

## News from your Church of England Parish Church

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Church Wardens: **Robert Moscrop** [robertmoscrop@icloud.com](mailto:robertmoscrop@icloud.com)

**Kevin Davis** [kevin.j.davis@hotmail.com](mailto:kevin.j.davis@hotmail.com)

Ordinand: **Josie Hart** [Josie@stgeorgesaltrincham.org](mailto:Josie@stgeorgesaltrincham.org)

Parish Safeguarding Officer: **Liv Tattum** [livtattum@aol.com](mailto:livtattum@aol.com)

### September: Back to school, back to work, and back to it here at St George's too!

We hope everyone has had a lovely summer—whether you've been away, stayed at work, or enjoyed a well-earned staycation to simply catch your breath!



July, for us, was definitely a month where we *needed* to catch ours! We kicked things off with a wonderful Summer BBQ to welcome Carol, who has joined us to serve her curacy. Hot on the heels of that, Dee and Carol headed over to John Leigh Park to host a joyful Teddy Bear's Picnic! There was barely time to pause before we were swept up in preparations for the End of Year Celebration with Altrincham Primary School. Note to self for next year: stock up on tissues! It was a beautiful service, celebrating the journey of our Year 6 pupils as they prepared to head off to pastures new. Each parent was given a flower as a small thank you for their love and support over the years. The celebration was also a little bittersweet, as we said goodbye to Mrs Chrysler, who is embarking on her own exciting adventure; leading a school in the Middle East! She goes with our love and prayers. And still we didn't stop! Next up was our very first Summer Fayre. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success (with a special shout-out to our fabulous gardeners for the brilliant Plant Stall!). It was a lovely afternoon filled with traditional games—and the rain stayed away, too! After all that, we *finally* had a moment to catch our breath—though not entirely, as our Toddlers enjoyed some socials in the



park and plenty of planning was quietly happening in the background. 😊

We're now refreshed, recharged, and excited to get up and running again for the new term. So please do read on!



#### Our Regular Services:

Said Services (no hymns):  
Parish Eucharist (sung):

<http://www.stgeorgesaltrincham.org>  
@StGeorgesAlty

Website:  
Socials

Sunday 8am  
Sunday 9.30am

Wednesday 10am



# Quiz Night & Back to Church Sunday!

6<sup>th</sup> September 6pm, & 7<sup>th</sup> September, 9.30 & 10.30am

We hope everyone has enjoyed a lovely and relaxing summer, whether you've been at home or away. As life begins to settle and the church starts to fill up again, we'd love to get everyone together with a Quiz night on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September, and then celebrate with on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> after the service with a fun-filled afternoon featuring:

- Garden games
- Delicious scones and cakes
- **AND a bouncy castle!**



It's the perfect way to reconnect, have some fun, and enjoy time together.

We can't wait to see you there!

Tickets for the Quiz Night are here:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-georges-church-altrincham](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-georges-church-altrincham)



## Benefactor Sunday: Our Ongoing Story

Sometimes people ask, "What makes the Church of England unique?" There are many answers, but one thing that truly stands out is its rich heritage.

Our traditions shape why we celebrate the seasons, why we serve our parish, and why we remain mindful that we do not exist in isolation. We are here because of those who came before us—those who generously gave their time, energy, and skills to build the vibrant church community we enjoy today.

While we strive to stay relevant to contemporary needs, values, and styles of worship, we also deeply treasure our connection to the past. That's why, once a year, we dedicate Benefactor Sunday to give thanks to those who have shaped our church's journey. Without their dedication, we simply wouldn't be here today.

It also serves as a reminder that the future depends on us. People won't be here unless we do our part—both to preserve our heritage and to equip the church with everything it needs to flourish in the years ahead.

We warmly invite you to join us—whether it's your first time or you've been away for a while—to be part of our ongoing story.



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## Messy Café Returns!

Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2-3.30pm

At the Summer Fayre, we were asked when the next Messy Café was, and here's the answer!

Pop in anytime for a fun, relaxed space filled with creativity, chatter, and plenty of cake! Whether you love crafts, colouring, or just a good cuppa and a catch-up, there's something for everyone. It's perfect for families, friends, and anyone who doesn't mind a little mess and a lot of laughter. No need to book — just come along and join the fun! 🍰✂️



## Harvest Supper & Barn Dance!

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 6pm

Date for your Diary: The social event of the year — or at least the season! An evening filled with laughter **and**—new this year—a lively barn dance!

Picture a hall decked out with bunting and straw bales, buzzing with joy as we share a hearty meal and enjoy some dancing together.

Not a dancer? No worries! You can happily sit back and watch—it's just as much fun! Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for children. If the cost is a concern please do get in touch—we really want you to be there!



## Harvest Festival Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October 9.30am

Another date for your diary! Hopefully, with full tummies from the night before, we'll come together on the 5th for our Annual Harvest Festival. We may not be farmers ourselves, but we depend entirely on the hard work of farmers and the bounty of their harvest!

We've got the bales and plans for decorations—and now all we need is you!

This is an all-age service, and we're excited to welcome our Guiding and Scouting groups as we celebrate the season of Harvest. For those who are able, we'll also be collecting food donations for our local Food Bank.



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## Junior Church & Toddler Session Sundays, 9.30am

We've been delighted watching our Junior Church grow and solidify over the last year complete with our Toddler Session too! It's been watching new friendships being made, and we're grateful for all the work that our team does. So do encourage your children to be part of it!

With crafts, songs, stories and lot and lots of laughter, this is a wonderful way for your child to explore faith and make lots of new friends along the way.



## Tots & Tales, Tea & Tales, Twist & Tales

Starts Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September

*And all our children's groups are back up and running!*

From **Toddler Groups (Tots & Tales, Tues 9.15am)** and **Dance Sessions (Twist & Tales, Weds 10.15am)** to our vibrant **Afterschool All-Age Worship (Tea & Tales, Tues 3.20pm)**, our brilliant team of children's leaders are refreshed, recharged, and ready to welcome you.

Whether your child loves music, movement, crafts, or simply being part of a fun and friendly group, there's a place for them here.

**Why not come along and get involved?**



## Harbour Starts Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September.

*A support group for parents of children with SEND.*

Parenting can be a challenging journey, especially when caring for children with SEND. Last year, we started an informal group to share experiences over a cuppa and support each other along the way – and it has been absolutely life-giving!

We're not professionals; this group is simply about listening, offering encouragement, and walking alongside one another. You

don't need to attend church on a Sunday or have a child of a specific age – everyone is welcome.



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## Youth Group: Pathway starts Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September, Parish Centre, 3.20pm

For everyone in **Year 6 and above**, our Friday Youth Group is up and running again – and we'd love to see both familiar faces and new ones this year!

With **games, food** (of course!), and a short **thought for the week**, it's the perfect way to catch up with old primary school friends and unwind after a busy week.

**Sign up here** to join in the fun: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-georges-church-altrincham](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-georges-church-altrincham)



## Alpha starts Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September, Parish Centre, 7pm

Many of us have found faith later in life or returned to it after childhood experiences in church. At St George's, we believe it's important to have space to ask questions, explore beliefs, and talk openly about life and meaning. That's why, in partnership with St Alban's and Timperley Parish, we're running an Alpha Course – a relaxed, welcoming series of sessions

that explore the basics of the Christian faith. The course begins on Thursday 11th September at 7:00pm, held right here in our Parish Centre. You're very welcome to just come along, or get in touch if you'd like more information.



## Mid-Week Groups: Back in Full Swing!

Many of our regular groups have been running right through the summer – full credit to everyone for their ongoing energy and enthusiasm! Here's what's happening each week:

### Wednesday

- *Coffee Break* – 10:00am
- *Women's Group* (1st Sunday of the month) – 2:00pm at the Vicarage

### Thursday

- *Knit & Natter* – 1:30pm at the Vicarage

All of our groups are warm, welcoming, and open to newcomers – why not pop in and give one a try?



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## Choir of St George's

Sundays, 8.30am

Our **Adult Choir** meets every **Sunday morning at 8:30am**, and it's a wonderful way to start the day in fellowship and song.

**Russell**, our enthusiastic choir leader, is already looking ahead with excitement as we begin preparations for the upcoming **Harvest Service**.

Whether you're a seasoned singer or simply want to learn something new, we'd love to welcome new members – no audition required, just a willingness to join in!



## Alty Trebles Mondays, 8.30am

*Our Children's Choir is also back!*



We're thrilled to welcome back **Alty Trebles**, our children's choir, which brought so much joy and energy last year. Music is a powerful boost to our wellbeing – and it's wonderful to see children grow in confidence and creativity through singing together.

We'd love to see even more young voices join us this year! If you have a child in **Year 3 or above** who enjoys singing, they're very welcome to come along and give it a try. We're looking forward to welcoming new faces (and voices) soon!



## Christmas Fayre Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 1-5pm

Goodness, it does feel early, but we've been joyfully preparing for Christmas over the past few months – and we're excited to share what's coming up! One of the highlights will be our **Christmas Fayre**, held in partnership with **Altrincham Primary School**. It promises to be a festive afternoon filled with fun, music, and community spirit.

If you or someone you know would like to book a stall or provide musical entertainment, we'd love to hear from you! Please get in touch with **Rev.**

**Claire** or email [altrinchampta@gmail.com](mailto:altrinchampta@gmail.com).



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## Gifts in a Box!

*Is well underway – why not be part of it?*



We're looking to send some Gifts in a Box to a community in Romania. Linking up with Grassroots UK, the plan is to ship them out late October – so there's still plenty of time to be part of it!

More information is in our weekly notices, or simply follow the QR code and we'll be in touch!



## Are you 'arty'?!

Each season, a small but mighty group of talented artists comes together to help decorate the church. From stunning floral displays and inspiring art installations to community projects, posters, and websites, it's the creativity and dedication of our volunteers that creates those memorable 'wow' moments for everyone who visits.

Could you be one of those people? Are you looking for a new space to explore and share your creative gifts?

We'd love to hear from you—get in touch and join the team!



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# Nativity Journey: Villagers & Parade Stewards?!

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Yes, it's time to mention the 'C' word again—Christmas!

Planning is already well underway for this year's Nativity Journey in December, and after the success of last year (despite the stormy weather!) we're aiming even higher. You might remember how the Lantern Parade had to be folded into the Nativity Journey at the last minute. Well, this year, we're planning for both to run side by side from the start—and it's going to be even more memorable!

But to make it happen, we need your help. Could you be part of this incredible community event?

Here's how you can get involved:

1. **Villagers of Bethlehem:** Step into a costume from the Garrick Theatre and bring Bethlehem to life! You'll wander through Altrincham's main street, guiding people towards the heart of the Nativity story.
2. **Lantern Parade Stewards:** Help us marshal the parade, lead local school groups, carry stunning puppets, and be part of the wonder as the Lantern Parade lights up the town.

Whether you've helped before or this would be your first time, we'd love for you to be part of this unforgettable Christmas experience. It's a wonderful way to get involved, meet others, and be part of a joyful, festive celebration that draws our whole community together.

If you're interested in joining in, do get in touch—we'd be thrilled to have you on board!



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# Reflection on the Season:

## New Starts & Harvest Hopes

September often carries a sense of new beginnings—children return to school, students head off to university, new rhythms begin to take shape, and we find ourselves settling into the next chapter of the year. Even for those of us no longer in education, that deep-rooted school-year rhythm still lingers. There's something about September that feels like a fresh page—a new term, a new start.

At the same time, the church celebrates Harvest, a season of gratitude when we give thanks for the fruits of the earth and all that sustains us. It's a moment to pause and remember that, even as we step into something new, we do so grounded in God's provision.

In the book of Lamentations, amidst sorrow and uncertainty, these beautiful words shine through:

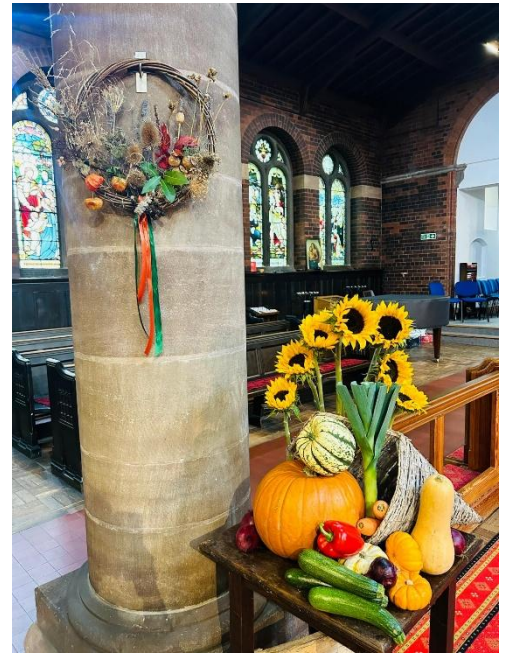
"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

*(Lamentations 3:22–23)*

It's a reminder that God's faithfulness meets us each day, not just in the joyful harvest moments, but in the anxious or uncertain ones too. Whatever "new start" you may be facing this season—whether exciting, challenging, or quietly unfolding—know that you are not walking it alone. God is already there, sowing seeds of hope and offering new mercy with each sunrise.

As we give thanks for food, for change, and for community, may this Harvest be more than a celebration—may it be a reminder that with God, there is always enough, and there is always room for something new to grow.



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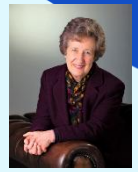
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# GOING DEEPER



*Joyce Hill is an Emeritus Professor of Leeds University. She is a Christian who specialises in Anglo-Saxon Benedictine Reform and its impact on ecclesiastical and cultural life, and regularly delivers lectures.*

On 8 September the Anglican Church celebrates the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary as a Lesser Festival. It's been part of the church's liturgical year since the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, when some of the feast-days of the pre-Reformation church that had been axed were added back into the Church of England's annual cycle of celebrations. Cranmer, when he drew up the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549, had cut out most of the feast-days that had by then proliferated in the Roman church. For him, this drastic reduction in feast-days was a powerful demonstration that worship in the Church of England was to be radically different from that of Rome. But the BCP as revised in 1662, in a rather different social and religious context, back-tracked on that to some extent. Further feasts, festivals and commemorations have been added since, as we can see in *Common Worship*.

In restoring the celebration of the birth of Mary on 8 September, the 1662 BCP was reinstating a tradition that went back a long way. It seems to have begun somewhere in Palestine or Syria early in the sixth century, where there was a strong Marian cult, with many aspects of her life being celebrated in the liturgy. We don't know precisely how the feast of her birth on 8 September spread to the western church, but it is undoubtedly the case that Pope Sergius I (687-701), who was originally from Syria, was a key figure in promoting Mary's popularity. Papal records note that he produced special prayers for her feasts, although there is no indication that he actually introduced the feast-days themselves, so we should probably infer that these were by then already known in the western church. Certainly as Christianity spread in western Europe, the feasts of Mary, including the feast of her birth on 8 September, were well embedded in the standard liturgy. We can see this, for example, from the surviving Anglo-Saxon church calendars.

The bible tells us nothing about Mary's life before the Annunciation: all traditions about her, including the name of her parents, come from apocryphal gospels, the earliest and most influential of these, in Mary's case, being the *Protoevangelium of James*, which dates from the latter part of the second century. This — by contrast with many apocryphal gospels from later centuries — is quite a short and sober narrative. It is this text that names Mary's parents as Anna and Joachim, and it describes how Anna, who was barren, gave birth to Mary after she had been visited by an angel who declared, 'The Lord has heard your prayer. You shall conceive and bear. And your offspring shall be spoken of in the whole world'. It's immediately obvious that the story is modelled on the birth narratives in Luke. Anna's name might similarly come from Luke: Anna in the Temple at the Presentation. And since the Hebrew form of Anna is Hannah, another source might be the Old Testament story of Hannah, who was barren before she finally gave birth to Samuel.

The *Protoevangelium* and later apocryphal narratives met a demand for human stories about Jesus's family life. For us the feast-day of the Birth of Mary no longer reflects that imaginative interest, but is a date when we can give particular thought to Mary's part in the Incarnation and Redemption.

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# SOCIAL EVENTS

Come & be part of it all!



ST. GEORGE'S  
ALTRINCHAM

Date	Events
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Quiz Night
Sat. 7th Sep	Back to Church Sun Cream Tea & Garden Games
Sun. 4th Oct	Harvest Supper & Barn Dance
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Halloween Light Stop
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Christmas Fayre
Sun 15th Feb	Pancake Party
Sun 29th Mar	Palm Sunday Lunch
3rd April	Good Friday Children's Crafts
Sun 26th April	St George's Day Toast
Sun 7th June	John Leigh Park Big Lunch
Sat 26th June	Altrincham Festival
TBC July	Teddy Bear's Picnic @ John Leigh Park
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Fayre

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## ENHANCING SAFETY & SUPPORT IN THE TOWN CENTRE AT NIGHTTIME

Street Angels will be operating  
**8pm - 2am** on the following dates:



Additional dates may be added subject to volunteer availability



 **07523 991 842**

This phone number is only active during Street Angels' evening operating hours



**For more details and to sign up email: [info@altrinchambid.com](mailto:info@altrinchambid.com)**



Altrincham's Street Angels has been supported by Trafford Council through a Community Safety Grant

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ST. GEORGE'S  
ALTRINCHAM



# St. George's

team.



**Rev. Claire Corley**  
Vicar



**Liv Tattum**  
Parish Safeguarding



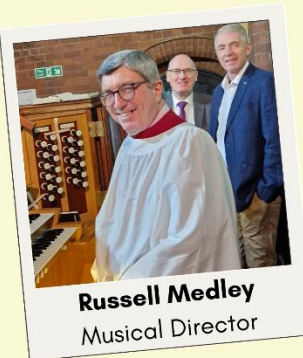
**Rev Carol  
Brooks-Johnson**  
Curate



**Mrs Lynda Higgins**  
Administrator



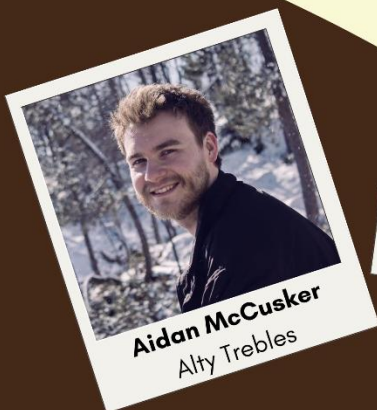
**Dee Owen**  
Children & Families



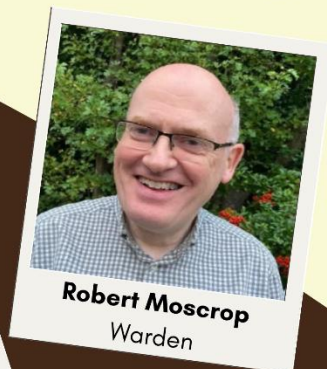
**Russell Medley**  
Musical Director



**Josie Hart**  
Ordinand



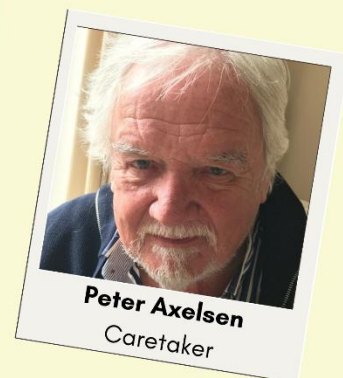
**Aidan McCusker**  
Alty Trebles



**Robert Moscrop**  
Warden



**Kevin Davies**  
Warden



**Peter Axelsen**  
Caretaker

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