

News from your Church of England Parish Church

Parish Office: **Lynda Higgins** info@stgeorgesaltrincham.org 0161 941 4037

Vicar: **Rev. Claire Corley** clairemcorley@gmail.com 07811 151 027 Curate: Rev. Carol

Children & Families: **Dee Owen** Dee@stgeorgesaltrincham.org

Organist & Musical Director: **Russell Medley**: Russell@stgeorgesaltrincham.org

Church Wardens: **Robert Moscrop** robertmoscrop@icloud.com

Kevin Davis kevin.j.davis@hotmail.com

Ordinand: **Josie Hart** Josie@stgeorgesaltrincham.org

Parish Safeguarding Officer: **Liv Tattum** livtattum@aol.com

Straw, Songs & Celebration: It was Harvest Time at St George's!



October usually means one thing around here: hoovering up LOTS of straw! But my, it was worth it.

We kicked things off with a brilliant **Barn Dance and Harvest Supper**. The Parish Centre was transformed with bunting, fairy lights, and, of course, the obligatory Harvest Bales (a big thank you to *The Dunham Herd* for those!). A **huge thanks** also to *Miss Flynn and her sister* for hosting such a fantastic evening. Despite it being Miss Flynn's first ever Barn Dance (we'll try not to feel *too* old...), she seemed thoroughly converted - and, er, we're hoping she's already planning for next year! Next came our **Harvest Festival**. The *Flower Guild* and *Art Group* outdid themselves once again, turning the church into a feast for the eyes and a lift for the spirit. From

pumpkins and Harvest wreaths to beautiful floral displays and (yes) even more straw bales, the decorations created the perfect setting for celebration. Our thanks to *St George's Choir* and *Alty Trebles*, whose music added beauty and depth to the occasion.

But the festivities didn't end there! Our **School's Harvest Festival** followed soon after - a joyful celebration thanks to *Dee* and the children, whose contributions from each class made it one of our best yet.

Amidst all the celebration, we also took time to remember the heart of Harvest: gratitude and giving. As part of our worship, we collected food donations for those struggling to make ends meet. Thanks to your generosity, and that of many community groups such as the Gaming Group, we were able to send a wonderful contribution to **The Hope Centre in Partington**, helping to make a real difference in people's lives.

So a heartfelt thank you to everyone who danced, decorated, sang, cooked, donated, and yes, even swept up (or continues to sweep up!) straw. What a joyful celebration of community, gratitude and God's goodness!



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

Sunday 8am
Sunday 9.30am

Wednesday 10am

Website:
Socials





Memorial Service

Sunday, 2nd November, 7pm

This service offers a gentle space to reflect on those we've loved and lost, no matter how much time has passed. We recognise that some relationships may have been complex, and we hope this gathering will also bring a sense of calm and healing.

Come and join us as we share music, prayer and quiet moments of remembrance. During the service we will light candles in memory of those who have died. If you would like a name to be read aloud and a candle lit on their behalf, please let us know here: <https://forms.gle/GejPWQRMa27byp2BA>



Remembrance Sunday

Sunday, 9th November, 9.30am, Church

In a world still marked by conflict and uncertainty, this year's act of remembrance feels especially meaningful. We gather to honour those who gave their lives in service to their country, holding their sacrifice in our hearts. The service will take place indoors and will include live trumpet music. Afterwards, we invite you to stay for refreshments and conversation. Junior Church will be running alongside, with thoughtful activities planned for our youngest members. Everyone is warmly welcome.



Soup Lunch Restarts!

Thursdays in term time, 12.30pm, Vicarage

We've really missed this! There's something special about sitting down and sharing a meal — it's such a great way to get to know each other better. Starting Thursday 6th November, why not drop by the Vicarage for a bowl of hot soup and some crusty bread?

If you'd be happy to help organise a week, Mike would be *very* grateful — and if you fancy making a pot of soup, we'd love that too!



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Messy Café!

Sunday, 23rd Nov, 2pm

Looking for a fun, relaxed way to explore faith as autumn sets in? Join us at Messy Café!

Enjoy crafts, games, stories, songs, and some cake, all designed for families to explore faith together in a joyful, hands-on way.

No need to book, just bring yourselves (and a friend!) and get ready to have some messy fun. Perfect for all ages, especially primary school children.



Alty Trebles: Learn to sing & earn some badges

Mondays, 3.20pm, Altrincham CE Primary School

FREE SINGING LESSONS! COME & SING AT CHRISTMAS

🎵 Does your child like to sing?

🆓 Would you like them to benefit from some FREE quality singing lessons?

🎄 Would they like to take part in some of our iconic Christmas Carol Services?

🏆 Would they like to gain some badges & medals to reward their progress?

We have a children's choir which meet on a Monday from 3.20pm at Altrincham CE School.



A Gift From Us to You

Can you help us bless our community?

In past years, our crafty crew has hidden little knitted gifts around the Parish for people to find and take home – a sweet surprise to hang on the Christmas trees. This Christmas, we're shaking things up! We'll be making charming heart-shaped baskets instead – perfect for a tree, a mantelpiece or anywhere that could use a sprinkle of festive cheer.

Fancy joining in? Even just a few baskets can bring a smile to someone's day. If you'd like to help spread the joy, we'd love to hear from you!



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Festival Choir

Fridays, 7.30pm

Struggle to make choir a weekly commitment? But would love the idea of singing all the classic carols in a Christmas Choir? Then we'd love you to be part of our Festival Choir! Join us for our rehearsals in November and December (just make as many as you can) and come and add in your harmonies ready for our Carols by Candlelight Service on Sat 20th December!



Christmas Fayre

Saturday 29th November, 2-5pm, Church

After the huge success last year, once again we are teaming up with Altrincham CE Primary School to put on a Christmas Fair—stalls, games, live music, food—all within the church complete with Christmas trees and candles—the perfect way to start the festive season. We're on the lookout for **raffle prizes, Teddies, Tombola prizes and volunteers**—so if you can provide a prize or some time, please do let us know! We're also **hiring out tables at £20 each**, so again, spread the word and get in touch if it appeals.



Toy Donation Service

Sunday, 30th November, 9.30am, St George's

Share the Joy this Christmas

For many children, Christmas is filled with excitement and the joy of receiving gifts. But for some it can be a time of stress and disappointment. This year we're partnering with *The Hope Centre* in Partington to help bring a little light to those who might otherwise go without.

We're collecting new, unwrapped gifts for children and young people aged 0–18. You're warmly invited to bring a gift along to our all-age, joyful service — or to drop one off beforehand.



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Advent Trails @John Leigh Park

December

We're delighted to be joining with Altrincham Baptist Church once again to bring you the **Advent Trail at John Leigh Park** — now with a festive new twist! Wander through the park and discover brand new stations that bring the Christmas story to life in creative and engaging ways. It's a wonderful chance for families to enjoy the season together, to spark conversations and to capture some magical Christmas memories along the way. Wrap up warm, grab a hot chocolate for the journey — and if you're coming later in the afternoon, don't forget a torch to light your way!



.... AND Stamford Park!

It was such a joy to gather with our friends from Stamford Park and dream together about how we might share a little Christmas cheer with everyone this season. Out of those conversations, we're delighted to bring you our Christmas Trail! It's simple and fun for all ages: follow the clues around the park, discover the next stop, and piece together the secret message. Trails are just £2 each (available from the park café), and there's a festive prize for everyone who completes it! Come along, join the adventure, and let's spread a little sparkle of Christmas together.



Would you help support the life and work of the church?

At this time of year, as we celebrate love and hope, we wonder if you might consider supporting St George's regularly. As you'll see from this festive newsletter, we're busy serving our congregation, school, and wider community — all made possible by the generosity of people like you.

It costs £3,406 each week to keep everything running, from welcoming services to outreach. Could you be part of that story this Christmas? Every gift, big or small, helps us share the light of Christ this season. and beyond.



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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

**Come & be part of it
@ St George's Church!**

Dec-early Jan:

Advent Trails

(@Stamford Park & John Leigh Park, in partnership
with Altrincham Baptist Church)

Sun 14th Dec:

Pop-Up Nativity

4 pm

Sat 29th Nov:

Christmas Fayre

2-5 pm

Sat 20th Dec:

**Carols
by Candlelight**

7 pm

Sun 30th Nov:

**Toy Donation
Service**

9.30 am

Sun 21st Dec:

Carols in the Park

4.30 pm

(@John Leigh Park, in partnership with
Altrincham Baptist Church)

Sun 7th Dec:

**Children's
Christmas Party**

1 pm

Quiet Christmas

7pm

Weds 24th Dec:

Christingle

2 pm & 4 pm

Midnight Mass

11.30 pm

Sat 13th Dec:

Nativity Journey

12.30-4pm

(@Stamford Quarter, Town Centre, in partnership
with Altrincham BID)

Thurs 25th Dec:

Christmas Day

10 am

Sun 4th Jan:

Epiphany

Chalking the Doors

9.30 am

JOY



For more information head to
www.stgeorgesaltrincham.org



@StGeorgesAlty

St George's Church, Church Street, Altrincham, WA14 4DB

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Reflection on the season: All Souls Day

All Souls Day, observed on **2nd November**, is a special time in the Church calendar set aside to remember and pray for all our loved ones who have passed into God's care—whether recently or many years ago. It follows **All Saints Day**, which honours the saints—those men and women recognised for their exceptional holiness and witness to God. But the term “saints” in a broader sense includes every believer, every person who has lived a life touched by faith, love, and grace. In this way, the Church is made up not only of the famous or canonised saints but also of ordinary people whose lives have impacted us deeply, with all their joys, struggles, and complexities.

All Souls Day invites us into honest reflection. Grief rarely fits into neat schedules—some losses feel fresh and raw, while others settle quietly into the background of our lives. This day gives us permission to bring every memory—joyful or painful, simple or complicated—into the comforting light of prayer.

Within Christian belief, love transcends death. When we pray for those who have died, we acknowledge our ongoing connection to them through the **communion of saints**—a spiritual fellowship that unites all believers, past and present, beyond the limits of time and space. Lighting a candle, hearing a name aloud, or simply sitting in silent remembrance become acts of love, hope, and faith.

It is also on this occasion that we hold our **Memorial Service**, a special space created to remember those whom we have loved and lost. This service offers an opportunity to bring their names and stories before God, to find comfort in community and to hold our shared grief and hope together.

All Souls Day does not offer easy answers to the mystery of death but invites us to bring our whole selves—our sorrow, gratitude, longing, and faith—before God. It reminds us that every life matters, every story is treasured, and no one is ever forgotten. As we pause in remembrance, may we also find peace, trusting in God's eternal love and care for all



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Interested in exploring faith?

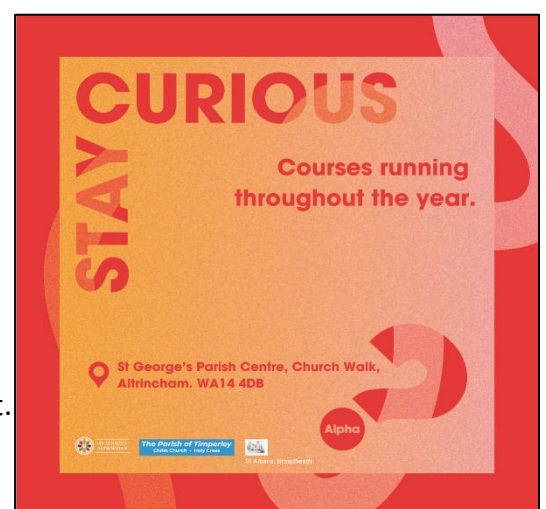
✦ Curious about life, faith, or what really matters? ✦

Alpha is a relaxed and welcoming space where you can have honest conversations about life's big questions with no pressure and no jargon.

Here at St George's we run Alpha **throughout the year**, so if you're interested, just let us know and we'll find a time that works for you.

Everyone's welcome — whether you've been to church before or not.

Interested? Drop us a message or chat to one of us and we can find a time that works for you.....



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SOCIAL EVENTS

Come & be part of it all!



ST. GEORGE'S
ALTRINCHAM

Date	Events
Sat 6 th Sept	Quiz Night
Sat. 7th Sep	Back to Church Sun Cream Tea & Garden Games
Sun. 4th Oct	Harvest Supper & Barn Dance
Fri 31 st Oct	Halloween Light Stop
Sat 29 th 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 27th June	Altrincham Festival
TBC July	Teddy Bear's Picnic @ John Leigh Park
Sun 12 th July	Summer Fayre

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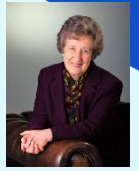
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GOING DEEPER



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.

In May this year, when the present Pope was elected, he took the name of Leo, referencing Pope Leo XIII (1873-1903), who was a notable social reformer at a time of great change. But there is another Pope Leo, from long ago, who is celebrated as a Doctor of the Church and who is regarded as a pivotal figure in papal history. This is Pope Leo the Great (Leo I), who was pope 440-461, one of only three popes to have the title of 'the Great', the other two being Gregory the Great (590-604) and Nicholas the Great (858-867). The year in which there is a new Pope Leo seems a good time to write about Leo I, and November is the right month: his feast-day is on the 10th. This earlier Leo, a native of Tuscany, was born at a time when Roman imperial power in the west was in decline, and it was also a time of intense theological debate about the nature of Christ incarnate: the Council of Nicaea in 325 had not put the question to rest! Leo, clearly a man of many interests and abilities, rose to all these challenges.

In secular affairs, Leo, then an Archdeacon, was involved in an embassy to settle a dispute with the leaders of the breakaway power in Gaul at the request of the Emperor Valentinian III, which shows that he was already trusted by the imperial court. During his absence, Pope Sixtus II died, and Leo was unanimously elected in his place. As imperial power leached away from the West, Leo continued to be drawn into leadership roles in wider society. On one occasion he famously parlayed with Attila the Hun, who had invaded Italy, attacked some major cities, and was threatening Rome. Attila's withdrawal following the negotiations was seen as a triumph for Leo and it boosted his standing, although modern historians recognise that many complex factors influenced Attila's decision. Quite soon after, in 455, Rome was sacked by the Vandals. Leo, along with other clergy, had met with the Vandal leader to implore him not to enter the city, but although that plea failed, it does seem that Leo prevented the city from being burned and ensured that those sheltering in the three great basilicas of Saints Peter, Paul and John were spared. He also assisted in the rebuilding and repair of the city.

Leo's claim to the title 'Great' depends, however, on two main aspects of his career: his determined promotion of the orthodox understanding that Christ's nature was indivisibly and wholly both human and divine in the face of many contemporary heresies that took different positions; and his systematic promotion of the papacy itself. He was one of the first bishops of Rome to claim primacy through succession from the Apostle Peter, and it was during his reign that the title of Pope, previously used for any bishop, came to be reserved for the Bishop of Rome. It was also during his papacy that the term 'Patriarch of the West' was first used, in a letter to Leo from the Emperor Theodosius II. All Leo's writing are sermons and letters. They are not lengthy or profound, but they are clear, forceful and consistent in the way that they address the issues of the day. He was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1754 by Pope Benedict XIV. A later Benedict, Pope Benedict XVI, described his papacy as 'undoubtedly one of the most important in the Church's history'.

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