

## News from your Church of England Parish Church

Parish Office: Lynda Higgins [info@stgeorgesaltrincham.org](mailto:info@stgeorgesaltrincham.org) 0161 941 4037

Vicar: **Rev. Claire Corley** [clairemcorley@gmail.com](mailto:clairemcorley@gmail.com) 07811 151 027 Curate: **Carol Brooks-Johnson** [carol@stgeorgesaltrincham.org](mailto:carol@stgeorgesaltrincham.org) 07745 926 451

Children & Families: **Dee Owen** [Dee@stgeorgesaltrincham.org](mailto:Dee@stgeorgesaltrincham.org) Organist & Musical Director: **Russell Medley**: [Russell@stgeorgesaltrincham.org](mailto:Russell@stgeorgesaltrincham.org)

Church Wardens: **Robert Moscrop** [robertmoscrop@icloud.com](mailto:robertmoscrop@icloud.com)

**Kevin Davis** [kevin.j.davis@hotmail.com](mailto:kevin.j.davis@hotmail.com)

Ordinand: **Josie Hart** [Josie@stgeorgesaltrincham.org](mailto:Josie@stgeorgesaltrincham.org)

Parish Safeguarding Officer: **Liv Tattum** [livtattum@aol.com](mailto:livtattum@aol.com)

### From Candlemas Onward: February in Review

What always amazes me about winter is that, although everything above ground seems still and dormant, beneath the soil there is quiet, determined activity, preparing the way for those first brave shoots of spring. January and February can feel a little like that here at St George's. On the surface, our regular worship and groups continue faithfully week by week. Yet behind the scenes there is plenty of "hard graft" going on; planning, praying, organising and preparing as we look ahead to the great journey of Lent, the joy of Easter, and the opportunities of the summer months. Much of what will blossom later in the year is being carefully tended now.

It was a particular joy to celebrate **Candlemas** together, marking the close of the Epiphany season.

Candlemas turns our gaze from the crib towards the cross — from the wonder of Christ's birth to the deeper mystery of his saving love. It reminds us that faith is a journey, and we walk it together.

After much prayer, conversation and discernment, we have also made the decision to bring Tea & Tales to a close. It has a rich and vibrant history, and we are deeply grateful for all the friendships formed, faith nurtures and the care shared through it over the years. However, over the past year it became clear that it was no longer serving our community in quite the way we had hoped. Out of that reflection comes

something new. We are delighted to begin a **Family Drop-In**; a relaxed space where families can quite literally drop in for crafts, games, stories and refreshments. There will be no pressure to arrive at a certain time or stay for the whole session; instead, we hope to offer flexibility for busy family life. Most importantly, we want to create a welcoming environment where relationships can grow, conversations can flow, and parents and carers can chat and refuel.



#### Our Regular Services:

Said Services (no hymns):  
Parish Eucharist (sung):

Sunday 8am  
Sunday 9.30am

Wednesday 10am

#### Website: Socials

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



## Lent Reading: The Book of Mark!

This year we gather to read Mark's Gospel; the shortest and most fast-moving of the four, is full of vivid stories and powerful moments that bring Jesus' life and mission to life. It invites us to walk closely with Jesus, offering a fresh and honest look at what faith can mean in our everyday lives. As we explore Mark's story together, you might discover new encouragement, fresh purpose, and a deeper sense of hope.



## Mothering Sunday

*Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 9.30am*

Mothering Sunday is a day rooted in the idea of returning. Traditionally, it was when people would journey back to their 'Mother Church'—the place where they were baptised or first came to faith. Over time, it has also become a day to reconnect and give thanks for those who have nurtured and supported us, in all kinds of ways.

Whether this day brings joy, sadness, or a mix of both, you are warmly invited to join us. We'll be gathering as a church family to support one another, to give thanks, and to remind ourselves that no one needs to be perfect to belong. Come with or without family, and leave uplifted, encouraged, and perhaps with a gift in hand too!



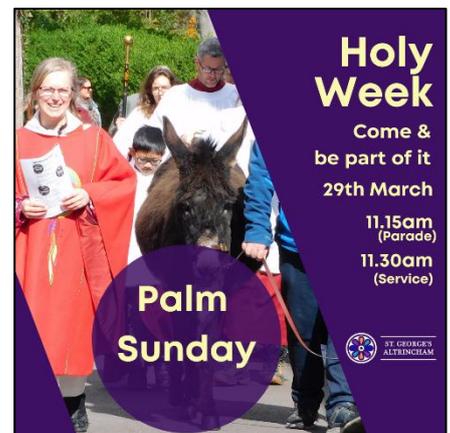
## Palm Sunday

*Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 11.15am.*

This is one of those days to look forward to!

1. We start a bit later!
2. There's a parade
3. It involves a real-life donkey (!)
4. There are some streamers for the children
5. There's a craft sale afterwards
6. It's followed by lunch!

Come and be a part of it!



**Our Regular Services:**

Said Services (no hymns):  
Parish Eucharist (sung):

**Website:**  
**Socials**

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

Sunday 8am  
Sunday 9.30am

Wednesday 10am



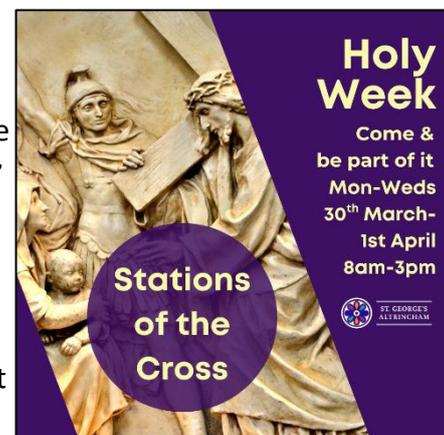
# Holy Week Eucharists & Stations of the Cross

Holy Week invites us, for just one week each year, to pause and walk together as we remember **Christ's journey to the cross**. It's a profoundly moving time—a chance to step away from the rush of daily life and reflect on the heart of our faith.

We'll be holding two **midday Eucharists** (Communion Services) on **Monday 30th March** and **Tuesday 1st April** at **7pm**. These will be simple, quiet services—no hymns, no fuss—lasting around 25 minutes. It's a gentle rhythm that can help keep us anchored as we move through this sacred week.

Throughout Holy Week, the church will also be open from **8am to 3pm**, offering space for you to experience the **Stations of the Cross**. You may have noticed the 14 stations on the interior walls of the church—they trace Jesus' path from his trial before Pilate to the tomb.

You're welcome to move around them at your own pace, using one of our **self-guided reflections**, or simply come in and sit quietly. Whether you walk the stations or simply sit in stillness, you might be surprised by how deeply it speaks to you.



## Maundy Thursday

*Thurs, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 7pm*

Maundy Thursday is a profoundly important day in the Christian year. If you've never been to a Maundy Thursday service before, perhaps this is the year to come and see what makes it so special. On this evening, we gather to remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples—the meal we recall every time we share in the Eucharist. It's a moment of deep reflection, as we remember Christ's love and the way he poured himself out for us.

Traditionally, Maundy Thursday includes the washing of feet, echoing Jesus' act of humble service. For many, this can feel quite personal and uncomfortable, so instead, there will be the gentle invitation to wash your own hands, as a sign of Christ's cleansing and as a quiet act of remembrance.

The service concludes with the Stripping of the Altars, a powerful and moving ritual where all decorations and ornaments are removed from the sanctuary, symbolising the desolation of the approaching cross. It is one of our most striking and unforgettable acts of worship



### Our Regular Services:

Said Services (no hymns):  
Parish Eucharist (sung):

Website:  
Socials

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

Sunday 8am  
Sunday 9.30am

Wednesday 10am



# Good Friday Children's Crafts

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 10am.

There'll be plenty to get stuck into; painting, sticking, building, and even the chance to create your very own **mini Easter Garden**. Whether you love being creative or just fancy getting a bit messy, there'll be something for everyone to enjoy. We'll finish the morning with a **party lunch**, giving you time to relax, chat, and enjoy good company—while we take care of the clearing up! It's a brilliant way to spend a morning with others, get creative, and reflect on the Easter story in a fun and hands-on way.



**Book your space here:**

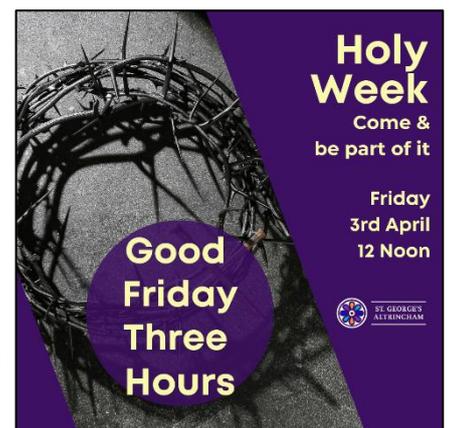
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-georges-church-altrincham>



# Good Friday: 3 Hours at the Cross

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 12 Noon

Join us on Good Friday for the traditional *Three Hours at the Cross*, a time of prayer, reflection, and silence as we journey through the final hours of Jesus' life. This year we are honoured to welcome **The Revd Canon Dr Michael Leyden (BA, MA, MSt, PhD)**, Dean of Emmanuel Theological College, as our speaker. Drawing on his work in character formation, moral leadership, and human agency and responsibility, Dr Leyden will reflect on the searching question: ***“What does success look like on Good Friday?”*** In a world shaped by power, achievement, and visibility, this addresses the profound paradox of the cross and invites us to consider success through the lens of sacrifice, faithfulness, and love. You are welcome to stay for all or part of the three hours.



**Our Regular Services:**

Said Services (no hymns):  
Parish Eucharist (sung):

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

**Website:**  
**Socials**

Sunday 8am  
Sunday 9.30am

Wednesday 10am



# Reflection on the season: 3 Hours at the Cross

In the midst of our busy, often chaotic lives, it can be hard to find space to breathe, reflect, and simply *be*. The Three Hours at the Cross on Good Friday offers us just that: a sacred pause in the middle of everything. Traditionally observed from 12 noon to 3pm, these are the hours during which Jesus hung on the cross (see Matthew 27:45–46). This tradition invites us to step away from our routines and to sit in the stillness, to watch, wait, and be present with Christ.

It's not about filling time, but about making room: for silence, for scripture, for prayer, and for the deep, difficult story at the heart of our faith.

*"From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land... About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'" (Matthew 27:45–46)*

Sometimes, in life and in faith, there are no easy fixes or quick answers. At times, God can feel distant. And often, we are called to sit with the complexity to wait in the unknown. The Three Hours reminds us that the disciples did just that. They didn't understand what was happening. They were grieving, confused, afraid—yet they stayed. And it was in that waiting that God's deepest work was being done.

In a world that often hurries past discomfort, Good Friday teaches us to remain—to trust that God is present even in silence and suffering.

So if you're feeling weary, scattered, or searching, come. Be still. Make space. Stay with the cross. And discover again that even when the answers don't come easily, grace still does.

## SENDtastic Easter Gardens

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April, 4pm.

Many of our services are wonderfully lively and full of activity—but we know that can sometimes feel overwhelming, especially for children with additional needs.

That's why at 4pm we're creating a quieter, more reflective space as we come together to build our Easter Garden—a special and meaningful part of our Easter celebrations. This will be a tactile, hands-on activity, where we'll gently talk about each part of the garden as we place it—from the tomb, to the crosses, to signs of new life. Children can join in at their own pace, engage however they feel comfortable, or simply observe. Whether your child benefits from a calmer environment, or you'd like to explore the Easter story in a slower, more thoughtful way, you are very warmly welcome to be part of it.



### Our Regular Services:

Said Services (no hymns):  
Parish Eucharist (sung):

Website:  
Socials

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

Sunday 8am  
Sunday 9.30am

Wednesday 10am



## Easter Eve

*Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30 pm*

On Holy Saturday, we stand on the threshold of Easter—moving from the silence of the tomb to the joy of resurrection, the moment when death was defeated and history was changed forever.

Join us for a beautiful, traditional service, rich in symbolism and meaning, crafted for all generations. Much of the service takes place by candlelight, creating a powerful atmosphere of anticipation and reflection. Together, we'll renew our baptismal vows, a moving reminder of who we are in Christ.

Steeped in centuries of Christian tradition, this service is full of gravitas, wonder, and visual beauty—captivating for both young and old alike.

As the light grows and joy breaks through, we'll gather outside around the Easter fire, sharing warmth, conversation, and plenty of marshmallows, as the sun sets and Easter begins.

Whether this tradition is familiar to you or something entirely new, you are warmly invited to be part of this sacred evening. It's a moment of hope, light, and life—and one not to be missed.



## Easter Day Celebration!

*Sunday 5th April, 10am*

On Easter Day, everything changes. The tables are turned, the tomb is empty, and the light of Christ shines so brightly that even death itself is defeated. This is the heart of our faith—the moment when hope is renewed, life triumphs over death, and love has the final word. So, we celebrate!

Join us for a joyful all-age service where everyone is welcome, from the youngest to the oldest. The morning will be filled with Easter joy, uplifting music, and moments to celebrate together as a church family. There'll be an Easter Egg hunt for the children, and we'll end with a big celebration finale (confetti cannons are ready!). This is a service where you can bring your whole family, come just as you are, and join in with a community that is full of welcome and warmth. Whether Easter is part of your yearly rhythm, or this would be your first time joining us—you are so welcome. Come and experience the joy, the hope, and the life-changing truth: Christ is risen!



### Our Regular Services:

Said Services (no hymns):  
Parish Eucharist (sung):

Website:  
Socials

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

Sunday 8am  
Sunday 9.30am

Wednesday 10am



# A Quick Guide to Holy Week



## PALM SUNDAY

Jesus, surrounded by a cheering crowds, rides through Jerusalem on a donkey



## HOLY MONDAY

Jesus visits his friends in Bethany & Mary anoints the feet of Jesus



## HOLY TUESDAY

Jesus foretells the betrayal of Judas and the denial of Peter



## HOLY WEDNESDAY

Judas makes a deal with the high priests to turn Jesus over for 30 silver coins



## MAUNDY THURSDAY

The Last Supper takes place in an upper rooms, & Jesus institutes the Eucharist



## GOOD FRIDAY

Jesus is sentenced to death by crucifixion. He died on the cross & was buried in a tomb.



## EASTER EVE

Jesus descends into the Abyss



## EASTER SUNDAY

Jesus rises from the dead!

### Our Regular Services:

Said Services (no hymns):  
Parish Eucharist (sung):

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

Website:  
Socials

Sunday 8am  
Sunday 9.30am

Wednesday 10am



# Lent & Easter 2026



ST. GEORGE'S  
ALTRINCHAM



Sun  
Feb 15th  
10.30am

## Pancake Party!



## Ash Wednesday

Weds, Feb. 18th:

10am & 7pm Church

1.30pm Altrincham Town Centre

## Palm Sunday

Sun, March 29th 11.15am

## Maundy Thursday & Stripping of the Altars

Thurs, April 2nd: 7pm

## Three Hours at the Cross

Fri, April 3rd: 12 Noon

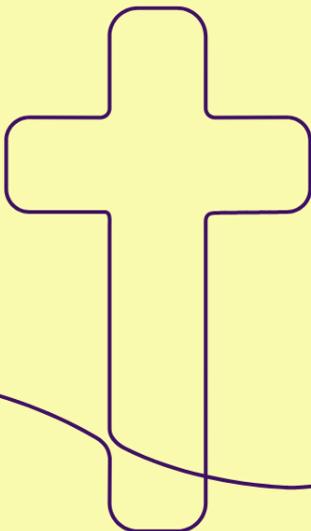
Fri  
April 3rd  
10am

## Easter Crafts!



## Easter Eve & Bonfire

Sat, April 4th: 7.30pm



With  
confetti!



## Easter Day Celebration!

Sun, April 5th: 10am

Our Regular Services:

Said Services (no hymns):  
Parish Eucharist (sung):

<http://www.stgeorgesaltrincham.org>

@StGeorgesAlty

Sunday 8am  
Sunday 9.30am

Wednesday 10am

Website:  
Socials



# CHILDREN

Support & Community  
Toddler Groups  
Music & Movement  
After School groups  
Choirs  
Music theory  
Youth Groups  
Junior Church & Toddler Sessions  
One Off Events

# ADULTS

Choir  
Coffee Morning  
Knit & Natter  
Parlez Vous Francais  
Women's Group  
One off Events



# CHURCH

Sunday Services 8am & 9.30am  
Weds Service 10am  
Weddings  
Christenings  
Confirmation  
Funerals  
Alpha  
Visiting & Home Communion  
Festival Services & Events

## Hire our Spaces!

Whatever the occasion, we are likely to have a space that is perfect for you!

Do get in touch whether it is for a celebration or you're a small company looking for some affordable spaces to rent – whatever your need, hopefully, we might be able to fill it!

There's lots more information here:



## Hire our Spaces



St George's Church,  
Parish Centre &  
Old School Building. WA14 4DB.

<https://www.stgeorgesaltrincham.org/hire-our-spaces-here-at-st-georges-church-altrincham/>



ST. GEORGE'S  
ALTRINCHAM

### Our Regular Services:

Said Services (no hymns):  
Parish Eucharist (sung):

Website:  
Socials

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

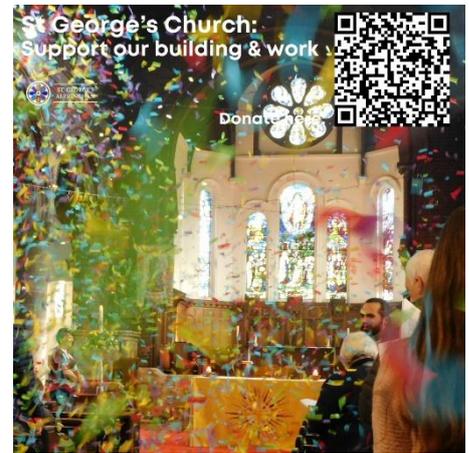
Sunday 8am  
Sunday 9.30am

Wednesday 10am



# Can you help support the life and work of the church?

We wonder if you've ever considered making St George's a charity that you support regularly? As you can see from this bulging newsletter, we work hard to serve our congregation, school and community, and all that we do can only happen thanks to the support of our congregation and friends and supporters. It costs us £3406 to run the church each week – might you be willing to be part of it by contributing to it? No matter how small your donation, every little bit makes a huge difference.



## Our Uniformed Groups

... are utterly wonderful! Not only do the 6<sup>th</sup> Altrincham Scout groups have a really impressive programme for all ages and stages, but they also are a wonderful sight around the church as they use the Old School Building, play games on the lawns and help us maintain our community gardens!

There is a waiting list, so get your child's name on it, and if you'd like to help reduce it, why not volunteer with them? It really will make a difference!

We also have guiding groups that use our site too – from Rainbows right up to Guides: so many options!



## Plant Sale

Our planning for our Summer Fayre in July is well underway! After the success of last year's plant stall, we'd love another one! So if you are a bit green fingered, and fancy growing some plants to sell to help raise money for church funds, we'd love to hear from you!



### Our Regular Services:

Said Services (no hymns):  
Parish Eucharist (sung):

Website:  
Socials

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

Sunday 8am  
Sunday 9.30am

Wednesday 10am



# 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.*

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally is installed as Archbishop of Canterbury on 25 March, the 106<sup>th</sup> archbishop in succession to St Augustine. The service is in Canterbury because this is head cathedral for the southern province of England. (For the northern province, it is York Minster, where all new Archbishops of York are installed). At the installation, Archbishop Sarah swears her oath on a manuscript gospel-book made in Italy in the sixth century and brought to England by St Augustine himself. It has been in Corpus Christi College Cambridge since the time of Elizabeth I, but it is taken to Canterbury for each archbishop's oath-taking. It was also taken to Westminster Abbey for the King's coronation, where it was carried in procession.

Canterbury rather than London is the seat of the southern archbishop for historical reasons. Augustine's mission, sent by Pope Gregory the Great, travelled overland from Italy and, having crossed the Channel, landed in Kent in 597. This landfall, obvious though it was geographically, made sense for political reasons too. At this time England was divided into many small kingdoms. Of these, the kingdom of Kent was particularly well connected with the Merovingian kingdom in the northern part of France, through which Augustine and his companions had just travelled. So he will have known that the pagan king of Kent was married to a Merovingian princess. She was a Christian and, by the marriage agreement, had brought a bishop with her so that she could continue to practise her faith. So this made Kent a good place for the mission to start. With the king's support, Augustine established a cathedral in Canterbury, and there the ecclesiastical seat of the archbishop has always remained. In the mid-tenth century England finally became one kingdom under the kings of Wessex, whose capital had always been Winchester, and it continued to be so until London was made the capital of England by William the Conqueror. By the twelfth century the archbishops had come to recognise the benefit of being present in London, at least for part of the time, and so they established the residence of Lambeth Palace just across the river from the king and parliament in Westminster. It is here that the archbishop lives and works in his (now her) capacity as archbishop. The day-to-day business of the Canterbury diocese — as distinct from the overarching work of the archbishop — is delegated these days to the Bishop of Dover.

The date chosen for the installation is 25 March, the Feast of the Annunciation, or Lady Day as it is sometimes called. This has all kinds of symbolic resonances. It is, of course, one of the great feasts of Mary, and so is a particularly apt day for the installation of our first female archbishop. This is a new step for the Church of England, and the service of installation is being held on the day when, nine months before the Nativity, we celebrate Jesus's conception, the most momentous new beginning of all. Furthermore, before 1 January was universally accepted as new year's day, 25 March was often counted as the beginning of the year. In Roman times it had been the start of the tax year. More cheerfully, it is close to the spring equinox, when we enjoy the new birth of springtime and energising pleasure of enjoying more light than darkness each day. So 25 March has a great deal going for it as the date for the installation of our new archbishop.

## Our Regular Services:

Said Services (no hymns):  
Parish Eucharist (sung):

Sunday 8am  
Sunday 9.30am

Wednesday 10am

Website:  
Socials

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



# SOCIAL EVENTS

Come & be part of it all!



ST. GEORGE'S  
ALTRINCHAM

Date	Events
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Quiz Night
Sat. 7th Sep	Back to Church Sun Cream Tea & Garden Games
Sun. 4th Oct	Harvest Supper & Barn Dance
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Halloween Light Stop
Sat 29 <sup>th</sup> 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 26th June	Altrincham Festival
TBC July	Teddy Bear's Picnic @ John Leigh Park
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Fayre

Our Regular Services:

Said Services (no hymns):  
Parish Eucharist (sung):

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

Sunday 8am  
Sunday 9.30am

Wednesday 10am

Website:  
Socials

