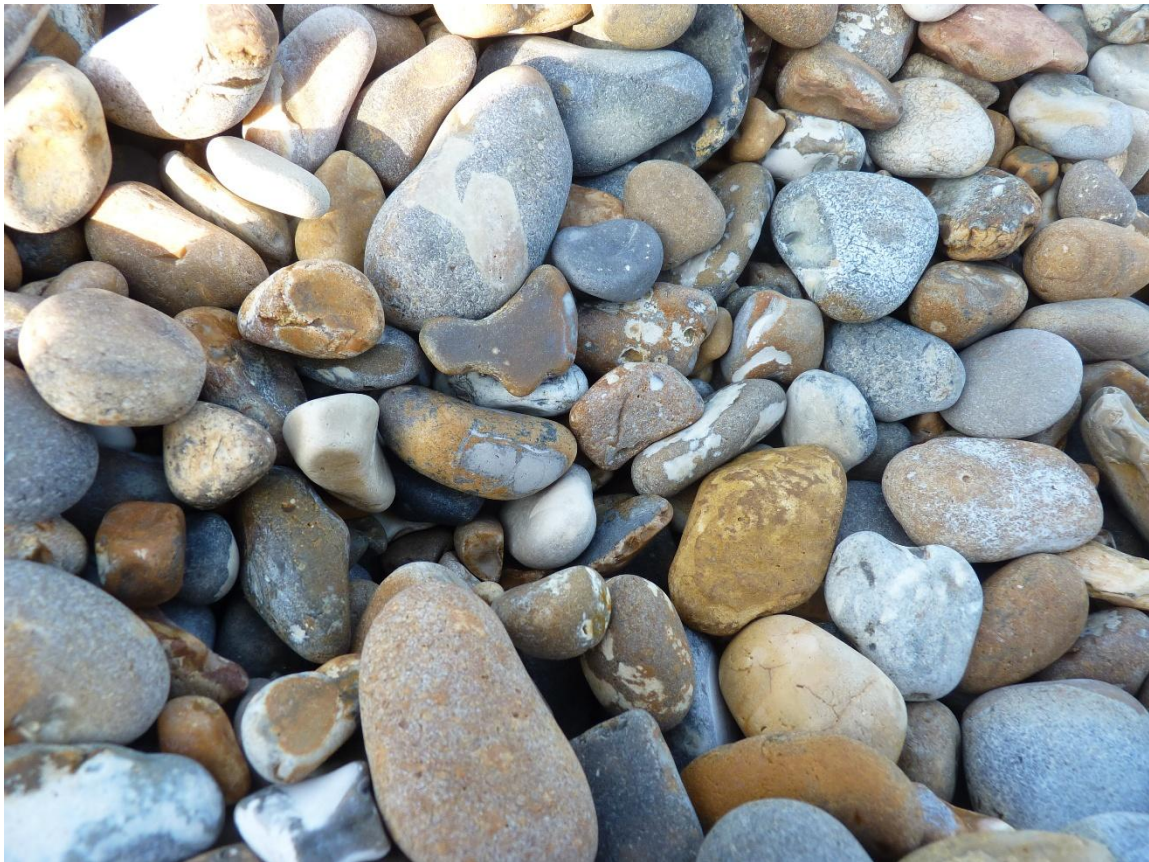


**The Parish of St Paul Kersal Moor and  
St Andrew, Carr Clough**

***Summer  
Magazine 2025***



**Our aim is to KNOW God through Jesus, to GROW in  
faith and to SHOW God's love in our community**

Revd Daniel writes:

As summer arrives, the weather gets better (sometimes!), the days are longer, and we often have more time to spend with family and friends. It is a time of the year that invites us to reflect on God's presence in creation.

As the Psalmist says in Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands'. Martin Luther also once wrote, "God writes the gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees and flowers and clouds and stars." With the Psalmist and Luther, we lift our eyes to the skies and recognise in the natural world a testimony to God's glory and love, the love of the One who made all things. That is still possible even here in the middle of the city and even when it rains, but it's especially the case in the summer.

So, if this summer you do get the chance to go for walks or spend some time in beautiful places on holiday, take some time to worship the God who created them, whose own beauty is reflected through them.

At this time, we also perhaps spend more time with family and friends, and God works through those relationships to share his grace and goodness with us. I pray that those would be joyful times of blessing and closeness with God for us as we share life together, even if we are less 'together' as a church community with some people away.

So, finally, over the summer, may we find time to rest in God's goodness, enjoy one another's company, and remember that in all seasons—sunshine or rain—God is with us.





Eash summer the congregations of our two churches commit themselves to a 'deep dive' into one of the Epistles in the New Testament. The book we have chosen to study this August is Paul's **Letter to the Colossians**. Colossae was a small city in the south-west of modern-



day Turkey (then called Asia Minor). Paul had not visited it, but had received reports from Epaphras, the missionary who most likely founded the church there, that they were having problems. Colossae was on a major trade route near to the important trading city of Laodicea, and as such would have had a substantial Jewish community. It was destroyed in an earthquake in AD 60 but rebuilt quickly by the local people. Paul's letter was written not long after the earthquake occurred, so these were tumultuous times for the people of Colossae both practically and spiritually. What was it about Colossae that posed a potential threat to the young church, and against which its members were striving so hard? The prevailing religious belief in Colossae was a mixture of Jewish mysticism, pagan influences and something called Gnosticism, which emphasized personal spiritual knowledge (*gnosis*) above traditional religious observances. Gnostics considered that the material universe was imperfect and potentially evil, and so of no importance to them as they sought the hidden God. They believed that what we do with our physical bodies doesn't matter. Salvation could only be obtained through mystical experience- speaking magic words and seeing visions. Only through illusion could you access the fullness of God. In his letter to the church at Colossae Paul has to work hard to make it clear to this new and enthusiastic young church that Christ is the *pleroma*, the fullness of God, and people should not look elsewhere or into secret realms to find what Jesus so clearly already is. The old self and its practices will need to be taken off like an old sweater in favour of putting on the shining new garments of Christ-centred living. The claim that Jesus is the very image of God is critical to the whole letter. It addresses what Paul calls the *mystery* which is Christ himself, a term with which the church members



would all have been familiar in that the secret rites of Greek and Roman religions were always known as 'mysteries'. For us it means something which is difficult or even impossible to explain. Is it possible to have an image of that which is invisible? How can it be explained so that it is no longer a mystery? For Paul, Christ is the "materialization" of God: he is what the invisible God looks like in the flesh. In Him we meet God face-to-face. Christ reflects the image of God back to his creation. As humankind was shaped in the image of God, so 'the firstborn of all creation' in whom 'all things hold together', and who has redeemed that creation, returns as the image of God sent to humankind. Today, in a world of rapid change and constant crisis, the web of relationships that sustains God's creation is under severe strain. But in Colossians we find a message which is challenging yet full of hope: Christ has already done this reconciling work. What remains is for us to live into this new reality.

The American theologian Prof. David Ng wrote about the central purpose of the church in light of what Paul says to the church at Colossae. I find his words challenging to us also. The purpose of the church is not to entertain- a place where people come to be spectators while the worship leaders and teachers 'put on a show' employing gimmicks and novelties so that everyone has a good time. The purpose of the church is not maintenance either- being a safe place for its members until Jesus comes again, maintaining the status quo, jogging along keeping its members comfortable. Nor is the purpose of the church fellowship, where the energy of the congregation is focussed on its social relationships- making sure each person is made to feel they belong. Yes, it's important, but it's not the church's central purpose. We are not here to ensure everyone is comfortable being part of the group rather than making sure each of us is living a faithful life. The purpose of the church is not protection, where the community puts all its energies into making a safe place to worship and preserve its sacred rituals, suspicious of both change and the effects of the outside world. The real purpose of the church is to be the community of Jesus' disciples and as such proclaim him as Lord of all. This is the challenge we face on a daily basis, but we face it in the knowledge that we are made one in Christ, who binds all together. Anthea Darlington



## **Readings for the Summer**

**Sunday 3 August:** Colossians 1; John 1:1-18

**Wednesday 6 August:** Psalm 97; Luke 9: 28-36

**Sunday 10 August:** Colossians 2; John 3: 1-6

**Wednesday 13 August:** Psalm 66: 14-end; Matthew 18:15-20

**Sunday 17 August:** Colossians 3; Matthew 11: 28-30

**Wednesday 20 August:** Psalm 21: 1-6; Matthew 20: 1-16

**Sunday 24 August:** Colossians 4; Matthew 6: 7-14

**Wednesday 27 August:** Psalm 126; Matthew 23: 27-32

**Sunday 31 August:** Philemon

## Summer Services and Events

### **Sunday 3 August Colossians chapter 1**

St Paul's: 10am Holy Communion led by Revd Andy Smith;  
preacher Revd Avis Gordon

St Andrew's: 11am Holy Communion: preside and preach Revd  
Avis Gordon

### **Wednesday 6 August**

St Paul's: 10am Holy Communion led by Revd Mike Dyson  
N.B. NO COFFEE MORNING (workmen in Social Area)

### **Sunday 10 August Colossians chapter 2**

St Paul's: 10am Morning Praise led by Anthea Darlington; preacher Revd Mike  
Dyson

St Andrew's: 11am Holy Communion: preside and preach: Revd Mike Dyson



### **Wednesday 13 August**

St Paul's: 10am Holy Communion led by Revd Daniel Mullaney;  
preach: Revd Canon Noel Proctor

### **Sunday 17 August Colossians chapter 3**

St Paul's: 10am Holy Communion led by Revd Daniel Mullaney;  
preacher Revd Andy Smith  
St Andrew's: Holy Communion: preside and preach Revd Andy Smith

### **Wednesday 20 August**

St Paul's: 10am Holy Communion led by Revd Mike Dyson

### **Sunday 24 August Colossians chapter 4**

St Paul's: 10am Holy Communion led by Revd Mike Dyson preacher  
Anthea Darlington  
St Andrew's: 11am Morning Praise: lead and preach Anthea Darlington

### **Tuesday 26 August**

St Paul's: 7pm Summer Prayer meeting led by Revd Daniel Mullaney

### **Wednesday 27 August**

St Paul's: 10am Holy Communion led by Revd Daniel Mullaney

### **Sunday 31 August Philemon**

St Paul's: 10 am Holy Communion led by Revd Mike Dyson; preacher Revd Daniel Mullaney  
St Andrew's: 11am Holy Communion: preside and preach Revd Daniel Mullaney



## Summer Notices

- No Sunday School at St Paul's until Sunday 14 September. All-Age Worship on 7 September. Activities will be provided for children in both churches during August.
- 'Time Out' is taking a break during August but will be back on 9 September for a Summer recap and much more!
- A bible study will begin in St Paul's on Tuesday 16 September at 7pm.





Some thoughts on the Lord's Prayer, from Pastor Austin Fleming.

**Our Father, who art in heaven...**

**We must remember... and know  
that when we call God 'our Father'  
we ought to behave as children of God.  
(Saint Cyprian of Carthage)**

**You cannot call the God of all kindness your Father  
if you preserve a cruel and inhuman heart;  
for in this case you no longer have in you  
the mark of the heavenly Father's kindness.  
(Saint John Chrysostom).**

**We cannot pray to God as "Father"  
and then be harsh and insensitive towards others.  
Instead, it is important to let ourselves  
be transformed by his goodness, his patience, his mercy,  
so that his face may be reflected in ours as in a mirror.  
(Pope Leo XIV)**



## ***Manchester Urban Ageing Research Group: ripple effects from the Faith Spaces and Older People project a year on***



Luciana Lang, the project leader, contacted us recently to find out our reflections on the project a year on from the publication of the results. We felt that taking part in the project gave us the confidence to know that we can support each other and meet each other's needs, despite being older: seeing it happen in other faith communities had reinforced this. People were challenged to do things which were unfamiliar and realised that even if they found it difficult, the experience stopped them being nervous of new challenges, increased their ability to work to make things better, and made them realise that age is not a barrier to learning new things.

As a result of sharing our mutual experiences we acquired a greater knowledge of what works well for older people in our places of worship which led us to identify the following: daytime social/informational groups open to the whole community; rigorous inclusivity; the support and opportunities provided by being part of wider community organisations like Safer Salford, Warm Space, East Salford Neighbourhood Team.

We now think more clearly about what prevents us from meeting the needs of older people in our faith communities: lack of space both indoor and outdoor; poor public (and private) transport; limitations on what we can offer because of time/volunteers/funding; reluctance of some people to come into a place of worship.

By the end of the project, we were able to identify some of the things we needed to do to move forward:

- working out how to provide what people really want
- being prepared to put in the work to make each venture successful
- identifying who or what can help or support the venture
- how to better communicate to let people know what's going on.



The successful continuation of '**Time Out**' is a testimony to all the above. Eileen and Chris feel that without the research project, they wouldn't have realised just how vital 'Time Out' is to so many older people in terms of self-esteem and value in the eyes of the wider community. It's hard work to keep it going and without this level of encouragement they might have given up. For most 'Time Out' members, participating in a research project was something they would never have considered before. It made them feel very good about themselves, and a year on they are still talking about it.

Barbara Plumb says: I found I had a better understanding of the other religious groups when I realised how friendly they were to us. It really amazed me how beautiful their places of worship were, and how delicious the food they offered us- so different from the British staple diet! I enjoyed all the meetings I attended but found some of the exercises too hard to respond to. I think St Paul's does it best for older people through 'Time Out' which everyone enjoys. We should advertise our Wednesday morning coffee mornings after church better so more people in the local community could attend. I know there is a lot of negativity among the general public in terms of respect for older people: I notice it particularly when using public transport. St Paul's does a good job in the present climate in recognising and supporting the role of older people in the community, and I am proud to be a member of the church.

And now for our next project: a **gardening group**.



From Pam and Paul Smeeton: we were particularly impressed by the work done at Sacred Heart Gorton to create a garden for intergenerational activities working with local school children to set it up but now maintained by the over-50s. Some of the St Paul's group in their contribution to the research project said that there was potential in the gardens surrounding the church for outdoor activities. Some people were involved in garden maintenance in the past, and we have taken this over recently. Passers-by who don't attend church have commented to us that they would like to join in if there was a group, and so we are now planning to set such a group up to meet at the same time on a particular day to help



maintain the ashes burials plot, the memorial garden in front of the church and the planted borders which surround the church building on all sides. We intend to advertise using our community noticeboard, our website and via Age Friendly Salford and East Salford Community Neighbourhood Newsletter online as well as providing flyers. We wouldn't have thought of doing this without the research project! *The Time Out group*



## 😊 😊 **GIVING CAN PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE** 😊 😊

Being a Christian involves us in important life-changing decisions: We consider our relationship with God and with our neighbours; we question our life's priorities; we give thanks for all that God has given us. But we must also review our relationship with our possessions, especially our money. If we believe in the work of our churches in the community, we will want to see that this work is resourced – and we do this in thankfulness to God. The way we respond to this challenge shows the strength of our relationship with God.

Why give to church? It's always been seen as something that Christians should do and should want to do. There is, of course, a more practical reason for giving to St Paul's and St Andrew's: without money there would be no church and no mission, and we are grateful to those people who already give generously to us.

Where does the money we give go to? First, keeping the buildings heated, lit and insured and maintaining them so that their purpose as both churches and community resources can continue.

Secondly, extending the work of the churches through our mission

statement. The major expenditure, however, is our Parish Share to the Diocese (which is used mainly on clergy pay, housing and pensions). Last year our Parish Share was £38,000. We are committed to giving this before all else.

How much should we give? I'm not suggesting what each of us should give – it must be an individual decision - but the Church of England's guidelines suggest that we should be looking to give about 5% of our net income to charity. The idea of committing a percentage of our income is not new; many of us will have similar arrangements for repaying our mortgage or paying Council Tax.

How to Give. The important thing is that you set up a regular pattern of giving so that the churches can know that there is a regular stream of money coming in: if you pay by Standing Order the money is transferred electronically to either St Paul's or St Andrew's bank account. This benefits from being regular and you don't have to think about it every time you come to church; it's secure (we're not handling cash) and it's simple: just authorise your bank. I'll be happy to let you have the information you need. We have a plate by the main door at St Paul's and a donations box at St Andrew's for one-off payments, and we will always be happy to accept a spontaneous gift.

It's important to note that if you are a taxpayer, the tax you pay on your giving can be reclaimed by the church. All you have to do is sign a Gift Aid declaration and the parish can claim back from the government an additional £2.50 for every £10 you give **at no further cost to you**. Last year we were able to reclaim more than **£10,000**. We cannot recover tax on loose cash in the collection plate, but we do have Gift Aid envelopes for those who pay income tax.

Please take time to consider your giving of money and give thankfully. Remember that 'God loves a cheerful giver.' [2 Corinthians 9:7].

*David Martin*





## Happy Anniversary!

*Hilary, Philip, Mike and Jean would like to thank everyone at St Paul's and St Andrew's for making their joint Ruby celebration on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July such a success, for all the support we received, not forgetting the amazing donations to Ripple Effect and the Odhiambo family in Kenya totalling **over £560** (some donations were made directly), cards, personal gifts and prayers. Tracy Collier's wonderful buffet was enjoyed by all. A lovely, memorable day which brought family and friends together.*



## Jewish festivals (2) Tisha B'av

This is the second of our occasional series on Jewish festivals. Tisha B'Av, the 9th day of the month of Av (August 2-3, 2025), is the saddest day on the Jewish calendar. It is the culmination of the Three Weeks, a period of time during which Jews mark the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. The day focuses on quiet mourning and repentance, with the lights dimmed in the synagogue; fasting and prayer; wearing sober clothes and abstaining from wearing leather shoes (most people wear trainers). Both temples were destroyed on this date- Solomon's temple by the Babylonians in 423BC and Herod's temple by the Romans in 69AD. The Jews were expelled from England on this day in 1290 and were banished from Spain on the same day in 1492. The evening service ends with the prayer 'Restore us to You, O Lord, that we may be restored! Renew our days as of old.'

**Presentation Sunday** 20 July with Rick Otto, Children's Officer from the Diocesan Board of Education. A great service followed by refreshments and family games.



## **Prayer Corner – can you help?**

Members of the congregation often feel the need to pray with someone at the end of a church service. This is why we have the Prayer Corner in the south transept. Mike and Jean do their best to ensure that they are in the corner after every act of worship to perform this essential service, but they can't always be there. They are in need of help. If you think this is something you could do from time to time, they would be interested to talk to you. Because of the confidential nature of the role, safeguarding is paramount. You would need a DBS check (all clergy, leaders, Sunday School staff and members of the PCC have this), the ability to empathise but not advise (you are a listening ear) and the ability to know when to take advice from colleagues: no-one can predict what might be shared.

Please see Revd Daniel and Revd Mike for further information.







## And the hum of bees

If I close my eyes  
What can I hear?  
Songbirds and grasshoppers,  
The breeze in the trees,  
And the hum of bees.

If I close my eyes  
What can I feel?  
The warm summer sun,  
The rain on my face,  
And the hum of bees.

If I close my eyes  
What can I smell?  
New mown hay,  
And Lavender blue,  
With the hum of bees.

If I close my eyes  
What do I know?  
The world of creation  
From songbirds to holly bushes  
And the hum of bees.

If I close my eyes  
Who can I be?  
A child of God  
Living with the hope of salvation  
And the hum of bees.

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## ***Mental Wellbeing***

Harvard University's long-term study of adult wellbeing has come up with a list of eight aspects of life which can contribute to our mental wellbeing. We thought it would be interesting to see how far belonging to a church community might contribute positively to any or all of the aspects. NB this article does not mean that we necessarily agree with the survey's findings.

1. Strong relationships are key to health and happiness. People who are more socially connected to family, friends and community are happier, healthier and live longer. *Your church family can play a major role in this- we are always here and we make few demands other than that you turn up once or twice a week!*

2. Loneliness is harmful. It's as bad for your health as smoking or excessive drinking and it can shorten your life. *Coming to church provides an opportunity to be with others to the extent you find most comfortable at any one time.*

3. Benefits of 'mundane' social interactions. Even brief positive interactions with acquaintances e.g. chat with a neighbour, can boost wellbeing. *Lots of opportunities for these at church- and to build these initial relationships into something stronger.*

4. Childhood environment's long-term impact. Good emotional relationships with parents are positive predictors of good physical health in later life. *We all know the saying that it takes a village to raise a child, confirmed by recent psychiatric research which says the single best thing you can do for a one-year-old is ensure they have good social contact with a range of adults: a church community can fulfil this role for its young people.*

5. Midlife crises as predictors of future wellbeing. Successfully navigating these is linked to better mental health and overall satisfaction with life in later life. *Your church family can help you cope with such situations: above all it holds out a hope of something better.*

Numbers 6-8 are all to do with the benefits of a satisfactory marriage: you are happier and healthier than singletons; and even 'bickering' between those who are confident in the reliability of their relationship maintains better cognitive health! *Church provides much for couples to do together, to contribute to marital satisfaction, but it also meets the needs of others.*

**What's missing from this research?** The love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which underpins the basis of our church community and our faith, and without which none of it would exist. This is the main source of our wellbeing: perhaps one day someone will make it a research topic!



A **prayer** for holiday time: *Lord Jesus, help me to set aside any stress or distractions that try to steal my peace. Let me embrace this time of rest and relaxation with a heart full of gratitude, knowing that every good thing comes from You. If I'm surrounded by loved ones, help me appreciate each moment. If I find myself alone, remind me that You are near and that I'm never truly by myself. Let my words bring kindness and encouragement. Let my actions reflect Your love and grace. Help me create joyful memories that glorify You. Amen.*

Before you finish reading, take a moment to pray for those who need our prayers at this time, in our parish community and beyond:

- The people of Gaza, that they might be fed
- The people of Sudan, Nigeria, Haiti, Gaza and Israel, that peace and reconciliation may come soon to these places
- The farmers in Africa who we support through Ripple Effect; the work of Christian Aid for which we raise funds annually
- Our local care homes: Holt House, Broughton House, Heathlands: for our ministry at Broughton House and the successful resettlement of the Holt House residents as it closes this Autumn
- Those known to us who are frail or ill at this time, and for the bereaved, both recent and whose anniversaries are remembered
- All who work in the National Health Service, care homes and the emergency services
- St James' food pantry and lunch club, who we support with food donations on a regular basis, and those who use it
- Our schools of St Paul's and Butterstile, that staff and pupils may have a restful break and return refreshed in September
- Our Mission Community, welcoming Revd David Cooper to St Mary's, and as St Hilda's continues in vacancy
- Our friends, our neighbours and ourselves, that we may all know the love of God in our lives



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***Happy Holidays!***