

# Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community News

December – January 2026

## People In The News

We offer our congratulations & a very warm welcome to:

**Revd Jason Lawton**, who was licensed by Bishop Matthew, as Incumbent of the benefice of Hillock & Unsworth, at a Service held at St. George's, Unsworth on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

**Revd Marie Pattison**, who will be licensed as Incumbent to The Radcliffe Team (St. Thomas & St. John with St. Philip's & the Parish Church of St. Mary, Radcliffe) at a Service to be held at St. Thomas & St. John's on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 @ 7pm.

**Revd Bob May**, who will be licensed as Assistant Curate, to be known as Associate Priest, at Christ Church Ainsworth.

**Revd Irene Thirkell**, who will be priested at a Service to be held at Manchester Cathedral at 1pm on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

We look forward to working alongside you all as part of the Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community.

## Other News ...

### Mission Community Recycling Initiative



Our joint recycling initiative began in July 2024; since then, the Churches of our Mission Community have collected:

- Over 1,000 pairs of unwanted prescription glasses
- Over 4kg of used stamps
- Multiple bags of unwanted bras
- And also raised over £30 for Christian Aid via recycled ink cartridges.

Recycling means that these items are not only being kept out of landfill; they are helping people in the UK and abroad who are in the greatest need.

## Coming Soon ...

### Window On Advent

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 9.30 – 11.30am @ St. Andrew's, Hillock. M45 8NA.

Each of our Churches will provide a prayer station on an Advent theme; why not join us for a time of reflection & prayer as we begin our journey through Advent together. There will be the opportunity to receive personal prayer in the Side Chapel if required, plus refreshments also available, making this an ideal time to meet other members of our Mission Community.

### Advent Zoom Prayers

Each weekday evening from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December to Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 6pm on Zoom. Advent Zoom Prayers last for no more than 10 minutes & are led by a different Church each evening, making this a great way to come together in prayer & fellowship as we journey through Advent. To join in, simply click on the link below any weekday evening at 6pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88510585974?pwd=QUdYYjN6bDFoakxpZnBoY2ZDMUFRoZz09>

## Eco Tips

**December** – More waste ends up in landfill at Christmas than at any other time in the year. Why not take the opportunity to review and improve your own recycling & the opportunities available for recycling in your local area.

**January** – Rather than giving up something in the New Year, why not resolve to take on a new 'green' or Eco-friendly challenge – maybe you could take up litter picking.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Children's Ministry Training (ALM Refresher)

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Nov  
10 – 3.30pm  
St. John's House

[Children's Ministry Training \(ALM Refresher\) - Diocese of Manchester](#)

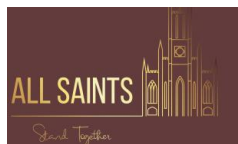
### Churchwarden Training

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Jan  
9.30 – 1pm  
St. John's House  
[Churchwarden Training - Diocese of Manchester](#)

### Lord's Payer Evening

A special evening of prayer & reflection led by the Archbishop of York.  
Manchester Cathedral.  
Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> March  
7 - 9pm  
[Lord's Prayer Evening with Archbishop of York - Diocese of Manchester](#)

## Around The Steeples, Spires, Towers & Turrets Of Our Mission Community



### **All Saints, Stand** [standchurch.com](http://standchurch.com)

**News** – Members of our worshipping & wider community came together to create an external poppy fall; you can see the wonderful result on our website.

We're continuing with our preparations for our 200 year celebrations to be held next year.

### **St. Andrew's, Hillock** [www.standrews-hillock.org.uk](http://www.standrews-hillock.org.uk)

**News** – We are pleased to welcome Revd Jason Lawton, who was licensed as Incumbent of the Benefice of Hillock & Unsworth on 30<sup>th</sup> September.



**Regular Events** – Anna Chaplaincy drop in for over 50's, every Tuesday 1 – 3pm at St Andrews, all welcome.  
Community Litter Picking – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month; 10.30 – 11.30am.

**Special Services** – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - During our service we have people from Mopane (who we support) talking about their work in Namibia.



### **St. George's, Unsworth** [achurchnearyou.com/church/16088](http://achurchnearyou.com/church/16088)

**News** – We were pleased to welcome Revd Jason Lawton, who was licensed as Incumbent of the Benefice of Hillock & Unsworth on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

We held our Christmas Fair at St. George's, Unsworth on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – this was a really well supported & successful event.

**Regular Events** - Community Litter Picking – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month; 9 – 10.30am.

Our Cornerstone Café is open on a Wednesday & a Friday.

### **Christ Church Ainsworth** [www.ainsworthparish.org.uk](http://www.ainsworthparish.org.uk)

**News** – We are excited to be welcoming Revd Bob May, who will join our team as Assistant Curate, to be known as Associate Priest.

We held a family event focusing on Remembrance during October half term; this was well supported and included a number of tasks, activities and outdoor prayer stations.

**Regular Events** – Coffee & Conversation – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 10.30 – 12 noon in Ainsworth Church & Community Hall; a drop in social event for over 50's.

**Special Services** – Advent Reflections will be held each Thursday during Advent at 10.30am in Church.



### **St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe** <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16096/>

**News** – On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December, Revd Marie Pattison will be licensed as Incumbent of the Benefice of Radcliffe – the Service will be held at 7pm at St. Thomas & St. John with St. Philip.

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December and then each following Friday, our Team Advent Study Group will run from 10.15am – 11.30am; based on the Archbishop of York's pick as an Advent book: "Listening to the

Music of the Soul", by Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December there will be a 'Makers' Fair' from 11 - 2pm.

**Special Services** - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 1pm at Manchester Cathedral - licensing as Priest to the Radcliffe Team of Revd Irene Thirkell.

**Regular Events** – Saturday Café – every Saturday 10.30am – 12.30pm.



### **Radcliffe Parish Church of St. Mary** [Radcliffe Parish Church of St. Mary](http://Radcliffe Parish Church of St. Mary)

**News** – On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December, Revd Marie Pattison will be licensed as Incumbent of the Benefice of Radcliffe – the Service will be held at 7pm at St. Thomas & St. John with St. Philip.

We have lots going on during December, including a number of opportunities for Community Carol Singing.

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2pm – don't miss our family film afternoon which will be 'Indiana Jones'.

**Regular Events** - Saturday Café – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, 10am – 12noon.



### **St. Andrew's, Radcliffe** [StAndrewsRadcliffe](http://StAndrewsRadcliffe)

**Regular Events** - Oasis Craft Group meet each Tuesday afternoon from 1 – 3pm, everyone welcome.

Baby & toddlers 'Wiggle Tots' is held on Thursdays from 9 – 10.30am.

Family Service – Thursdays 3.45pm

### **Christ Church Walshaw** [www.christchurch-walshaw.co.uk](http://www.christchurch-walshaw.co.uk)

**Regular Events** – Our super popular baby & toddler group meets in Church on Wednesdays from 10 – 11.15am (term time only).

Walshaw Community Choir - Wednesdays 7.15pm

'Cake & Chat' - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

If your Church has any news or dates to include in our February / March newsletter, email [alisonhartleyhorse@gmail.com](mailto:alisonhartleyhorse@gmail.com)



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## *In The Spotlight ... St. Andrew's, Radcliffe & Christ Church Walshaw*

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Over the last few months, both Christ Church, Walshaw, and St Andrew's, Radcliffe, have followed the Bible Course. Produced by the Bible Society, the course introduces the big story of the Bible over 8 sessions. There is a video for each session, with teaching from Andrew Ollerton, plus a short piece each week from an expert on the week's topic and a relevant testimony. It introduces a simple graphic which our churches have found really useful to remember the way the stories and different books of the Bible fit together. Each week suggests Bible passages to look at together and a few questions to discuss during a pause in the video. There is also a handbook available to accompany the course, plus lots of additional resources on the Bible Society's website. All resources are available for free on the Bible Society's website, except the handbook which costs £10 a copy, with discounts if you buy in bulk. We all found Andrew Ollerton really clear and easy to listen to. Each week starts with a recap of the story so far, so we could keep track of where we were up to as we went through. It's really accessible for new Christians, but at the same time even longstanding members of both churches found themselves learning new things! We have followed the course in existing home groups as well as in small groups set up just for this purpose. At the same time, we have followed a sermon series on Sundays built around the same themes. I would really recommend this excellent resource.

*Revd Steph Mawhinney – Vicar of Christ Church Walshaw & St. Andrew's, Radcliffe.*

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## *Christmas Around The Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community*

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<p><b>All Saints, Stand</b> <a href="http://standchurch.com">standchurch.com</a></p> <p><b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> 10am - Holy Communion 6 pm - Christingle</p> <p><b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> 10 am - Family Service</p> <p><b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b> 10am – Holy Communion 6pm - 9 Lessons &amp; Carols with the Augmented choir</p> <p><b>Christmas Eve</b> 4pm - Crib service 11.30pm - First Communion of Christmas</p> <p><b>Christmas Day</b> 10am - Holy Communion</p>	 <p><b>St. Thomas &amp; St. John, Radcliffe</b> <a href="https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16096/">https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16096/</a></p> <p><b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> 2pm - Besses Boys Band &amp; Affetside Choir tickets £8 children under 16 free.</p> <p><b>Christmas services across the Radcliffe Team</b></p> <p><b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b> 4pm - Nine lessons &amp; Carols; St Thomas &amp; St John Radcliffe.</p> <p><b>Christmas Eve</b> 4pm - Crib service; St Thomas &amp; St John Radcliffe. 11.30pm - Midnight Eucharist; St Thomas &amp; St John.</p> <p><b>Christmas Day</b> 10am - Eucharist service at St Mary's, Radcliffe.</p>
<p><b>St. Andrew's, Hillock</b> <a href="http://www.standrews-hillock.org.uk">www.standrews-hillock.org.uk</a></p> <p><b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b> 1-3pm - Sing along with Clive; tea/coffee and plenty of cake, everyone is welcome, free admission.</p> <p><b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec</b> 11-3pm Winter Wellbeing Event (run by Onward). A free support Drop-In event, with refreshments.</p> <p><b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> 1-3pm - Anna Chaplaincy Christmas Party, everyone welcome.</p> <p><b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> 6.30pm - Carol singing with Besses Boys Band outside Church; refreshments available.</p> <p><b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b> 6pm - Parish Carol Service.</p> <p><b>Christmas Day</b> 10am - Holy Communion.</p>	 <p><b>St. Andrew's, Radcliffe</b> <a href="http://StAndrewsRadcliffe">StAndrewsRadcliffe</a></p> <p><b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> 1pm - British Legion Children's Party</p> <p><b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> 7pm - Carols at the New Inn</p> <p><b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec</b> 3pm - Blue Christmas</p> <p><b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b> 6.30pm - Carol Service</p> <p><b>Christmas Eve</b> 4pm - Crib service 11.15pm - St Andrew's Midnight Communion</p> <p><b>Christmas Day</b> 10am - Family Communion</p>

### **Christ Church Ainsworth**

[www.ainsworthparish.org.uk](http://www.ainsworthparish.org.uk)

#### **Wednesday 3rd Dec**

6.30pm – Christingle Service

#### **Thursday 4th Dec**

10.30am - Advent Reflection

#### **Saturday 6th Dec**

7pm - Christmas Concert with Farnworth & Walkden Band

#### **Tuesday 9th Dec**

10.30am – Coffee & Conversation for over 50's, carol singing by Ainsworth Primary School Choir.

#### **Thursday 11th Dec**

10.30am - Advent Reflection

#### **Sunday 14th Dec**

10.30am – All Age Christmas Service

#### **Thursday 18th Dec**

10.30am - Advent Reflection

#### **Sunday 21st Dec**

10.30am – Christmas Carol Requests

6pm – Joint Carol Service at Ainsworth Methodist's.

#### **Christmas Eve**

2pm – Crib Service

11.30pm – First Communion of Christmas

#### **Christmas Day**

9am – BCP Communion



### **Radcliffe Parish Church of St. Mary**

[Radcliffe Parish Church of St. Mary](http://Radcliffe Parish Church of St. Mary)

#### **Sunday 7th Dec**

6pm – Churches Carols in the Market – Radcliffe Market

#### **Friday 12th Dec**

2pm – Carol singing at Rose Court Care Home

7.30pm - Christmas Party and Carol Concert at St Philips Community Centre.

#### **Saturday 13th Dec**

2pm - Carol Concert by Affetside Choir at St Mary's.

#### **Monday 15th Dec**

2pm – Carol singing at Holly Bank Care Home

#### **Tuesday 16th Dec**

11am – Radcliffe Hall School Christmas Service

#### **Christmas services across the Radcliffe Team**

#### **Sunday 21st Dec**

4pm - Nine lessons & Carols; St Thomas & St John Radcliffe.

#### **Christmas Eve**

4pm - Crib service; St Thomas & St John Radcliffe.

11.30pm - Midnight Eucharist; St Thomas & St John.

#### **Christmas Day**

10am - Eucharist service at St Mary's, Radcliffe.



### **Christ Church Walshaw**

[www.christchurch-walshaw.co.uk](http://www.christchurch-walshaw.co.uk)

#### **Wednesday 3rd Dec**

7pm - Walshaw Community Choir Concert

#### **Tuesday 9th Dec**

2pm - Carols at Walshaw Hall Care Home

#### **Sunday 14th Dec**

6.30pm - Christ Church Carol Service

#### **Monday 15th Dec**

6pm - Carols at The Priory

#### **Saturday 20th Dec**

11am - Blue Christmas

#### **Monday 22nd Dec**

7pm - Cosalea Café Christmas, Walshaw

#### **Christmas Eve**

5.30pm - Christ Church Christingle

#### **Christmas Day**

10.30am - Family Communion



### **St. George's, Unsworth**

[achurchnearyou.com/church/16088](http://achurchnearyou.com/church/16088)

#### **Christmas Eve**

5.30pm – Crib Service



## ***A Prayer For The New Year***

*Lord,*

*Whether I leave behind a year of joy or of trials and difficulties, I pause to give thanks.*

*Thank you for being with me every day of every year.*

*Thank you for making all things new and for giving me the grace of fresh starts and new beginnings.*

*Remind me of your presence in the days to come, even when I feel pushed and rushed by busyness.*

*Be glorified in my life this year.*

*Amen*