



NOTICES THIS WEEK

Sunday 21 December 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday

At our morning services, Revd Irene Thirkell will be presiding at the Eucharist for the first time following her recent ordination as priest. The Revd Margaret Trivasse will be our invited preacher

9:30am **Eucharist** at St Mary's: followed by light refreshments

11:00am **Eucharist** at St Thomas and St John's: followed by light refreshments

4:00pm **Team Service of Nine Lessons and Carols** at St Thomas and St John's. This will be followed by a short **welcome and reception** over cake and mince pies for Revd Irene, made priest last weekend. Please be with us. We welcome Jim Needham playing the organ

CHRISTMAS QUIZ SHEETS are now available. £1.

CHRISTMAS CARDS The rack is again available at St TJ's to facilitate the exchange of Christmas cards. It is well understood that some people make charity donations rather than sending lots of cards. If you would like to send one card to the whole congregation, you can now place it on the display in church and give some of the money saved to Derian House children's hospice.

The week ahead

Monday (22nd) 6:00pm (for 10 minutes) Continuing on each weekday this week, members of the Churches in our Mission Community join together by Zoom each weekday in **Advent** for **prayer**. Simply click the link below to take part: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88510585974?pwd=QUdYYjN6bDFoakxpZnBoY2ZDMUFoZz09>

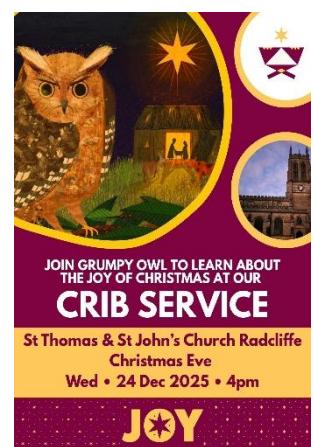
Tuesday (23rd) 6:00pm (for 10 minutes) Final session of Advent prayers for members of the Churches in our Mission Community as we join together by Zoom. Link as yesterday

Wednesday (24th) 10:00am **CHRISTMAS EVE Eucharist** at St TJ's; followed by light refreshments
4:00pm **Team Crib Service at St Thomas and St John's church** – please come along to meet Grumpy Owl
11:30pm **Team FIRST EUCHARIST OF CHRISTMAS** at St TJ's. President and Preacher: Revd Marie Pattison
We welcome Jim playing the organ

Thursday (25th) 10:00am **CHRISTMAS DAY Team Christmas Morning Eucharist** at St Mary's. President – Revd Marie Pattison; Preacher – Revd Irene Thirkell

Friday (26th) **No** usual Friday study group and Intercessions

Saturday (27th) 10:30am (- 12:30pm) Saturday Café at St TJ's, with Vestry Hour and drawing of December Bonus Ball



9:30am	Eucharist at St Mary's: President and Preacher: Revd Margaret Trivasse; followed by light refreshments
11:00am	Eucharist at St TJ's: President and Preacher: Revd Margaret Trivasse; followed by light refreshments

Please pray for ...

- **Prayers for healing:**
 - **St Mary's:** Catherine, Roger Brierley, Berenice Carey, David Duckworth, Colin Embrey, Margaret Embrey, Christine Firth, William Firth, Peter Gorman, Chris Hollis, Pauline Holt, Priscilla Holme, Terry Houlgrave, Harry Melling, Peter Savage, Ray Vernon, Denis Wright, Janice Wright.
 - **St TJ and elsewhere:** Catherine, Pam, Joan Atherton, Lawson Bant, Paula Barrand, Alice Berry, Revd Dougie Bird, Geraldine Braden, Carol Cain, Reg Dee, Jacob Dewar, Zohre Galati, Vicky Halstead, Marjorie Higham, Miriam Higham, Anthony Hill, Lyn Hill, Claire Jones, Louise Peart, Barry Sheehan, Jane Slade, Hannah Sox
 - **Those recently bereaved:** family and friends of Barbara Cordener, Tony Cardwell, Harry Appleton, Julie Bill, Lynda Westnott, Judith Ward, Jennifer Lowe, Margaret Maddock
- **Those recalled in our Books of Remembrance:**
 - **St Mary's:** Henry Hardacre, Ella Maria Holden, David Taylor (25th); Dawn Williams (26th)
 - **St Thomas and St John's:** Albert Denerley, Doris Watkinson, Harold Pyatt, Joan Rhodes, Joseph Wilkins (21st); Richard Holden, Clive Leyland (22nd); Tommy Plant, Dorothy Gregory (25th); Mary Ann West, Leonard Street, Terry Atherton (27th)

Notices

<p>Christmas message from the Bishop of Manchester is included on page 3 of the electronic version, and is in church</p> <p>Prayers for the sick We are revising the lists at each church, to ensure that we include those still seeking the prayer of the Church. Please see or message Deb at St Mary's or Kathleen at St TJ's if you or a person you wish to include in the list, with their permission, should remain. Names not offered will not appear in the New Year.</p> <p>Bury Homeless Project We are still collecting warm clothing in good condition – gifts may be placed in the cardboard box at the back of church (St Thomas and St John's)</p> <p>PLEASE PARK CONSIDERATELY: if you park your car in New Church Street, please respect the need of our neighbouring residents to access their drives at all times.</p>	<p>Team Advent Study Group In St Thomas and St John's church Fridays at 10:15 – 11:30 Please come along, no charge, refreshments provided, even if you are not usually at our regular Bible Study. We are studying: "Listening to the Music of the Soul", by Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford. She came to this country 40 years ago, fleeing the persecution that followed the Iranian Revolution.</p>
<p>Giving to Church At each of our parish churches, you will find a digital giving machine which may be used for one-off gifts, including making them gift-aided which adds 25% to their value. If you wish to make a commitment to regular giving, we have forms to make a gift-aid declaration, and we can help you set up either a Direct Debit or a Standing Order. Each parish has a QR code displayed to facilitate one-off gifts.</p>	<p>Social media You can find us on Facebook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radcliffe Parish Church of St Mary • The Parish Church of St Thomas & St John We are often covered on the Facebook site: Diocese of Manchester – Deanery of Bury & Rossendale. <p>Please look at these sites and click to "follow" to build up their profile.</p> </p>

To be in touch with the clergy, please contact Rev Marie, Team Rector (07795 805767), Rev Irene, Curate (07435 657865) or Rev Adele, Associate Priest (07946 383024). To discuss baptisms or weddings, please go to Vestry Hour from 10:30 on Saturdays at St Thomas and St John's, or from 10:45 on Sundays at St Mary's.

Please supply future information to lesandkathleen@btinternet.com or to 0161 724 5696.

Current information may be found at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16096/> and <https://www.radcliffeparishchurch.com/>

Christmas Message from the Bishop of Manchester

One of my favourite pieces of Christmas art was painted by the 17th century Dutch artist Rembrandt van Rijn. It shows two women, one of them Mary, gazing at the new-born Jesus, who is lying in His manger. The only source of light in the picture seems to come from the child Himself. It lights up the happy faces bent over Him. But everything else is totally dark. In a single image it encapsulates what St John addresses through words in the marvellous opening passage of His gospel. Here is unquenchable light, clothed in human form, shining out into a world of darkness.

St John wrote his gospel to Christians who lived in dark times, theirs was an age when hostile and brutal powers ruled the earth. When we look at our times, they often do not appear much brighter. Wars rage across the globe. Famine and terror drive many to seek refuge in foreign lands. Human made climate change destroys crops and devastates natural environments. The nations of our globe lie in thrall to a handful of powerful men, just as ruthless as any Roman Caesar. Yet in the midst of that darkness, Christ is, as ever, present, His birth standing as a divine assurance that the darkness will never totally win.

I turn to Rembrandt's image when things feel especially dark. There I see not only the light emanating from Jesus, but also its reflection in the faces of the women. They, and others who see His light and reflect it, will go on to change the world for ever, and for better. In his name they will feed the hungry, clothe the naked, tend the sick, educate the children, bring peace to warring states. In short, they will do miracles. And so can we.

My prayer therefore, is that, as we celebrate Christ's birth, we may both reflect His light and also celebrate the light we see reflected in one another – in acts of kindness, in shared worship, and in the love and service that binds our communities together.

May God bless you richly this Christmastide.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized cross symbol followed by the name "David Moxdale".

Please see below a prayer list from our Mission Community covering first the coming week, then the month.

In the coming week the Churches of our Mission Community will be:

- Praying for Christians all around the world who are preparing to celebrate Christmas.
- Giving thanks that we are able to celebrate Christmas, and worship in our Churches, without fear of reprisals or persecution.
- Giving thanks for the wide variety of Christmas Services and initiatives offered by our individual Churches.
- Giving thanks for the many opportunities that Christmas offers our Churches, to engage with and reach out to our wider communities.
- Praying that some of those with whom we connect at this time, may be inspired by the Holy Spirit, and that they might feel called to explore their faith further, or return to faith.

* Giving thanks for all who will be leading our Services in the coming week, and praying that they also find time for rest and relaxation.

Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community Prayer Diary



December 2025

1 st	We pray for Revd Marie Pattison, as she is licensed as Incumbent of the Radcliffe Team Churches and starts her new ministry, and a new chapter in the life of these Churches; we pray also for Revd Marie's family.
2 nd	We pray for those who will be leading or attending the events to be held at St. Andrew's, Hillock in the coming days; the sing along session this afternoon & the Winter Wellbeing event tomorrow.
3 rd	We give thanks for the work of The Children's Society and pray that the Christingle Service at Christ Church Ainsworth this evening will be well supported. We pray also for the children & families who will benefit from the money which is raised through Christingle.
4 th	We pray for mission & ministry at All Saints Stand.
5 th	We pray for those from St. George's, Unsworth who will be litter picking tomorrow morning; praying that they might have meaningful encounters as well as helping their community.
6 th	Praying that the Candlelit Christmas Concert at Christ Church Ainsworth this evening will be a successful event. Giving thanks for all who have been involved with the organisation & planning.
7 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Mary, Radcliffe.
8 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. George's, Unsworth.
9 th	We pray for those who will be working with children & bringing the Christmas message into schools this festive season; praying that interest will be generated & seeds sown.
10 th	We pray for mission & ministry at Emmanuel Community Church, Radcliffe.
11 th	As members of our Mothers' Union branches support the RISEUP challenge, we pray for all who are victims of, or are at risk, of domestic abuse & gender-based violence.
12 th	We pray for mission & ministry at Christ Church Ainsworth.
13 th	We pray for Revd Irene Thirkell who will be priested at Manchester Cathedral today.
14 th	We pray for all who will be taking part in the Carol Service at Christ Church Walshaw today.
15 th	We pray for & give thanks for the work of the Food Pantry Team at St. Andrew's, Hillock; praying also for all of the individuals & families who access this service.
16 th	We pray for all who will be organising or attending the Anna Chaplaincy Christmas Party this afternoon; giving thanks also for all who volunteer as Anna Chaplains or Anna Friends.
17 th	We pray for the children & staff of schools that will be holding their Christmas Services in Church.
18 th	We pray for all who will be carol singing around their communities this Christmas, & for all who will be holding Carol Services in their Churches.
19 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Andrew's, Hillock.
20 th	We pray for all who will be attending the Blue Christmas event at either Christ Church Walshaw or St. Andrew's, Radcliffe today; praying for all those who find Christmas difficult.
21 st	We pray for all who will be organising or attending the Community Carol Service at Ainsworth Methodist Chapel this evening; giving thanks for good ecumenical relationships in all contexts.
22 nd	We pray for mission & ministry at Christ Church Walshaw.
23 rd	We pray for & give thanks for all who are involved with funeral ministry; praying also for the families that they serve & support.
24 th	Praying for those Churches that will be holding a Crib Service today; praying that the seeds of faith may be sown in young hearts.
25 th	We pray for Christians around the world who will be celebrating the birth of our Saviour today; praying especially for those who live in fear of persecution for the expression of their faith.
26 th	We give thanks for the hard work & long hours given by our Clergy during this festive season & pray that they will find time in their busy schedules to rest. We pray also for all Clergy spouses & families.
27 th	We give thanks for the work of our lay leaders & volunteers at this busy time of year.
28 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe.
29 th	We pray for mission & ministry at St. Andrew's, Radcliffe.
30 th	We pray for inspiration & guidance as we & our Churches prepare for the year to come.
31 st	We give thanks for all that has been achieved through & by the Churches of our Mission Community throughout the past year.



Mission Community Advent Zoom Prayers Are Back!

An easy and powerful way of praying together, plus a great opportunity to get to know people from other churches within our Mission Community.

Starts on Monday 1st December, then each weekday evening throughout Advent @ 6pm on Zoom (our last session will be Tuesday 23rd December); simply click on the link below to take part:

*"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."
(James 5:16)*



Family Fun Show



**Come and enjoy
Indiana Jones & the Dial of
Destiny**



**Showin at Radcliffe,
Parish Church
St Mary**

On Saturday 10th January 28

At 2pm

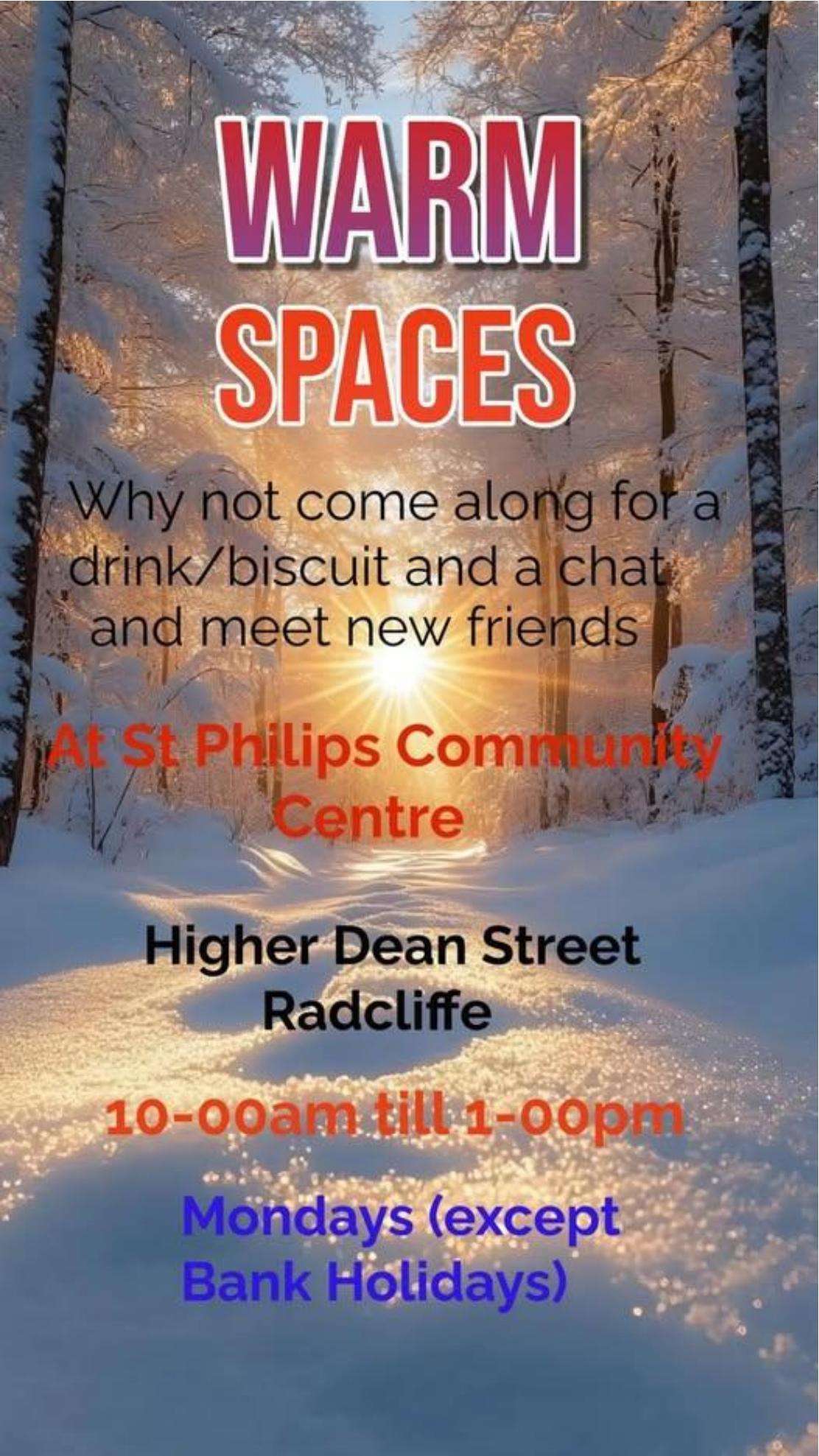
**Cost £3 per person includes
refreshments**

For tickets please Contact :

Deborah : 0161 724 4116 OR

Vicky : 07853 884892





WARM SPACES

Why not come along for a
drink/biscuit and a chat
and meet new friends

**At St Philips Community
Centre**

**Higher Dean Street
Radcliffe**

10-00am till 1-00pm

**Mondays (except
Bank Holidays)**

Being stewards of God's creation and doing our bit as Christians for the planet, if you have any of the following lying around your home then please bring them to be recycled 



RECYCLE FOR CHARITY

Did you know, many of your unwanted items could be recycled?

Do you have any of these items stuck in a drawer or cupboard ?

Please bring along your glasses, hearing aids, foreign currency, stamps, keys, ink & toner cartridges (branded only) & bra's & place them into the boxes provided in church.

All items will be collected at the monthly Mission Community Task Group meetings where they will be sorted and sent to where they are needed most.

Thank you

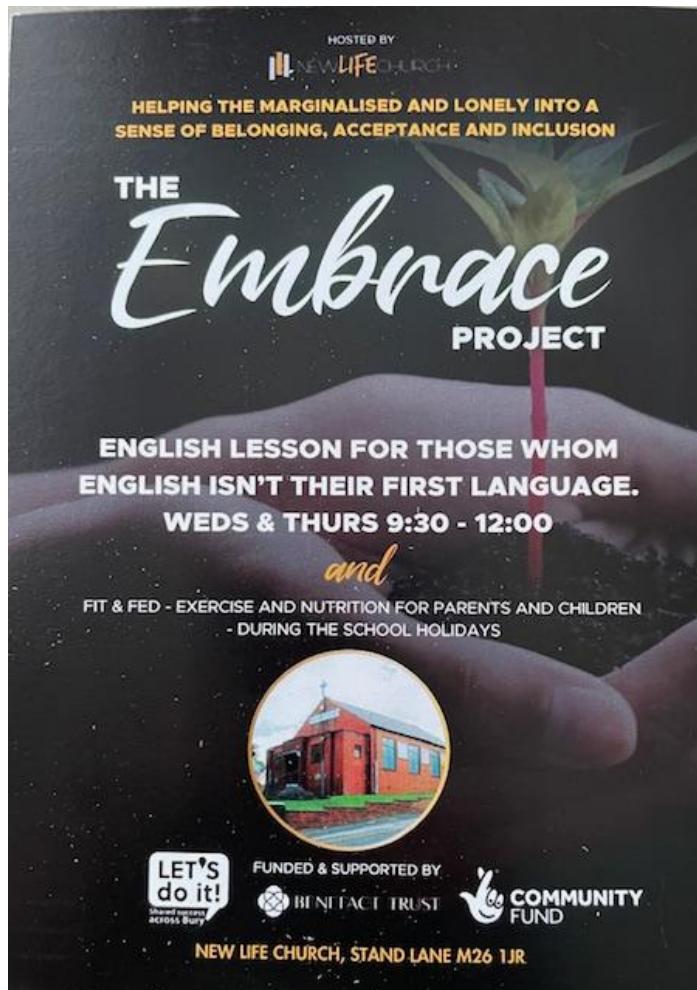
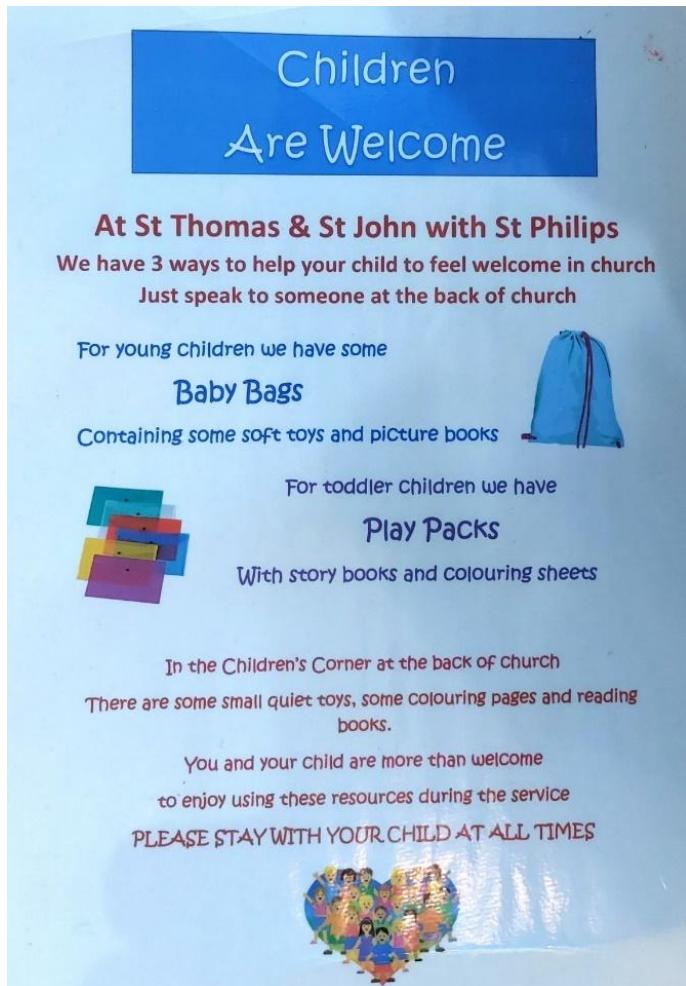


RADCLIFFE & WHITEFIELD MISSION COMMUNITY

Eagle's Wing is a mutual support group of friends made up of local people, asylum seekers and refugees living in this area. It meets at the United reformed Church, Parsons Lane, Bury BL9 0LY, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10am to noon (term time only). "Come as strangers, stay as friends" – they say.

Other information

Please explore the information available in church. It includes prayer points suggested by our Mission Community, and its latest Newsletter.



TEAM ADVENT STUDY GROUP

As in past years, a study group will meet during the weeks of Advent, on Fridays, 10:15 – 11:30am in St Thomas and St John's church. The first session will be on Friday 5 December. There is no need to register and it is free of charge. Beginning with a brew, we will then be guided by the Archbishop of York's pick as an Advent book: "Listening to the Music of the Soul", by Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani. During the weeks of Advent, this study will replace the usual Friday Friends Bible Study.

It has been said that "Listening to the music of the soul" is a wonderfully evocative phrase – but what does it really mean for the everyday anxieties of life? Bishop Guli Francis-

Dehqani invites us on the deepest journey of all: one within our very souls. To listen to the music of the soul, Bishop Guli writes, is to "connect in a meaningful way to our innermost being" – to release the pressure to be someone we are not, and inhabit our lives more fully, in deep and authentic relationship with God.

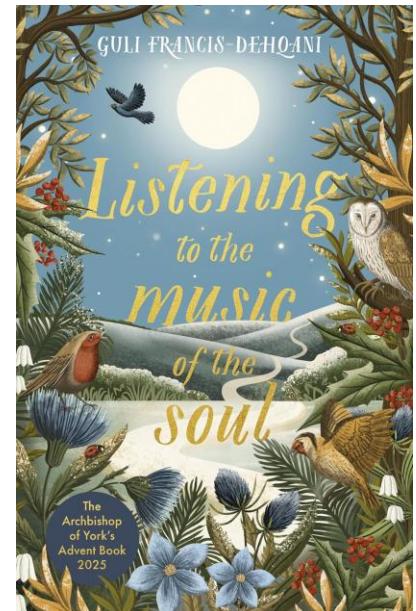
Bishop Guli's invitation is rooted in her own remarkable story. She arrived in the UK as a refugee forty years ago, following the murder of her brother in the wake of the Iranian Revolution. Growing up as a Christian in Iran and later fleeing to escape religious persecution, she knows exactly what it means to experience an identity shaped by complexity – and the struggle we all share to make sense of who we are.

In a highly digital world of social media soundbites, polarized debates, and the demand for instant responses, Bishop Guli offers another way. This Advent, her invitation to us to pause and "listen to the music of the soul", is a call to rest in life's nuances, in the fertile spaces in between, where beauty and pain coexist – and where, in that very tension, we encounter God most profoundly.

Relating her vivid life story to the biblical narratives of Advent, Bishop Guli encourages us to see our own journeys within the greater story of God's unending love and His purpose for our salvation. Each chapter invites us to listen to a musical interpretation of its theme (accessible via QR code), whether flight, angels, or hope, and encourages us to respond in a way that is deeply personal. From Mary's Magnificat and its hope for the overlooked, to the harmonies of silence and darkness, fear and hope, and light and space that accompany the season of Advent, Listening to the Music of the Soul draws into the beauty of God's reconciliation with humanity through the birth of Jesus.



Island Discs".



The accompanying music to each chapter, whether familiar or not, becomes a companion to us on this journey, helping us tune our hearts to the deeper music of the soul. And in that inner music, we find ourselves drawn into the wider melody of God's love, where our lives are held within the heartbeat of His eternal song of salvation.

To participate in the group, it is not necessary to have the book but, if you would like to have a copy it may be ordered from Amazon and other booksellers for about £10. If you have access to BBC Sounds, you can find the 2024 recording of Bishop Guli's appearance on "Desert

Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community News

December - January 2025

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 30th 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 1st 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 13th 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 29th 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 1st December to Tuesday 23rd 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=QlUyYyJNsbDFoakxpZnBoY2ZDMUJFdz09>

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 29th Nov
10 – 3.30pm
St. John's House

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

Churchwarden Training

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

Lord's Prayer Evening

A special evening of prayer & reflection led by the Archbishop of York.
Manchester Cathedral.
Thurs 19th 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

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, Hilllock www.standrews-hilllock.org.uk

News – We are pleased to welcome Revd Jason Lawton, who was licensed as Incumbent of the Benefice of Hilllock & Unsworth on 30th September.

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

Special Services – Sunday 11th 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

News – We were pleased to welcome Revd Jason Lawton, who was licensed as Incumbent of the Benefice of Hilllock & Unsworth on 30th September.

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

Regular Events - Community Litter Picking – 1st Saturday of each month; 9 – 10.30am.

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



Christ Church Ainsworth 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 – 2nd 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/15085>

News – On Monday 1st 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 5th 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 6th December there will be a 'Makers' Fair' from 11 - 2pm.

Special Services - Saturday 13th 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 radcliffeparish.org.uk

News – On Monday 1st 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 10th January 2pm – don't miss our family film afternoon which will be 'Indiana Jones'.

Regular Events - Saturday Café – 2nd Saturday of each month, 10am – 12noon.



St. Andrew's, Radcliffe st-andrews-radcliffe.org.uk

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

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' - 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.

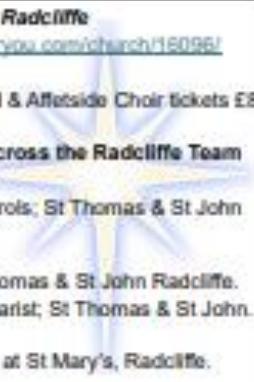
If your Church has any news or dates to include in our February / March newsletter, email alisonhartleyhorse@gmail.com

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

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.

Christmas Around The Radcliffe & Whitefield Mission Community

<p>All Saints, Stand standchurch.com</p> <p>Sunday 7th Dec 10am - Holy Communion 6 pm - Christingle</p> <p>Sunday 14th Dec 10 am - Family Service</p> <p>Sunday 21st Dec 10am – Holy Communion 6pm - 9 Lessons & Carols with the Augmented choir</p> <p>Christmas Eve 4pm - Crib service 11.30pm - First Communion of Christmas</p> <p>Christmas Day 10am - Holy Communion</p> 	<p>St. Thomas & St. John, Radcliffe https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/160961</p> <p>Sunday 7th Dec 2pm - Besses Boys Band & Alfletside Choir tickets £8 children under 16 free.</p> <p>Christmas services across the Radcliffe Team</p> <p>Sunday 21st Dec 4pm - Nine lessons & Carols; St Thomas & St John Radcliffe.</p> <p>Christmas Eve 4pm - Crib service; St Thomas & St John Radcliffe. 11.30pm - Midnight Eucharist; St Thomas & St John.</p> <p>Christmas Day 10am - Eucharist service at St Mary's, Radcliffe.</p> 
<p>St. Andrew's, Hillock www.standrews-hillock.org.uk</p> <p>Tuesday 2nd Dec 1-3pm - Sing along with Clive; tea/coffee and plenty of cake, everyone is welcome, free admission.</p> <p>Wednesday 3rd Dec 11-3pm Winter Wellbeing Event (run by Onward). A free support Drop-In event, with refreshments.</p> <p>Tuesday 16th Dec 1-3pm - Anna Chaplaincy Christmas Party, everyone welcome.</p> <p>Thursday 18th Dec 6.30pm - Carol singing with Besses Boys Band outside Church; refreshments available.</p> <p>Sunday 21st Dec 6pm - Parish Carol Service.</p> <p>Christmas Day 10am - Holy Communion.</p> 	<p>St. Andrew's, Radcliffe StAndrews.Radcliffe</p> <p>Saturday 13th Dec 1pm - British Legion Children's Party</p> <p>Thursday 18th Dec 7pm - Carols at the New Inn</p> <p>Saturday 20th Dec 3pm - Blue Christmas</p> <p>Sunday 21st Dec 6.30pm - Carol Service</p> <p>Christmas Eve 4pm - Crib service 11.15pm - St Andrew's Midnight Communion</p> <p>Christmas Day 10am - Family Communion</p> 

Christ Church Ainsworth<http://www.christchurchainsworth.co.uk>**Wednesday 3rd Dec.**

6.30pm - Christingle Service

Thursday 4th Dec.

10.30am - Advent Reflection

Saturday 4th Dec.

7pm - Christmas Concert with Farnworth & Isakden Band

Tuesday 8th Dec.

10.30am - Coffee & Conversation for over 55s, 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

Christmas Eve

2pm - Crib Service

11.30pm - First Communion of Christmas

Christmas Day

9am - BCP Communion

Radcliffe Parish Church of St. Mary<http://www.radcliffeparishchurch.org.uk>**Sunday 7th Dec.**

6pm - Churches Carol 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 Afflecks Choir at St Mary's

Monday 15th Dec.

2pm - Carol singing at Holly Edge 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 Walslow<http://www.christchurchwalslow.co.uk>**Wednesday 3rd Dec.**

7pm - Walslow Community Choir Concert

Tuesday 8th Dec.

2pm - Carols at Walslow 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 - Cosmopolitan Christmas, Walslow

Christmas Eve

5.30pm - Christ Church Christingle

Christmas Day

10.30am - Family Communion

St. George's, Walslow<http://www.stgeorgeswalslow.co.uk>**Christmas Eve**

5.30pm - Crib Service

**A Prayer For The New Year**

Lord

Whether I issue 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

Better quality prints are available in church

Our Diocese: Our Vision

Bishop David writes:

Our vision is for Manchester Diocese to be a **worshipping, growing, transforming Christian presence at the heart of every community**.

Much of what we are doing in Manchester Diocese is already contributing to a culture of hope and an expectation of growth, working with our parishes, schools and chaplaincies. This includes many forms of inherited as well as fresh expressions of church. We serve in an area that has a rich history of culture and innovation, made up of diverse and vibrant communities, and a longstanding commitment to social justice. It is a wonderful place to engage in Gospel Ministry.

Our work together grows out of Jesus's Great Commandment which is to 'love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...and love your neighbour as yourself'. (Matthew 22: 36-40)...

... and out of his Great Commission, 'to go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Matthew 28:19-20).

Our strategy is based on positive, inspiring and relevant plans for the future. It is enabling us to bring together the key areas of opportunity and challenge, building on our learning and experience from the significant changes and investments that are already underway. Many of these changes have focused on new ways of working together which are becoming embedded in the life of our diocese.

Building on these successes, we are shifting to the next level in setting our priorities and working out what we want to achieve next. Given the excellent start that has been made, we now have the opportunity to be even more creative and ambitious with our plans for the future, based on the following distinct but interconnected themes:

Providing direct support for **parish renewal** is central to our work together. Our prayer and goal is to bring more people to faith in Jesus Christ and increase church attendance by a third over the next ten years. We are working closely with our parishes to understand the opportunities and challenges they face and secure their missional and financial future. Mission communities are key to this, enabling parishes to work together in serving their congregations and bringing new people to faith. Clergy deployment, parochial reorganisation and supporting our most fragile churches are important strands of this work. We are also strengthening the support we provide to church officers with training, resources and new technology.

We have been doing great work in the area of **growing younger**, to ensure there is a thriving children and young people's ministry within reach of every young person and double the number of young active disciples in our churches. We have been trialling new approaches with the Children Changing Places project in Bolton, and Man Dio Growing Faith in the other six deaneries. We are now bringing this experience and learning together to develop a comprehensive approach to engaging with children and young people and their families across our diocese. Our particular focus is on how best to strengthen the links between our churches and our church schools supporting every parish and mission community with this.

We have had similar successes with **church planting and revitalisation**. Over the last seven years, we have set up four new resource churches and over ten church plants. We want to build on the experience of our existing resource churches at the same time as

investing in new resource churches and new church plants, so that churches carrying a DNA of mission are established across our diocese, particularly in communities where attendance is low.

Developing missional leaders is a key priority for us so that we bring forward a new, diverse generation of mission-minded ordained and lay leaders. We recognise the importance of investing in our clergy so they are equipped to grow our churches, especially given the number of newly ordained clergy who are being appointed to stipendiary roles. As a diocese we continue to focus on developing our lay people, particularly through our Authorised Lay Ministry, Focal Ministry and Reader programmes. Supporting the vocations of clergy and lay people with the calling and skills to grow new faith communities, continues to be important to us.

In all of this we are deeply committed to championing ***racial justice*** and ensuring that our clergy, lay leaders and congregations represent the rich diversity of our diocese.

We are working towards the 2030 ***net zero carbon*** goal set by General Synod, by supporting our churches and schools with measuring their energy use and taking simple, practical steps to reduce their carbon footprint.

We will continue to provide a safe environment for all by promoting effective ***safeguarding***.

Across our diocese, people hold diverse views and express their faith through ***different traditions***, united in a passion for Jesus Christ and his Church. Our bishops honour these differences by inviting church communities from across our diocese to learn together, support one another and listen to God.

These priorities align with the Church of England's overall vision which is to create a church of missionary disciples, where mixed ecology is the norm, and whose membership is becoming younger and more diverse.