

October 2026

Vicar's Voice

Autumn – the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' – is upon us.

Some of you may know that I enjoy going out and taking photographs. One of the great joys of the onset of autumn is the abundance of fungi emerging. Fungi are really a photographer's dream. Unlike animals (which move) and flowers (which sway in the breeze), fungi keep perfectly still – but they offer a wonderful richness of colour, shape and texture.



A benefit of going out with the intention of taking pictures is that it makes you much more aware of what is around you. Being vigilant and observant opens up whole new visual and auditory depths in nature, which are so easily missed. And we are increasingly aware of the health benefits this brings.

There is something quietly restorative about slowing down: noticing a tiny toadstool beneath a fallen leaf, listening to birdsong, or watching the light shift through the trees.



These small discoveries invite us to pause and give thanks for the beauty of creation – beauty, of course, that is there whether or not we happen to capture it in a photograph.

Autumn also reminds us that change is part of life. The year's growth gives way to falling leaves and shorter days, yet even in this season of decline, nature is full of colour and new life. Perhaps that is a gentle encouragement to trust that God is with us through every season, bringing hope and renewal in ways we may not immediately see.

So, if you can, take a little time to step outside this autumn. Look closely, listen carefully, and let the world around you draw you into a moment of wonder and gratitude.

(attached are a couple of photos from a recent walk in Snake Woods. Depicted are the distinctive Fly Agaric toadstool and Yellow Stagshorn - which brightens the dark conifer floor)

David

Service and Coffee Morning on Wednesday mornings

Just to remind you that the mid week service in St Andrew's Church is at 10.30am every Wednesday and this will be followed by coffee morning from about 11.20am till 1.00pm.

Diary of Services and Events in Church in October 2026

Sat 3 rd	10.00am	Prayer Meeting in Church	Vince Ryder
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Trinity 18

Sun 4 th	10.00am	Harvest Festival	Vince Ryder
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Wed 7 th	10.30am	Holy Communion	David Ridley
	1pm	Funeral of Alan Rowell	

Trinity 19

Sun 11 th	10.00am	Holy Communion with Baptism of Theia Walton	Rev David Ridley
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Wed 14 th	10.30am	Morning Prayer	Sue Leighton
	11.20am	Coffee Morning	Ann Lucas

Sat 17 th	9.00am	Churchyard Working Party	
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Luke the Evangelist

Sun 18 th	10.00am	Morning Praise	John Roberts
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Wed 21 st	10.30am	Holy Communion	David Ridley
	11.20am	Coffee Morning	Ann Lucas

Fri 23 rd	10.00am	St Andrew's School Harvest Festival	
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Bible Sunday/Last Sunday after Trinity

Sun 25 th	10.00am	Holy Communion	Rev David Ridley
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Weds 28 th	10.30am	Morning Prayer	Sue Leighton
	11.20am	Coffee Morning	Ann Lucas

Prayer Saturdays

Saturday 3rd October 2026 Starts at 10am with private prayer until 10.45am when refreshments are available. All are welcome, feel free to drop in for however long you can.

Church Work Party

The next Church Work Party will be on **Saturday 17th October at 9.00am**. As you will have noticed the gardens are flourishing so we plan to major on their maintenance during the next few months. Should you not wish to work outside or the weather is inclement there are always cleaning, tidying, sorting jobs to do indoors.

We hope you will be able to come along in October and support this essential work.

Charity Run

Congratulations to Lucy, Karen Shaw's daughter, who completed the Great North Run on Sunday, 13 September, in aid of Alzheimer UK. If you would like to sponsor her, the Just Giving page is: https://www.justgiving.com/page/lucy-shaw-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL, or you can use the QR code.



Jigsaw Festival

The Jigsaw Festival will take place in St Andrew's Church on:

Friday 6 November from 2pm – 6pm; and

Saturday 7 November from 10am – 4pm

Please keep these days free and come along and help – more details soon.



St Andrew's Vision and Mission

Over the past few months, St Andrew's PCC has been spending a lot of time and thought on our vision for the future and where our priorities should lie.

When this is a little more developed, we would like to share our thinking with the whole congregation, but this is a taster as to where we are at the moment:

This is our vision and mission:

**To build our Church community;
and to share God's love in Jesus Christ, in Hadfield and beyond,
through word and action.**

'to be a Christ-like people'

in our:

- 1) Prayer and worship***
- 2) Learning and growing in the faith***
- 3) Fellowship, care and support of each other***
- 4) Engagement and outreach to the community***
- 5) Working for Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation***

In particular, we see the following as our priorities:

- *to install a new heating system by autumn 2027*
- *to review our communications by Spring 2027*
- *to set up a pre-school group for Easter 2027*
- *to review our House Group provision*
- *to have regular (?monthly?) social events*

This is slowly evolving so watch this space.

A Time to Remember

As in recent years, there will be a Memorial Service in St Andrew's, to remember by name loved ones who have died. This will be on Sunday 1 November at 4pm.

This is very much a community occasion and all are very welcome to attend. If you have someone who you would like included, please let a member of the ministry team know.

Follow St Andrew's Church on AChurchNearYou (ACNY) website where you can find all the latest information about services and events. You can use the QR code to access our entry on ACNY.



Our entry is administered by Judith Shaw please contact her if you would like to advertise an event.

If you have anything you would like to be included in the next Newsletter (subject to editorial review) then contact the Churchwardens, Sue and Sue, or David, the Vicar. The telephone number, if you need to contact us, is 07598 164646.