



**St Michael & St John's RC Primary School**  
**Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 1AG**  
Headteacher: Mrs Zoe Mabbott BEd (Hons) NPQH

Telephone: 01200 422560  
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*Following the example of Jesus, together we learn, love and respect one another  
to be the best we can be.*

14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

It has been a week of reflection, celebration and Pupil Leadership this week. We took time to remember those who served and sacrificed to protect our country and freedom. We celebrated how God made us all unique and special wearing our 'odd socks' as part of Anti Bullying Week. Then yesterday we spent time with Jess Clarke, an ex player from England Women's Football Team as the children enjoyed some activities and heard about her inspiring story and the need for resilience and commitment towards achieving our dreams, whilst raising money for charity and for school.

Well done to our Pupil Leadership Teams, Well-Being Warriors, Year 4 and our GIFT Teams for leading the assemblies and Remembrance Reflection and thank you to all the families who were able to support our fundraising efforts.

Thank you to our amazing staff team who work tirelessly to ensure our children have all of these wonderful opportunities.

### The Sunday Gospel



In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus encourages the disciples (and us too) to be faithful to him. Everybody wants a faithful friend. Jesus offers to be our faithful friend and invites us to be his. Even though many things in the world may change, the faithful promises of Jesus will never pass away - God's love for us will last forever.

Ask your child what the word 'faithful' means to them. To be faithful is to be true to someone or something. Does your child know someone who is a faithful friend - someone who keeps their promises? What is it like to be in the company of a faithful person.

## Remembrance Day 2025

On Tuesday morning our Year 4 children lead an assembly reminding us all about the importance of this special day and why we need to remember the men and women who helped serve and protect our Country during the wars.



Just before 11am, the GIFT team lead a special service honouring those who died during these conflicts before we held our two minute silence.



Our Head Boy and Head Girl then lay the school's poppy wreath at Clitheroe Castle War Memorial.



## GET CAUGHT PRAYING IS BACK!

We are asking for photographs of the children getting caught praying in different environments. This could be at home, in the garden, in the car, on the football pitch or anywhere!

Please send entries to class teachers via ClassDojo or to Mrs Whyman via email, [owhyman@ssmj.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:owhyman@ssmj.lancs.sch.uk)

All entries will be put on a display in school and this year, there will be a prize for the most unusual place to get caught praying from each class.

Get caught praying will run throughout November and winners will be announced the first week of December. Thank you for the photographs so far. Our children have been 'Caught Praying' in some very interesting places.

## Sports Event at Oakhill School

On Wednesday, Year 3 and 4 went and took part in a Sportshall Athletics competition at Oakhill School.

From Year 3 we had Madalana, Ada, Maksym, Seb and from Year 4: Orla, Lottie, Nora, Darcey, George, Jack, Leo, Abbas

The children competed really well and were a credit to themselves, their families, and our school.

Thank you to Miss Mabbott and Mrs Ritchie for taking the children. Well done everyone!



## Sponsored Athletic Event

Thank you to everyone who helped raise money for our sponsored event with the Lioness Jess Clarke!

We raised a massive £1258 which will be split between the charity and our school. School will use their part towards the development of our Muti Purpose Room. Thank you for your support and to Mr Currid for organising this.

Here are some pictures of our day, including our Sports Buddies who helped Mr Currid to set up the hall for the event.

Check the Sports page on our school website for more photographs:

[Sport | St Michael and St John's Roman Catholic Primary School](#)





## Developing our Multi-Purpose Room

Our amazing PTA have been working hard to secure items for our multi-purpose room, organising fun events for the children. Presently, we need at least another £1000 to be able to undertake the work to transform the room so that children can use the room for cooking, DT and creativity.

We appreciate parents have just supported our charity fundraising with the Lioness event, but if you are able to support us in reaching the final target so the work can start, we would be very grateful.

A link to the Just Giving page is here:

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ssmj?utm\\_term=4963W9RrD&utm\\_medium=FA&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ssmj?utm_term=4963W9RrD&utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL)



## PTA Christmas Fayre

The annual school Christmas Fayre, will be held afterschool on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

**We will be holding two non-uniform days on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November and also on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November, to help raise donations for the Fayre.**

We would be most grateful of donations listed below and we thank you as always for your ongoing support:

<b>Non-uniform Date</b>	<b>Infants</b>	<b>Juniors</b>
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Sweets/Chocolate	Bottle items
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November Secret Santa	<b>Secret Santa</b> - Please could we ask for a wrapped new/unused Secret Santa gift for when this takes place in school. If you could identify who the gift is suitable for i.e. infant girl or boy <b>OR</b> junior girl or boy.	

More details about the logistics of the event will follow nearer to the date.

Thank you for your support.

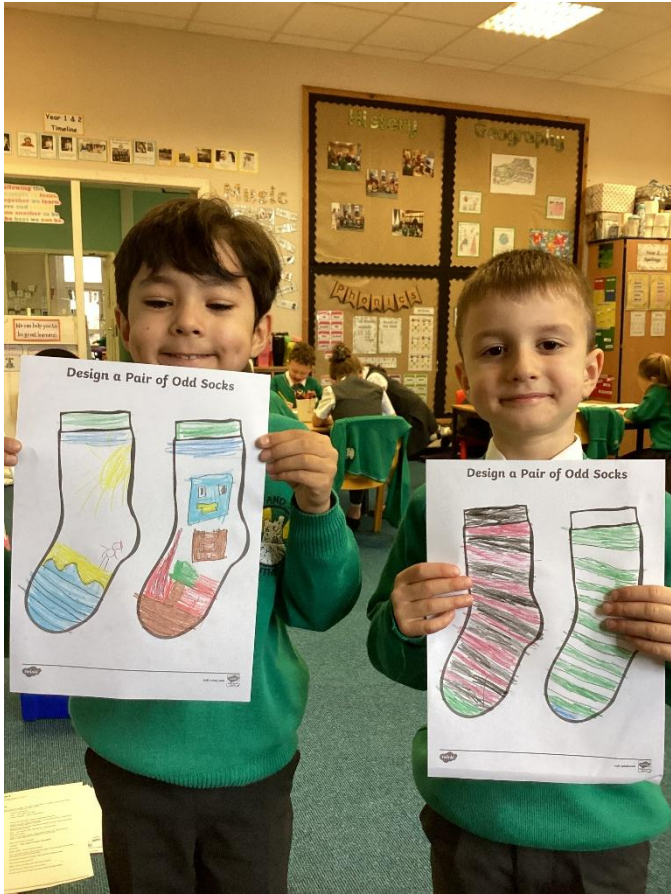
## Anti-Bullying Week



Anti-Bullying Alliance are the official organisers of Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Anti-Bullying Week 2025 took place this week, with the theme: Power for Good. Teachers and children wanted a theme that empowered them to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes.

During the week we celebrated Odd Socks Day on Wednesday and World Kindness Day on Friday. The children had a special assembly lead by the Wellbeing Warriors and children took part in various discussions and activities in class linked to the topic.

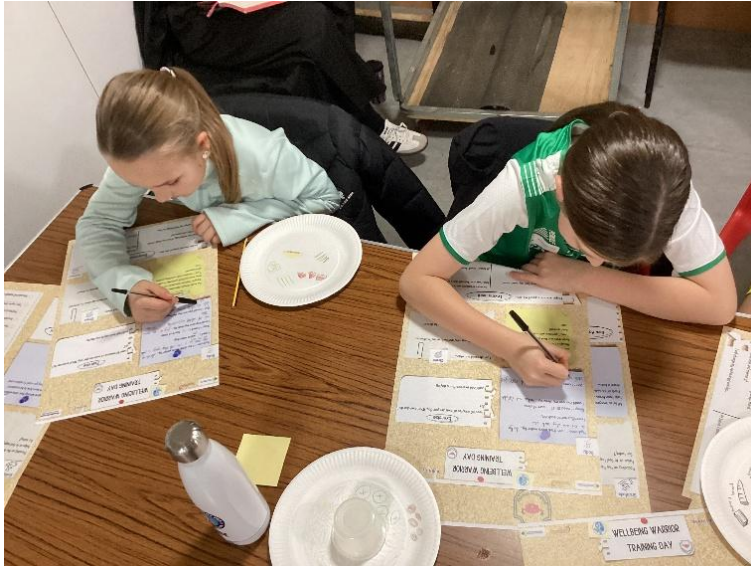




## Wellbeing Warrior Training

Our Wellbeing Warriors enjoyed their training last Friday. They learned a lot about their role from Charlotte Hartley, a former international hockey player, who ran the session. Lula and Phoebe are now full of ideas to bring back to school and implement into our daily school life. The girls had great fun and represented SSMJ impeccably.

Thank you to Mrs Canavan who leads our Well-Being Warriors and for taking the girls last week.



## EYFS Prospective Parents

If you have been unable to attend any of our Open Days you are more than welcome to come and see our school in action, please telephone the school and we will make an appointment for you. It has been lovely to hear the visitors talk about our 'family feel' and 'calm atmosphere.' Thank you.

## Shoe Box Appeal

St Michael and St John's are again supporting the Rotary Club to help bring joy to children less fortunate than ourselves this Christmas. We launched our Shoe Box Appeal in assembly last Friday to help support the International Aid Trust Charity.

Our parents were so kind last year in helping their children to put together these boxes and again we are appealing for your support.

Details of how you can help are on the poster below and a copy of the poster was sent home on Friday last week.

Please ensure each box is labelled for either: Boy/Girl and Age of child. The deadline to return the shoeboxes is Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November.



**Send a smile >>**

**International Aid Trust**  
Christian Compassion For A Hardening World

### SHOEBOX APPEAL

Look inside for a new way to send a smile with our **VIRTUAL SHOEBOX SCHEME >>**

**Imagine a year without presents!**  
For children and adults living in poverty the gift of a shoebox can be a dream come true or an answer to prayer. **We deliver shoeboxes to people of all ages from babies to elderly people**, throughout the year, not just at Christmas. Our dedicated teams overseas share Jesus' love and provide pastoral care, as well as practical gifts.

To arrange drop off or collection of your shoebox...

- email [office@internationalaidtrust.org.uk](mailto:office@internationalaidtrust.org.uk) or
- phone **01772 611000**

Office Address:  
The Galleries, Croft Mill, Pall Mall, Chorley PR7 3LT  
Patron: The Lord Shuttleworth, KS KCVO Patron: Baroness Cox of Queensbury  
Charity Registration No. 1086597 Company limited by guarantee No 4167908

[www.internationalaidtrust.org.uk/shoeboxes](http://www.internationalaidtrust.org.uk/shoeboxes)

**Join in the fun >>**

### FILL A BOX OR TWO

- 1) Gift wrap the box and lid separately
  - Use an elastic band to keep the box together.
- 2) Fill out the label (overleaf)
  - Choose the age and gender of the person you want to receive your shoebox.
  - Fill out the label overleaf and stick it onto the top of your shoebox.
- 3) Fill your shoebox with appropriate gifts
  - Don't wrap individual items.
  - See below for a list of suitable/unsuitable gift ideas.



### IDEAS FOR WHAT TO INCLUDE

**TOILETRIES** ✓ Toothbrush ✓ Toothpaste ✓ Soap ✓ Flannel or sponge  
✓ Comb ✓ Hair bobbles ✓ Roll on deodorant  No sprays  
 No medicines, vitamins or tablets

**TOYS** ✓ Small toys ✓ Cuddly toys ✓ Balls ✓ Skipping rope ✓ Games  
✓ Small jigsaws etc.  No guns or war toys

**CLOTHES** ✓ Socks ✓ T-shirts ✓ Hats ✓ Scarves ✓ Gloves ✓ Underwear  
✓ Babygro (for little ones)

**STATIONERY** ✓ Pens ✓ Pencils ✓ Crayons ✓ Eraser ✓ Sharpener ✓ Notebooks  
✓ Colouring books ✓ Scissors (round-ended safety type for children)

**PRACTICAL** ✓ Plastic bowl & cup ✓ Cutlery ✓ Safety Pins\* ✓ Mini sewing kit\*  
✓ String\* ✓ Wind-up torch\* ✓ Plasters\*  No matches \*for teens & adults

**Did you know...** It costs us £2 to collect, store, transport and distribute each shoebox? In a time of increasing costs, your contributions are very welcome. Please do not put money inside or attached to boxes. Donations can be made through our website or by cheque.

Leaflet sponsored by Highpoint Media (www.highpointmedia.co.uk)

**Send a smile >>**

### SHOEBOX APPEAL



Our team in **Ukraine** delivered shoeboxes to a family living in poverty, sadly their Dad had recently passed away and all three children were struggling with health conditions. Their Mum wrote a thank you letter:  
*"If you knew how much you brought us joy! Thank you very much!"*



In **Kagballie**, a desperately poor village in **Sierra Leone**, the community were amazed by the shoeboxes our team delivered. Children opening boxes asked: *"Is that all for me?"*  
Adults asked: *"Why would they send us a gift? they don't know us."*

When you send a shoebox or virtual shoebox you are sending much more than useful and fun items; it's personal - a gift just for the person receiving it - a message of hope and love, that reflects the love of Jesus; letting children and adults in desperate circumstances know that someone cares and they are not forgotten.

To request a speaker for your school, church or group, please email [office@internationalaidtrust.org.uk](mailto:office@internationalaidtrust.org.uk).

**Who will your shoebox or virtual gift make happy?**

Boy       Girl      Age

Adult Male       Adult Female

Cut out this label and stick onto your shoebox



**A new way to 'Send a Smile' >>**

### SEND A VIRTUAL SHOEBOX OR A BAG TO A PERSON LIVING IN POVERTY



Alongside our shoebox scheme, we also have an exciting new way to send a gift to a person in need.

Our **VIRTUAL SHOEBOX SCHEME** enables you to make a donation for a gift box or bag to be packed full of useful and fun items and given to a person living in poverty.

You can choose the area of the world and also the age and gender of the person you would like to send a gift to.



Gifts are packed and distributed by our local country teams. This scheme helps to support local economies in the countries we are working. In countries where we have a 'Hands of Dorcas' tailoring project, trainees may make bags to pack gifts in.



The virtual shoebox you send will bring great joy to the person who receives it. It could also mean that a child has the supplies they need to be able to attend school; or it could give an older person the dignity of being able to wash properly.

To get started, visit the **Virtual Shoebox** page on our website:  
[www.internationalaidtrust.org.uk/shoeboxes/virtual](http://www.internationalaidtrust.org.uk/shoeboxes/virtual)



## CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING CLASS

Following previous years success, please join Friends of SSMJ for a festive evening of wreath making!

Two dates are available:

🎄 Thursday 27th November

🎄 Friday 28th November.

Arrival at 6:15PM for a 6:30PM start.

All wreaths will be created from scratch using fresh festive foliage and there will be a variety of decorations to choose from. No experience is necessary, you will receive full tuition from an experienced florist on the night.

Tickets are just £35pp, inclusive of your own wreath to take home, decorative materials, mince pies, prosecco, mulled wine and tea and coffee.

Event to be held at St Michael and St John's RC Primary School, Lowergate, Clitheroe, BB7 1AG

Tickets to be purchased through Classlist:

[https://app.classlist.com/parent/#/events/view/1362740775?s=903500776&utm\\_source=SCHOOL&utm\\_medium=SHARED\\_LINK](https://app.classlist.com/parent/#/events/view/1362740775?s=903500776&utm_source=SCHOOL&utm_medium=SHARED_LINK)

Friends of SSMJ

# Christmas Wreath Making

27th & 28th November  
6.15pm arrival for 6.30pm start

St Michael & St John's School,  
Lowergate, BB7 1AG

£35pp

Includes wreath & all materials, tutorial,  
mince pies, mulled wine or prosecco  
plus tea & coffee

## Festive Christmas Lunch

We be holding our annual Christmas lunch on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, this year children will receive a festive Christmas picnic box containing a choice of sandwich, along with a sausage roll, slice of pizza, nacho's and a festive dessert. Please book your lunch by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December on Parent Pay if you would like your child to participate.



## **Come and See our 'Outstanding' Catholic School in Action**

Does your child start school in September 2026?

If so, the closing date for primary applications for September 2026 is Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

We invite families of children looking for a primary place for September 2026 to come and view the school in action, talk to Mrs Mabbott (Headteacher) and to some of our Pupil Leaders and to ask any questions you have.

We are a catholic school but this does not mean your child has to be Catholic to attend. We welcome children of all faiths and backgrounds and are a fully inclusive school.

Please read our recent Catholic School Inspection Report and most recent Ofsted Report to find out a little more about our school.

<https://www.ssmj.lancs.sch.uk/catholic-school-inspection-report-july-2024/>  
<https://primariesite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/st-michael-and-st-johns-roman-catholic-primary-school/UploadedDocument/351cc94c-156c-465c-988b-aef044b83365/10268317-st-michael-and-st-johns-roman-catholic-primary-school-clith.pdf>

### **Primary School Admissions**

School admissions are now open.

If your child is in their last year of pre-school/nursery you can now apply for their primary school place at: [Starting primary school \(reception\) - Lancashire County Council](#)

It's quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application.

You must apply even if you already have siblings in school. If you live in Lancashire, you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

The closing date for primary applications for September 2025 is on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

## Clubs and Afterschool Activities



Activity	Year Group/s	Teacher	Date/Times
Football Club	3 & 4	Progressive Sports	Monday 3.30 - 4.30 pm
Burnley Football Club	5 & 6	Burnley Football Club	Tuesday 3.30 - 4.30 pm
Gymnastics	3 & 4	Yuliia	Tuesday 3.30 - 4.20 pm
Multi Sports	EYFS, 1 & 2	Progressive Sports	Thursday 3.30 - 4.30 pm

Progressive Sports activities will need to be booked via their website and Burnley Football Club and Gymnastics can be booked via Parent Pay.



We have no birthdays to celebrate a birthday this week.

## Celebration Assembly



EYFS	Callie and Theodora
Yr 1 & 2	Kutenda, Jessica, Rosie and Layton
Yr 3 & 4	Tommy, Riley, Maisie and India
Yr 4 & 5	Freddie, Harry, Nora and Hubert
Yr 6	Elsie-May, Oliver, Mia and Henry

## Top Table Winners



EYFS	Ainsley
Yr 1	Cora
Yr 2	Thomas
Yr 3	Igor
Yr 4	Archie C
Yr 5	Joshua
Yr 6	Michael

## Diary Dates

Date	Event
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	3.00 pm ~ Year 3 & 4 Football Competition at Roefield
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Non-uniform Day ~ KS2 Bottles and KS1 Chocolate
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Year 4 - 'Rivers in the Classroom' River Ribble Trust
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Shoe Box Appeal ~ Please return any shoe boxes by today
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Non-Uniform Day - Secret Santa
	6.15 pm ~ PTA Christmas Wreath Making at School
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	6.15 pm ~ PTA Christmas Wreath Making at School
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Let's Go Sing Visit @ SSMJ - School Choir
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00 am ~ Whole School Advent Mass ~ Parents' welcome
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	No Celebration Assembly
	3.30 pm - 5.30 pm ~ Christmas Fayre
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	2.30 pm ~ EYFS & KS1 Nativity
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 am ~ EYFS & KS1 Nativity
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	PM ~ School Pantomime Trip
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	4.00 pm ~ Year 1 & 2 curling at SARCHS

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	4.00 pm ~ KS2 Nativity
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	AM ~ EYFS Trip to the Cathedral
	6.00 pm ~ KS2 Nativity
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30 pm ~ School Closes for Christmas (Early Closure)
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	School Re-opens
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00 am ~ Whole School Epiphany Mass ~ Parents' Welcome

Take Care & God Bless.

Mrs Zoe Mabbott - Headteacher



## ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN'S HOLIDAY LIST 2025/2026

### Autumn Term 2025

**Re-open on:** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025  
**Half Term** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 31<sup>th</sup> October 2025 (inclusive)  
**Christmas Holiday** Early closure on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

(Number of openings: 73)

### Spring Term 2025

**Re-open on:** Monday 5th January, 2026  
**Half Term** Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February 2026  
(inclusive)  
**INSET DAY** Monday 23rd February 2026  
**Easter Break** Friday 3rd April to Friday 17th April 2026 (inclusive)

(Number of openings: 58)

### Summer Term 2026

**Re-open on:** Monday 20th April 2026  
**Bank Holiday** Monday 4th May 2026  
**Half Term** Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May 2026 (inclusive)  
**Summer Holiday** Early closure on Friday 17th July 2026

(Number of openings: 59)

## Notices from other Companies and Providers

### **Notices**

We are often asked to share information about events with you, which we do to support our community, and so you can consider whether these are of interest to you. Please note, school is not recommending or validating these events, we are simply passing on the information.



Friends of SSMJ

# Christmas Wreath Making

27th & 28th November

6:15pm arrival for 6:30pm start

St Michael & St John's School,  
Lowergate, BB7 1AG

£35pp



Includes wreath & all materials, tutorial,  
mince pies, mulled wine or prosecco  
plus tea & coffee



Clitheroe Castle Museum



# Advent Adventures

## The Great Christmas Door Hunt



**Saturday 29 November 12.30pm – 3.30pm**

A perfect way to start the countdown to Christmas with a festive quest in the museum galleries, crafts and seasonal treats to take home.

**Booking essential.** Children £6, Adults £4 (includes discounted museum admission)

Visit our website or follow the QR code to find out more and book your place.



MORE INFO



Ribbles Valley  
Borough Council  
www.rvb.gov.uk

In partnership with

**Lancashire**  
County  
Council



NOVEMBER 2025

# ST MARY'S CENTRE

WHAT'S ON FOR THE MONTH AHEAD

St Mary's  
Centre

## TABLE TOP SALE

### TABLE TOP SALE

SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> NOV  
10.00AM - 3.00PM

St Mary's Centre  
Church Street,  
Clitheroe.BB7 2DG

Clothing Kitchenware  
Books & Toys  
Home décor Furniture

*Tea, coffee and cakes!*

**CASH ONLY**

**FREE ENTRY**

Tables £15  
BOOK NOW!

[info@stmaryscentre.co.uk](mailto:info@stmaryscentre.co.uk)

## The month ahead

### MONDAYS

St Mary's playgroup (Term time only)  
9.15am-11.15am  
Tai Chi—10.30am-11.30am  
Ladies Badminton—1.00pm - 2.30pm  
A Team Dance 5pm - 6.30pm  
(Term time & pre-booked only)  
Encore Musical Theatre Classes 5pm  
-6.45pm  
Beavers 6-7pm  
(Term time & pre-booked only)  
Cubs/Scouts 7-8pm  
(Term time & pre-booked only)

### TUESDAYS

Aerobics - 11.00am - 12.00noon  
Jujitsu - 7.00pm-8.30pm

### WEDNESDAYS

Encore Drama Classes 5pm - 7pm  
Tai Chi - 6.30pm-7.30pm

### THURSDAYS

Line Dancing—7.30pm - 8.30pm  
A Team Dance 4.30 - 6.45pm

### FRIDAYS

Line Dancing—10.00am - 12noon

### SATURDAYS

Puppy Training—10am-11am  
Encore Musical Theatre Classes  
10.30am - 12pm

Most classes are drop in for more information please  
visit our website

Available to hire for regular meetings or one-off  
events. Prices from - £12/hour

ADDRESS: CHURCH ST,  
CLITHEROE BB7 2DG

PHONE: 01200 425522  
EMAIL; [INFO@STMARYSCENTRE.CO.UK](mailto:INFO@STMARYSCENTRE.CO.UK)

ONLINE: [STMARYSCENTRE.CO.UK](http://STMARYSCENTRE.CO.UK)  
FACEBOOK: ST MARY'S CENTRE



Lancashire &  
South Cumbria  
NHS Foundation Trust

# East Lancashire Young People's Mental Health

**Concerned about your Mental Health?  
Are you under 18 or concerned about  
someone under 18?**

**Advice sessions are available on-line via  
'Attend Anywhere'  
Delivered by ELCAS  
[tinurl.com/ELCAS-LSCFT](https://tinurl.com/ELCAS-LSCFT)**



**Enter the word "ELCAS" as the first name and "drop in" as the second  
name followed by your date of birth.**

**You will then enter our virtual waiting area where we will collect you.**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 25**

**1pm – 3pm**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 25**

**3pm – 5pm**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 25**

**5pm – 7pm**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 25**

**1pm – 3pm**

Children and Family  
**Wellbeing  
Service**

# Get advice and support

Someone to talk to  
Problems at  
home/school  
Jobs and training  
Apprenticeships  
Staying safe  
online  
Sex and health  
Relationships

Mental Health  
Self Harm  
Bullying  
Drugs and  
alcohol  
Things to do  
Housing, rights  
and money  
What age can I?



[facebook.com/LancashireYZ](https://www.facebook.com/LancashireYZ)

[twitter.com/LancashireYPS](https://twitter.com/LancashireYPS)

You can contact us 365 days a year

**2pm to 10pm**

## Age 0-19

(up to 25 for young  
people with learning  
difficulties or disabilities)

**talk  
zone**

**Text 07786 51 11 11**

**Talk online** [lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone](https://lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone)

**Call 0800 51 11 11**

[lancashire.gov.uk](https://lancashire.gov.uk)



**Lancashire**  
County  
Council



0800 51 11 11