

St Clement's Monthly News

August 2025

Evidence of God's Grace Ahead of His People:

A Curate's Grateful Beginning By Revd John Alex Muyita

When God called Moses to lead the Israelites, He gave this powerful promise that: "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest" (Exodus 33:14). As I reflect on the first weeks of my curacy at St Mary's Davyhulme and St Clement's Urmston, those words have become more than just a Bible verse, but our lived experience and therefore a reality in our lives. Many people will agree with me that arriving as a new Curate is both a joy and a step into the unknown. In fact, for me and my family, there was excitement, but also anxiety. We repeatedly asked ourselves: How will it go? Shall we be received well? How about the children? Shall we feel at home? But God, who promises to go ahead of His people, had already prepared the way. And that preparation has now been reflected in His people in these parishes.

Although it all started even before we arrived, we can confirm that from the moment we arrived, we have felt surrounded by warmth and kindness. Different people have knocked on our doors simply to say hello. Many have visited us, prayed for us, and welcomed us not just into the churches, but into the hearts of many. We have received generous gifts, including vestments, shopping vouchers, financial support, cards with kind words, and even specially baked cakes, lovingly made to make us feel embraced and remembered. Scripture reminds us again that new beginnings are part of God's gracious plan and in this case, we have been made to believe how God goes before us as reflected in Deuteronomy (31:8), that "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you"

Our new beginning of ministry within this community is not something we can walk into alone, but something God walks ahead of, preparing relationships, opening people's hearts, and sending what I like to call "destiny helpers", who are people placed by God at just the right time to offer encouragement, support, and strength. You have been those destiny helpers for us. We have been deeply touched by these gestures of love and personal care, especially in this world today, which is often marked by business and where such acts are becoming very rare.

As we now look forward to the journey ahead, worshipping, serving, and growing together, we are expressing a heartfelt thank you for the ways we have been received. Thank you for making space for our family. With love and deep gratitude, we thank you for being evidence that God is always at work, and always ahead of His people. As Paul writes in Philippians (1:3), "I thank my God every time I remember you." Those words now echo in our prayers, as we give thanks for each of you.

Diary for August

Sun 3rd	10.30am	Eucharist Parish Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship Branch Church
Mon 4 th	9.00am	Walking for Health
Tues 5 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 6 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Thurs 7 th	11.00am	MU Service Mary Sumner Day
Sun 10th	10.30am	Eucharist Parish Church
Mon 11 th	9.00am	Walking for Health
Tues 12 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 13 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Sun 17th	10.30am	Eucharist Parish Church
Mon 18 th	9.00am	Walking for Health
Tues 19 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 20 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Thurs 21 st	2.00pm	Mothers' Union
	7.30pm	Men's Group
Sun 24th	10.30am	Eucharist Parish Church
Mon 25 th	9.00am	Walking for Health
Tues 26 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 27 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Sun 31st	10.30am	Eucharist Parish Church

THE BRANCH CHURCH HUMPHREY PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

Morning Worship
10.30am Sun 3rd August

Brownies 6.00pm Every Tues
Meeting in the Parish Hall
Contact Samantha

Surmstonbrownies@gmail.com



If you wish to donate to
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Autumn Bible Study Series - The Challenge of Acts

This coming autumn, starting on Thursday 18th September at 7.30pm at St. Clement, there is an opportunity to explore the Acts of the Apostles together. The course is based on a book called 'The challenge of Acts' by Tom Wright. It offers a bird's-eye view of the Acts of the Apostles. All the materials for the course will be provided but it would be very beneficial to have read the relevant chapters in Acts in preparation for each session.

Here is the running order for the sessions:

Session 1 – Thursday 18th September Acts 1-8

To the ends of the earth (chapter 1);
The new Temple (chapters 2-4);
Mission and Martyrdom (chapters 5-8)

Session 2 – Thursday 25th September Acts 9-16

Breaking through the Gentile barrier (chapters 9-12)
converts and controversy (chapters 13-16)

Session 3 – Thursday 2nd October Acts 17-20

Completing the circle (chapters 17-20),
Including a more in-depth study of 17.16-34
– The unknown God?

Session 4 – Thursday 9th October Acts 21-28

Trouble in Jerusalem (chapters 21-24)
And so to Rome (chapters 25-28)