

Church Without Walls

Issue 56 May 16th 2021

Click here
to join us
on Sunday
morning
at 10.30
on YouTube



Don't forget to join us on zoom for
a brew & a chat after the service



Wellbeing and the environment

At our All-Age Service two weeks ago, Julia spoke on a very important part of our wellbeing – our relationship with our world. We thought it would be good to follow up on some of the challenges she gave us to think about how we use the resources that God has given us. If you have made any changes in your lifestyle out of concern for the environment, then please share them in 'Church without Walls'.

You may have decided to use less plastic, or change your cleaning products or even spend less time in the shower. Whatever it is please let Alison in the office know to include in this newsletter – it may inspire someone else to make a change in their lifestyle.



Email the office at church@ststephenspreston.org.uk or pop a note in the letter box outside church.

We love because

10th - 23rd May is Foster Care Fortnight, and Home for Good have shared some stories about fostering on their website:

Wendy and David have been short-term foster carers for 21 years, and have cared for 28 children.

"Sharing our home and caring for others is a big part of who we are, whether that's through children's and youth work in church, mentoring younger couples, or even just having our son's friends over to the house. So fostering made sense for us as a family."



"I can't replace her father, and I can't be the person who cares for her forever. But for the short time a child is with us, we have the honour of reflecting a little of the love that our Father in Heaven has shown us; by providing safety and security, providing what they need, comforting them, walking alongside them and pouring out love."

"My mother had me at 17. She was an alcoholic and, as the oldest child, I felt responsible for my two younger sisters, so I stayed off school when mum was particularly bad.

I initially thought my foster home was so boring, compared to the one I'd come from – there was predictable routine and structure. Only years later did I realise that this was actually normal, and that my family home had been extremely volatile."

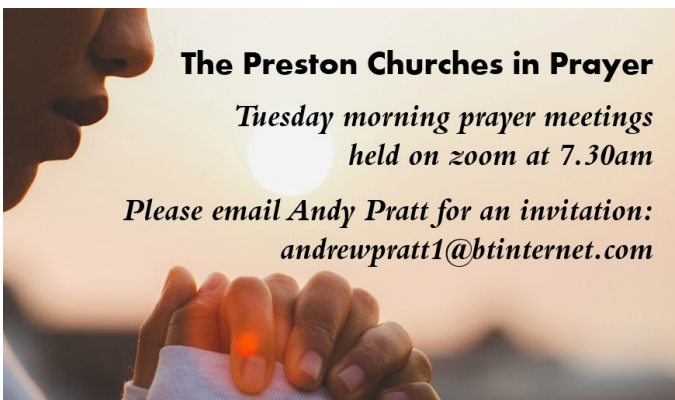
"We love because He loved us first. We care because we understand that we've been cared for."

You can read more here: [Home for Good](https://www.homeforgood.org.uk/)

The Preston Churches in Prayer

*Tuesday morning prayer meetings
held on zoom at 7.30am*

*Please email Andy Pratt for an invitation:
andrewpratt1@btinternet.com*



St Stephen's
LEARNING TO LOVE AS JESUS DOES

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A Farewell

Many of you will remember Gilda who has been part of our church family for the last 18 months.

Gilda is about to enter the 'contemplative life' and will be joining an Anglican Benedictine community at St Mary's Abbey in West Malling, Kent. She sends her greetings to the church family and has appreciated being part of the church while she was in Preston.

We wish her God's blessing as she enters this new period of her life and as she further explores the contemplative life.



A New Partnership

We have been exploring developing a partnership with The Parish of the Risen Lord in Preston. The parish is made of three churches: St Matthew's, St James and St Matthew's Mission. The vicar is Rev Alistair McHaffie, who is also the Area Dean. We already have a good link with the parish as our 'Open the Book Team' deliver an assembly in the church school each month and we are looking at how we can build on this to be a mutual support and encouragement to one another. After an initial meeting with a small group from both PCCs we decided the best place to start was to pray together and we met last week via zoom to do this. We plan to do this each month and we have decided the first Thursday of the month – when it falls in the same week as our monthly Monday prayer meeting, will be our dedicated prayer time. For our first prayer time together, Alistair interviewed an inspiring couple who left a large church in Preston and moved into the parish to become part of the community and seek to share the love of Christ with their neighbours. I interviewed Sarah who has an equally inspiring story as she shared about her role as a Mum, carer, her work in the university and her ministry as church treasurer. She also shared her plans to do a degree in theology! In our first meeting one of the members of St James said, 'We just want to tell people about Jesus!' Essentially that is what our partnership is going to be about – discovering how can we support each other to do this better.



All new prayer app!

The countdown to Pentecost begins this week and we are excited to launch our new OIKOS app to encourage Christian prayer during this special time!



HOPE Together is reimagining what neighbourhood mission looks like through our Hope For Every Home project, encouraging Christians to pray for their streets, connect with their neighbours and share Jesus where they live.

The new prayer app is a way to ensure we reach every home in prayer by giving you the chance to record, pin and visualise where you have prayed and where others have prayed too. It's easy. Simply download to your mobile from the [Google Play](#) or [Apple](#) app store.

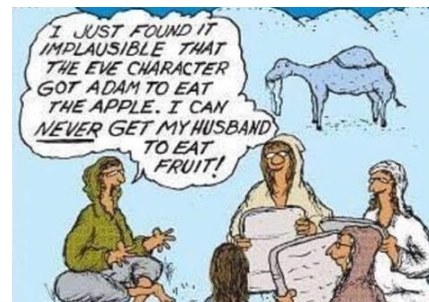
Steve Bell has taken delivery of the "author"



copies of his latest book – "Mountains Move" – a helpful guide to effective Christian presence, interaction, and witness, in a crowded social market-place. The RRP is

£12.99, but Steve can offer a **special St Stephen's price** of £7 (if delivered by hand) or £9 by post. Each copy comes with an invoice that gives details of payment, either by bank transfer or a cheque.

If you would like a copy please contact Steve or the church office.



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