

News from your Church of England Parish Church

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

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

Children & Families: **Dee Owen** Dee@stgeorgesaltrincham.org Organist & Musical Director: **Russell Medley**: Russell@stgeorgesaltrincham.org

Church Wardens: **Robert Moscrop** robertmoscrop@icloud.com

Kevin Davis kevin.j.davis@hotmail.com

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

May's Meanderings! May is often the month when we begin to look beyond our walls and out into the wider world, and this year has certainly been no exception.

The month began with saying goodbye to our much-loved Josie, as she and her husband Isaac moved on to the next stage of ministry and curacy life. It was a day filled with mixed emotions: delight and excitement for what lies ahead, alongside genuine sadness at saying goodbye. Josie's influence and care have left their mark in so many corners of church life, and we're certain her footprint will be felt here for many years to come.

We then moved into "Thy Kingdom Come" — the period between Ascension and Pentecost when Christians across the world are encouraged to pray for friends, family and community. Inspired by this, we once again created our now-traditional Prayer Gate, where ribbons could be tied in memory of loved ones or as symbols of prayer and hope.

Following the success of last year, the wonderfully talented Laura Richardson also returned to create not one, but two prayer labyrinths; one here at St George's and another at John Leigh Park. Far more mathematical (and complicated!) than they first appear, they offered peaceful spaces for reflection and prayer.

As Pentecost approached, we were blessed again by the creativity of Jane Parker, whose beautiful installation of doves, symbols of the Holy Spirit, filled the church with movement and life. Do take a moment to sit quietly in church with the doors open and watch them dance in the air currents; it really is remarkable. Our thanks too to the Flower Guild for their stunning displays.

And finally, after weeks of rain, the sunshine arrived just in time for our Teddy Bears' Picnic in Stamford Park; an afternoon full of knitted teddies (thanks Knit & Natter!) crafts, stories, games, blue skies and plenty of joy!



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Socials

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

Sunday 8am
Sunday 9.30am

Wednesday 10am





The Big Lunch!

Sunday 7th June 11.30-4pm

Last year, the weather got the better of us, and sadly, John Leigh Park had to cancel the Big Lunch. But this year, we're hopeful for sunshine, picnic blankets, and a fantastic afternoon filled with activities for families and children!

With live music, demonstrations, ice cream, football, bowls and plenty more, it promises to be a lovely way to spend a summer afternoon.

Come along and be part of the fun!



Altrincham Festival:

Saturday 27th June, 11am-6pm

Last year, was the highlight of our summer! We decorated a float, cranked up the music, gathered some wonderful children (and their equally enthusiastic parents), and for over two and a half miles, we sang, waved, and joined in the biggest procession the town has seen in years! And guess what? We're doing it all again this year!

We'd love for you to be part of it; whether that's lining the streets to cheer us on during the Grand Parade or popping along to the Festival itself. We'll be there with a stall full of free activities, friendly faces, and lots of fun!

Come and say hello!



Messy Café!

Sunday 14th June, 2pm

It's back again! Join us for a relaxed and joy-filled afternoon of stories, songs, and plenty of crafts, all thoughtfully designed to help you and your children explore faith in a fun and creative way. It's the perfect chance to slow down, take a breath, and enjoy some precious time together in a friendly and welcoming space.

We'd love for you to come and be part of it!



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Carol & Josie's Ordinations

Saturday 27th June, 11am-6pm

To become a Priest (or a Vicar or Incumbent — all slightly different titles for similar roles!), people first complete a curacy. During this time they are known as curates. Carol is currently completing hers, whilst Josie is just about to begin hers.

A curacy is a little like an apprenticeship in ministry; a time of learning, growing and discovering more about where God is calling someone to serve.

Curates are first ordained as Deacons. Deacons are called to serve both the church and wider community, helping connect faith with everyday life. They can lead services, preach and baptise. Usually about a year later, they are then ordained as Priests. Priests can celebrate Holy Communion, bless people, officiate at weddings and continue the pastoral and spiritual leadership of the church.

Carol's Priesting will take place on the 20th June at 4pm, and Josie's Ordination as Deacon will be at Chester Cathedral on 5th July at 10am. Do come along and support them if you can! (For those unable to get to Chester, Revd Margaret will be keeping our Sunday services going as usual!)



Confirmation & Baptisms!

Sunday 21st June 9.30am

Do come and be part of our Confirmation Service this year as we gather to support and celebrate all those who are taking this important step in their journey of faith, along with some baptisms too! Confirmation is a special moment when individuals publicly affirm the promises made at their baptism and commit to following Jesus with renewed faith and dedication.

During the service, the Bishop will lay hands on each candidate and pray for them to be filled with the Holy Spirit, empowering them to live out their faith boldly and joyfully. This laying on of hands is part of a long, sacred tradition; an unbroken line of Bishops praying for and blessing God's people that stretches back centuries.

It's a joyful occasion filled with encouragement and blessing, not just for those being confirmed, but for our whole church family.



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Teddy Bear's Picnic:

Sunday 12th July, 1-2.30pm

We absolutely *loved* hosting this event at John Leigh Park last year: It was an absolute ball! In fact so much, that we signed up to do it again straight away, and even asked Stamford Park if we could do one there!

With songs, stories, and picnics galore, it was such a lovely way to spend a summer afternoon. We'd love for you to come along and be part of the fun again this year! And... is anyone up for bringing some marmalade sandwiches?

Let's hope that the weather is a beautiful as it was for our previous one; do come along, it's all free, and we'd love you to be a part of it all.



Tots & Tales, Twist & Tales!

Tuesday, 10am, Wednesday 10.15am

We're delighted to run two fantastic groups for parents, carers, and their little ones; places to play, chat, and share the ups and downs of life with young children.

Tots & Tales, our friendly toddler group, is going on tour this summer! Making the most of the warmer weather, we'll be exploring some of the best family-friendly parks, cafés and outdoor spaces around Altrincham—and, if the sunshine holds, perhaps even a trip to the beach. It's a relaxed way for children and grown-ups alike to enjoy time together. Keep an eye on our social media each Sunday evening, when we'll reveal the next week's destination!

For those days when your little one just needs to move, **Twist & Tales** is the perfect fit. With music, movement, and dance, it's a fun-filled session where children can burn off some energy while grown-ups enjoy a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

We'd love to welcome you along; come & be part of the community!



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Choirs

Did you know that singing is one of the best things you can do for your wellbeing?

Countless studies have shown that singing not only lifts your mood but also reduces stress, improves breathing, and builds a wonderful sense of community. So why not come and be part of one of our choirs and experience the joy for yourself?

We have two fantastic groups you can join:

Alty Trebles (Junior Choir) – perfect for children, meets every Monday at 3:20pm at Altrincham Primary School. It’s a fun and friendly space where young voices can grow in confidence and enjoy making music together.

Full Choir – open to adults and children alike, gathers on Fridays at 7.30pm, and Sundays at 8.30am before the service. Whether you’re an experienced singer or just fancy giving it a try, there’s a place for you here.

No auditions, no pressure—just bring your voice and a willingness to have a go. We’d love to welcome you into the choir family!



School Admissions

We know that school admissions can feel fraught, so just our yearly reminder that if you are wanting a church reference or signature, remember that different schools ask for different things.

Primary schools often ask for a 6-month commitment, but Secondary schools can ask whether you are a ‘full and active member’ of the community more than once a month.

Please check it out far in advance, and don’t hesitate to speak to Rev. Claire Corley if you need clarification.

We don’t get to set the admissions rules outside of Altrincham CE Primary School, and we also seek to be truthful to all (including those working in admissions!) and are happy if we can to write a reference even if you don’t meet the criteria.



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Reflection on the season: Confirmation

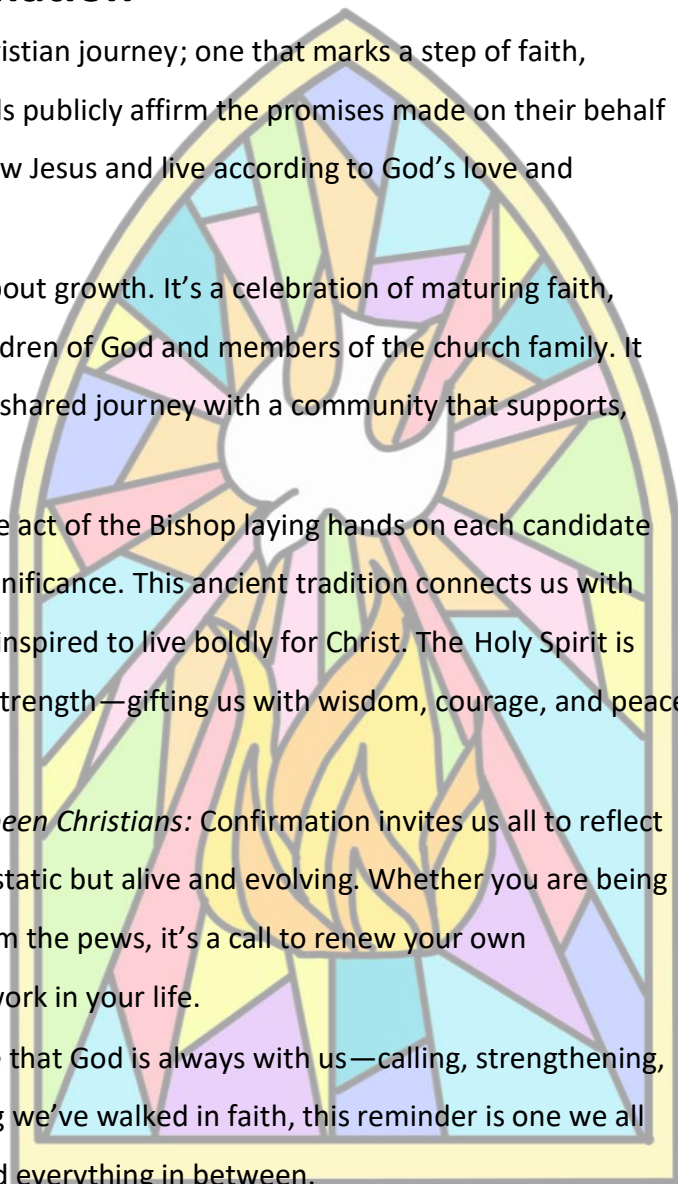
Confirmation is a deeply meaningful moment in the Christian journey; one that marks a step of faith, commitment, and belonging. It is a time when individuals publicly affirm the promises made on their behalf at baptism, declaring for themselves their desire to follow Jesus and live according to God's love and guidance.

It's about the individuals: At its heart, Confirmation is about growth. It's a celebration of maturing faith, where candidates embrace their identity as beloved children of God and members of the church family. It acknowledges that faith is not just a private belief but a shared journey with a community that supports, encourages, and challenges us to live out the gospel.

It's about the wider church, past, present and future: The act of the Bishop laying hands on each candidate and praying for the Holy Spirit to fill them is rich with significance. This ancient tradition connects us with centuries of Christians who have been empowered and inspired to live boldly for Christ. The Holy Spirit is often described as our guide, comforter, and source of strength—gifting us with wisdom, courage, and peace as we navigate life's joys and challenges.

It's about the wider congregation, however long we've been Christians: Confirmation invites us all to reflect on our own faith journey. It reminds us that faith is not static but alive and evolving. Whether you are being confirmed, supporting someone who is, or watching from the pews, it's a call to renew your own commitment to God's way and to embrace the Spirit's work in your life.

As we celebrate Confirmation, we rejoice in the promise that God is always with us—calling, strengthening, and loving us every step of the way. No matter how long we've walked in faith, this reminder is one we all need, every day, as we navigate life's highs and lows and everything in between.



Can you help support our life & work?

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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Life Events!

With you at every stage of life

Christenings

Weddings

*Open to everyone, regardless
of whether you go to church
or not*

More information here:



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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



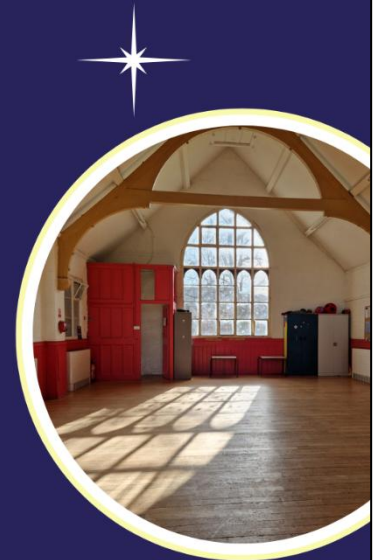
CHURCH

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 fill it!

There's lots more information here:



Hire our Spaces



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



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

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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 entry in the Common Worship calendar for 11 July reads 'Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, Father of Western monasticism, c. 550'. Given the importance of monasticism in Christian history, the key part it played in spearheading the conversion of western Europe, its central role in scholarship and manuscript production, and its significance in the development of spiritual practices, it's worth looking at what lies behind this calendar entry. The earliest monks lived, not in communities, but alone. They were called 'monks' precisely for this reason: the word comes from the Greek for 'alone', 'solitary'. The first person we know of to live in this way was St Antony of Egypt. In c. 269 he gave away his possessions and began to live a life of self-denial. Then, in c. 285, he went a step further, retiring into the desert. Others followed his example. Soon there were colonies or groups of monks in the desert; they sometimes came together for special services, and by degrees they formed more recognisable communities, which of course needed Rules to govern their organisation.

By the fourth century this way of life was being imitated in the western church. At first the Rules used were those brought from the east, or newly written Rules which followed eastern models, but quite quickly western monks began to live out their dedicated lives in much more defined, cohesive and stable communities, which needed a rather different kind of Rule. The norm in this stage of the development of monasticism was for each abbot to devise the Rule for his own monastery. Benedict Biscop, for example, who founded the monasteries of Monkwearmouth and Jarrow, where Bede lived and worked, drew upon the practices of seventeen monasteries that he had visited on his travels to and from Rome. Of these many Rules, only a few survive, with the Rule written by Benedict being one of them. Inevitably they are similar to one another to varying degrees, but Benedict's stands out for its clarity, wisdom, practicality, evident concern for the well-being of the monks and its prudent avoidance of excessive austerity. By the eighth century this had become *the* monastic Rule in Western Christendom, and has remained the dominant Rule ever since.

We know relatively little about Benedict himself. He was born in Nursia (modern Norcia) in central Italy and then went to Rome to be educated, where the excesses of worldly life prompted him to withdraw to a cave in Subiaco, where he lived as a hermit. A community gradually grew up around him, and he established twelve monasteries, each with twelve monks, ruled by an abbot appointed by Benedict. But in c. 525, when local tensions forced him to leave Subiaco, he and a small band of monks moved to Monte Cassino, where he became abbot of a new community and wrote his Rule.

Benedict was not ordained and he did not see himself as founding an Order for priests, although it later became increasingly common for professed monks to be ordained. He died, c. 550, at Monte Cassino on 21 March, which at first was his feast-day. But the monks of Fleury-sur-Loire, which was to become a very influential monastery, claimed to have translated (moved) his body to Fleury soon after its founding in 640, an event that they celebrated on the claimed anniversary date of 11 July, a more convenient date liturgically than 21 March, which is always in Lent and, given an early Easter, can even be in Holy Week.

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ST. GEORGE'S
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St. George's team.



Rev. Claire Corley
Vicar



Liv Tattum
Parish Safeguarding



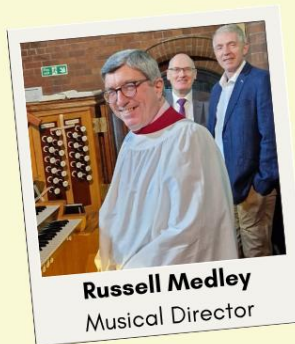
**Rev Carol
Brooks-Johnson**
Curate



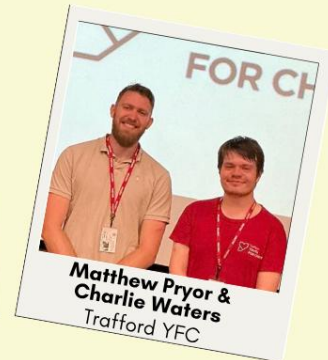
Mrs Lynda Higgins
Administrator



Dee Owen
Children & Families



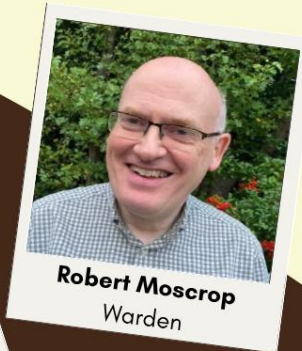
Russell Medley
Musical Director



**Matthew Pryor &
Charlie Waters**
Trafford YFC



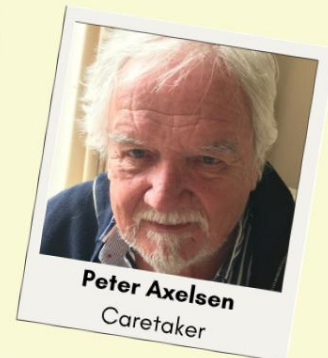
Aidan McCusker
Alty Trebles



Robert Moscrop
Warden



Kevin Davies
Warden



Peter Axelsen
Caretaker

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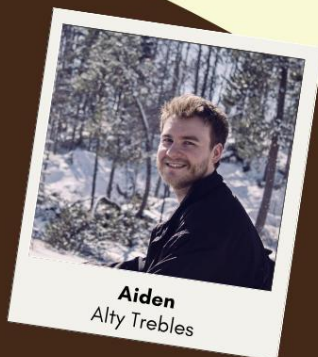
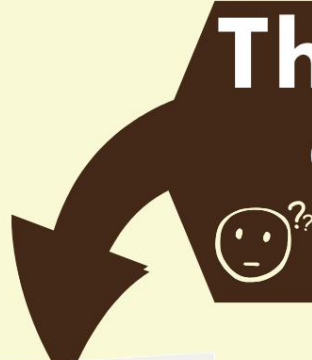
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Worried about something?



These people are here to help...



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