

## News from your Church of England Parish Church

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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)

## Happy New Year!

### A December to Remember: Faith, Joy & Festivities

A Happy New Year to one and all!



We pray that 2026 will be a year of blessing, peace, and joy for you and those you love.

December certainly brought plenty of joy to St George's — fitting, really, as the Church of England's Christmas theme this year was exactly that: *Joy!* There's lots more about our Christmas services and events below, but let's begin by celebrating our brilliant friends at Altrincham Primary School. Two moments stand out as real memory-makers: the KS1 Nativity and the School Posada.

The KS1 Nativity is months in the making. For over a week, the church is transformed — a stage is built, rehearsals fill the space, and anticipation grows as the children prepare for what truly feels like the show of a lifetime. Huge thanks to the dedicated teachers who pour time, energy and love into every detail — their care is what makes it all happen.

The church looked magical, with towering Christmas trees and fairy lights strung across the ceiling — a setting as special as the performance itself. And what a performance it was... not a dry eye in the house! Then came the School Posada, a deeply meaningful Advent tradition — and our thanks go to Miss Stevens for enabling it to happen once again. The Posada helps us remember the journey of Mary and Joseph — themselves vulnerable and displaced, seeking shelter as Mary prepared to give birth. As the Posada figures move from home to home during Advent, children and their families are encouraged to reflect on those today who are without a home, relying on the kindness of others. A powerful reminder of what the Christmas story is all about.

#### Our Regular Services:

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

Sunday 8am  
Sunday 9.30am

Wednesday 10am

Website:  
Socials

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





## Gift for Advent & an Advent Trail

Known previously as 'Knit for Advent' this year this popular giveaway took a whole new turn – and so MANY thank to everyone who made it happen!

Once again, we teamed up with Altrincham Baptist Church (ABC) and John Leigh Park to help add some hope and meaning to the Christmas walks, along with a brand new Nativity Trail at Stamford Park!



## Christmas Fayre!

Now in its third year at the church, the Christmas Fair just keeps going from strength to strength!

A *huge* thank you to the brilliant team of volunteers who make it all happen – from Altrincham Primary's ever-impressive PTA to our own wonderful crew of church helpers. It simply wouldn't be possible without your time, energy and good humour.

The church looked fantastic, the stalls were bursting with festive cheer, and the atmosphere was nothing short of joyful. Special thanks to @, @ and @ for bringing such warmth and spirit – you really did lift the whole event!



## Presents near & Far

"Times have changed" is a phrase we've probably heard for generations – but with Christmas now so often framed as a 'picture perfect' day, it feels all the more important to begin the season by remembering those for whom it can be especially difficult.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated toys for the Hope Centre in Partington or filled shoebox full of gifts for Romania. Your generosity will have brought joy – and smiles – where they might otherwise have been missing. A particular thanks to Helen Stant for a masterclass of organisation!

What a beautiful way to share the joy of Christmas this year.



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Wednesday 10am



## Nativity Journey

What a privilege it was to join Altrincham BID and the Garrick Theatre for the second year of the Nativity Journey!

Last year, the cancellation of the lantern parade (thanks to the weather!) meant the afternoon suddenly became a much bigger event than expected – but this year, it was all part of the plan!

A big thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy to make it happen. There were so many lovely conversations, excited children, and footfall to the town centre rose by @@ too!



## A Pop-Up Nativity & A Children's Party!

Now in its fourth year, our Pop-Up Nativity has truly become a much-loved part of life at St George's – and it never fails to bring joy (and a good bit of laughter!). A big thank you to everyone who came along and made it such a joyful occasion – especially those brave enough to dress up, to the two donkeys for their star performance, and of course to Janice for her fantastic costumes. We *almost* looked professional... though perhaps a few more rehearsals wouldn't hurt before we start claiming that title!

The week before, we had our wonderful Children's party led by the ever energetic and fun Dee & Nick – full of games, dancing and food, it really did bring the day to a close in style.

We're already looking forward to next year's scratch Nativity & party – same times, same spirit, special memories!!



## Two Wonderful Carol Services!

Our *Carols by Candlelight* has become a much-loved tradition here at St George's, and this year's service was no exception. A huge thank you to Sale Brass Band, Ted & Anne Moorhouse, James Watkins and Aidan McCusker for helping to lift the music, and the atmosphere, into something truly special. Just a day later, we experienced a very different but equally beautiful gathering as we joined with ABC for *Carols in the Park* on John Leigh Park. Surrounded by trees, fairy lights, and the friendly buzz of community, it was a real joy to sing together in such a lovely ABC for— and the weather even kind to us too!

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## Christingles Galore & a Midnight Mass

There's something truly special about gathering together on Christmas Eve – a feeling that can't quite be matched anywhere else. Our two services, Christingle and Midnight Mass, provided a wonderful way to welcome Christmas Day.

We were genuinely bowled over by the number of people who came to our Christingle service, especially after adding an extra one last year. It's such a privilege to bring so many together on this incredibly meaningful night!

Our Midnight Mass offered a different, yet equally beautiful, experience. With the gentle glow of candles and the soft scent of incense lingering in the air, we welcomed Christmas Day in a way that felt both sacred and joyful – a memory that stayed with us long after the service ended.

## Christmas Day and Beyond



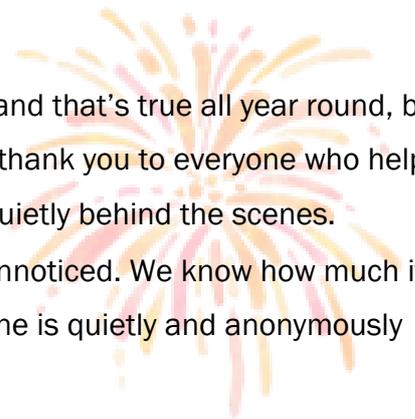
Other than Easter Day, there is nothing quite like Christmas Day in our yearly calendar. It's a time to celebrate the amazing truth that Christ came to be *among us, as us, and with us* – the invisible God made visible, one with his people. This powerful image never fails to move our hearts.

Thank you to everyone who gathered to celebrate this special day with us. As we step into 2026, we pray that we may find renewed strength and hope in the story of that small baby, born far from home, who would go on to change our world and bring joy to us all.

## A Thank you to all our Volunteers!

Church simply couldn't happen without a whole army of volunteers – and that's true all year round, but especially at Christmas, when their support is absolutely vital. A *huge* thank you to everyone who helped make the season so special – whether you were up front or working quietly behind the scenes.

We want to offer a particular thanks to those whose efforts often go unnoticed. We know how much it means that so many things 'just happen' seamlessly, because someone is quietly and anonymously making it happen.



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# And now — here comes 2026!

January is upon us, calling us into a brand new year.  
Why don't you come and be part of it all?



## The Epiphany Blessing: 'May Christ Bless this House'

This is the one tradition that keeps people talking all year – a legitimate invitation to graffiti our doors (with removable chalk!)

Epiphany is the church's celebration of the Magi — often called the 'Three Wise Men' (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar) — visiting Jesus, marking the moment when Christ was revealed to the wider world.

One beautiful tradition linked to Epiphany is the *Epiphany Blessing*, a prayer said over our homes each year.

This involves drawing simple symbols on the doorframe using blessed chalk, in a practice known as

'chalking the door'. The symbols represent the names of the Magi, with the year written at the beginning and end, together forming the Latin phrase *Christus mansionem benedicat* — "May Christ bless this house."

This year, Epiphany falls on Sunday, 4th January, and it's a wonderful reminder that our faith touches every part of our lives — including our homes. Just as the Magi welcomed Jesus, so we are called to welcome all who come through our doors.

We'll be handing out cards and chalk at our Sunday services on the 4th. If you can't make it but would like some chalk and a blessing card, please do get in touch — we'd be happy to bring some to you.



Use the chalk & mark the following above or near your front door:  
**20 + C + M + B + 26**  
 4  
 as you pray:  
 The Wise Men, traditionally called Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, followed the star of God's Son who became man two thousand and twenty-four years ago.  
 May Christ bless our home and remain with us throughout the new year. Amen.

Then you can also pray:  
 God of Light, bless this home.  
 Make it be a place of rest for all in need of your warmth and care.  
 Bless it and all who live or visit here with the gift of your love;  
 and grant that we may show your love to each other and all whose lives we touch.  
 Lord Jesus Christ, be with us now and for ever.  
 Amen.

Church Street, Altrincham, WA14 4DB  
 www.stgeorgesaltrincham.org  
 @St GeorgesAlty




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Guest Speaker:

## Zoë Abernethy from Christian Aid



January 11<sup>th</sup> 2026, 9.30am

Each January, we invite a guest speaker to share with us the work they're doing and how we might support it.

This year, we're delighted to welcome **Zoe Abernethy** from **Christian Aid**, who will be speaking about the charity's vital work and how they're responding to an ever-changing global landscape.

It promises to be a thoughtful and inspiring opportunity to learn more about the challenges faced around the world — and how we can play a part in making a difference.

**Guest Speaker**  
Zoë Abernethy



**9.30am 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

ST. GEORGE'S ALTRINCHAM



**St George's Choir**  
**Fridays, 7.30pm**

**Term Time**  
**No experience required!**

ST. GEORGE'S ALTRINCHAM

**Our Children's Choir**

**ALTY TREBLES!**

**MON, 3.20PM, SUN 8.30AM**

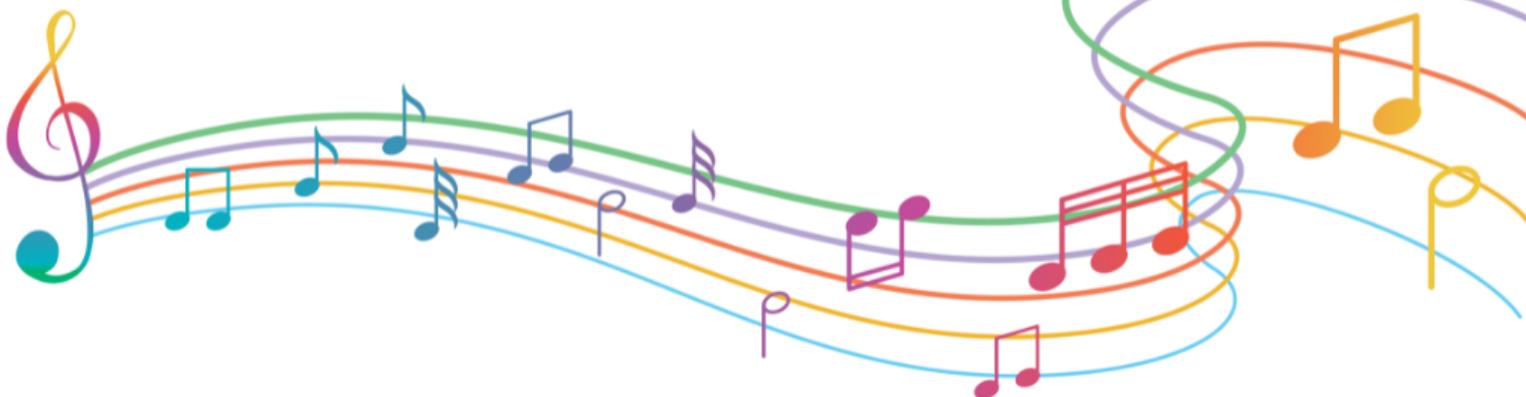


**VOICE FOR LIFE**

**LEARN HOW TO SING GET REWARDED!**

**SING AT EASTER!**

ST. GEORGE'S ALTRINCHAM



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Wednesday 10am



# A Reflection On The Season

## A New Year, a Living Hope

A new year often begins with a blank page — quickly filled with hopeful resolutions and goals for the months ahead. Many are light-hearted (“eat less chocolate”), but I wonder how many of us also carry quieter, deeper hopes into the year?

For Christians, we’re invited to begin not only with resolutions or routines, but with *hope* — not a hope based on willpower, planning, or circumstance, but a hope rooted in Christ.

The apostle Peter writes: *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”* (1 Peter 1:3).

This “living hope” is what gives Christian joy its depth. It’s not shallow optimism or forced cheerfulness, or declaring everything is fine where it is not, but something much deeper and far more enduring: a resilient confidence in the goodness of God — even in uncertain times. It’s the kind of joy that quietly endures, that walks alongside grief, and that grows stronger when shared.

As Christians, we are called to be *carriers* of this hope — not only in our words, but in our actions.

What might it look like this year for each of us to play a hope-filled role in our community? To listen more deeply, serve more freely, and love more generously?

St Paul reminds us: *“You are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it”* (1 Corinthians 12:27). The work of the Church — the work of hope — is not for a few, but for all of us.

So as 2026 unfolds, may we seek joy not just in receiving, but in giving. And may our homes, our church, and our community be places where living hope takes root — and flourishes.



**Visiting Group**

Keeping it simple:  
Keeping people  
connected.

Phone: 0161 941 4037  
Email: [info@stgeorgesaltrincham.org](mailto:info@stgeorgesaltrincham.org)  
Head to: [www.stgeorgesaltrincham.org/visiting-group/](http://www.stgeorgesaltrincham.org/visiting-group/)  
& click on 'Request a Visit'  
Follow: This QR code and someone will be in touch with you soon

ST GEORGE'S  
ALTRINCHAM



**Knit & Natter**

Make new friends, see old ones!

Thursdays, 1.30pm  
Vicarage

ST GEORGE'S  
ALTRINCHAM

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# Messy Café!

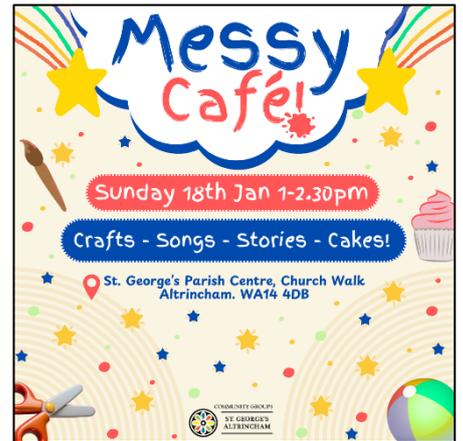
January 18th, 1.30pm

Looking for a fun, creative, and family-friendly way to explore faith together? Messy Café is the perfect place for you!

We gather for crafts, games, stories, songs, and cake, all designed to help children and adults alike discover more about God in a relaxed, hands-on, and fun environment.

Whether your part of a church or just curious to come along, you'll be very welcome. No need to book—just bring yourselves (and maybe a friend!) and be ready to get a little bit messy!

All ages welcome, but especially suited for families with primary school-aged children.



## 2026 begins!

@St George's, Altrincham

### Mid-Week Groups return dates:

Junior Church	Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Tots & Tales	Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Parlez Vous Francais	Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Twist & Tales	Weds 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Soup Lunch	Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Knit & Natter	Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Pathway Youth Group	Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Choir of St George's	Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Alty Tebles Choir	Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Tea & Tales	Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan

Services continue as normal.

## Come & be a part of it!

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# 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

## Thursday Soup Lunch

LUNCH  
WARMTH  
COMPANY



12.30-1.30PM

ST GEORGE'S VICARAGE  
CHURCH WALK  
OFF TOWNSFIELD ROAD  
ALTRINCHAM  
WA14 4DB



## SCHOOL RUN CUPPA



# HARBOUR



A space for parents of SEND children.  
Friendship, support & hot drinks!

FRIDAYS, TERM TIME  
9AM-10.30ISH

Our Regular Services:

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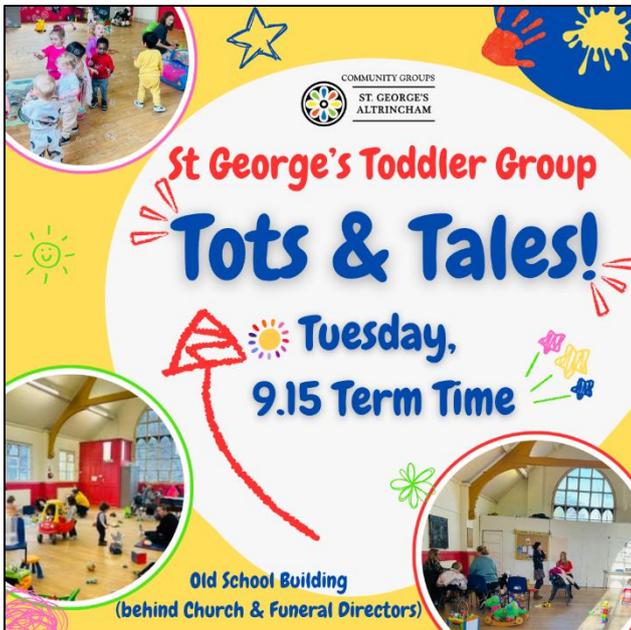
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COMMUNITY GROUPS  
ST. GEORGE'S  
ALTRINCHAM

**St George's Toddler Group**  
**Tots & Tales!**

Tuesday,  
9.15 Term Time

Old School Building  
(behind Church & Funeral Directors)

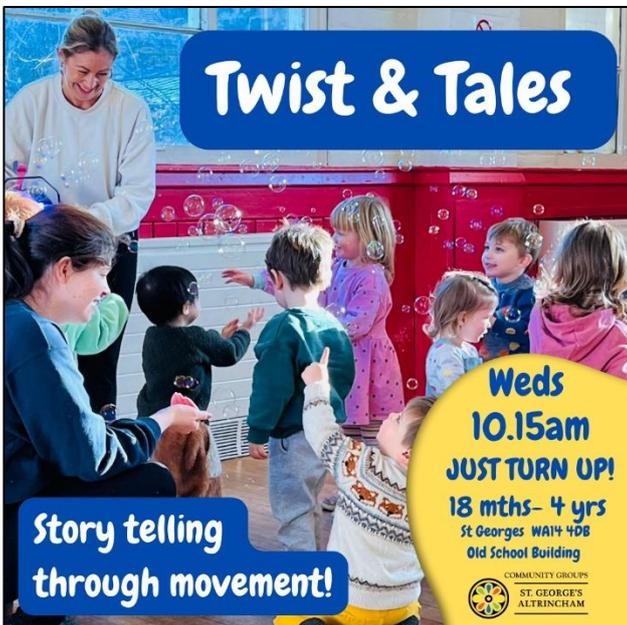


**TEA & TALES**

ST. GEORGE'S  
ALTRINCHAM

Tuesdays:  
3.30-4.30  
Term Time

Stories, Crafts  
Songs, Games,  
Toast &  
Crumpets

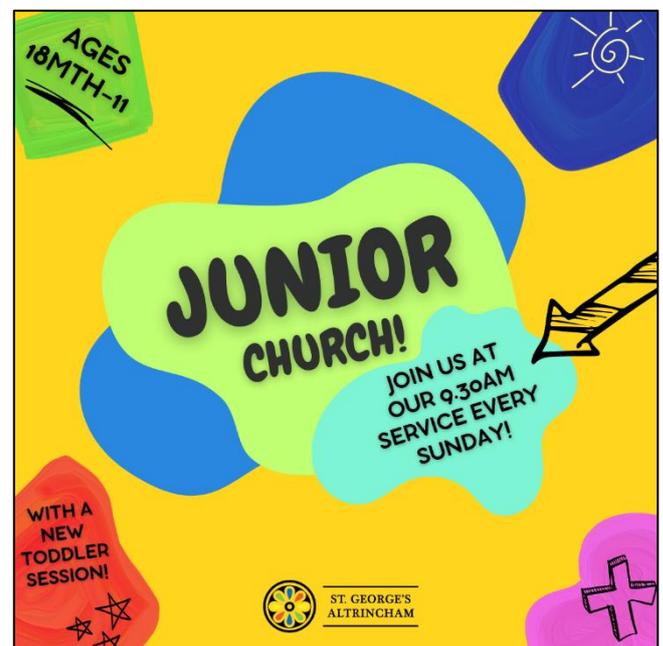


**Twist & Tales**

Weds  
10.15am  
JUST TURN UP!  
18 mths - 4 yrs  
St Georges WA14 4DB  
Old School Building

COMMUNITY GROUPS  
ST. GEORGE'S  
ALTRINCHAM

Story telling  
through movement!



AGES  
18MTH-11

**JUNIOR  
CHURCH!**

JOIN US AT  
OUR 9.30AM  
SERVICE EVERY  
SUNDAY!

WITH A  
NEW  
TODDLER  
SESSION!

ST. GEORGE'S  
ALTRINCHAM

## 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.



St George's Church:  
Support our building & work

ST. GEORGE'S  
ALTRINCHAM

Donate here:

St George's Church: Support our building & work

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ST. GEORGE'S  
ALTRINCHAM



# St. George's team.



**Rev. Claire Corley**  
Vicar



**Liv Tattum**  
Parish Safeguarding



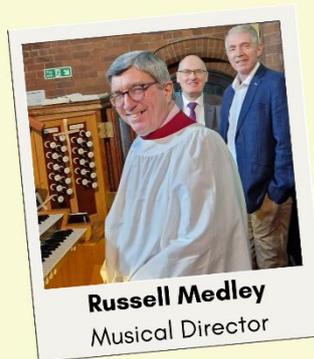
**Rev Carol  
Brooks-Johnson**  
Curate



**Mrs Lynda Higgins**  
Administrator



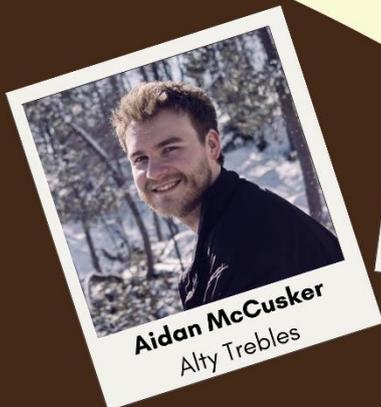
**Dee Owen**  
Children & Families



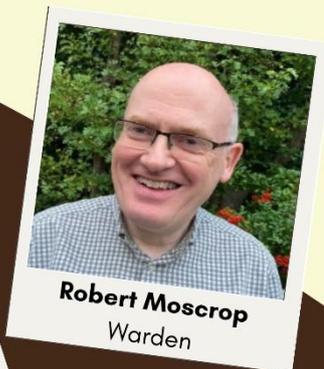
**Russell Medley**  
Musical Director



**Josie Hart**  
Ordinand



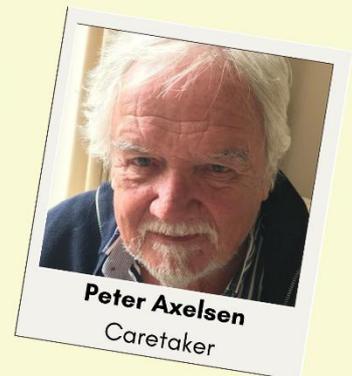
**Aidan McCusker**  
Alty Trebles



**Robert Moscrops**  
Warden



**Kevin Davies**  
Warden



**Peter Axelsen**  
Caretaker

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# 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 27th June	Altrincham Festival
TBC July	Teddy Bear's Picnic @ John Leigh Park
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Fayre

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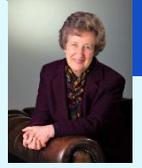
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# GOING DEEPER



*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.*

It was announced on 3 October 2025 that the Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullaley, Bishop of London, is to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury, the 106<sup>th</sup> in line of succession from St Augustine, who was sent by Pope Gregory the Great in 597 on a Christian mission to the Anglo-Saxons. Pope Gregory's idea was that in due time there should be a southern archbishop based in London and a northern archbishop based in York. But Augustine landed in the kingdom of Kent and established his ecclesiastical centre in Canterbury, which was its capital, and historical tradition has maintained it there ever since. Pope Gregory's plan for northern province based in York did eventually come about, but not until the eighth century.

Since last October Bishop Sarah has been the Archbishop designate, whilst continuing as Bishop of London. She will be ceremonially installed or, if you prefer, enthroned in Canterbury Cathedral on 25 March this year, the Feast of the Annunciation. However, it is this month that she legally becomes the Archbishop of Canterbury when, on 28 January, her nomination is given formal ecclesiastical approval in a ceremony known as the Confirmation of Election, held in St Paul's Cathedral.

Bishop Sarah's election as archbishop made world-wide headlines because she is the first-ever female archbishop in the Church of England. As a reminder, the first women were ordained as priests in the Church of England on 24 March 1994, but it was not until 2015 that a female bishop was consecrated. That was Libby Lane, who became the Suffragan Bishop of Stockport in the Diocese of Chester. Since 2019 she has been the Diocesan Bishop of Derby. Later in 2015 Rachel Treweek was consecrated as Bishop of Gloucester and so became the Church of England's first female diocesan bishop.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has many roles which, in a way, sit one inside the other. Archbishop Sarah will be bishop of the diocese of Canterbury (although in practice the normal diocesan business is carried out by the Bishop of Dover); she will be head ('Metropolitan') of the Province of Canterbury, comprising the thirty dioceses in the southern two-thirds of England; and she will be the chief religious figure in the Church of England, the monarch being the Supreme Governor. What the Archbishop of Canterbury does not do, however, is rule the world-wide Anglican communion. Rather, the Archbishop of Canterbury is a kind of nominal head by common consent, described in more formal language as 'primus inter pares', 'first among equals'. The Archbishop of Canterbury has no formal jurisdiction beyond the Church of England, and so the election of Archbishop Sarah is essentially to the 'nest' of roles within England, not to a role akin to that of the Pope. In this capacity, she is designated as Primate of All England. The Archbishop of York, by contrast, is known as the Primate of England. York is a much smaller province, with only fourteen dioceses. Both archbishops sit in the House of Lords, alongside twenty-four other bishops. Collectively they are the Lords Spiritual.

The Bishop of London ranks as third in the episcopal hierarchy, and so, while we have been without an Archbishop of Canterbury, the Church of England has been led by Stephen Cottrell, as Archbishop of York, and Sarah, as Bishop of London. The last time a Bishop of London moved (was 'translated') to Canterbury was in 1945, with the election of Geoffrey Fisher.

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