

# NEWS AND EVENTS



**“Eco Church is a scheme to help church communities improve their Environmental impact.**

**A Rocha has developed Eco Church, an award scheme for churches of all denominations in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that they care for God’s earth.”**

## **Fairtrade and Eco**

Thank you to everyone who has supported our Fairtrade & Eco stall during the last year. It has been an encouraging year, especially as we have tried to include more eco & sustainable items, which links in with our Eco Church award and our commitment to ensuring that, as a church, we take seriously the importance of living out our Christian faith in our lifestyle. That means that we care about justice, about the well-being of the people who produce the food and crafts we enjoy and we care about the future of our planet. So very many thanks for your commitment.

*Please journey with us in 2026! May you have a joyful and special Christmas!*

## **The Revd Leila Nikroo – Notice of Appointment**

*The Revd Leila Nikroo, currently Curate (STIP) at Hope, St James and Pendlebury, St John (Benefice), has been appointed as Stipendiary Assistant Curate of Hope, St James and Pendlebury, St John Benefice, to be known as Missioner to the Farsi Speaking Community. Her licence date was 21st December 2025.*

## ***St Luke’s - Coffee & Craft Morning***

Bring your craft with you and we will provide the warm space, friendly chat and a hot drink.

*Every Wednesday from 10:30-12pm*

## **Team Sunday Notices**

Any items/articles to be published on the Team Newsheet, please send them by Thursday, am of each week to: John McKenna on: [oscar701@sky.com](mailto:oscar701@sky.com)



## **Bible Study at St Luke's**

*St Luke's Bible study will be having a Christmas break. We will be back on the 8th January with a new and exciting study.*

### ***The Bishop of Manchester's Christmas message:***

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 newborn 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.

*Wishing you a very Happy and Peaceful  
New Year*