

News from your Church of England Parish Church

Parish Office: Lynda Higgins info@stgeorgesaltrincham.org 0161 941 4037

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Parish Safeguarding Officer: **Liv Tattum** livtattum@aol.com

April's Easter Journey: Walking Together from Cross to Empty Tomb

Lent and Easter invite us to pause, take a step back, and step more deeply into our faith. As is our custom, we shared in **Lent reading** together - this year journeying through Mark's Gospel. We also introduced a new **Friday Evening Eucharist**: a simple, reflective service at the end of the week, offering space to gather, share communion, and be refreshed. At just under 30 minutes, it proved to be much more than a Lenten discipline, and we're delighted that it's here to stay.

Holy Week (the week leading up to Easter) was, as ever, a deeply moving time. Starting with **Palm Sunday**, we managed to dodge the rain as we processed along the roads around the church, before beginning our Holy Week meditations. **Maundy Thursday**, with the **Stripping of the Altars**, remains a powerful and reflective service. On **Good Friday**, we were delighted to welcome the **Revd Dr Michael Leyden** (now Bishop of Penrith), who spoke thoughtfully about what "success" might mean on that day; an insight that stayed with many of us. Earlier, the Parish Centre had been filled with a very different energy, as over a hundred adults and children gathered amidst laughter and community for our **Good Friday Easter crafts**.

The **Easter Saturday** service continued to be one of the most powerful moments of the year, held this time at the High Altar, before the joy and celebration of **Easter Sunday** brought everything together—with more bamboo than ever, alongside the now much-loved confetti and Easter egg hunt.

As always, *huge thanks* go to all who gave their time and energy to make these services and events possible. Without you, our shared life would be significantly poorer.



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

Sunday 8am
Sunday 9.30am

Wednesday 10am

Website:
Socials

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



🥺 Josie is leaving to pastures new!

Come and be part of her final service on

Sunday 10th May, 9.30am

Well, we always knew this moment would come; but that doesn't make it any easier to say goodbye! Josie first joined us in September 2023 as an Ordinand (a slightly fancy way of saying she was training to become a Vicar!). Since then, she's been juggling college every Monday in Liverpool alongside supporting us on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Sundays—and often

many moments in between. Josie has been a true blessing to our church family: always ready to dive in, quietly working behind the scenes, and eager to bless everyone she meets in countless ways.

She has been the driving force behind so much of what we now do; helping establish our Tuesday Toddler Group and Friday Youth Group, and rebuilding our Home Communion, faithfully travelling across the parish on her little bike each week. She's also played a key role in many of our special services and community events, from Christingles and Easter celebrations to being out and about in John Leigh Park and the town centre for the Nativity Journey – life here has not been dull! Alongside all this, Josie has been preaching regularly, serving as a deacon, and is always willing to step into the Junior Church rota when needed. Much of her work has happened quietly behind the scenes too—setting up, sorting out, and patiently keeping up with Claire's latest big idea (if you want to see her roll her eyes, just ask her about the bamboo!).

Isaac has also been a wonderful support—both to Josie and to us—a valued member of our Junior Church Team and a steady source of encouragement throughout.

Now, Josie is preparing to move to a very different parish in Hattersley. We send her with a mix of sadness at her leaving and joy for all the exciting adventures ahead. Please do join us for her final service, as we gather to give Josie the warmest and most heartfelt send-off possible!



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Thy Kingdom Come!

This is a global movement uniting Christians of all traditions to pray for their families, friends, communities, and nations. Taking place between Ascension and Pentecost, it was initiated by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and has now become a much-loved part of the Church's annual rhythm. There are so many ways to get involved, whether you 'do' church regularly or not; we'd love you to be part of it!



Beating the Bounds

Following the success of last year, we'll once again be walking and praying around our Parish Boundary. We regularly pray in church each week for a different road within our parish, and this special day gives us the chance to extend those prayers—lifting up everyone who lives and works in our parish and in our neighbouring communities too.

There are four walks to choose from, three are around a mile long, and one is a slightly longer loop of two and a half miles. You're welcome to join for as many as you like:

Walk 1: 1.3 miles | 9.30am

Start: Seamon's Road by the Canal Bridge
End: St George's Church

Walk 2: 2.5 miles | 10.30am

Start & End: St George's Church (loop walk)

Walk 3: 1 mile | 1.00pm

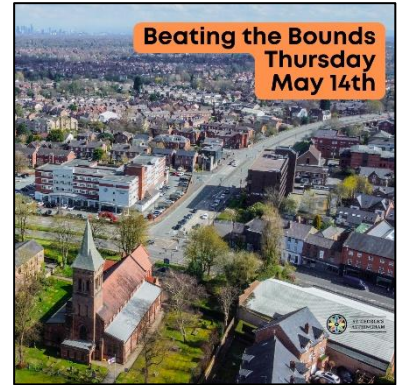
Start: Woodlands Parkway
End: Deansgate Lane

Walk 4: 1 mile | 2.20pm

Start: Broadheath Canal
End: Seamon's Road

Why not lace up your walking boots, bring along a dog if you have one, and join us as we walk, pray, and connect with our community?

You'll be very welcome!



Walk One: 9.30am
Start: Seamon's Road, End: John Leigh Park

Walk Two: 10.30am
Start: St. George's Church, End: St. George's Church

Walk Three: 1pm
Start: Woodlands Parkway, End: Deangate Lane/canal junction

Walk Four: 2.20pm
Start: Broadheath Canal Path, End: Seamon's Road

**THURS 14TH MAY:
BEATING THE BOUNDS
PRAYER WALK**

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Prayer Labyrinth

As part of *Thy Kingdom Come*, we'd like to warmly invite you once again to explore our **Prayer Labyrinth** - a peaceful, welcoming space designed to help you slow down, reflect, and find a moment of calm in the midst of a busy world.

You don't need to be someone who regularly prays (if at all!) to benefit from the labyrinth. Walking its winding path can be a mindful, meditative experience; an opportunity to clear your mind, focus on your breathing, or simply be

present. You might use the time to think about what's on your heart, consider your hopes for the world, or quietly reflect on anything that matters to you.

The labyrinth offers a gentle journey inward, a chance to step away from everyday distractions and find a sense of peace. Whether you spend just a few minutes or longer, it's a space open to everyone, regardless of faith or background.



#SayOneForMe

It's always a privilege to pray for people, and we believe that prayer makes a difference. You can ask us to pray for you face to face, or by signing up via the website. On the 16th May though we'll be going onto the street offering to pray for anyone who would appreciate it. Do come and find us if you'd like prayer, otherwise do get in touch.

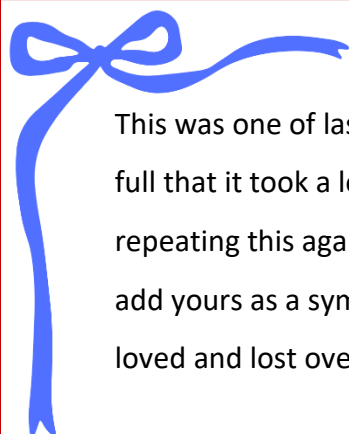


As the Parish Church of Altrincham, we pray regularly for the community we serve: its people, schools & businesses.

If you would like us to say a prayer for you or someone you know, let us know: it would be a privilege to do so.



ST. GEORGE'S
ALTRINCHAM



Prayer Gate

This was one of last year's successes; the church gates became so full that it took a long time to bring all the ribbons down! We'll be repeating this again this year—look out for the ribbons and do add yours as a symbol of your prayer, or for someone that you've loved and lost over the years.



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Ascension Service

Some days are simply too special not to come together and celebrate, and Ascension Day is definitely one of those moments! Held 40 days after Easter, Ascension Day marks the powerful moment when Christ returned to heaven, completing his work on earth and opening the way for us all to share in the hope of eternal life. It's a day that reminds us that life doesn't end with what we see, but that there's something bigger and brighter waiting beyond.

This celebration invites us to reflect on the promise of new beginnings, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the ongoing presence of Christ in our lives, guiding and inspiring us every step of the way.

We warmly invite you to join us for our Ascension Day service on Thursday 14th May at 7pm. Come and be part of this joyful and deeply meaningful occasion—a chance to gather as a community, lift our hearts in hope, and look forward with faith to all that is yet to come.



Pentecost

*"An indoor windstorm, flames hovering over heads, and people suddenly speaking different languages while understanding each other perfectly. This was Pentecost, the remarkable moment when a small group of followers became a worldwide movement."**

It's a powerful story of courage, unity, and new beginnings, and it continues to unfold today, inspiring millions around the globe.

Pentecost celebrates the moment when God sent His Holy Spirit to be with us, filling people with hope, courage, and purpose. Often called the "birthday" of the Church, it marks a time when everything changed in the most profound way.

Even if Pentecost is new to you, its message is simple and timeless: new beginnings, connection, and the amazing possibilities that come when we open ourselves to faith, hope, and community.

If you're seeking fresh hope, a renewed sense of purpose, or a welcoming community to belong to, this is a wonderful moment to come and be part of something bigger. Join us as we celebrate Pentecost and the Spirit that continues to inspire, empower, and unite us all.



*The Bible Project

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Carol's Priesting!

Saturday, 20th June, 4pm, St George's

In the Anglican Church, becoming a priest is a journey that takes time, care, and a real sense of calling. It usually begins with a few years of training, followed by a curacy (a kind of apprenticeship in a parish).

During this time, people are first ordained as deacons. As deacons, they take on a ministry focused especially on service—both within the church and in the wider community—and they assist in leading worship. For some, this is where they feel called to remain, continuing their ministry as deacons.

For others, after about a year, they are ordained as priests. They remain deacons in their calling to serve, but their priesting marks a new stage in their ministry. Alongside their diaconal role, they are now able to preside at Holy Communion, offer blessings, and take on the fuller responsibilities of leading and caring for a parish.

We're really pleased to share that Carol has now reached this next stage of her journey. Her priesting will be taking place here at St George's, and we'd love you to come along and support her as we celebrate this joyful and important moment together.



Confirmation

Sunday, 21st June, 9.30am

If you—or your child—are thinking about being confirmed, we'd love to hear from you. Confirmation is a special and joyful moment, marking an important step in your journey of faith. It's an opportunity to make your own commitment, receive the bishop's prayer and blessing, and be more deeply rooted in the life of the Church.

For our young people, it's a really meaningful milestone—often coming at the end of primary school, as they get ready for the changes and new adventures ahead. For adults, confirmation can be a chance to affirm your faith for yourself, or to revisit and deepen something that may have begun years ago.

There will be time to explore what confirmation means in a relaxed and open way, with space for questions and conversation—no pressure, just an invitation.



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John Leigh Park Big Lunch!

Save the Date! 7th June, 11am–4pm

We're hoping that the weather is much kinder this year, and that we'll have a day full of sun (or at least, no forecast storms!). We're ready to set up our colourful gazebo, filled with fun games and creative crafts for children of all ages. There'll be picnic blankets to lounge on, space to unwind, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy the brilliant live music, exciting demonstrations, and the buzzing community atmosphere that makes this event such a highlight. Picture a day filled with sports, live performances, ice cream vans (a definite must!), hands-on activities, and a beautiful park to wander through—not to mention lots of familiar faces to catch up with.



Pathway Youth Group

Fridays, 3.20pm

5 days can make for a very long week!

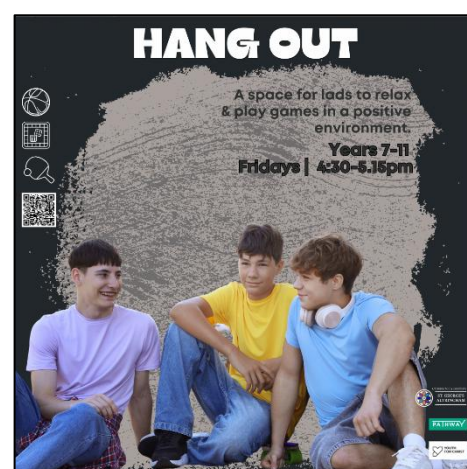
So if your young person is in Year 6 or above and needs to either let off some steam or just chill and chat with friends, then Pathway, our Youth Group is the place to come!

Simply sign up, pay the subs for the term, and then we'll see you there!



Hang Out....

If you're in Year 8 or above, this is your place to chill, have a laugh, and be yourself. No pressure, no judgment - just good vibes, good food, and a chance to hang out with other lads your age. Expect games, music, and plenty of laughs. Whether you're competitive, creative, or just want somewhere to relax after a long week, you'll fit right in. It's all about building confidence, trying new things, and being part of something positive. Bring your mates or come and make new ones—we'd love you to be a part of it.



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Reflection on the season: Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a global wave of prayer that began in 2016 as an initiative of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. What started as a simple call for Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost has since grown into a worldwide movement, involving millions of people across denominations, cultures, and countries.

The heart of the invitation is simple: to pray for friends, family, and communities to come to know the life-changing love of God.

Rooted in the ancient tradition of the Church praying during the ten days between Ascension and Pentecost, Thy Kingdom Come invites people, whether they are long-time churchgoers or simply curious, to pause, reflect, and give prayer a go. It's not about having perfect words or deep theological knowledge; it's about creating space to hope, to ask, and to be still.

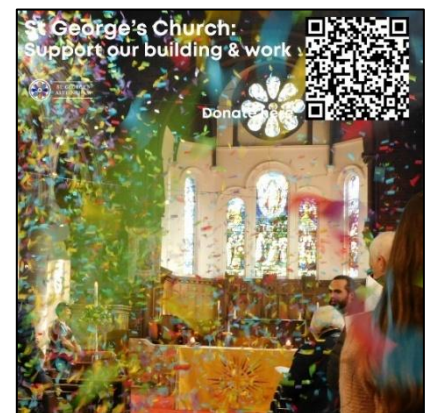
Prayer might seem daunting or unfamiliar, but it can be as simple as holding someone in your thoughts, lighting a candle, walking in nature, or sitting quietly and offering a single sentence like "Be with them." Whether through words, silence, or action, prayer is a way to connect with something deeper; a moment of calm in a busy world.

Thy Kingdom Come is about believing that even the smallest prayers can ripple outwards, making a difference in ways we might never fully understand. It's a time to pray for the lives of those we love, to be open to the transforming power of God's Spirit, and to allow hope to rise in our hearts.

So this year, why not give it a try? Whether it's a quick whispered prayer or a walk in reflective silence, you're invited to be part of this global movement of light, love, and hope.

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 currently 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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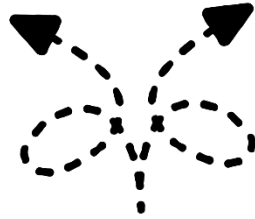


Little Library!

Did you know that at the back of church, near the font, there's a small but well-stocked bookcase filled with books for you to borrow?

Just look out for the sign, pop in, and enjoy; completely free for you

to take and read.



Little Library

Please do feel free to take a book home with you...

... and bring it back when you are finished 😊

Open Church... Come, sit awhile.

Did you know our church is open most days during term time, from 8am to 3pm?

You're warmly invited to come in just as you are—whether to enjoy the space, have a quiet look around, or spend a few moments in reflection or prayer.

There's no need to sign in or out, and no need to let anyone know you're coming. Just drop in whenever it suits you.

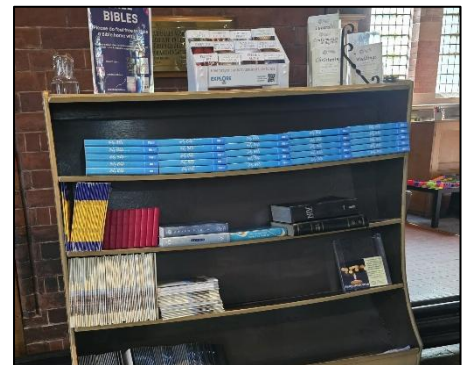


Come, sit awhile.
8am-3pm Term Time

Free Bibles

If you're curious about faith and would like to explore a little more, we've recently refreshed our space and now have Bibles available to take away. Please feel free to pop in and pick one up; no need to ask.

We also have pew Bibles and a selection of study Bibles, which include helpful notes and explanations about the different books. These are here to stay in church, but you're very welcome to use them.



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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

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 fulfil 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/>



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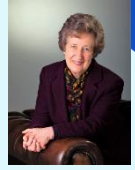
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GOING DEEPER



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.

On the fiftieth day after Easter, the feast of the Resurrection, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the apostles (Acts 2). The church has always called it Pentecost, a Greco-Latin word which derives from the Greek for 'fiftieth'. This year it falls on 24 May. It also happens to be a bank holiday weekend, although nowadays that only occurs occasionally, because in 1971 the late May bank holiday was fixed as the last Monday in May, whereas the date of Pentecost varies because it is counted from Easter, which is a movable feast. Prior to 1971, the bank holiday (then known as the Whitsun bank holiday) moved around in May because it was the weekend of Pentecost itself. In Common Worship this feast-day is listed as Pentecost, with Whit Sunday being given in brackets after it, in smaller type and not in bold, indicating that this is an alternative name but not with the same status as Pentecost. Yet the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) uses Whit Sunday for the feast-day itself, and Whitsun-week for the days that follow (Monday in Whitsun-week etc.) which constitute the Whitsun season, before Trinity Sunday, which occurs on the next Sunday (31 May this year). So why does the BCP use Whit Sunday/Whitsun rather than Pentecost; why have we changed back in Common Worship; where does Whitsun come from; and why is it no longer so commonly used?

Whitsun is an English term for Pentecost, just as there was (and is) a popular English name, for example, for the Feast of the Purification on 2 February, commonly called Candlemas because of the distinctive experience of the day: the spectacle of everyone holding lit candles in church. Whitsun is an abbreviation of Whit Sunday. It's first recorded in 1067 with the unambiguous meaning of 'white Sunday' — although we have changed the pronunciation of the first syllable over the centuries by shortening the 'i', leading to a confusion with 'wit', and, as a result, various false explanations of the word. Dictionaries explain that the name denotes the day on which white was worn in church. However, although we know that white was worn in the early church on the set days for (adult) baptism — Holy Saturday being the primary occasion and Pentecost the secondary one — this was not characteristic practice by the time England was converted. Fixed dates were impractical in a missionary context, and in any case infant baptism quickly became the norm. For obvious reasons it was carried out as soon as possible after birth. Yet in an echo of the older tradition, babies were required to be dressed in white for baptism and to be brought to the daily mass for a week thereafter, still in white. The popular naming of Whitsunday suggests, nevertheless, that older traditions were reflected in a practice of wearing white at Pentecost, although I'm not aware of any references to or descriptions of this in Anglo-Saxon times, despite the word coming from the language of this period. The BCP chose the popular English name in preference to the Greco-Latin one of Pentecost as a break from Roman practice. Now, however, we more commonly use Pentecost within the church. Culturally we have lost sight of 'Whitsun' since 1971 when the late May bank holiday was divorced from the church's liturgical year, and so 'Whitsun' is used less and less. This year, however, the dates come together, and Monday 25 May is a bank holiday. It won't be called Whit bank holiday, though!

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Teddy Bears' Picnic!

Bring a picnic & your favourite teddy bears!
Enjoy some activities, stories and singing!

 Sunday 24th May
1-2.30pm

 Stamford Park



More information
here:



FREE!

Please keep an eye on our website & socials for any update
pending the Great British Weather! @StGeorgesAlty

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ST. GEORGE'S
ALTRINCHAM



St. George's

team.



Rev. Claire Corley
Vicar



Liv Tattum
Parish Safeguarding



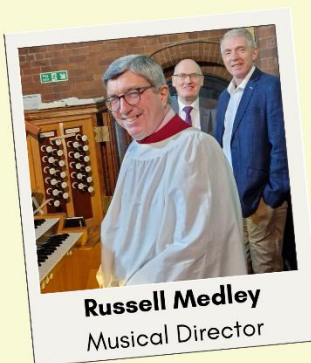
**Rev Carol
Brooks-Johnson**
Curate



Mrs Lynda Higgins
Administrator



Dee Owen
Children & Families



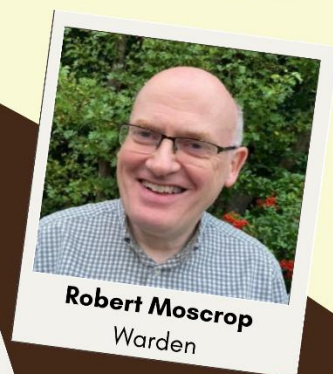
Russell Medley
Musical Director



Josie Hart
Ordinand



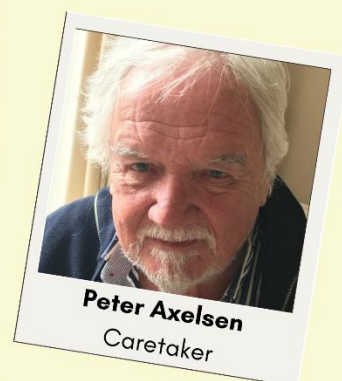
Aidan McCusker
Alty Trebles



Robert Moscrop
Warden



Kevin Davies
Warden



Peter Axelsen
Caretaker

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