



## Community Christmas Lunch

Let's come together to enjoy good company, raise funds for good causes and celebrate Christmas a little early. This year's Community Christmas Lunch is on **Wednesday 11 December** at 12.00 in the Memorial Hall. As in previous years, those enjoying the lunch are asked to make a donation. This year we are raising money for St Joseph's school in the aftermath of the fire. The school are also keen to help a charity that supports young people who struggle to find a positive direction in life. Lunch is being served around 12.15pm and afterwards the children from St Joseph's will entertain us with their Christmas story. This is a community event supported by St Joseph's PTA and the Coffee Stop team. Please come along and support our school whilst enjoying the company of friends and family. To give us an idea of numbers please contact Gill or David Jacques on 07838 423974 or 07877 642653 if you are coming.

## RESILIENCE

Since the Spring Edition of Round the Green, our community has experienced a number of challenges, culminating in a very serious criminal act. Here, Laura Orr, Headteacher of St Joseph's Primary School, describes both the despair and the great spirit of hope and rebuilding:

As many will know, the start of our summer holidays did not begin as we had hoped. Our beautiful school was victim to an arson attack - burning down the Year 5 and 6 classroom.

I cannot begin to tell you how devastated our school community felt on the day of the fire with the thought of the enormity of what was to come. Yet, among the sadness and despair, I was overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity we received from parents past and present; parishioners and villagers. On the day of the fire, a team of people appeared to remove potential fire risks, preventing another attack. A few days later parents gathered to help clean up the initial fire damage in the dining room. St Mary's Hall donated much needed furniture to create a temporary classroom within the school hall, allowing our Year 5/6 pupils a place to study, and our school staff spent part of their summer holidays creating resources and displays ready for the new learning space.

On the 4th September, we were ready to welcome our children back to school. The Year 5/6 pupils have adapted to their new learning environment beautifully. Miss Winnard, our new Year 1/2 teacher, has settled in well and we look forward to the build up to the festive season with panto trips, nativity performances and parties - a primary school is the best place to be!

**Our Christmas Fair will be held at the Village Hall this year on Sunday 8th December, and we look forward to singing carols at the annual Hurst Green Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 11th of December.**

We hope to see you at some of the events and look forward to a brand new year full of hope and promise.

P.S. Whilst we do have insurance, which will cover the damage of the fire, we really need to improve the school's security provisions. Friends of St Joseph's have set up a GoFundMe page. The money raised will cover items such as new electric security gates, additional higher quality cameras and the infrastructure and installation costs that these provisions incur. Please go to: <https://gofund.me/1e5565ff> if you would like to donate to this cause, thank you.

### Salvation Army Christmas Food Bank Collection

This year Gill McDonnell is collecting donations of food, toiletries and presents suitable for children for the Salvation Army.

She asks that you please bring your donations to the Memorial Hall Car Park on Sunday 24th November between 11.00am and 12.30pm.

Gill's collections have been very successful in the past and very gratefully received. She would very much appreciate a similar generous response this year.

### Neighbourhood Watch

Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley now has a Neighbourhood Watch Group. The group meets from time to time in the Club, and has been grateful for the involvement of the local Community Support Officer, Ashleigh Marshall (tel no. 07773247617). Look out for details of future meetings on the village notice board or Hurst Green Facebook page.

# St Joseph's Cemetery

*Agnes Bland writes about the cemetery and its history.*

Having looked much the same to both visitors and passers-by for many years, there have been quite a few changes in St Joseph's Cemetery in recent times, the most obvious being the felling of many of the cypress trees that have long over-shadowed the older part of the cemetery. This became necessary when they were found to be unsafe, and indeed some of the oldest tombstones were badly damaged by falling trees during the strong gales of last year. One of the most noticeable results of the tree-felling is the amount of light that now floods the old cemetery, giving it quite a different atmosphere. Thanks to the skilled work, mainly of Josh Leyland and his team, the felling caused almost no damage to the memorial stones that surrounded the trunks. Another change has been the replacement of a wooden cross, made by the late John Holden, at the far end of the central path. Parts of this had become unsafe, and it was decided to take it down and replace it with a statue of 'Christ the Redeemer' which was funded by donations from parishioners and which was erected in December 2022.

St Joseph's Cemetery dates back to 1825, when Thomas Weld, who later became Cardinal Weld, and who was the son of the original Stonyhurst benefactor Thomas Weld, gave the land for this purpose. A cross was erected to record its consecration on the Feast of the 'Exaltation of the Cross' in that year. He also arranged for the handsome Mortuary Chapel to be built, which is visible through the top set of gates.

According to the late Stonyhurst archivist Fr FJ Turner, before 1825 there was a serious problem in the burial of Catholics. If they were to be buried in a graveyard - and many were probably not - it had to be in that of an Anglican church with the consent of the vicar. St Joseph's was one of the earliest Catholic cemeteries in the area and during much of the 19th Century people from nearby places such as Clitheroe, Ribchester, Billington and Chipping were brought to St. Joseph's Cemetery for burial, as well as some from much farther afield. In the early years, burials from other parishes made up at least half of those carried out here. In the first 21 years of the cemetery's existence 1,000 people were buried there and the priest made a specific note of this in the Burial Register. By the end of July 1850 the number of burials stood at 1,244 - a huge number for so small a site.

To quote Fr Turner 'the statistics reveal certain periods of high mortality, with the highest number recorded in one year being in 1868, when 92 burials took place. The grimmest year, however, was 1858, when 40 out of a total of 80 deaths were children under ten. In one two-month period alone that year thirteen children under the age of ten were buried with a further four still in their teens'.

The cemetery's surrounding wall was begun in about 1827, when £180 was advanced by Thomas Rawcliffe for this purpose. The cemetery was enlarged in 1865, and in March 1874 volunteers were invited to cut paths, make roads and plant trees and shrubs and make drains. There was no pay, only an allowance. On November 22nd 1874 the congregation was invited to inspect the work and a week later a collection for expenses was held and the amount collected was £17 15s 0d. Astonishingly, as many as 133 men worked on the improvements.

The cemetery was further extended during the 1930s, with the first burials in the new part recorded in 1935. However, this part of the cemetery is now filling up, and thought is being given to how future burials will be accommodated. Discussions are ongoing as to the way forward with this, and any proposed plans will, no doubt, be shared with parishioners in due course, who will be given the opportunity to respond.

St Joseph's Cemetery is maintained to a high standard by a dedicated team of volunteers. Its appearance is a credit to them and their efforts, and a source of great comfort to those who visit the graves of their loved ones there. (With thanks to Andrew Snape and the editors of The Stonyhurst Record, 2012.)



## **Best Kept Village** Nancy Bailey reports on a great team effort:

It was lovely to have a project through the spring and summer preparing the village for its first entry in the Best Kept Village Competition for a number of years. We had a good team of volunteers who regularly got out to weed, sweep, clean and prune. Our baskets and planters cheered up the village centre and prompted many compliments.

We had to wait until the middle of October to find out how we had fared. Hurst Green came fifth in the small villages category which was won by Brindle and the runner up was Roughlee. Not too bad for a first attempt. We did also receive feedback which complimented our war memorials and floral displays. Gardens both private and communal were also acknowledged as a credit to the village.

Hopefully we will enter next year and see if we can move up the leaderboard. If you would like to get involved please contact Nancy Bailey [nancylouisebailey@gmail.com](mailto:nancylouisebailey@gmail.com) 07814 537398.



## ***We remember three members of our community who have died recently:***

### **Keith (Beaver) Cross**

Keith Cross of The Rochfords, Crow Wood, died in February this year. Keith - who was almost universally known as Beaver - was born on December 15th 1939 at South View, Hurst Green to Dick and Edith Cross. With his older brother, Kenneth, he attended St Joseph's Primary School and then St Michael and St John's in Clitheroe.

After leaving school, Beaver worked as an apprentice mechanic at the Shireburn Garage, and his fondness for cars and for tinkering with them never left him. At the age of 18, Keith met his future wife Tessie at a dance at St Joseph's School. They were married at St Peter's, Stonyhurst in February 1965, Keith having walked to the church through the fields in his wellies! After living in West Bradford for a short time, the couple moved to Church Street in Ribchester where they brought up their 2 daughters, Susan and Nicola. Whilst in Ribchester, Beaver started his haulage firm before moving to Ribblesdale, near Ribchester, where he acquired and ran the adjoining caravan site. Soon after this, he got his pilot's licence and, using a local farmer's field as his airfield, he enjoyed taking passengers for a 'spin'. Always adventurous, to say the least, he also enjoyed diving, water-skiing, sailing and even parachuting.

In 1990 the family moved back to Hurst Green. Beaver loved to be up and off for a walk very early in the morning, and was often to be seen 'putting the world to rights' with two other very early risers, Peter Holden (Boathorse) and Mary-Agnes Cardwell as they sorted the daily newspapers under the bus shelter.

For many years a well-known and loved character in Hurst Green, it is fair to say that he became something of a legend in his own lifetime, and the many friends he had will all have, no doubt, some interesting tales to tell. Keith and Tessie went on to have 5 grandchildren, all of whom talk of what they describe as a much-loved but non-traditional Granddad! He will long be missed not only by his family but by all who enjoyed his company and his own particular brand of humour over many years.

### **Bridie Platt**

Bridie Platt, who lived for many years on Avenue Road, died in August this year. Bridie was born in June 1937 in County Armagh, Northern Ireland, and came to work at Stonyhurst College at the age of 20. She met her husband Ted at the Co-op dance hall in Longridge, and the couple were married at St Peter's Church on New Year's Eve, 1960.

Ted and Bridie set up home in Mersey Street, in Longridge, before moving with their 4 children Barbara, Ted, Jackie and William to their bungalow on Avenue Road – formerly part of the Assembly Rooms. Bridie continued to work at Stonyhurst until she became head caretaker at St Joseph's Primary School. It was a job she loved and, with the help at times of Ted and the rest of the family, she worked there for 27 years. Bridie enjoyed taking her family on holidays to her parent's home in Ireland, as well as on many caravan holidays throughout the UK. When, due to 'the troubles', it was difficult to visit her parents in person, she would often bake her father's favourite fruit cake and send it to him by post.

Bridie was above all a homemaker, and loved to cook and bake for the frequent visits she and Ted enjoyed from their children and grandchildren. She was very proud of her family and right until the end of her life kept up to date with what they were all doing. In her home and later her room at Bushell House were many photographs of Ted, her children and her 7 grandchildren, by whom she is very much missed.

**Jonny Whalley**, formerly of Woodfields, will be remembered well by pupils and teachers at both St Joseph's and Stonyhurst. This lovely tribute has been written by his parents, Elaine and Steven.

Jonny was born 11th February 1997 at Sharoe Green Hospital. We moved to Stonyhurst/Hurst Green when he was 5 and his brother was 3 as I started working at the College. Jonny attended St. Josephs until he left after year 6, then went onto the College.

He did a gap year in Sydney, Australia as soon as he finished his A-levels, returning back to 'home' before leaving again to study for a degree in English at Leeds. He loved Leeds and stayed there to complete his Masters and pursue his love of writing and poetry.

Jonny loved returning back to the 'Shire' to visit the Catholic Club and catch up with family and friends. He was so proud of calling Hurst Green his home and no matter where he was he was always drawn back to its people and beauty. He died on 21st June 2024, aged 27, and is laid to rest in the cemetery in the place he loved so much.

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## **Projecting into the Future? Niall Macfarlane writes -**

The Memorial Hall would like to support the purchase of a quality screen and projector to allow for activities such as: Fundraising events - e.g. Race nights/Quiz nights; Film shows; Educational/Historical Society talks; Slide presentations - e.g. wedding events; Karaoke nights - e.g. Youth Group. There is a wide scope of uses BUT these items are not cheap, and for good quality products the costs start at around £3.5k plus installation.

The hall committee feels that an organised group of volunteers wanting this sort of facility e.g. a film club, would be the best way of taking this forward and taking the initiative in planning events. If you are willing to be part of this group, and have further thoughts as to how to develop it, please contact Barbara Herd or Niall Macfarlane (07786 432360) to start the ball rolling.



\* This edition of Round the Green has \*  
\* kindly been sponsored by Tony Gornall, \*  
\* in memory of his late wife Kath. \*

\* Kath, who lived in The Dene for many \*  
\* years, was a familiar figure in Hurst \*  
\* Green, where she enjoyed chatting to \*  
\* people as she walked her dogs or as she \*  
\* tended her lovely garden. \*



**Our Local History** Agnes Bland writes:

I have for several years now been trying to build up a collection of old documents, photographs, articles, local family histories, and anything relating to the history of Hurst Green, and am always on the look-out for anything I can add. I've been helped in this endeavour by several donations of old photographs and documents which I hope, in future, to find ways to share with anyone who is interested.

Last year we held an exhibition in the Memorial Hall of photographs and documents of St Joseph's School and the Trinity Sunday Procession, dating back to the mid 1800s. Given the amount of interest that seemed to generate, we are planning another exhibition next February. This will be held jointly with Bill Holden, formerly of Dutton, who has a wonderful collection of postcards featuring Hurst Green and surrounding area in days gone by. Look out for details nearer the time.

Also, at the beginning of this century, Cynthia Yates and Margaret Cartwright produced a book called 'Chronicle 2000' which contains a wonderful collection of family stories, memories and photographs. It records and preserves personal histories and recollections, many of which might not otherwise have been shared and some of which might easily have been lost.

There are, however, many village family histories and stories that are still not recorded in this way, and I have made a start on collecting some of these and hope, in the not-too-distant future, to produce something similar to Chronicle 2000, albeit on a smaller scale.

Most people and most families have a story to tell and most of those stories are, I'm sure, well worth the telling. So I would like to add to my collection of family histories, stories and photographs – both of people who live in the village now, or whose families have done so in the past. I would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to contribute, or would like to get involved in this project.

Tel. 01254 826559 / 07792469895 or email agnes.bland@btinternet.com

## Around and About

### Car Park

The Memorial Hall Committee and the Parish Council combined to apply for a grant from Ribbles Valley Borough Council to tarmac the Village Hall car park. The Parish Council has paid for the lines. It looks very smart and does make better use of the space available.

### Thanks Chris

Thanks to Chris Holden, once more, for the lovely garden he creates each year around the war memorial. It is both a credit to Chris and a source of pride for the village.

### Toddlers' Treat

The Hobbits parent and toddler group meets every Thursday in term time between 9.30am and 11.30am in the Memorial Hall. It is extremely well attended and is ideal for preschool children to enjoy safe play and interaction with other children. Equally important, it gives parents and carers some relative down time to chat with other adults. It's good to get together.

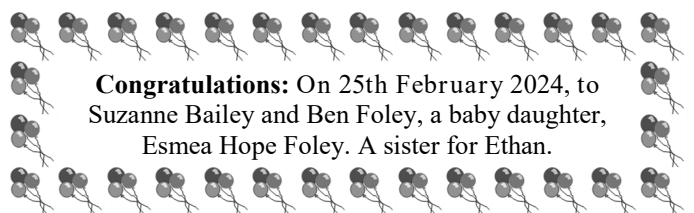
### Coffee and Company

Coffee Stop continues to run on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, from 1.30-3pm, usually in the Bowling Club Pavilion. It is a free social gathering, for all ages, where you are welcome to come and chat and enjoy a cuppa and a piece of cake.

Occasionally, Coffee Stop Specials run: the last one in September, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, raised more than £1,500. We try to do these at least termly, and are supported by children from local schools, and it's great to see young and old meeting up. We are grateful for the generosity of the people of Hurst Green.

Sometimes we are joined by guest speakers, and on November 28th we will be joined by a guest from AgeUK, who will be talking about their work, and issues like Pension Credits and Winter Fuel Allowance.

There will not be a Coffee Stop in December, but on Dec. 11th we will be helping out at the Community Christmas Lunch in the Village Hall. Join us on November 28th, and for the Christmas Special Event on December 11th, or in the New Year (every 2nd and 4th Thursday). We are already planning our Soup and Sandwiches Special for March.



**Congratulations:** On 25th February 2024, to Suzanne Bailey and Ben Foley, a baby daughter, Esmea Hope Foley. A sister for Ethan.