



# NEWSLETTER

## ST STEPHEN - ST BRIDGET

COVERING THE DISTRICTS OF: WINWICK, LONGFORD, ORFORD,  
HOUGHTON GREEN, CINNAMON BROW, FEARNHEAD, POULTON,  
RISLEY AND BIRCHWOOD.



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ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL  
Liverpool Roman Catholic Archdiocesan Trust: Registered Charity No. 232709

### EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) 30 JULY 2022

Saturday 30 July	St Bridget's	5.00 pm <i>Confessions</i> 5.30pm Mass: Lucy McNamara
Sunday 31 July	St Stephen's St Bridget's	9.45am Mass: Olive Swift 11.30am Mass: People of the Parish
Tues 2 August	St Stephen's	9am Mass: Harley Whittle
Wed 3 August	St Bridget's	10am Mass: Agnes Cook
Thur 4 August	St Stephen's	9am Mass: James O'Neill
Frid 5 August	St Bridget's	5.30pm <i>Exposition &amp; Devotions</i> 6pm Mass: LISCF
Sat 6 August	St Stephen's	9.30am <i>Exposition &amp; Devotions</i> 9.30am <i>Confessions</i> 10am Mass: Private Intention 4.30pm <b>Wedding Service:</b> Rocky Verdon & Jade Davies

### NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) 7 AUGUST 2022

Saturday 6 August	St Bridget's	5.00 pm <i>No Confessions today</i> 5.30pm Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 7 August	St Stephen's St Bridget's	9.45am Mass: Margaret & Peter Conway 11.30am Mass: Private Intention

- Sanitise your hands
- Face mask recommended 
- Holy Communion: bench by bench, in two rows.

#### PARISH FUNDRAISING when you shop on-line

Access over 3,600 shops  
[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)  
and St Stephen's and  
St Bridget's will receive  
charitable donations

#### How to get started:

Log-on to  
[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

Then type '**Parish  
Development Fund  
St Stephens**'

in the search box and click.  
(despite the one title the  
fund is for both parishes.)

Then follow the  
instructions for set up -  
name/email/password  
and click.

Then access your chosen  
shops and the parish will  
receive donations.

Don't forget recommend  
this to others!

#### Feasts & Celebrations This Week...

- 1 August. Memoria: St Alphonsus Liguori (*Bishop & Doctor*)  
2 August. Optional: St Eusebius of Vercelli (*Bishop*)  
Optional: St Peter Julian Eymard (*Priest*)  
4 August. Memoria: St John Vianney (*Priest*)  
5 August. Optional: Dedication of St Mary Major Basilica  
6 August. Feast: Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus

#### TEXT GIVING:

St Bridget's

- Text STBRIDGET to 70085 to donate £2  
Text STBRIDGET to 70450 to donate £3  
Text STBRIDGET to 70460 to donate £5  
Text STBRIDGET to 70470 to donate £10

St Stephen's

- Text STSTEPHEN to 70085 to donate £2  
Text STSTEPHEN to 70450 to donate £3  
Text STSTEPHEN to 70460 to donate £5  
Text STSTEPHEN to 70470 to donate £10

From Fr John's desk...

## THE CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION AND ST BRIDGET

On Tuesday last I met with Fr Philip Inch (our Archdiocesan Development Officer), the Church of England Archdeacon, Dean and Ecumenical Officer to discuss the present situation in regard our shared presence at the church in Cinnamon Brow. The Parish of the Resurrection has recently experienced a significant decline in church attendance, a difficulty replacing office holders and the decision not to replace the Rev Tracey McLoughlin. As a result they decided earlier in the year, that from September, they will celebrate only one Service a month at the church. This would allow time for the 'Fit For Mission' process to be completed by the Church of England in Autumn 2023 before making any decision about the future of The Parish of the Resurrection. However, it became clear during our meeting that the lack of office holders needed to manage the building and the fact that the building itself requires some major investment any delay in the decision making process was not really an option. The meeting lasted a couple of hours and we discussed a myriad of possibilities and eventualities. As a result it was decided that the Church of England begin the process of parish closure with a public meeting to be held on Tuesday 27 September at 7.30pm in the hall at the Church of the Resurrection and St Bridget. At the meeting I shared with those present what this decision would mean for us as the Catholic partners in the shared church. And I shared this again with the parishioners of St Bridget's at our meeting in the evening.

Thank you to those who were able to come to the evening meeting. The question that we faced, given the situation with our Church of England partners and friends, is: *'are we able to continue at Cinnamon Brow alone?* And the answer would be 'yes' - if St Bridget's parish was sustainable as a parish for the foreseeable future! However, as I explained at the meeting, in 2018 I projected that given the age profile of the congregation, the fact that yearly baptisms are just nine or less, the need for younger volunteers to be ready and willing to replace the present parish helpers and the fact that the building is beginning to show her age and needs some major investment the parish would most probably close in about ten years (2028) – that was my personal projection in 2018. What I did not foresee then was the effect of Covid-19 on church attendance or that the Rev Tracey McLoughlin would become ill and have to retire her position and not be replaced. So, if we did continue at the church alone, it would only be a matter of time before our situation became unsustainable. The added dimension to this would be that we would also need to find funds to replace the roof and the church heating system. It would not be feasible to request a loan from the Archdiocese for this work given the fact that grants are awarded if it is clear the requesting parish has a sustainable future and that they would be able to repay a loan over a ten year period. So, the fact that the Church of England will begin the process to close its parish at the public meeting in September 2022 it is only reasonable that we consider the future of St Bridget's at the same time.

What I did not say at the parish meeting was that the earliest date for any change would be the last weekend before Advent 2022 – but this all depends on the Church of England process which begins at the public meeting in September. When a decision is made we will need to meet again and discuss how we bring together the communities of St Bridget's and St Stephen's and how we organise Mass times to accommodate everyone. Let us all remember this on-going situation in our prayers and the inevitable upheaval and sadness we all feel as a result of such a change.

### Pray Through Singing

Monday 8th August at 7pm St Bridget's Church Hall  
All Are Welcome. Non-singers too!

### St Stephen's Church Cleaning

30 AUGUST 6PM

Spare an hour - come and help!

**LADIES GUILD**  
2 August 2022 7.30pm  
St Bridget's Church  
Hall



A warm welcome to ladies of St Bridget's and St Stephen's and neighbouring parishes.  
All welcome.

### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Lord, we pray, send your healing and comfort on our loved ones.

Please remember in your prayers:  
Shona, Baby Leo-John (RIP)

Please inform the Parish Office if anyone's name needs to be added or removed.

### ST OLIVER'S TOTE 2022

23rd July

No Draw



### AUGUST BAPTISMS

Please remember in your prayers Aria Felicity Webb and Leo Oscar Webb who will be baptised this August at St Bridget's church. Remember also their parents and families.



St Bridget's  
Church Hall

SATURDAY

13 August 7.30pm  
(and every 2nd Saturday  
of the month!)

### BONUS BALL COMPETITION Winners: £25 each

27th July 2022

Pauline  
(St Bridget's)

Michael  
Renneberg  
(St Stephen's)

