HOMILY by Carol McCabe**

Have you ever been a witness? Maybe to an accident or a crime even. Maybe you have witnessed a signature at a wedding or maybe another kind of legal document. There are many ways you can become a witness, but what does it mean to be a witness to Christ?

Being a witness of Christ in the most basic sense is to have and share our own personal stories, ones that reflect how He is the divine Son of God, the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. That is the way the ancient Apostles did it, they knew that Jesus was the promised Messiah, and they spoke from personal experience. However, that the disciples are witnesses, does not mean they now have all the answers. It means they now have the life Jesus wants to give them. They are witnesses based not on what they know, but on who they are, how they live, and how their relationship with the risen Christ, affects that new way of life.

We celebrate today the third Sunday of Easter, which means we continue reflecting, as the Church, upon the astonishing Good News at the heart of our faith. A human being, Jesus, after being tortured and executed, was raised to new life by God. Through this action, God showed Jesus to be more than just a man. Jesus is the Author of Life, and the channel of God's healing and forgiving love.

Of course, this is good news, its great news, but it's difficult news. People do not rise from the dead. Common sense tells us that, and every 'right-thinking person' must surely agree that these stories are but fantasy, pure wishful thinking. How can we possibly believe in them?

I wish I could make this good news less difficult. I wish I could explain to you exactly how God has brought this about and make your faith strong with solid scientific arguments. But I can't. All I have, all we have, are the stories told in the gospels, and in Paul's letters. We have the eye-witness accounts of Peter and Paul, John, and the other apostles.

'You are witnesses to this,' says Jesus, in today's gospel reading from Luke.

The 'witness' who wrote the third gospel has traditionally been named as Luke; he also wrote the Acts of the Apostles, as a two-part history. Luke is writing perhaps fifty years after the events he is telling us about, and during this time, the significance of Jesus being raised from the dead has become clearer. Jesus was raised to life by the same God who blessed Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But this is different; Jesus is not one of the patriarchs, or prophets, no. Jesus is the 'Author of Life', 'the Prince of Life', or the 'Leader towards Life'. By the name of Jesus, the disciples healed the sick. Something that Luke especially, would have been drawn to as he was a doctor.

In the gospel reading, the disciples 'disbelieved for joy.' It is almost as if their love for Jesus got in the way of them realising what had really happened. It takes time for the resurrection faith to take root. But over the next 30, 40, 50 years, these witnesses enter the depths of this good but difficult news. And they wrote down what they had witnessed, so that we too might believe.

The heart of the Gospel message, which we are called to be witnesses to, is the cross - but fortunately it does not stop there. Through the cross Jesus defeated death and won pardon for our sins. His cross is the door to heaven and the key to paradise. The way to glory is through the cross. Fortunately, we have a time of grace too; not of 50 years, but of 50 days, during which our grasp of what has happened will take root. It will re-shape us, as we see possibilities of change for the better. We will become an 'Easter people' in the proper sense.

Death does not have the final say. Neither does sickness, or disability; and neither does our ignorance, or weakness or sinfulness. If we allow this message to really sink into our hearts, these 50 days will be for us a 'time of refreshing experience'. And in due course that will become our story.

Jesus will show us the way and give us the power to overcome all, that stands in the way of his love and truth

reaching our ears and hearts. Just as the first disciples are commissioned to witness, to bring the good news of salvation to all the nations, so, we, too, are called to be witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ to all who live on the face of the earth. But it's not enough to proclaim that Christ is risen, it's not enough to believe in the resurrection. At some point we will have to move from the events to experiencing them for ourselves. The Christ amongst us.

God's ways are not human ways. Let us pray that we may never allow God's capabilities to be diminished by our own limitations. For if we are not careful, we will bind ourselves through our fears, our sorrows and losses, our runaway thoughts and distractions, our attachments and addictions to things, people and dare I say our beliefs. Sometimes it's our own unwillingness to allow or trust God to grow and change us. And without that we can not experience God in our lives and in those around us. Without that we can not have a personal relationship with God through Christ, and without that we will have nothing to witness to.

I don't know how this happens. I can't give you a set of instructions. This new life, and the one we then can witness to, can not be acquired, it is received. I think it happens when we truly open up. That's what happened to the disciples with Jesus' hands and feet, with his flesh and bones, with the food. They saw and recognised something about Jesus and in doing so they saw something in themselves: holiness. That's what can happen to us too.

"You are witnesses of these things." He says to us. Tell it. Live it. Become it. The good news is ours. We are witnesses.

Amen.

## PRAYERS

### **Please pray .... For those who are sick:**

Jane Nicholls, Betty Mather, Jean Louis, Elaine Batty,  
Val Yarwood and family, Baby Reggie Horsfield,  
Kevin Fallon, Jack Fairhurst.

### **For those who have died:**

Jean Flatters

### **And for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

Gordon Merry, Mike Temple, Gladys Fairclough.

**Let us know?** If anyone is aware of someone currently sick or in hospital, wishing to be included on the Prayer List please notify the Vicar or the Churchwardens.

# NOTICES

## Eco Church

2021 offers more challenges as it is the year in which St Katharine's will look to reduce its carbon footprint with a view to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.



Our church is Grade 2 listed and we are restricted in the changes that can be made but, it has a large roof space which could accommodate solar panes and a tower which must be one of the windiest places in Lancashire and Greater Manchester for harnessing wind power.

If you or anyone you know, would be able to help us work our way through these issues we would love to hear from you. Telephone 01942 731164.

## HELP NEEDED

Two of our stalwart cleaners are hanging up their dusters after many years of helping with the cleaning of church. The rota's loss of them means we only have 8 people on the team so we really need at least another 2 people but more would be far better. When we open again, with limited numbers attending services, we only need to clean once a fortnight, in teams of two, so that duties will be once every 8 weeks for 2 hours (approx). If and when things return to normal it will be more often. Please let me know if you will help.

Sylvia Gregory

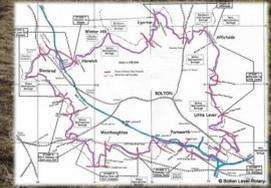
## XTREME PRAYER CHALLENGE

FRI 9TH - SAT 10TH JULY 2021

50 MILES AROUND BOLTON (ROTARY WAY)  
14 - 18 HOURS WALKING OVER 2 DAYS

INDOOR CAMPING WITH HOT FOOD PROVIDED  
8 PRAYER STOPS FOCUSING ON OUR TOWN  
GREAT FELLOWSHIP AND FUN

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
CONTACT LEE HIGSON ON  
LEE.HIGSON@CVM.ORG.UK  
OR WHATSAPP / TEXT  
0771 2003290



We know a lot of parents are struggling at the moments so here is something some of you might find useful.

## The Mum Show



### Care For The Family series – 'The Mum Show'

Christian organisation, Care For The Family, have released a twelve-part series entitled 'The Mum Show' on being a mum in today's world ... whatever that may look like. Each thirty-minute episode will feature honest conversations, moments of soul-searching, expert advice and even the occasional light-hearted digression. The first episode, Parenting in a Pandemic, was released on 8 February and will be available until 30th April. Take a look and sign up for free:

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/events-online-2/the-mum-show>

## BOLTON HUMANITARIAN AID

Thank you for your support

Your help is still needed. You can take your donations to the Vicarage and leave them in the porch while the church is closed. Thank you to Peter for delivering to Urban Outreach on our behalf.

Every single donated item makes a difference!

**Items needed: tinned meat, chopped tomatoes, fruit, 500g boxes of breakfast cereal, cordial, long life milk, custard powder, 1kg bags of rice, pasta (500g), baked beans, tinned soup jars of pasta sauce, tinned pulses, tinned vegetables (sweetcorn, peas carrots and potatoes), biscuits, cereal bars, tinned fish, tea, jars of baby food (different ages), incontinence pads, male toiletries, nappies & wipes.**

Or you could make a financial donation to Urban Outreach. You can do this via their website:

<https://www.urbanoutreach.co.uk/>

Please send in items of news to put on the pewsheet so that we can all keep in touch with what's going on.

Email to: [Deborah.howard2@googlemail.com](mailto:Deborah.howard2@googlemail.com)

# Activity Sheet

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!  
 Hallelujah! April brings us to Easter – the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - the triumphant highlight of the Christian year. As St Paul pointed out, unless Jesus really did rise again, our faith is useless, and we may as well forget any hope of heaven or eternal life.

- |           |             |          |
|-----------|-------------|----------|
| passover  | Judas       | temple   |
| bread     | Gethsemane  | curtain  |
| wine      | trial       | tomb     |
| body      | crucifixion | angel    |
| blood     | soldiers    | stone    |
| betrayal  | cross       | risen    |
| Jerusalem | nails       | gardener |
| Pilate    | vinegar     | Mary     |

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