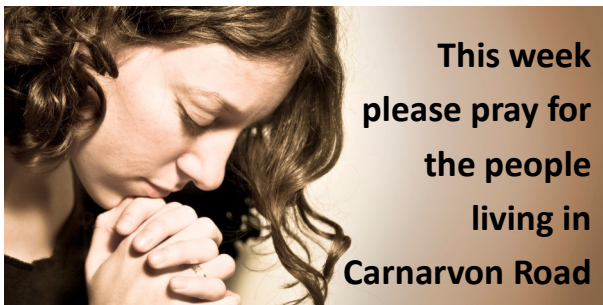


# Church Without Walls

Issue 42 February 7th 2021



## A Message from Dave

Last week I met with Bishop Julian for my Ministerial Development Review. He was very encouraged to hear about all the good things happening at St Stephen's Church! In fact, one of his suggestions was to share some of our good practice more widely. However, it occurred to me that maybe not everyone in church knows all of the things happening during the week, so I thought I'd share with you some of what I get up to in between preparing services, talks and pastoral calls....

**Monday:** In my role as chair of Community Connectors (local community group) I chatted online with our community worker. Later in the morning I spoke with an officer in the council to discuss potential funding for Community Connectors to encourage the take up of vaccines and share public health messages in our community. In the early evening it was good to attend 'Let's talk', hosted by Mike, and the opportunity to see and chat with church family.

**Tuesday:** An early start with the 'Praying for Preston' Zoom gathering. Great to pray with and for other churches in Preston. In the early afternoon I went for a socially distanced walk with a young man from another faith who had lots of questions about the Bible. In the early evening I met with three Asylum Seekers for our weekly Bible study via WhatsApp.

**Wednesday:** Ministerial Development Review with the Bishop. Good to have the opportunity to reflect and think about priorities for ministry and my own development. I posted a video on Google Classrooms for school, following a request to make a video on the



Eucharist for Y5/6. In the evening, Irene and I joined our Growth Group Zoom, good to have two new members.

**Thursday:** I really enjoy the weekly 'telephone service'! It's a chance to catch up with our more senior members of the church family and lead a short act of worship over the phone. In the afternoon I delivered the BRAG magazine in the parish and spotted a potential property for our curate who is arriving in the summer. Informed the Diocese Property Department.

**Friday:** Another online meeting – this time on Teams. Met with sixteen other community groups from across Preston to discuss the 'Community Champions' project. Good also to drop in at the Food Market in the church car park and to be allocated the best job, giving out the cakes! Fifty people came and each went home with a huge bag of food and a warm welcome from volunteers (many from St Stephen's). Chatted with a new member of church family – not easy to join a church in lockdown. Finished the week by checking that everything is uploaded for the Sunday services and felt ready for a day off.

We are the church – a family, a team, a body that works together and it is great to be part of it in serving and sharing Jesus together. Let's commit ourselves to continue to serve, learn, witness and worship together!

Dave

**We are enjoying looking at the book of  
Ruth in our morning services. Click here  
to watch a helpful overview of the whole  
story in just 7 minutes**



# Church Without Walls

Issue 42 February 7th 2021



February's issue of the BRAG magazine is now available and you can read it by clicking [here](#).

Hannah has recently become editor of the magazine, and St Stephen's now has an advert in here every month.



The Guerguiko New Testament was launched in the Guera province of Chad on 28 December. The launch had been delayed on several occasions and only just avoided another lockdown that started on 1st January, but the persistence and patience of the Guerguagui people has finally been rewarded.

For the Guerguiko-speaking community, finally being able to handle the printed New Testament is a joyful and literally hands-on moment.

'Now, today, the dedication of the New Testament gives me great joy,' says Rateigna Terap, a member of the Guerguiko translation team. 'I have the New Testament in my hands, and I am going to use it myself in my mother tongue.'

Translation work first started on the New Testament 28 years ago and a series of obstacles had delayed the launch.

'There were times when we wondered if we would ever see the Guerguiko New Testament!' says Caroline Tyler, who serves with Wycliffe in Chad. 'But the community has persisted in prayer and trusted God that the launch would happen in God's time.'

[You can read more about this here](#)

Don't forget to send any items for this newsletter into the office. We'd love to see photos of church members enjoying the service on YouTube, stories that might encourage others, prayer requests or a review of a book you've enjoyed



It's the announcement you've all been waiting for. Tickets for Spring Harvest Home 2021 will be available from **10am Friday 5th February** on [our website here](#).

But that's not all. Book by the end of February and you'll receive an **exclusive digital Spring Harvest Home bundle** at the start of March, from us to you. Plus, we'll also send you some **unreleased content from Spring Harvest Home**, after the event in May.

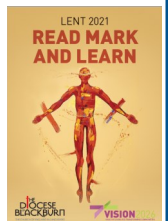
We're excited, and we can't wait for you to join us as we worship our unrivalled God together during **Spring Harvest Home from 4th to 8th April**.

So, put the dates in your calendar and set your reminder for **10am Friday 5th February!** [Click here](#) to visit our website and join the countdown.

[To find out more click here to watch our latest video.](#)

## Lent 2021

Blackburn Diocese have produced a booklet to take us through Lent entitled '**Read, Mark & Learn**'. The focus will be on Mark's Gospel and will take in every verse, with contributions from both clergy and lay-people. This has been written for all church members, and will be especially valuable as we are unable to meet together in person as we would normally do. We now have some copies of this booklet, if you would like one of these, please [contact the office](#).



This is also available in large print. Please say if you would like a large print version.

## Preston Churches in Prayer

On Tuesday mornings at 7.30 join Christians from around Preston for prayer on zoom email Andy Pratt: [andrewpratt1@btinternet.com](mailto:andrewpratt1@btinternet.com) for an invitation