

Services in July and August

Every Sunday

8am Holy Communion

10am Choral Eucharist

6.30pm Evening Service on certain Sundays (see below)

Every Saturday

12pm Daily Prayer Service

Every Wednesday

11.30am Holy Communion followed by Lunch and Voices Together Singing

Sunday Evenings 6.30pm

5th July — Taize Style Prayers and Singing

19th July — Service of Thanksgiving for our loved ones whom we see no more

26th July—Evening Prayer on Zoom

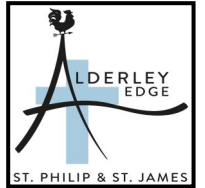
No Evening Services in August

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St Philip & St James Parish Church, Alderley Edge JULY/AUGUST 2026 NEWS SHEET



Dear Friends,

In a few weeks' time, Alderley Edge School for Girls is scheduled to close its doors for the final time. This news has been met with widespread sadness across our community. Even amongst people who cannot afford to pay for a private education for their children, there is an appreciation that the education of hundreds of children and young people will be disrupted, in some cases seriously, and a significant number of people will lose their jobs.

By the time I became vicar in this parish, the role of the vicar of St Philip & St James in the life of the school was relatively insignificant. But I have heard many stories about the impact that one of my predecessors, Rev'd Brian Young, had on the life of the school, so, as a church, we have a feeling that part of our history is also dying.

The overall environment in which the school has operated in recent years has been challenging. The birthrate is falling, energy costs are up as are employers' national insurance contributions and the government has lifted private schools' exemption from levying VAT which has reduced the number of pupils in private schools across the country.

Like any organisation will have from time to time, the school has also had its own particular challenges in recent years, and this has impacted on student numbers. However, there were also signs that these challenges were being overcome. In particular, under new leadership, the school achieved a very good inspection report at the end of 2024.

Some of us thought that this inspection report would open up a new era of success for the school and, from my personal perspective, it seemed that there was a new clarity about what my contribution to the school might be in the future.

What impact did the inspection report have on the school finances? Unfortunately for students, parents and staff, this information is not publicly available. The annual return and accounts that the school should have posted on the charity commission website are almost a year overdue. This regrettable lack of transparency has fuelled a lot of speculation about the actual financial situation. At least some of this speculation is bound to be untrue, but, without the information being made available, uninformed debate will continue.

As the end of the academic year gets closer, it feels like time for a rescue plan is running out. What we urgently need now is openness, a willingness to discuss different ideas as well as a willingness to treat people who think differently from us with respect on the assumption that they have formed their opinions from a position of integrity.

We need this if the school is to be rescued. And we will need this if the school closes and we mourn its passing, reflecting on everything that was good about it.

Yours, Rev'd Robin Pye

Alderley Edge Village Show

Saturday 29th August

CORRECTION TO PREVIOUS ISSUE

The 2026 Alderley Edge Village Show will be held here at St Philip and St James Church on Saturday 29th August from 12:00-16:30. Please note this change of venue from the Festival Hall (due to re-flooring works).

For more details, including classes and how to enter, please:
visit the website www.AlderleyEdgeVillageShow.co.uk,
send an email to alderleyedgevillageshow@gmail.com or
call 07463 709239.

Volunteers are actively sought to help with show setup and on the day itself, please contact us if you can help.

Mothers' Union Strawberry Tea - 21st July

Tuesday 21st July from 2-4pm in the West End of church.
Tickets £5.00 each.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Three great fundraising events for the new church heating system

Friday 17th July

Annual Summer BBQ Party at Lily & Rosie's Café on Wood Gardens

Celebrate the end of the school term by popping into Lily & Rosie's Café from 3pm, for BBQ food, live music and face painting.

No need to book — just show up in the afternoon or evening.

Friday 7th August

Jazz Confessions at St Philip & St James Church

7-10pm

An evening of live jazz in a beautiful setting featuring one of the UK's most highly acclaimed Jazz Performers TJ Johnson Trio (www.tjohnson.co.uk)

Please scan the QR code for tickets and more information.



Friday 11th September

Autumn Ceilidh at the Alderley Edge Festival Hall

7pm-10pm

Lancashire Hot Pot Supper with Crusty Bread or Vegetarian Option Available. The Festival Hall bar is open.

A caller will help you join in with the easy to learn folk dances suitable for all ages.

Please scan the QR code for tickets and more information.



ST PHILIP & ST JAMES MINISTRATIONS JUNE

BAPTISMS: 14th Mason and Jake Pennington, 21st Isabelle Hirst