

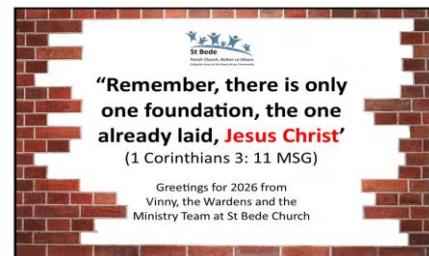


Parish Church, Bolton Le Moors  
Living for Jesus at the Heart of our Community



# NEWSLETTER

11<sup>th</sup> January 2026



## Editorial

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Epiphany – Baptism of Christ

#### Jesus – Our Foundation

Our text verse for 2026 is 'Remember, there is only one foundation, the one already laid, Jesus Christ' (1 Corinthians 3:11). In our reading for today, 1 Corinthians 3:1-17, Paul reflects on the growing church as the Gospel spreads and reminds us that the church's foundation is Jesus.

As anyone involved in construction will know, there are many building regulations to be followed. Some builders have encountered problems when they have failed to adhere to these, meaning that the buildings have had to be demolished and rebuilt. The foundation has to be right. Builders have to be wise and take care when building.

Paul tells us in verse 10: 'By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care.'

Paul was given great grace by God. He was used to build the Gentile church. The knowledge and grace he had, made him a master builder and he knew how to lay the external foundation. As Paul says: 'For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.' (verse 11)

Jesus is a priceless foundation. His love was poured out freely for us. Jesus must be the foundation of our lives and our church. No other foundation can be laid that will stand the test of time and eternity except Jesus Christ alone.

With Jesus, as the firm foundation of our lives and indeed the church, we will have a 'spiritual' building that will last forever. Will you be the wise builder and make Jesus the foundation of your life? Will you have an eternal home built on a priceless foundation? The key to that new home is Jesus. He is reaching out to you today.

**Carol Hardman – Authorised Lay Minister**



#### Please Pray for...

Minti R	Emma H
David & Norma V	Chloe
Barbara S	Rachael B
Brenda & Ken	John H & Debs
Betty	Sue S
Lee A	Vinny H
Stuart & family	Bishop David †
Jackie	Michael F
Isaac	Joanne
Jodie	Brian G
Anne H	David P
Ross	Tania
Belinda K	Irene S
Phil & Sue B	Claire H
Norma M	Re-Ordering Project
Freda	WoW & Beyond WoW
Samantha W	Pause Café

Remember, this list is for those who need our prayers, not just the sick or bereaved.



# This week at St Bede

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January

## 10am Holy Communion

Worship with us as we begin a new series exploring our new text verse for the year and the need to make Jesus our sure foundation in all that we do. Our children's ministry group 'Church Rocks' returns this week

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January

## 7.30pm St Bede PCC Meeting

Our PCC meets tonight in the Community Room

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January

## 6.15pm WOW

Our Worship on Wednesday Service continues this week as we reflect on Nicodemus and his encounter with Jesus. Our youth group **Beyond WOW** also meets this week.

## 7.30pm Alpha Course

Our new Alpha Course continues this week at St Andrews. New members are still welcome if you want to come along.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January

## 10am Healing Service

Worship with us as we continue to reflect on Jesus our foundation and cornerstone. There will also be space in our service for people to come forward for prayer and healing. Our children's ministry group 'Church Rocks' meets this week.





 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Manchester

## St Bede Charity Partner 2026.

**COMING SOON**

### COLLECT

Heavenly Father at the Jordan  
you revealed Jesus as your Son:  
may we recognize him as our  
Lord and know ourselves to be  
your beloved children; through  
Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Our Church depends very heavily on  
fundraising as well as regular giving  
to keep our Church afloat.

We ask that you do continue to give  
by setting up a Standing Order from  
your bank. Please contact our  
Treasurer, Simon Brooks  
for further details –  
[brooks\\_simon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brooks_simon@hotmail.co.uk)

visit our website  
[www.st-bede.org.uk](http://www.st-bede.org.uk) or scan the QR  
code below



### TEXT VERSE FOR 2026

As we move into 2026; we also have  
a new text card!

Our verse for 2026 is 'Remember,  
there is only one foundation, the one  
already laid, Jesus Christ' (1  
Corinthians 3:11)

This verse reminds us and calls us  
that we need to make Jesus the sure  
foundation of who we are and all  
that we do in our lives.

It is a fitting verse for us at St Bede  
particularly as we continue to  
prepare for a major building project  
in rebuilding and expanding our  
community room.

Please do pick up your free text verse  
card at the back of church if you  
haven't already done so.

### A THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who helped taking  
down the Christmas decorations last  
week.



### OUR NEXT EVENT

Tickets are now available for our  
next event on **Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January  
2026**.

Booking is essential so get them  
while you can! Only £6.50

### THE EVENT IS ONE OF THE MOST HISTORICALLY CERTAIN MOMENTS IN JESUS' LIFE

Most historians—even secular scholars—  
consider the baptism of Jesus by John the  
Baptist to be one of the **best-attested events**  
in the Gospels.

This is because it meets the “criterion of  
embarrassment”: early Christians would not  
have invented a story in which **Jesus is  
baptised alongside sinners**, unless it had truly  
happened.

All four Gospels that mention the baptism  
agree it happened **around the Jordan River**,  
which served as an important **symbolic  
boundary** in Jewish history.

John the Baptist's movement used water  
immersion to signify **repentance and  
preparation** for God's coming kingdom.

John the Baptist is mentioned not only in the  
New Testament but also by the Jewish  
historian **Flavius Josephus** (c. 93 CE).  
Josephus describes John as:

- a popular Jewish teacher, a baptiser,  
eventually executed by Herod  
Antipas.

It functions as the **inauguration** of his public  
work.

Although the general event is consistent  
across the synoptic gospels, details vary. John  
does **not narrate the baptism itself**, but he  
*testifies* to seeing the Spirit descend on Jesus.

These differences reflect theological  
emphases, but not a contradiction of the basic  
historical event.

Some early Christian groups even debated  
whether the baptism was the moment Jesus  
became divine, showing its significance in later  
theological development.

Modern archaeology has identified several  
ancient baptismal sites along the Jordan. All  
are historically connected to early Christian  
pilgrims as the traditional site of Jesus'  
baptism.



Join us for our  
new all-age  
worship experience  
at St Bede Church.

Join us for fun, food, songs, games,  
and activities as we explore faith and life together.

We meet every Wednesday  
6.15pm-7pm  
St Bede Church Community Room



St Bede Parish Church invites you to our

# Winter Warmer Lunch

Saturday 31st January 2026  
at 12 Noon



Come along for a delicious lunch for only £6.50

When the temperature drops, there is  
nothing better than a hearty lunch to  
lift your spirits!

Booking is essential by emailing  
[fundraising@st-bede.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@st-bede.org.uk) or in person



*St Bede's is a living Church, and its people are The Church. The Church's only financial support is its own Church family.*

*Please try to support our social and fundraising events as they are vital not only to the financial wellbeing of our Church but are great opportunities to get to know one another better.*

***Your Church thanks you for your gifts of money, time and talents.***

## **Contacts**

Vicar– Rev Canon Vinny Whitworth – 01204 658921 [vinny@st-bede.org.uk](mailto:vinny@st-bede.org.uk)

Curate – Rev Sweetline Burnell – [revd.sweetlineburnell@gmail.com](mailto:revd.sweetlineburnell@gmail.com) 07423084946

Associate Priest – Rev Malcolm Bristow – 01204 659816

Licensed Lay Minister (Reader) – Tony Whitehead – 07967 223380 – [tony@st-bede.org.uk](mailto:tony@st-bede.org.uk)

Reader Emeritus – Pat Bristow

Authorised Lay Ministers – Gillian Blackburn, Carol Hardman

Church Wardens – Jean Philips – 01204 451676 Gill Blackburn – 01204 660396

PCC Secretary and Church Administrator– Elaine Almond – 07757099862 [elainealmond22@gmail.com](mailto:elainealmond22@gmail.com)

Treasurer – Simon Brooks - [brooks\\_simon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brooks_simon@hotmail.co.uk)

Organist – David Platt

Newsletter Editor – Tony Whitehead 07967223380

Social Media Team – Kirsty Critchley 07763 495009 & Tony Whitehead 07967223380

Administrator – Elaine Almond – 07757099862

St Bede Primary Academy Headteacher – Anna Black – 01204 61899

Chair of Governors – Tony Whitehead Vice Chair – David Almond

ST BEDE'S CHURCH, MORRIS GREEN, BOLTON-LE-MOORS



**@StBedeParish, [newsletter@st-bede.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@st-bede.org.uk) [info@st-bede.org.uk](mailto:info@st-bede.org.uk)**

[churchoffice@st-bede.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@st-bede.org.uk) [www.st-bede.org.uk](http://www.st-bede.org.uk)

**Normanby Street, Bolton, BL3 3QR**