



# Church Update

Summer 2026

## Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals our church at its best.



Congratulations to Charlotte and Stephen on their wedding, which was an amazing day. We love hosting weddings, did you know that church weddings are really affordable and flexible.



Emi was baptised at Easter and we continue to celebrate new and developing faith. We are looking to hold a confirmation service at the end of summer if anyone is interested in baptism or confirmation talk to Rev Laura



We have held a number of funerals at church in recent months, it is a real privilege to celebrate life, look after a family, and show God is there in the difficult times. It has been really brilliant to continue to develop relationships after funerals and welcome people into our church community. This has been such a blessing. We continue to pray God's love will be really palpable for each family going through loss.

### Sunday Morning Service 10.30am.

Every week we gather to meet each other and meet God through music, prayer, thoughts and fun.

Everyone welcome whether you are a long standing person of faith, or are just curious.

From 0- 101 we celebrate everyone.

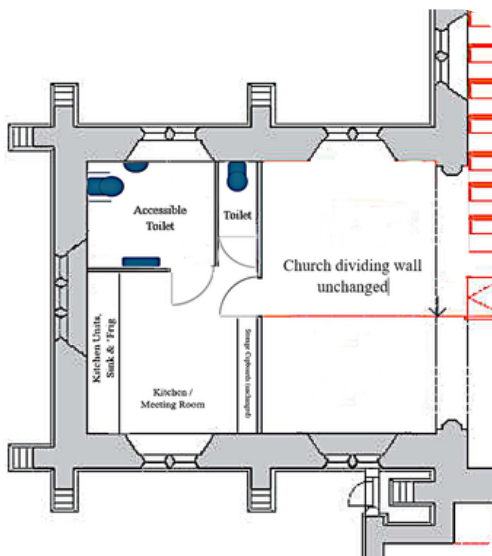
Come with your dog, neighbour, friend, in your best clothes or PJs.

Just come along



We have piloted a toddler church (The Ark @St John's)  
Monday afternoons 1.30-3.00pm in church.

This open to all children who have not started school! We play, sing, hear a story and eat snacks. Please spread the word to anyone who looks after a small child, or even small brood of children! Restarts again in September. FREE to attend

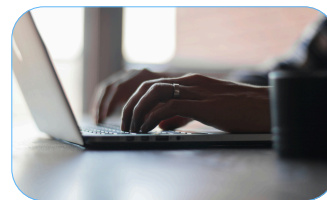


## Building news

The kitchen and accessible toilet project is coming on. Thank you to all who have helped out, we really appreciate the hard work and effort. Thank you Steve, Pat, Dave, Dom, Tom and everyone else who has helped. It will be a big improvement, and we will be able to welcome everyone and have the facilities for all.

## Back to Church September

*In September we are joining churches in Glossop to offer a back to church month. We will be intentional about making services accessible, welcoming, and open to all who are curious. So think about whether there are people who we can invite, nudge, pray for.*



**We are  
experimenting  
with online**

Over the summer we will experiment with online content- aware that people are away, that some people want to watch before they come. Please be encouraging and feedback is really helpful. Online material will be on whats ap and church website. To join the church what's ap group talk to Steve Hoon, or message Laura



## Summer series: book of James

*The book of James is a cracker! A new testament letter written by James the brother of Jesus to the scattered Jewish people who had become Christians. It is written by a man who is on a mission, who is writing to a real church -he leads through persecution, famine and the usual bickering, uncertainty and debate. James even negotiates a ticksy conversation between Paul and Peter! Imagine being between those two- debating if non Jewish converts needed to be circumcised or not.*

*So James was brave, wise, totally committed to the Lord. He opens his letter 'James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.' But it was not always like this. In John's gospel it describes Jesus brothers not believing he was the son of God and even teasing him, James was not at the cross. But he is detailed in multiple letters as leading the church in Jerusalem over a long period of time. He was praying with the other disciples when the spirit filled the room, the people and the world at Pentecost. What changed? Paul gives us the answer: Jesus met James one on one after the resurrection. James and Jesus sat together... what a conversation that would have been?*

*Most of God's work is done quietly, one on one, privately with each of us. My prayer is that each of us will encounter and re-encounter the Lord- Who sits with us and gently reassures, loves, encourages, unpicks our mess, strengthens us, and transforms us. May we like James be transformed to servants of Christ.*



### Top Bible verses from James:

*If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.*

*My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.*

*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.*

*Come near to God and he will come near to you. Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." <sup>14</sup> Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup> Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."*

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

Parish Away Day 26<sup>th</sup>  
September

## How can you contribute to church?

Lots of people already give so much to church in their time, talent and passions. We are a community and we thrive when we all have opportunity. We are also working with other churches across the valley. Is there anything else you or someone you know would like to get involved with?

- **Music-** musicians wanted! Is there someone you know who plays an instrument who could join us? Cello, drums, bass etc.
- **Taking part in services-** reading, leading prayers, creative times, distributing communion etc. If you want to go let Laura know.
- **Funeral and bereavement team** - be part of the team that supports people in their hour of need, either on the day or following up afterwards.
- **Children and Young People-** in the valley we work across the whole age range from babies to teenagers you could support The Arc, Messy Church, TnT, Puppets, open the book etc. We are looking to expand our children and young people work.
- **Discipleship and pastoring:** Helping with Alpha, Start, 121 conversations
- **Older People:** Home communion team, Tea and Toast Coffee Morning.
- **Care Home Visiting** - There is a team across churches that deliver monthly services in every care home, with some more capacity they would like to expand to supportive living environments.
- **IT and Sound Desk**
- **Admin** -we want to start using I know Church platform so if you can help Monica with admin let us know.
- **Building and Maintenance.** Talk to Steve Hoon.



The desire to reach out to God is basic to many people. Trypraying is a resource for people with little or *no church connection or interest, but open to find out about God.* The trypraying booklet is a 7-day prayer guide and is now being used to pass on to friends and family with a few words of encouragement, 'Why don't you try praying for a week and see what happens in your life?'

*We have put the banner up outside church and booklets are available on the gate and inside church. Please help yourself, pass them on... Let's see what happens when people give praying a go.*

## Financial Support

We are so grateful for all the support given to church financially. We have set an ambitious budget, because we are excited and ambitious about what God is doing and will do. If you would like to give how about considering:

- A regular standing order or direct debit. Many Christians give a percentage of their income or disposable income to churches. Is this something for you? Has your donation increased with inflation? Could it?
- Organise a fundraiser or donations for the window project. We have £20,000 still to raise. Any ideas, contacts, donations welcome.
- New Bible- Our lectern bible is very old fashioned and some of the language is tricky. We would like to buy a new NIV one. They cost £500. Is this a legacy you could leave?
- Growing Faith - the growing faith project grows faith in the next generations and we are a hub site. You could give to the next generations faith in this church.

Church bank account details.  
St John's Charlesworth  
Sort code 20 02 77  
Account number 90802689