

News from your Church of England Parish Church

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November: A month to remember and get prepared!



November is always a month of Remembrance here at St George's, as it is in many Anglican churches, and this year has felt especially meaningful. We began with our Memorial Service. This year we read out more than a hundred names of those whom we have loved and lost. As each name was spoken, a candle was lit—a simple yet powerful act that filled the church

with a soft glow of memory, gratitude, and hope.

Remembrance Sunday followed, widening our reflections as we remembered those who gave their lives in conflict. We were deeply grateful to Anne Moorhouse for her beautiful trumpet playing, which brought both dignity and poignancy to the service, and to the various Scouting Groups who joined us—the children were absolutely amazing in such a formal setting. It was also wonderful to see our young people engaging in their Junior Church session, with special thanks to Michael Rowley for sharing his lived experience of service.

As the month moved on, our focus began to shift toward anticipation. Christmas preparations quietly gathered pace: copious numbers of candles appeared, rehearsals kicked up a gear, and the church started to feel a little

busier and a little brighter—ready for our Christmas Fayre, which will launch Advent on Saturday 29th November. Our Messy Café, wonderfully led by Dee, added to the growing sense of joyful energy, with plenty of crafts, plenty of mess, and even more smiling faces!



Our Regular Services:

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

Sunday 8am
Sunday 9.30am

Wednesday 10am

Website:
Socials

<http://www.stgeorgesaltrincham.org>
[@StGeorgesAlty](https://www.instagram.com/StGeorgesAlty)





The Posada returns! *End of Nov-Dec*

We're delighted that the children at Altrincham Primary School will once again be taking part in the lovely tradition of the *Posada*—with special thanks to Miss Stevens for making it happen! Originally from South America, the *Posada* involves small figures of Mary, Joseph, and the donkey making their way from home to home in the lead-up to Christmas. It's a beautiful way to reflect on how we welcome others and show hospitality in our lives. Each class has their own *Posada* kit, and children are being invited to bring it home for a night. If it arrives at your door, we hope you'll enjoy hosting the Holy Family—perhaps with a story, a little prayer, or just a moment of calm. And don't forget to snap a photo of them in their temporary home and share it with us—we'd love to see it!



Alty Trebles: Come and sing at Christmas!

Mondays, 3.20pm @ Altrincham Primary School

Here's a lovely snapshot from last year's *Carols by Candlelight*—one of the most magical and memorable services in our calendar, brought to life by our fantastic children's choir!



There's still time for your children to join our choir and be part of these iconic services and build some wonderful memories for life! What do you need to know? In a nutshell:

- ★ It's free, It's great!
- ★ It's led by Aidan, a Master's Student at RNCM. All adults fully DBSed and Safeguarding trained.
- ★ Open to all children in KS2 (from all schools)



Advent Trail, *December, @John Leigh Park*

The Advent Trail is Back – with a Fresh New Twist!

We're thrilled to be teaming up once again with Altrincham Baptist Church for the return of the much-loved *Advent Trail* at John Leigh Park – and this year, it's had a brilliant revamp! Come and explore brand-new stations as we journey through the heart of the Christmas story together. It's a great way to entertain the kids, spark some thoughtful moments, and snap a few joyful photos along the way! **Top tips:**



- 🧣 Wrap up warm
- 🔦 If you're heading out later in the afternoon, don't forget a torch!

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Festival Choir *Fridays, 7.30pm*

Sung in a Choir Before – But Not Currently In One?

Looking for a Feel-Good Way to Sing This Christmas?

If you've missed the joy and sense of wellbeing that come from singing with others, our Festival Choir offers a welcoming, low-commitment way to get back into it. Come and be part of our rehearsals in December, and then lift your voice with us at our Carols by Candlelight service on Saturday 20th December. Whether you're an experienced choral singer or someone who simply loves Christmas music, we'd be delighted to have you — and your harmonies — back in the mix.



Christmas Fayre

Saturday 29th November, 2-5pm, Church



ITS NEARLY HERE!

Get ready for a festive day full of joy, community, and Christmas cheer! Whether you're looking for perfect gifts, delicious treats, or simply a lovely way to soak up the holiday spirit, we've got it all waiting for you:

Stalls galore — browse an amazing variety of gifts, crafts, and festive goodies perfect for everyone on your list!

Live music — enjoy wonderful tunes and carols that will lift your spirits and get you singing along.

Santa's Grotto — the perfect spot for little ones to meet Santa and share their Christmas wishes!

Delicious food — warm up with tasty treats and seasonal favourites from our fantastic food stalls.

And above all, the **warm, welcoming atmosphere of our church community**—a place full of friendship, kindness, and festive joy. Bring your family, friends, neighbours—and don't forget to spread the word! This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate together and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Tickets for Santa's Grotto here:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-georges-church-altrincham



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Toy Donation Service

Sunday, 30th November 9.30am



A lot of us have experienced the sparkle of Christmas morning—especially for children, eagerly unwrapping gifts. But for many families nearby, this season can feel anything but magical.

That's why we're partnering with *The Hope Centre* in Partington to collect **new, unwrapped presents** for children and young people aged **0–18** who might not otherwise receive anything this year.

We'd love you to be part of this. You can drop your gift off in advance, or bring it along to our fun, all-age Christmas service. It's a chance to celebrate together—and make a real difference in someone's life.



Toy Donation Service!

0–3 yrs: dolls, teddy bears, cot mobiles, baby clothes, bath toys, puzzles

3–5: dolls and action figures, cars, lorries, colouring sets, pencils, crayons, books, puzzles

5–9: educational games & toys, stationery (colouring sets, pencils, crayons, school sets), books, puzzles, wordsearch, crosswords

9–12: games and toys, stationery, books, t-shirts, hair accessories, gloves, scarves, hats

13–16: books, make-up and toiletries (please try to ensure non-allergic ingredients if possible), gloves, scarves, hats, t-shirts, hair accessories and gift vouchers

Sunday 30th Nov 9.30 am



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Children's Party, Sunday, 7th December 1pm

- Hall: Booked
- Children's party hosts: Booked
- Food: Ordered
- Madness & Fun: Guaranteed!

What better way to get your children into the Christmas spirit than with this fabulous festive party?

Join Dee & Nick for the *party of the year!* With exciting games, lively music, tasty food, and a special visit from Santa himself, it's the

perfect chance for your little ones to have a blast, get messy, and leave the tidying up to us!

Designed for primary-aged children (Reception and above), but younger siblings are very welcome too. Places are just **£5 per child** (accompanying adults come free). And as always, if money's tight, please don't hesitate to get in touch—we want everyone to join in the fun!

Come along, make memories, and kick off Christmas in the best possible way!

Book here: www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-georges-church-altrincham

We are anticipating this to be very busy, so get your tickets below before they all sell out!



Quiet Christmas Sunday, 7th December, 7pm

A Space for Peace and Reflection

For some, Christmas can be a difficult or overwhelming time.

Whether you are carrying grief, feeling the weight of life's struggles, or simply longing for a gentler, quieter space amidst the season's busyness, you are warmly invited to our Quiet Christmas Service.

This will be a simple, peaceful gathering with soft music, candlelight, space for reflection, and words of hope. No pressure, no expectations—just a time to pause, breathe, and be reminded that the heart of Christmas is Emmanuel: God with us, even in the hardest of seasons.

Whether this Christmas feels joyful or challenging, you are welcome just as you are.



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Nativity Journey Returns! *Saturday 13th December 12:30-4.00pm*

After such a fantastic response last year, we're absolutely delighted to be teaming up once again with *Altrincham BID* for our *Nativity Journey* in the town centre—back and even better for its second year!

With a brilliant cast of actors from the *Garrick Theatre*, come and meet your favourite Nativity characters brought to life—from Mary and Joseph to the Innkeeper and his wife, the Shepherds, the Three Kings, Angel Gabriel... and even King Herod!

Follow the interactive trail, collect clues, and then gather together for a short performance and carols to celebrate the heart of the Christmas story.

Don't miss this joyful and faith-filled retelling of the Nativity—right in the heart of town!



-  **Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus & their Donkey**
Stamford Square, QA14 1SG
-  **The Shepherds & their sheep**
Bounceback Food Community Kitchem, 1 Central Way,
Altrincham Market, WA14 1SB
-  **The Three Kings**
Altrincham Interchange, Stamford New Road, WA14 1EN
-  **Inn Keeper & his wife**
Inn Court, Railway Street, WA14 2RD
-  **Angel Gabriel & the star**
Nell's Pizza, 2 George St, WA14 1SG
-  **King Herod**
OYEZ Arts, Altrincham Town Hall, WA14 4PF

 In Partnership with
 **Altrincham BID**
 **ST. GEORGE'S
ALTRINCHAM**



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Pop-Up Nativity

Sunday, 14th December 4pm

Get Ready for a Nativity Like No Other!

It's lively, it's fun, and yes — it even features a *real-life donkey*! Join us for a truly unforgettable Nativity experience that brings the Christmas story to life in the most joyful way.

Come dressed as your favourite Nativity character—or if you prefer, borrow one of our costumes! And don't worry, adults are

more than welcome to join in the fun too. In fact, action heroes and unexpected characters are more than invited—you'd be amazed how wonderfully they fit into our Nativity story!

Whether you're a shepherd, an angel, a king, or a superhero, come ready to be amazed and to celebrate the true wonder of Christmas together.

Bring your family, bring your friends—and get ready for a joyful, heartwarming celebration that everyone will remember!



Advent Trail @ Stamford Park!

From December 6th @ Stamford Park

Looking for a fun, festive activity for the whole family this holiday season? Our Stamford Park **Christmas Trail** is the perfect way to get everyone outdoors, exploring, and enjoying a bit of seasonal cheer together.

Follow the clues around Stamford Park, discover each new stop, and piece together the secret message — it's simple, engaging, and suitable for all ages. Trails are just **£2 each**, and everyone who completes the trail receives a lovely festive prize, making it even more exciting for children and adults alike.

It's a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time as a family, enjoy the fresh air, and soak up the festive atmosphere. So gather your loved ones, put on your coats and hats, and join us in spreading a little Christmas sparkle throughout the park. We can't wait to see you there!



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Carols by Candlelight

Saturday 20th December 7pm, Church

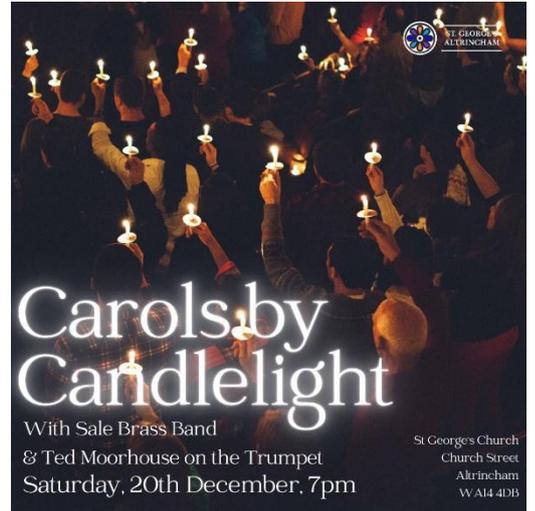
We're thrilled to once again welcome the wonderful **Sale Brass Band**, with soloist **Edward Moorhouse** on trumpet and **Russell Medley** on the organ, for one of the most special evenings in our Christmas calendar.

Step into a church glowing with candlelight, filled with the sound of your favourite carols and traditional readings. This cherished service is a joyful celebration of the season, combining music, stillness, and story in a way that stirs the heart.

With brass, organ, and a touch of magic from our talented musicians, it's the perfect way to pause, reflect, and truly enter the wonder of Christmas.

And of course, we'll finish in style—with **mince pies and mulled wine** to share together.

Bring friends, bring family, and come and be part of a truly special evening.



Carols in the Park



Sunday 21st December 4.30pm, John Leigh Park

We're delighted to be partnering once again with **Altrincham Baptist Church** and **John Leigh Park** for this much-loved festive tradition: **Carols in the Park!**

Join us under the stars in the beautiful, wintry setting of the park as we sing some of your favourite Christmas carols together. There's something truly special about raising your voice in the open air, surrounded by community, candlelight, and the sound of Christmas.

So wrap up warm, bring a torch or lantern, and come be part of this joyful outdoor celebration—a firm favourite for families and friends alike.



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Christingle: TWO services!

Christmas Eve, 2pm & 4pm



There's no better way to mark the wonder and warmth of **Christmas Eve** than by joining us for a **Christingle service**—and after last year's amazing turnout, we're excited to offer **two services** this year to make sure there's space for everyone!

Step into a candlelit church, sing your favourite carols, and share in the beauty of this much-loved tradition. With glowing Christingles, joyful music, and a message of hope, these services are a perfect way for families to come together and pause in the midst of the Christmas excitement.

Whether it's your first time or a cherished tradition, Christingle is an experience that creates memories to last a lifetime.

Bring the whole family, invite friends—and come be part of something truly special this Christmas Eve.



Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve, 11.30pm



There are few moments in the year as profound and peaceful as this: gathering in the stillness of Christmas Eve, as the clock strikes midnight, to welcome the birth of Christ.

This traditional Midnight Communion is more than a service—it's a shared moment of awe, reflection, and reverence. In a world that often feels uncertain and ever-changing, this sacred night invites us to pause, to breathe, and to remember the world-changing hope found in Jesus' birth.

Come and be part of this iconic and deeply moving service as we step into Christmas Day together, holding on to the light that no darkness can overcome.

All are welcome. Come as you are, and share in the wonder.



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Christmas Day 25th December, 10am



Step into the wonder of Christmas morning and join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ—God with us, the Light of the World, and the hope for all eternity.

In the stillness and excitement of Christmas Day, we gather as one family—young and old—to rejoice in the most extraordinary gift ever given. With carols, joy, and a message full of hope, this uplifting service is a beautiful way to begin your celebrations.

Whether you're wide awake or still in your slippers, come just as you are. Bring the family, bring the joy, and be part of a moment that lifts our eyes and hearts to something greater.

Let's begin Christmas Day not just with presents, but with presence — celebrating the one at the heart of it all.



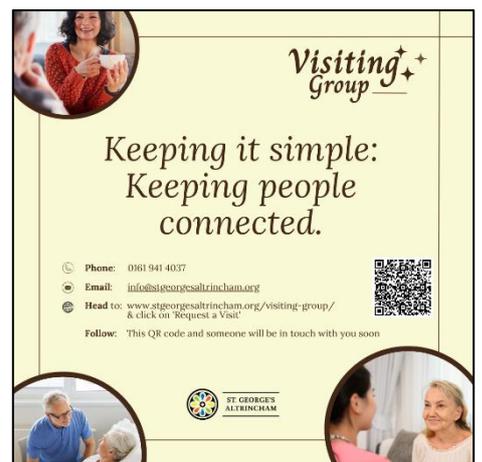
Visiting Group

While Christmas can be a season full of joy, we also know it can be a difficult and tender time for many—especially for those who are grieving, feeling lonely, or carrying burdens quietly.

At church, we want to acknowledge that and walk alongside you. Our **Blue Christmas Tree** is here where you can add someone's name as a way space to remember loved ones who are missed, and to honour the emotions that this season can stir.

We also have a **Visiting Group**—a small team of kind-hearted people who are here to offer a listening ear, a friendly chat, or simply the gift of company over a cup of tea. You don't need to be part of our church to reach out—we're here for anyone in the community who needs a bit of extra care this Christmas.

If you're struggling, or if you know someone who might welcome a visit or a phone call, **please do let us know**. We're not counsellors, but we are trained to listen well, to be present, and to help connect people with support if needed.



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Weekly Groups continue!



The term might be a busy one, but don't forget that **our midweek groups are still going strong**, and you're always welcome to come and be part of them.

Whether you're looking for connection, support, spiritual growth, or just a good cuppa, there's something happening midweek for every age and stage:



 **For little ones and their grown-ups:** We've got friendly and fun **toddler and young family groups**—a chance to play, chat, and build friendships.

 **For children and teens:** Our **youth groups and Bible studies** offer a space to explore faith, ask questions, and just be themselves.

 **For adults:** Come along to **Knit & Natter, Coffee Break, Soup Lunch**, or our **Women's Fellowship**—great opportunities to relax, connect, and share life together.

These groups aren't just "extras"—they're where real community happens in the everyday.

So if you're looking for encouragement, friendship, or simply a reason to step out of the house, we'd love to see you.

Find full details on the website or speak to one of the team—we're always happy to help you find the right place to plug in.



Would 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.



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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 title of this month's article, as I'm sure everyone will recognise, is from the opening of a popular Christmas carol: *Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen*. Wenceslas was Prince and Duke of Bohemia from 931 to probably 935, when he was assassinated by his younger brother. Almost immediately he was held up as a heroic ruler of great virtue, whose death was regarded as a martyrdom. The story familiar to us captures his determination, piety, kindness and generosity. It has its origins in the words of the chronicler Cosmas of Prague who, in c. 1119, wrote, 'no one doubts that, rising every night from this noble bed, with bare feet and only one chamberlain, he went around to God's churches and gave alms generously to widows, orphans, those in prison and afflicted by every difficulty, so much so that he was considered, not a prince, but the father of all the wretched'. The words of the carol were published by an American, John Mason Neale, in 1853. It's wholly imaginative, but its vivid details capture the essence of Wenceslas's virtue as a ruler, for which he is venerated in the Czech Republic.

Mason's poem presents a scene that takes place in the depths of winter, 'on the feast of Stephen', celebrated on 26 December. Stephen is the church's protomartyr, or first martyr (Greek πρῶτος, *prōtos*, 'first'). Our only information about him is in the Acts of the Apostles, chapters 6-8. There we learn that Hellenistic (Greek-speaking) Jews who were following the new teachings of Christ began to grumble that the widows of their community were doing less well from the daily distribution of food than those of the Hebraic Jews. So the twelve Apostles proposed that the growing number of those who were busy with this distribution should appoint seven men 'full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom' who could be relied upon to oversee fair distribution. Stephen was one of these: his Greek name suggests that he was himself a member of the Hellenistic community. The seven were then blessed by the Apostles in an act that later came to be understood as ordaining them as deacons, and so they began their work. Stephen is singled out as being a miracle-worker, full of faith and inspired by the Holy Spirit. But there were members of certain synagogues who challenged Stephen's new Christian teaching. When it proved impossible to defeat him in debate, they orchestrated more hostility against him, made use of false testimony, and had him seized and brought before the Sanhedrin on a charge of blasphemy against Moses. Most of Acts chapter 7 is taken up with Stephen's defence, strongly supporting the ministry of Jesus as a fulfilment of Jewish history and teaching, not a destruction of it. He concludes with a rousing condemnation of the Jews for resisting the Holy Spirit in a manner he describes as 'stiff-necked'. This angered the crowd even more, and so they took him outside the city and stoned him to death, with Stephen committing himself to God as he died, and begging God to forgive them for what they were doing. A young man, by the name of Saul, stood and watched, looking after the cloaks of those doing the stoning. At the time, he was a vigorous persecutor of those who followed the new faith. But he later underwent a dramatic conversion and, as Paul, became one of the great leaders of the early church.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Come & be part of it @ St George's Church!

Dec-early Jan: Advent Trails Sun 14th Dec: **Pop-Up Nativity**
(@Stamford Park & John Leigh Park, in partnership with Altrincham Baptist Church) 4 pm

Sat 29th Nov: Christmas Fayre Sat 20th Dec: **Carols by Candlelight**
2-5 pm 7 pm

Sun 30th Nov: Toy Donation Service Sun 21st Dec: **Carols in the Park**
9.30 am 4.30 pm
(@John Leigh Park, in partnership with Altrincham Baptist Church)

Sun 7th Dec: Children's Christmas Party Weds 24th Dec: **Christingle**
1 pm 2 pm & 4 pm
Quiet Christmas 7pm **Midnight Mass** 11.30 pm

Sat 13th Dec: Nativity Journey Thurs 25th Dec: **Christmas Day**
12.30-4pm 10 am
(@Stamford Quarter, Town Centre, in partnership with Altrincham BID)

Sun 4th Jan: Epiphany
Chalking the Doors 9.30 am

JOY



For more information head to www.stgeorgesaltrincham.org



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SOCIAL EVENTS

Come & be part of it all!



ST. GEORGE'S
ALTRINCHAM

Date	Events
Sat 6 th Sept	Quiz Night
Sat. 7th Sep	Back to Church Sun Cream Tea & Garden Games
Sun. 4th Oct	Harvest Supper & Barn Dance
Fri 31 st Oct	Halloween Light Stop
Sat 29 th 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 27th June	Altrincham Festival
TBC July	Teddy Bear's Picnic @ John Leigh Park
Sun 12 th July	Summer Fayre

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