



Parish Newsletter

June 2026



**St Andrew's | St Paul's | St Peter's
Blackley**

FROM THE VICAR

June always feels like a bit of a change of gear in the Church's year. The great festivals and celebrations that have carried us from Advent through Christmas, Lent, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost are now behind us, and we enter what the Church calls Ordinary Time. There is nothing ordinary about it, of course. Rather, this is the season where we have the opportunity to let all that we have seen and heard take root in our lives. Having walked through the great story of God's saving love once again, we are invited to grow steadily as disciples, learning what it means to follow Christ day by day in the ordinary rhythms of life.

That sense of growth seems particularly appropriate at the moment. Across the Diocese there is much conversation about the priorities of Growing Younger, Raising Missional Leaders, Parish Renewal and Church Planting. Those may sound like grand ambitions, but they begin in ordinary places like ours, among ordinary people like us, faithfully serving Jesus where we are. Over the coming months our PCCs will be spending time focusing on these themes, asking how God might be calling us forward as churches and communities. There is much work to be done, but there is also much reason for hope. As Jesus reminds us, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few" (Matthew 9.37). Perhaps one of the questions before us is where God may be calling each of us to play our part in that harvest.

I would also like to offer a heartfelt thank you to everyone who gave their time, energy and enthusiasm during our recent churchyard working parties at St Peter's. Thanks to your efforts we successfully cleared a significant section of the graveyard, making it safer, tidier and more accessible. Most movingly, we were able to restore a baby's grave that had become hidden and neglected over the years, enabling her family once again to visit and pay their respects. It was a powerful reminder that caring for our churchyards is not simply a matter of maintenance; it is a ministry of remembrance, dignity and love. We hope to continue this work throughout the summer, and all help will be warmly welcomed.

As I reflect on all these things, I find myself returning to St Paul's image of the Church as one body with many parts (1 Corinthians 12). A body only functions well when every part plays its role. Some parts are highly visible; others work quietly behind the scenes. Some lead, some organise, some encourage, some pray, some mend, some welcome, some teach, and some simply turn up week after week with faithful hearts. None of us can do everything, but each of us can do something. The Church was never intended to depend on a handful of people carrying all the weight. Rather, God

has given gifts to each of us, and when those gifts are offered together, the whole body grows stronger. As we look towards the opportunities and challenges ahead, perhaps the question for each of us is not, "What can somebody else do?" but, "What part has God given me to play?" For when every member contributes what they can, Christ's body flourishes, and his love becomes visible in the world. With love and prayers,

Pam

PARISH LIFE: STORIES & SPOTLIGHTS

Spotlight: The Quiet Heroes of Sunday Mornings

If you've ever wondered how the church seems to "just happen" each week, the answer is: it doesn't. It's held together by a small army of people who arrive early, get involved, stay late, and quietly make everything work.

This month we're celebrating our Church Wardens. They're the first faces people see when they walk through the door, and often the last ones to leave. They are appointed by the Bishop to make sure that worship happens in a dignified and orderly way, which means making sure the church building is fit for purpose and if necessary, making sure services continue if the Vicar is not available.

Five Questions With... Dianne Church Warden for St Andrew's



1. What's the best thing about being a Church Warden? I love being involved with church, not just at St Andrew's but the Diocese and the wider church. (*Editor's note... she likes being in charge!*)

2. What's one thing you wish people knew about you? I was a qualified nurse for over 40 years. I spent 16 years in Intensive Care, and 18 in Infectious Diseases.

3. Favourite hymn? Shine Jesus Shine – it always uplifts me, and I love praising God by singing it. It usually makes me cry!

4. A moment of grace for you? Is just being alive and being able to enjoy God's creation – the weather, being outside and feeling him around me.

5. And to finish... an easy one. Tea or coffee? Pam wouldn't let me say gin and tonic, so I'll say TEA!

FAITH & FORMATION

A Spiritual Practice for June: Finding Your Place

As we enter Ordinary Time, take a moment each day to remember that God has given each of us a part to play in his Church.

Pause for one minute.

Ask: "**Where did I see God at work today?**"

Then ask: "**How did I join in?**"

That's it. No pressure. Just noticing.

Small acts of faithfulness help the whole body grow.

WHY WE DO THIS...

What is the Collect? *Pronounced KOLL-ekt, not koll-EKT*

The Collect is the special prayer appointed for each Sunday and festival. Its purpose is to gather our thoughts and prayers together, helping us focus on the themes of the day and preparing us to hear God's word. Often only a few lines long, a Collect is like a miniature sermon in prayer form: reminding us who God is, what he has done, and what we are asking him to do in our lives. We can summarise it as *You, Who, Do, Through...* It looks a little like this:

- 1. Address (You):** Invokes God by a specific name or title (e.g., *Almighty God*).
- 2. Acknowledgment (Who):** Recalls a specific attribute, characteristic, or past action of God (e.g., *unto whom all hearts are open*).
- 3. Petition (Do):** Makes a specific request (e.g., *cleanse the thoughts of our hearts*).
- 4. Purpose/Aspiration:** States the desired benefit or the reason behind the petition (e.g., *that we may perfectly love thee*).
- 5. Conclusion/Doxology (Through):** Closes the prayer by acknowledging Christ's mediation (e.g., *through Jesus Christ our Lord*).

See if you can spot the structure of the Collect as we work our way through this season of Ordinary Time.

COMMUNITY AND LOCAL CONNECTIONS

Update from the Blackley Community Hub

There's a lot going on at the Blackley Community Hub in June, highlights being:

- **3rd June** – Drum Therapy Collective, 11:15am
- **10th June** – Boxing for Fitness with certified mental health coach Sally, 11:00am
- **18th June** – Cooking Workshop, 12:00pm–2:00pm
- **Every Thursday** – Free haircuts for men and boys with Sergio, 12:00pm–2:00pm

What's happening in Blackley

Parklife will be happening on the weekend of 20th and 21st June in Heaton Park. There is a resident's permit zone in force for the weekend as in previous years and the local council are busy trying to update people about who needs one and how to get one. Briefly, if you live anywhere between Middleton Road and Crab Lane and between Blackley New Road and the inside of the M60 you will need one to get through the cordon from about 8pm each day. You can get more information from the Parklife website: <https://parklife.uk.com/>


Community Prayers – please pray for

- ✝ The residents and visitors in Buckland Avenue, Buerton Avenue, Burnthorpe Ave and Caldecott Road (St Andrew's parish); Churlston Avenue, Claygate Drive, Coldstream Avenue and Colindale Avenue (St Paul's parish), Eastgarth Walk, Eldermount Road, Elmstone Road, and Elton Road (St Peter's parish)
- ✝ The staff, residents of and visitors of The Byrons Housing Care
- ✝ The service users, staff and volunteers at Wellmindz
- ✝ The children, staff, governors and parents of Prospect House School

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Codebreaker

Using the code A=1, B=2 etc all the way to Z=26, see how quickly you can solve this message:

20-8-5 / 12-15-18-4 / 9-19 / 13-25 / 19-8-5-16-8-5-18-4 🐶 

Wordsearch

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

Words to find:

CHURCH
DISCIPLES
FIRE
GOSPEL
HOLY
JERUSALEM
LANGUAGES
PENTECOST
POWER
PRAYER
SPIRIT
WIND

Plus a bonus word. See if you can find it and let Pam know... it's there, I promise!

CREATIVITY AND CULTURE

A Poem called **Streetwalker**

He walks the streets beside us -
The saviour of us all;
He wraps his arms around us -
He lifts us when we fall;
He feels the grief we're feeling -
He shares in all our pain;
He holds us to his bosom
Until we're whole again.

Written by Dave Heal, Church Warden of St Peter's Church

PARISH VISION AND INVOLVEMENT

Recently the PCCs of our three churches met to discuss some important matters affecting the life and mission of our parishes.

Alongside considering the Diocese's new priorities mentioned in the Vicar's notes earlier, we spent time reflecting on what these might mean for St Andrew's, St Paul's and St Peter's. We are excited by the opportunities ahead and by the ways God may be calling us to grow in faith, service and mission in our communities.

As part of those conversations, we also reviewed the financial position of our churches. Like all parishes, we contribute each year to the Parish Share, which helps fund clergy ministry, training and the wider work of the Church across the Diocese. We are pleased that we successfully met our Parish Share commitment for 2025, and we will shortly be meeting with the Diocese to discuss our contribution for 2026. Everything that happens in our churches is made possible through the generosity of those who worship, serve and support them. Unlike many organisations, we receive no regular funding from government or external sources, so our day-to-day ministry, buildings, utilities, insurance and Parish Share are funded almost entirely by the giving of our congregations.

We are deeply grateful for the generosity already shown across all three churches. If you are able to review your regular giving, even a small increase can make a significant difference when multiplied across the congregation. Regular giving, whether through the envelope scheme or by standing order, also helps our PCCs plan confidently for the future and supports the ongoing ministry and mission of our churches. If you would like to find out more about regular giving, please speak to Graham or Dianne at St Andrew's, Jackie or David at St Paul's, or Bev at St Peter's. Thank you for all that you already contribute through your time, talents, prayers and financial support. Together, we are helping to sustain and grow the ministry of our churches for the years ahead.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Pastoral Care

If you, or someone you know, would like a visit from Revd Pam, please get in touch with her on 07834 424568, or speak to the Pastoral lead in each church:

St Andrew's – Helen

St Paul's – Jody

St Peter's – Sue

Safeguarding

We are committed to being a safe church for all. If you have any concerns, please speak to the Safeguarding Officer for your church, or to Revd Pam. If anyone is in immediate danger, please call the Police on 999.

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

If you'd like to enquire about any of these, please contact us on 0161 264 9982 or email clergy@blackleycofe.church. We're always glad to walk with you through life's big moments.

Calendar for June

In addition to the usual events:

1st June 2.00pm	Service at Allendale with residents
2nd June 7.30pm	Deanery Synod (at St Paul's)
6th June 11.00am	Craft Fair at St Paul's
8th June 7.00pm	Parish Renewal Launch Evening (St Matthew's, Crumpsall)
10th June 7.30pm	Archdeacon's Visitation (St Matthew's Crumpsall)
15th – 17th June	Clergy Conference at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick (Jane and Pam away at this time)
18th June 7.00pm	Blackley Worship Team Fellowship at the Rectory
27th June 1.00pm	Afternoon Tea at St Peter's

A BLESSING FOR THE MONTH

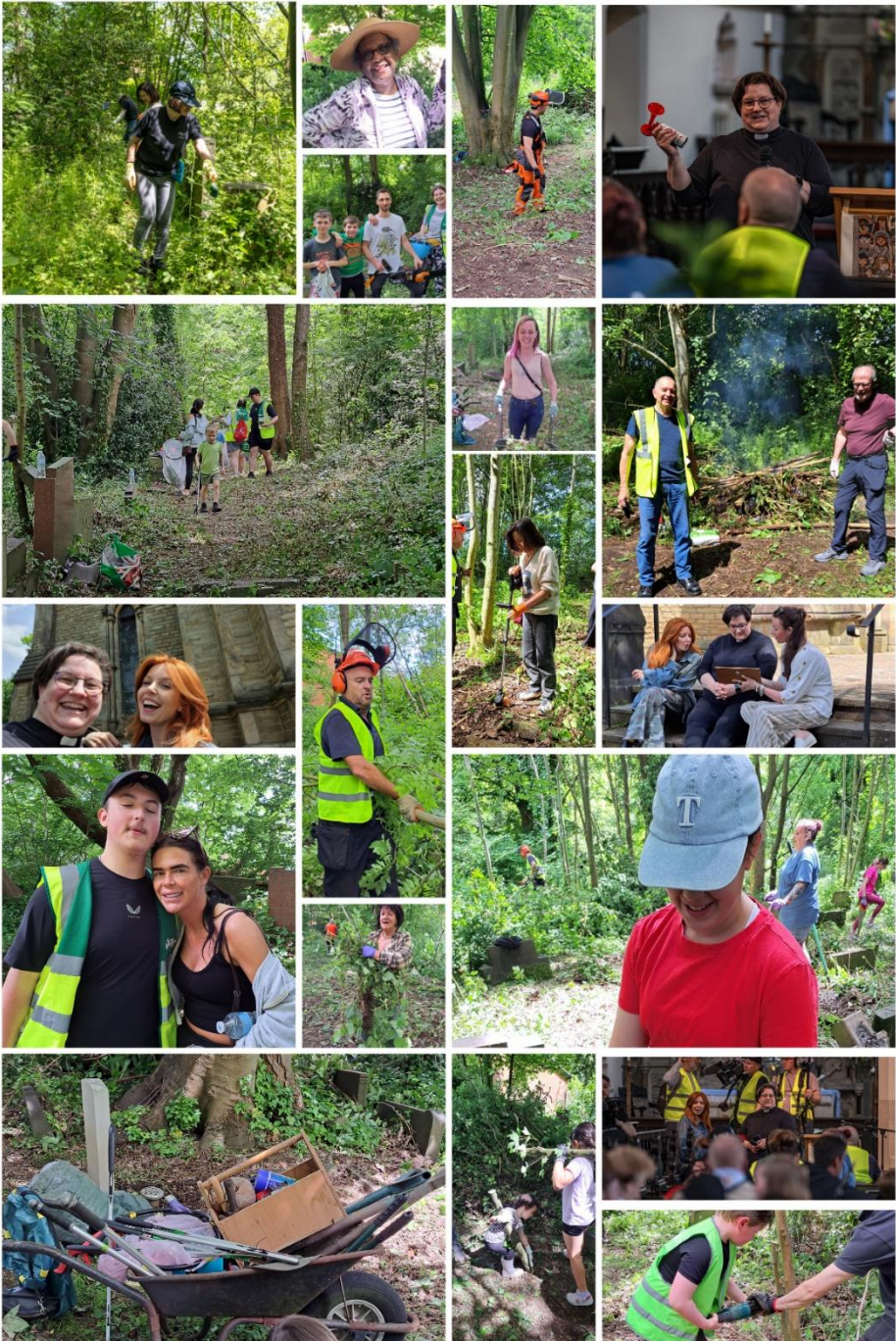
*May the God who sends his Spirit
fill you with courage and joy.*

*May Christ walk beside you
in all that lies ahead.*

*May the Holy Spirit guide your steps,
refresh your heart,
and help you to share God's love wherever you go.*

*And the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.*

Amen.



A sample of photos showing the volunteers hard at work on the clean-up day at St Peter's 23rd May 2026. More will be on our Facebook page this week

SERVING THIS MONTH

AN = St Andrew's, PE = St Peter's, PA = St Paul's

Week of: Sunday 7 June 2026 - The First Sunday after Trinity									
	Lead	Preach	Preside	Prayers	R1	R2	HCA	AV	Hospitality
Sunday	Pam	Pam	Pam	Katherine	Graham	Philip	Helen	Kevin	Hospitality
AN	Jane	Jane	Jane	Bev	Bev	Karen	Helen	Dave	
PE	Pam	Pam	Pam	Ikemba	Derin	Ikemba		Nathan	Ellen & Sue
PA									
Midweek									
AN	Pam	Pam	Pam	Graham	Philip	Helen	Ruth		
PA	David	David		David					
Week of: Sunday 14 June 2026 - The Second Sunday after Trinity									
	Lead	Preach	Preside	Prayers	R1	R2	HCA	AV	Hospitality
Sunday	Katherine	Helen	X	Lisa	Helen	Ruth		Collin	Hospitality
AN	Pam	Pam	Pam	Sue	Dave	Michael		Dave	
PE	David	Pam	X	Jody	Ikemba	Derek		Ikemba	Jody & Derek
PA									
Midweek									
AN	Pam	Katherine	Pam	Helen	Ruth	Graham	Ann		
PA	Pam	Pam		Pam					
Week of: Sunday 21 June 2026 - The Third Sunday after Trinity									
	Lead	Preach	Preside	Prayers	R1	R2	HCA	AV	Hospitality
Sunday	Pam	Pam	Pam	Philip	Katherine	Collin		Kevin	Hospitality
AN	Sue	David	X	Karen	Dot	Sue		Dave	
PE	Pam	David	Pam	Nnoema	Matisse	Margot		Ikemba	Sylvia, Bola & Marra
PA									
Midweek									
AN	Pam	Pam	Pam	Philip	Katherine	Helen	Helen		
PA	David	David		David					
Week of: Sunday 28 June 2026 - The Fourth Sunday after Trinity									
	Lead	Preach	Preside	Prayers	R1	R2	HCA	AV	Hospitality
Sunday	Jane	Jane	Jane	Ruth	Lisa	Graham	Ruth	Graham	Hospitality
AN	Pam	Pam	Pam	Dave	Gillian	Wiktcor		Dave	
PE	Pam	Pam	Pam	Sylvia	Moyo	Jody		Nathan	Tina, Esther & Chief
PA									
Midweek									
AN	Helen	Philip	X	Ruth	Graham	Philip			
PA	Pam	Pam		Pam					

First reading: Hosea 5.15 - 6.6 or Romans 4.13-25 Second reading: Matthew 9.9-13.18-26

First reading: Exodus 19.2-8a or Romans 5.1-8 Second reading: Matthew 9.35 - 10.8-23

First reading: Jeremiah 20.7-13 or Romans 6.1b-11 Second reading: Matthew 10.24-39

First reading: Jeremiah 28.5-9 or Romans 6.12-23 Second reading: Matthew 10.40-42

WHO'S WHO

Incumbent: Revd Pam Smith
SSM: Revd Jane Astley
Lay Readers: Helen Vickers, Katherine Strudwick, Steve Grey,
Philip James, and Sue Winstanley
ALMs: David Armsbey and Jody Swain

St Andrew's:

Wardens: Graham Gordon and Dianne McCann
Safeguarding: Dianne McCann
Treasurer: Graham Gordon
Secretary: Colin Birnie Campbell
Pastoral lead: Helen Vickers
Deanery Synod: Ruth Chadwick & Kevin Smith

St Paul's:

Wardens: David Armsbey and Paul Sykes
Safeguarding: Taron Entwistle
Treasurer: Jackie Whitehurst
Secretary: Jody Swain
Pastoral lead: Jody Swain
Deanery Synod: Jody Swain & Jackie Whitehurst

St Peter's:

Wardens: Dave Heal and Michael Scotney
Safeguarding: Karen Moores
Treasurer: Bev Sutton
Secretary: Anne Morrison
Pastoral lead: Sue Winstanley
Deanery Synod: Dave Heal



Come and join us for our regular services:

St Andrew's Church, Churchdale Road, M9 8NE

Sundays – 9.30am

Wednesdays – 10.45am

St Paul's Church, Victoria Avenue, M9 6RA

Sundays – 11.30am

Thursdays – 11.00am (in the Hall)

St Peter's Church, Lion Brow, M9 8DY

Sundays – 9.30am

Contact us:

For baptism, wedding or funeral enquiries, questions about faith or if you have a pastoral concern

Revd Pam Smith

07834 424568 or 0161 264 9982

clergy@blackleycofe.church

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www.blackleycofe.church