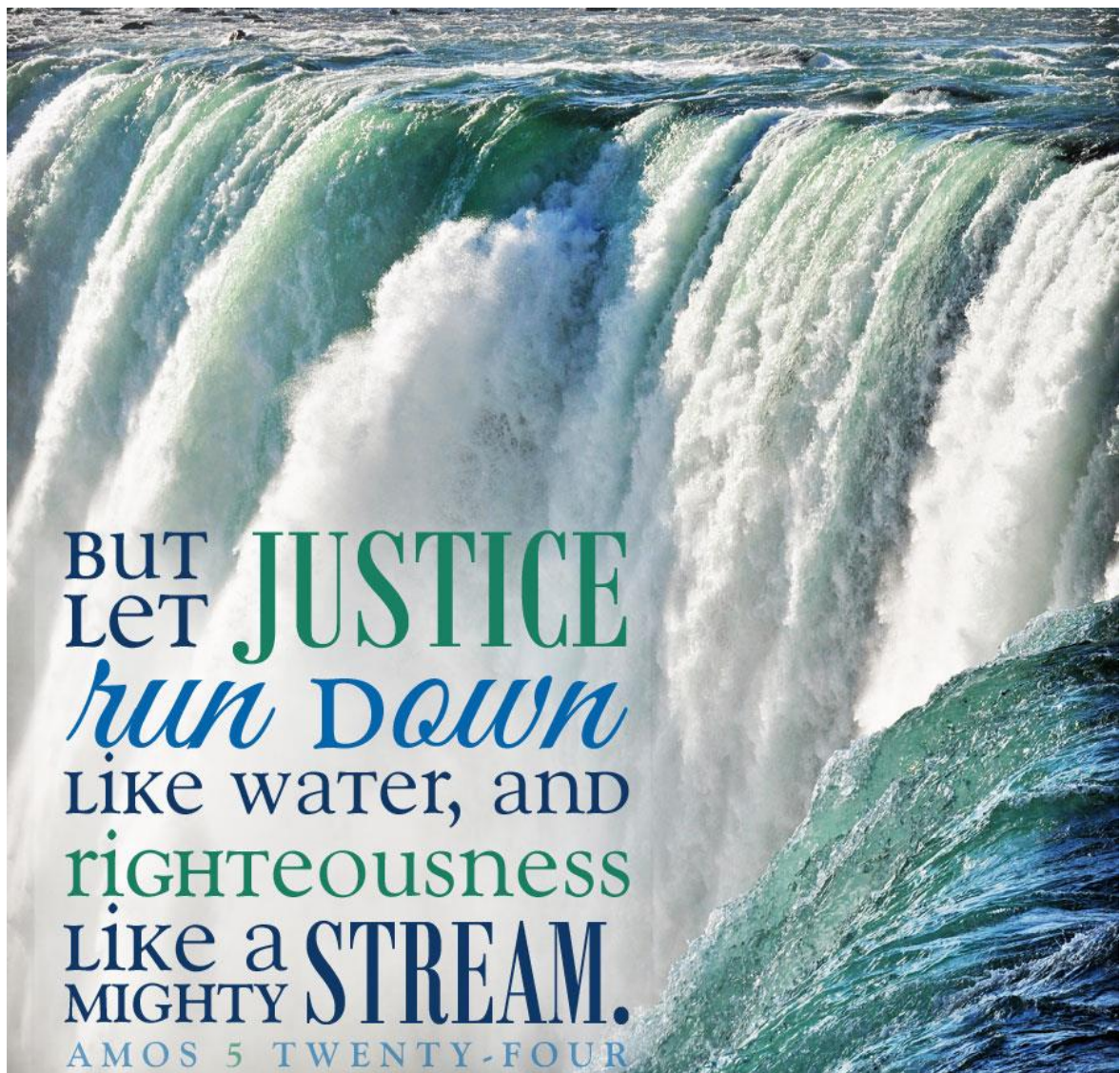


Astley, Tyldesley and Mosley Common



Team Magazine

July - August 2025



BUT LET **JUSTICE**
run DOWN
like water, and
righteousness
like a **STREAM.**
AMOS 5 TWENTY-FOUR

KEY TEAM CONTACTS

Team Rector:	Vacancy		
Team Vicar:	Rt Rev Jonathan Ruhumuliza	0161 790 2957	atmcteamvicar@gmail.com
OLM:	Rev Angela J Dand	01942 879608	
Curate:	Rev Debbie Clarke	07824 326007	debbie.clarke80@yahoo.co.uk
Pioneer Minister :	Rev Cath Eccles	07425 760255	catheccles50@gmail.com
Reader Emeritus:	David Kendrick	01942 882854	
Reader Emeritus:	Keith Revill	07840 718840	
Reader Emeritus:	Mike Stuckey	0161 357 0155	mikestuck24@gmail.com
Reader:	Shane Hopkins	07833 746522	shanehopkins@btinternet.com
Churchwarden:	Elaine Dickinson (St S)	01942 895007 / 07926 698719	
Churchwarden:	Iain Hodcroft (St G)	07976 314012	iain.hodcroft@gmail.com
Churchwarden:	Marjorie Owen (St J)	0161 7907177 / 07519 853279	m.owen111@sky.com
Churchwarden:	Andrea Taziker (St J)	07967 096555	a.taziker@gmail.com
Team Clerk:	Susan Mallon	07873 149627	atmcteamclerk@gmail.com

Magazine Contacts: Andrea M Taziker (07967 096555) Email a.taziker@gmail.com ; Michelle Lewthwaite (07780 680855) Email dmlwthwaite@talktalk.net; Kath Topping (01942 884746) Email mrs.topping1944@btinternet.com ; Jenny Evans (07815 071447) Email jennymevans98@outlook.com

Last week I visited the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen, Wales and had a wonderful time. I watched the parade of countries through the town, a joyful cacophony of flags, languages, songs, bright costumes and celebration. The Sikh dancers and drummers, the Jamaican singers with the drums and amazing rhythm, the bright costumes of the people from Costa Rica, the New Zealand Choir with Maori dance and songs, the note perfect Japanese Choir

"Byd gwyn fydd byd a gano. Gwaraidd fydd ei gerddi fo,"
"Blessed is a world that sings. Gentle are its songs".

The Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod was founded in 1947 to promote peace and reconciliation after World War II. This year it is 80 years since the end of that terrible war and sadly we still we have no peace, but on a sunny day in July in Wales it felt like the whole world was singing in harmony and felt possible that peace and justice would run down like water.

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen

This Team Magazine is also available on-line and can be found at www.achurchnearyou.com Where it says **Enter your location** start to type in the relevant church name eg: **St Stephens Astley**. **Click on the name** when it appears. Then select **News and Notices** from the left hand menu. Here you will find the up to date magazine plus several archived copies.

Please note any views, thoughts or opinions expressed in this magazine belong solely to the person who has contributed the associated article, and not necessarily to the Team Ministry or Editorial team..

REFLECTION ON MY PENTECOST SERMON

The church of today must regain the enthusiasm of people like those in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost and become excited about our faith as if filled with new wine and support each other and the church in trying to get the true gospel - the simple gospel of Jesus - over to other people rather than by looking back to the past instead of looking forward to the future. To use the past as building blocks rather than millstones around our necks.

I have told a story before at St. Stephens about two caterpillars who were talking to each other when a butterfly flew past them. One caterpillar said to the other - "you'll never get me up like one of them things".

The writer of the story continued along the lines that the people of the church must all become beautiful butterflies, though many people in the church stay as caterpillars. Caterpillars can be good and beautiful in their own right but all they can do is eat, sleep and get fat. In order to get on in life and be able to be fruitful and multiply we must change from being caterpillars into butterflies.



We must do that in order to get on with life as it should be lived so that we can move on, create more caterpillars which can turn into more butterflies and so on. For if, as church members, we remain as caterpillars we will be unable to reproduce ourselves and eventually die.

I'm afraid that all of this takes a lot of pain and courage. For what do caterpillars have to do before they emerge as butterflies? They have to go through a period of anguish and pain and become chrysalises before they re-emerge into the world.

We all have to go through a period of darkness before we come out into the light again - just as Peter predicted on the day of Pentecost that before the Holy Spirit was poured out over the people, all would be darkness before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

We cannot do this alone - we have to do it together. We have to support each other along the way and help each other if we stumble and fall.

Keith Revill



There is a phrase used at the end of one version of Morning Prayer. It is very simple but also quite profound. The phrase is, 'May God bless the work of our hands'. Whilst some are called to exercise ordained ministry in the church, all Christians are called to service and servant-hood. What has God called you to do? What is God calling you to do? The world is changing. Church life is changing. God continues to call us to service in his name. Arrange to chat to a member of the clergy team, or your churchwarden, about God's call upon your life.

May God continue to bless the work of our hands as we serve him in the world, the church and the home.



ATMC TEAM - SERVICE ROTA FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

As the magazine goes to print the following information about dates and times of services is correct. Any changes we will share them in church and on social media. For those able to access information online please check our Facebook page: *Astley, Tyldesley, Mosley Common Team Worship*. Alternatively, you can find information [including a digital version of the Team Magazine] on the 'A Church Near. You' website - each church has an individual section

Date	St Stephen's	St George's	St John's	Mission Church
3rd August Sunday	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church 12.30 Baptism	10am Service of the Word	2.30pm Sunday service with meal
10th August Sunday	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church	
14th August Thursday	10am Thursday Team Communion [St Stephen's Meeting Room]			
17th August Sunday	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	2.30pm Sunday service with meal
24th August Sunday	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church 12.30 Baptisms	10am Service of the Word	12.30 Baptism @ Mission Church
31st August Sunday	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church 12.30 Baptisms	

Date	St Stephen's	St George's	St John's	Mission Church
4 th Sept Thursday	10am Thursday Team Communion [St Stephen's Meeting Room]			
7 th Sept Sunday	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	2.30pm Sunday service with meal
13 th Sept Saturday	3pm Stepping Up			
14 th Sept Sunday	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church 12.30 Baptisms	10am Service of the Word 'Backpack service'	
19 th September Friday		12.15pm Communion [after Place of Welcome]		
20 th Sept Saturday				10am - 4pm Confirmation preparation day
21 st Sept Sunday	Service of the Word →	10am Joint Communion Service with Bishop Matthew St George's 200yr anniversary	Café Church 12.30 Baptisms ←	2.30pm Sunday service with meal ←
25 th Sept Sunday	10am Thursday Team Communion [St Stephen's Meeting Room]			
28 th Sept Sunday	10am Café Church Harvest	10am Service of the Word Harvest w SGCS	10am Team Communion Harvest	

WHAT'S ON - AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

St Stephen's and locally

Aug 9th	Lancashire Mining Museum - Astley Show -01942 895841 for more info or on Facebook
Aug 12th	House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Road, Astley - hosted by John Howarth. Tel: 07471 460 988. The theme is Prayer and all are welcome. Thanking God: Mary, Luke 1: 46-55.
Aug 20th	7.30pm - St Stephen's Mothers Union - Janet - in house entertainment
Aug 16th	10.00am - 12.00pm St Stephen's Coffee Morning - in church meeting Room
Aug 26th	House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Road, Astley - hosted by John Howarth. Tel: 07471 460 988. The theme is prayer. Blessing other People: Paul, Ephesians 1: 15-23 and 3: 14-21.
Sep 9th	House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Road, Astley - hosted by John Howarth. Tel: 07471 460 988. The theme is Prayer and all are welcome. Praying together, the early Church, Acts 4:23-31.
Sep 17th	7.30pm - St Stephen's Mothers Union - Stephanie Grove - flower arranging
Sep 20th	Heritage Weekend - Mining Museum - 01942 895841 for more info or on Facebook
Sep 20th	10.00am - 12.00pm St Stephen's Coffee Morning - in church meeting Room
Sep 21st	Battle of Britain Afternoon Tea - Mining Museum - 01942 895841 for more info or on Facebook
Sep 23rd	House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Road, Astley - hosted by John Howarth. Tel: 07471 460 988. The theme is Prayer and all are welcome. Praying with Confidence: Jesus, Luke 11: 1-13.

St George's Diary dates for August and September 2025

St George's diary is quite quiet in August: please note there is no brass band concert or Historical Society meeting this month.

22nd August - The Early Doors Club, 5pm-8pm: Tommy Scott (Space) Duo Show

An intimate night of music with Tommy Scott, frontman of the iconic 90s alternative band Space, performing a rare acoustic duo. Tickets are available on a Pay What You Can basis - choose a price that suits you best. All proceeds go directly back into supporting live music in local venues through The Early Doors Club. Book tickets via Eventbrite, or contact Susie Mallon on 07873 149627

30th August – VJ Day Concert

Although VJ Day is commemorated on the 15th August, the official surrender document was signed on 2nd September 1945. As this year marks the 80th anniversary of VJ Day the Golden Age Songbird returns to St George's to entertain us with a great repertoire of songs from the era. This will be an afternoon concert - times and ticket information will be confirmed soon.

14th September – Brass Band Concert: Longridge

Church doors open 6.30pm, concert starts at 7pm. Tickets £8 each, under 16s free: cash on entry. Raffle tickets available. Refreshments served in the interval.

19th September – The Early Doors Club, 5pm-8pm: Act to be announced

Tickets are available on a Pay What You Can basis – choose a price that suits you best. All proceeds go directly back into supporting live music in local venues through The Early Doors Club. Book tickets via Eventbrite, or contact Susie Mallon on 07873 149627

29th September – Tyldesley Historical Society:

The regular meeting on the last Monday of the month returns after the summer break.

Refreshments from 7pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm.

Contact Iain Hodcroft for more details - 07976 314012.

There will be additional events taking place at St George's between 12th – 21st September as part of Heritage Weeks and to commemorate church's 200th anniversary: more details to be announced.

Regular events continue with:

Team Prayers

Every Friday morning 9.30am -10am: an opportunity to join together for a time of prayer -open to everyone.

Place of Welcome @ St George's

Weekly drop in **every Friday morning in church, between 10am and 12 noon**. Free cuppa and biscuits/toast. An opportunity to come and have a natter with others or just find a quiet space. For the crafty among you bring your knitting/crochet projects and join the group of ladies who 'knit and natter' in church on a Friday morning.

Baptism Drop-in, 1pm-2pm

Sundays 15th June and 27th July, at St George's Church: an opportunity for families enquiring about baptism in our Team churches to call in, ask questions, fill in an application form and check available dates. No need to book, just call in during the hour.

St Johns Mosley Common Events

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Aug 9th | Blooming Mosley Common have a Litter Pick from 11 till 12. Meet at the Pit Wheel. All materials provided, litter pickers etc. All under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. |
| Aug 16 th | An Afternoon with Martin James 4pm at St John's Church. Tickets to be sold on the night or pre booking. Ring Joan Taylor for further details; 01942 870095 |
| Sep 11th | Blooming Mosley Common AGM is on Thursday September 11th at 7 in the Lounge at the back of St John's Church. |

- Sep 13th Blooming Mosley Common have a Litter Pick from 11 till 12. Meet at the Pit Wheel. All materials provided, litter pickers etc. All under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Sep 15th Mosley Common Historical Society is at 7.00 in the Lounge at St John's Church. This will be the rescheduled meeting from July on 'Amazing Historical Sites in North Wales that you should see!'
- Sept 27th Tyldesley Band Concert at 7.30 in St John's Church. Tickets to be sold on the night or pre booking. Ring Joan Taylor for further details; 01942 870095

Regular events continue with

St John's Mosley Common. Place of welcome Café

Come and join Jean and Joan for our weekly café in the church lounge
Tuesdays from 10.00 - 12.00
Contact Jean 07817 857988 or Joan 01942 870095 for any queries

Welcome to CAMEO. Come And Meet Every One

CAMEO is a local friendship group based in Mosley Common meeting every other Tuesday at St. John's Church lounge from 1:30pm

Everyone is welcome just come along and join in the activities or just have a good chat no admission or membership fees. Refreshments tea or coffee and biscuits only £1. Everyone welcome.

Social Walks: Boothstown Medical Centre and PPG in association with "Be Well Wigan". Everyone is welcome to join our FREE hour long social walks. Suitable for all including beginners. Wear comfortable clothing and footwear. Meet outside St John's church at 10.30am every Thursday. Refreshments and toilet facilities available inside church. For more information search for <https://bewellwigan.org>

The Bicentenary of the Dedication of St George's Church



On Sunday, 21st September 2025, at 10.00am a Team Service will be held to celebrate the bicentenary of the dedication of St George's Church, Tyldesley.

The Bishop of Bolton will be in attendance.

Please reserve this date in your diaries.

There will be no service at Astley or Mosley Common on that date.

Church Notices that didn't come out quite right...

This evening at 7 pm there will be a hymn-sing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sing.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the church hall on Friday afternoon.

COME, CELEBRATE 200 YEARS



Its finally here.

People at St George's have been talking about the bicentenary for what seems ages!

The site was given by the owner of the Tyldesley Banks Estate, 'Squire' Thomas Johnson in 1820. He witnessed the foundations being laid through 1821 to the foundation stone being ceremoniously noted on St George's Day, 1822.

By 1823, and the realisation that the plot of land was too small for the church, the 'Squire' had died; and it was his

nephew George Ormerod, successor to the estate, who gave a little more land to allow the church to be completed (by November 1824).

The consecration took place on 19th September 1825 by the Rt. Revd. Dr. Charles Blomfield, Bishop of Chester, in whose diocese Tyldesley was then situated.

The final programme of bicentennial events is not ready to publish, as this edition of the magazine goes to press! When clearer, these will be announced in weekly notices in each of our 4 churches, schools and local social media etc.

Suffice it to say here, that only one 'Team' Service will be held on Sunday Morning, 21st September at 10.00am in St George's, the Parish Church of Tyldesley cum Shakerley; and we look forward to welcoming people from Astley, Mosley Common and Shakerley to celebrate Holy Communion, with Rt Revd Dr. Matthew Porter, Bishop of Bolton.



The photograph of the church used here is courtesy of Buttress Architects, who have added a proposed extension, as envisaged during the feasibility study completed several years ago now, on which recommendations for the internal reordering of St George's will (eventually) be based!

Do please 'Come along' We'll almost certainly have lots of cake!

Iain Hodcroft

St. Stephens Mens Group Presents

A FAMILY BBQ



**In aid of Mission Aviation Fellowship
and Wigan and Leigh Hospice**

**The afternoon on the church field will comprise of
Fun and Games for Children and Adults
High Quality BBQ Food (included in ticket price)
Annual Charity Raffle with a first prize of £100
Free for Children under school age**

**£8 Adults
£4 Children**

**SATURDAY
30th AUGUST
3.30pm**

**TICKETS FOR BOTH BBQ & RAFFLE ARE AVAILABLE FROM
CHURCH AND GROUP MEMBERS or on the door.
OR PHONE 07840 718840 FOR INFORMATION**

GOODBYE TO JONATHAN AND ASENATH

by Andrea Taziker and Marjorie Owen



It has been a joy have Jonathan and Asnath in our Team, and in our Vicarage! Jonathan has been in our Parish for 5 years and has made many good friends and has brought God's blessings upon us. From joining in the middle of Covid and all the challenges that ensued, carpets, bathrooms, rampant plants.... His warm smile and kind manner and sense of humour has endeared him to many. His pastoral care for the people of our team was recognisable from the start and is his primary purpose in his people ministry.

His lovely wife Asnath has become an essential part of our church life and an active member of our PCC. Her warmth and gentleness and wonderful chuckle have made her many friends and she will be greatly missed at our church.

We have had amazing services in the Team for example at St Georges Church when the High Commissioner of Rwandan visited and we had a weekend of Rwanda culture of music and dance in our congregations. Jonathan has helped our church to grow and attract new members and has helped us with the technological challenges of current times.

However, it is as a godly person eager to do the work of Our Lord wherever and whenever he is needed that is the cornerstone of his being. His relationship with God is what determines his character and actions.

Jonanathan and Asnath have become good friends to many in our church and are dearly held in our hearts. We are very sorry to see them leave but know that God has work for the elsewhere. We hold them in our hearts and prayers.



PCC NOTES FROM THE PUBLIC MEETING RE ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH

On Wednesday 21st May 2025- 1.30pm at Astley Christian Fellowship Church, Manchester Rd, Astley.

Led by:

Mark Knight, Parish Support Officer, Manchester Diocese.

Simon Cooke, Acting Arch Deacon.

Rob Jackson, Acting Area Dean (no active role). Observer.

Summary

65 members of the congregation and wider public, including representatives from St Georges and St John's Churches, St Stephen's Primary School and Astley Christian Fellowship, were in attendance.

Mark Knight began the meeting by saying that no final decision had been made in relation to the future of St. Stephen's Church building and that nothing had been pre-judged.

Mark Knight said the public meeting was part of the process that must be followed before final decisions were made. But the process could lead to the closure of the building.

Mark Knight stated that the purpose of 'The Church' was Mission, not the maintenance of church buildings. He said maintenance of church buildings was the responsibility of the PCC.

Following the public meeting the comments made would be shared with the DMPC who will take note of them and a resolution would be prepared for the future of the building.

The resolution would be shared with relevant interested parties and comments sought. The interested parties can be identified as the Church, St Stephen's School, the Board of Education, Wigan Council / Education, Community, St Georges and St John's Churches, Leigh Deanery.

If there were no objections to the resolution the process would continue. The next step would be going to the Church Commissioners ready to start the Bishop's Process. Following this the details would be published and posted on buildings in the locality and if no objections were received, the building would be closed.

Simon Cooke produced a flow chart showing the process which he said he was happy to share with St. Stephen's PCC. The flow chart also had on it the contact details where comments at each stage in the process could be received.

At all stages in the process objections could be raised but must be resolved before the process could move to the next stage. This was said to be a lengthy process that could take many months to finalise. If no objections were received the Church building could be closed by the end of 2025 at the earliest.

Some examples of strong objections to the closure of the building could be:

1. There are plans to extend St Stephen's Primary School within St. Stephen's Church with community facing space as well as school space and alternative worship space within this. (There would need to be a business plan to support the funding of this kind of development and agreement with the school. The proposed meeting between the PCC and the School Governing Board and Headteacher would provide the opportunity to explore a plan of this type. The money



for a venture such as this would have to come from grants and fund-raising)

2. There is nowhere within the parish of Astley where Weddings and Funerals can be held.

Simon Cooke ultimately stated that the future of St Stephen's church building would be what we wanted it to be. But the **Diocese will not rebuild the church.**

Other Specific Comments to note made by those present

There were strong feelings in the room expressed by many. There was a desire at times to revisit the history of the Church so far; the roof, the cost, the Architect, the loss of worship space, with special reference to the school, the litigation, Christian faith and spirituality in Astley, past and present, and the due diligence with which the PCC had put their vision to the Diocese.



There were feelings expressed in the room of being let down by the Diocese. Mark Knight kept bringing the meeting back to 'we are where we are now and what do we want to happen herein?'. He said that the Diocese was not able to go back in time and they were looking to the future of the building and not the architect for whom the litigation was served. He said the Diocese did not want to close the building - that the PCC was instrumental in that process.

Simon Cooke said it was not the responsibility of the Church of England to provide meeting space.

A question was raised - if money from the Parish Share could offset the cost of repairing the roof? Mark Knight stated there had been a significant reduction in the Parish share allocation in the previous two years at St Stephen's.

A question was raised of what would happen to the church building if it was handed back to the Diocese? It was stated that in previous instances the buildings have been sold to builders, other religious groups or in some cases just left.

A further question was raised about the land surrounding the church building and the position in respect of that land and the garden of remembrance - if the building was closed as the land belonged to the people of Astley. The garden of remembrance contained ashes of people passed.

A question was raised about demolition of the building and,, if the Diocese had to pay for that upon closure, then why not use that amount to repair the roof. Simon Cooke stated demolition may be necessary for safety reasons.

Simon spoke of the £1.6million deficit in the Diocese.

It was commented that albeit the Church was thriving, with use of the school building for worship, there was no development for the school and pupils to extend their own spirituality in the Church due to its closure.

Simon spoke of prayer being the heart of the church and said to follow that prayer. The community could then move forward and work together to make something new emerge. He concluded with the words 'Prayer is powerful'.

He stated the Diocese was wrestling with Christianity in the area.

The meeting ended at 2.30pm with the Grace spoken by Simon

*Notes contributed by Elaine Dickinson
Churchwarden 2/6/25*

THOUGHTS ON THE PUBLIC MEETING (MAY 21ST)



"A complete waste of time" was the remark I heard but I think it uncovered the frustration felt. There was anger and bitterness just under the surface. Did the diocese "let us down"? - But Dioceses don't normally build churches and didn't build ours. It was the choice of aerated concrete slabs on the roof that did it for us.

The dioceses has a list of architects and we chose one from it; but we were told that this doesn't mean that they are underwritten or vouched for (we could just as well have used the Yellow Pages!). In 1960 aerated concrete slabs were the latest thing, all the smart people were using them. In the 1990's they were shown to have a much shorter life than people originally thought so they were no longer recommended. We were not told and 10 years ago we spent £183,500 on the roof and discovered inferior work there. We were told the diocese is £1-2 million in the red so can't help. The builders have ceased trading. The architect has a good lawyer who is likely to prove regular warnings are not in his brief, so we might expect to lose if we sue. The meeting was also a bit "miffed" to find he is still on that diocesan list (!) which riled quite a few "Surely something could be done" was the cry.

We felt like people who have been conned, like when those hackers break into your bank account, clean it out and leave you with nothing and no re-dress. You just lose and maybe learn, your trust misplaced.

It was probably necessary to face this and get it off our chest. Gradually we (I think) realised there is nothing to be gained by pushing this line, except possibly sympathy!

So it dawns on us - we are on our own.....with God!!!!

Prayer brings confidence and a quiet joy at being in on God's purpose for us. A renewed hope slips in. "You're not telling us where to go now" was a cry from the meeting. Yes, the diocese can't do that - the realisation began to sink in! "The PCC feels at the end of its ability to deal with this technical matter" announced the Chairman. Yes the usual channels are exhausted. So now we will see how God works through us. In 1631 we had just a little parish church dedicated to St Stephen. In 2031, four hundred years later, we will be celebrating it and also the vision God has given us today for Astley!



It was agreed that we are a thriving church and twice we were told the church is the people not the building. We already know this. We also know that in the Bible the Apostles didn't have buildings and the first Christians met in people's homes (e.g. Philemon). Located in one spot they soon saw the need for a proper base for their work (foundations of early 2nd century church buildings have been uncovered). Our diocese values its shiny new offices in Bury and its cathedral as a heart of prayer and worship in Manchester. So we need a base for our work and worship in Astley.

If we had taken a recording of our meeting we would have seen that only two positive statements were made about our future -

- 1 Use the school and integrate fully - possibly with extension to the hall.
- 2 Demolish the church building and get a pre-fab on site.

I could be persuaded but there are problems: who is in charge? In the long term will church schools be abolished and is a pre-fab too temporary. There are other options. We have good sound vestries, toilets, kitchen etc - all unscathed and working well. Adapt them or extend them to include the present stained glass windows.

What exactly do we want? What space and for how many? What do we need? God is about to show us.

We must come together and get our ideas recorded. Then as we look at the options ("we" being everybody who cares - even just the curious) we will see an idea gradually gaining strength and a way forward emerging.

It's difficult to guess future needs (e.g. Covid taught us how to work without a building for school or church). Will we do teaching online? Will Zoom help us to keep in touch? Surely love will require actual human relations but maybe with different resources.

There's a way through, all is not lost and God's purpose will be revealed - and we will be thrilled at being part of it.

Michael Williamson



On 15 August, we will mark the 80th anniversary of VJ Day, paying tribute to those involved in the end of the Second World War, as well as reminding us to pray and work for peace in our communities and in the world.

"The 80th anniversary of VE Day is a moment of profound significance for our nation. It is a time to remember with

deep gratitude the courage and sacrifice of those who fought for the freedoms we enjoy today. In an increasingly dangerous world, I encourage all our churches to participate in these commemorations, to ring their bells, to offer prayers for peace, and to provide spaces for their communities to come together in remembrance. As we honour the past, so we renew our commitment to building a more peaceful and just world for all."

Hugh Nelson, Bishop to the Armed Forces



On this day we commemorate the anniversary of the end of the Second World War, to remember the many soldiers, sailors, and airmen who gave their lives restraining evil and opposing tyranny. We also come in thanksgiving for those who continue to strive for peace on our world. We will gather joyfully on that day, as those who gathered on that first VJ Day, glad of each other's company, and grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss.

"God of peace, we give thanks for the end of the Second World War and the sacrifices made by so many. We remember with sorrow the suffering caused by conflict and pray for healing and reconciliation. Grant us wisdom to learn from the past and courage to build a future of peace and understanding. Amen."

THE TEAM MAGAZINE

In the last two issues of the magazine, we have highlighted the cost involved in producing this.

The cost per printing is approximately £298.00 totalling £1,788.00 for the year. We receive £450.00 in advertising, so the total outlay to produce the magazine is around £1,338.00 per year. In the last issue, we decided to ask readers if they would like to donate towards the cost.

I am delighted to inform you that we have received a total of £475.00 from the three churches and we are very grateful to everyone who has contributed.

You can still donate by giving this to a churchwarden in an envelope marked "Magazine" or alternatively if you prefer to pay by bank transfer the details are as follows:

Account HSBC (It is classed as a business account)

The Parish Church of St. George. Tyldesley

Sort Code: 40 - 28 - 10

Account number: 51630067

Please note: You must quote the reference Magazine

Thank you so much for your generosity.

Marje Owen

MAJOR INVESTMENT IN LOCAL CHURCHES AND PARISH CLERGY AS £1.6BN THREE-YEAR NATIONAL SPENDING PLANS UNVEILED.

PARISH PUMP NEWS AUGUST 2025

The Church Commissioners' funding towards work of the church is set to leap by 36 per cent in the three-year period 2026-28, amounting to the biggest distribution in Church's history.

The C of E plans to invest more than £1.6 billion towards sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and serving local communities over the next three years. In total, it plans to invest £4.6 billion over the next nine years, from 2026 to 2034.

Also, the typical stipend is set to rise 10.7 per cent next year, under new proposals as clergy well-being put at centre of spending plans.

On top of that, the funding for churches in the lowest income communities will jump from £91 million spent in the last three years, to £133.5 million. There will also be a major focus on safeguarding, for which £30 million has been allocated.

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said: "Parishes and clergy are at the heart of everything we do in the Church."

Editor: This is a colossal amount of money. Would your minister or church treasurer care to make any comment?



PEACE WITH CREATION- SEASON OF CREATION 2025

September 1st is the 'World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation', and the beginning of 'The Season of Creation' in our church calendar. It concludes on 4th October, the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi.

During the season, Christians around the world are encouraged to both pray about and act for the environment and the protection of creation. This year's focus is on "Peace with Creation" and can be used as a time for prayer, reflection, celebration and activity to care for God's creation throughout the season.

Christians are asked to reflect on their relationship with God, their neighbours, and the Earth, renewing their commitment to creation care. The theme, "**Peace with Creation,**" draws inspiration from Isaiah 32:14-18, which speaks of a desolate creation and the hope for its flourishing through justice and the pouring out of the Spirit.

Only last year's resources seem to be available 'on-line' as I write this piece for the magazine; but by the time you are reading it, I'm sure new resources will be available!

"Seeds of Peace and Hope" was the theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV for this year's day of prayer. The concepts of peace and care for creation share a close link, and there is also a strong connection between war and degradation of our planet, which is seen in the waste of resources through destruction and armaments.

Christians are asked to pray together so that conditions conducive to peace may be created—a lasting, shared peace that gives rise to hope. The metaphor of the seed indicates the need for long-term commitment, while expressing hope that the seeds of peace may emerge across all continents.

Iain Hodcroft

SEEDS OF PEACE AND HOPE.....

Loving God, creator of all that is, thank you for the gift of creation, for the beauty of the earth and its creatures. We acknowledge the damage that has been done to your world through our actions and inactions. We repent of our disregard for the interconnectedness of all things and the harm caused by our choices.

We pray for a renewed sense of peace with creation, recognising that true peace is only possible when justice is restored. Grant us wisdom to see the interconnectedness of all life and courage to live in a way that honours your creation. Help us be good stewards of your earth, to protect its resources, and to care for the vulnerable among us.

Inspire us to act with justice and love, to work for a sustainable future, and to be a voice for those who have no voice. May our actions reflect our commitment to your call for peace and reconciliation with all creation. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, who lived in harmony with all creation.

Amen



**A SYMPATHETIC AND
UNDERSTANDING SERVICE**

Sankey & Monks
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

We'll take care of all the
arrangements with
care and sensitivity

01942 673171

5-7 Hope St, Leigh
Lancashire
WN7 1AQ



***Unsworth`s
Funeral Service***

***33 Market Street,
Atherton
Tel: (01942) 877557***

*For the immediate personal attention of
Jackie Unsworth,
Tim Hargreaves-Stead & Darren Oliver*

*Independent family concern providing low
cost funerals with dignity and respect*

Also at: 45, Leigh Road, Hindley Green
122 Twist Lane, Leigh
489 Warrington Road, Culcheth

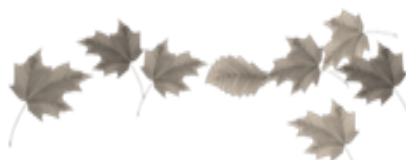
**RB | R BANKS & SON
FUNERALS LTD**

ESTABLISHED 1921

Independent Funeral Directors • Monumental Masons

**A local family run business, R. Banks & Son are one of the largest
independent funeral directors in the Wigan area.**

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans
Pre Arrangement Funeral Plans and
Memorial Plans available



24 hour service • Caring family firm

www.rbanksandson.co.uk

PARSONAGE HOUSE, 100 Railway Road, Leigh, Wigan WN7 4AN 01942 261415

CARINA LODGE, 178 Tyldesley Road, Atherton M46 9AE 01942 318025

Head Office: Halliwell House, 758/768 Ormskirk Rd, Pemberton, Wigan WN5 8BB T: 01942 222156

Branches: Bryn 01942 271392, Standish 01257 422011, Scholes 01942 820526, Beech Hill 01942 829200,
Tyldesley 01942 887312, Upholland 01695 622099, Platt Bridge 01942 863936, Coppull 01257 793880

MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP - FLYING FOR LIFE PRAYER DIARY

Jess Soames writes in the MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship)
Flying for Life Prayer Diary



'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time'.

- 1 Peter 1:3-5 (ESV)

I have heard that one of the toughest things about learning to fly at the beginning is trusting what your instruments are saying over what you think you are seeing and feeling. Your body wants to tell you one thing, but the instruments are proclaiming something else.

It seems to me that this is an apt metaphor for an age-old spiritual problem - learning to trust God when we cannot see or feel the path beneath us.

I was chatting with a friend recently about how scary it would be to go through life's hardships without God's presence and without hope of a Saviour, knowing that all you had to rely on were the resources available to you in this physical life.

Worldly hope relies on one's personal circumstances and could be better described as 'optimism' or 'positivity', but bible hope is completely different.

Bible hope is not just the desire for something good in the future, it's a firm confidence in God's promises and His character. It declares that, because Jesus has risen from the dead - conquering the power of death once and for all - anything is possible because death and decay no longer have a final say.

'Then through the darkness, Your loving kindness Tore through the shadows of my sole The work is finished, the end is written Jesus Christ, my living hope' - Phil Wickham, from the album Living Hope.

As we pray, we pray from a position of confident expectation that our God is good and has good plans for His people. We look to Jesus and His finished work on the cross. Knowing that the end is already written.



*Jess Soames
Prayer Communications Leader*

This article was contributed by John Howarth who emailed to say:

"I found this article by Jess Soames in the MAF Prayer Diary and it really grabbed me, thinking especially in these difficult times at St Stephen's, Astley regarding the church building. It's such a strong reminder that, as we pray with confident expectation that our God is good and has good plans for his people, let's look to Jesus and His finished work on the cross, knowing that the end is already written.

I wondered if we could use it in the Team Magazine?"

In God's love, John

TEAM WEEKEND AT SCARGILL HOUSE 15TH -17TH MAY 2026



An update

We are grateful to the community at Scargill for once again being able to accommodate a 'Team Weekend' for us. We value the opportunity to spend time with Phil & Di Stone before they retire and depart from Scargill. Following the pattern of previous visits, we will aim to arrive at Scargill from 4pm on Friday 15th May and depart after lunch on Sunday 17th May at around 2pm.

Many thanks to those who have already sent initial expressions of interest: we are now at the stage of asking for formal applications to be submitted. Booking forms will be available in churches from

27th July 2025, or contact Susie Mallon: atmcteamclerk@gmail.com or 07873 149627. Full details of the programme for the weekend will be shared closer to the weekend.

Cost

The costs for the weekend are as follows:

£174.50 per adult [£87.25 per night]

£196.50 per adult for an en-suite room [no single en-suite rooms]

Discounts:

Children under 5 are free

Children 5-7yrs - 70% reduction

Children 8-11yrs - 50% reduction

Children 12-16 yrs - 30% reduction

Full time students - 30% reduction

Single parent families - 10% reduction in total cost

Carers - 20% reduction in their cost

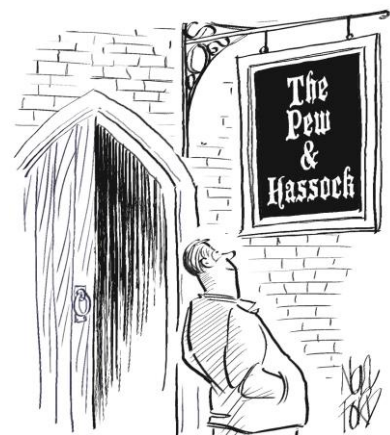
Day visitor rates on request

Booking

Completed booking forms with your deposit [**£50 per adult and £20 per child**] should be returned to Susie Mallon, Team Clerk, **no later than Friday 24th October 2025**.



"We've had a tip-off that the sermon is going to over-run again."



Changing the name from 'St Mark's Parish Church', resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services

Sr. Mary Alice Marsh VAD



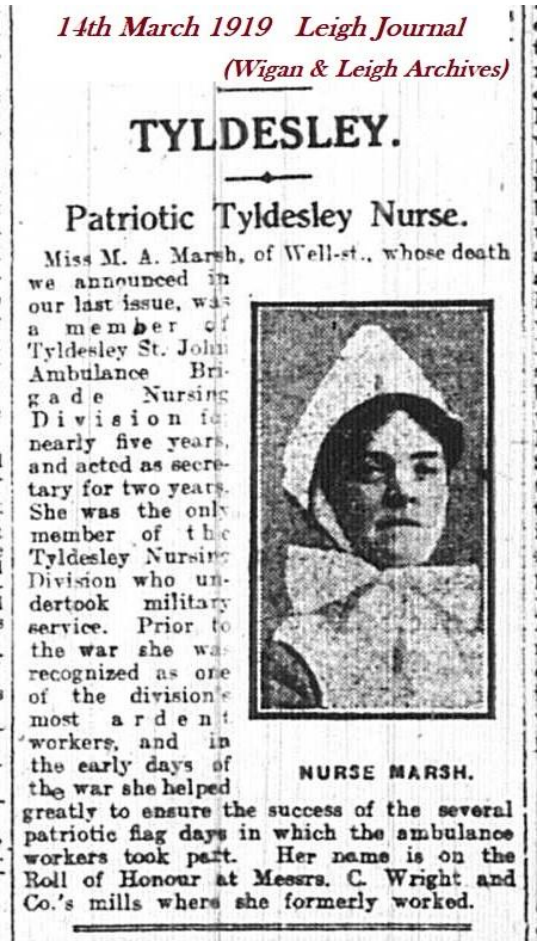
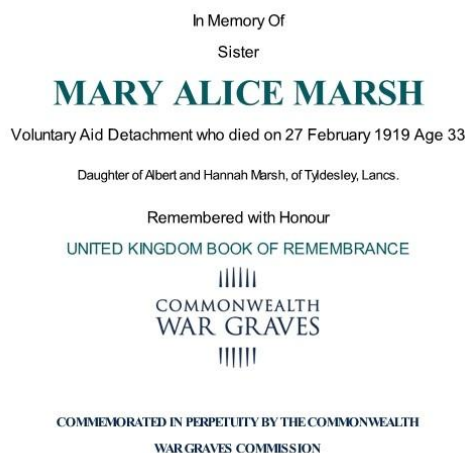
As previously noted in the magazine, several members of the Tyldesley Historical Society have been working with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission regarding a new headstone for this WWI Volunteer.

Mary grew up in Well St in Tyldesley and worked in Caleb Wright's mill on Shuttle Street. She was trained in First Aid and Basic Home Nursing by the St John Ambulance Brigade Nursing Division, which was based in the Tyldesley Technical School. She supported the local division wholeheartedly. In 1918 she volunteered to become a nurse/general assistant at the

Garswood Hall Auxiliary Hospital, caring for wounded servicemen in Ashton in Makerfield. As she was still on 'active service' when she died in 1919 at the hospital, she was recognised as a casualty of war in 2018; and an application was made for a new CWGC headstone.

This was finally delivered and installed in May 2025.

A short service of commemoration will take place in Tyldesley Cemetery, on Sunday 7 September 2025, at 2.30pm. Members of the Royal British Legion, Order of St John and St John Ambulance and local dignitaries have been

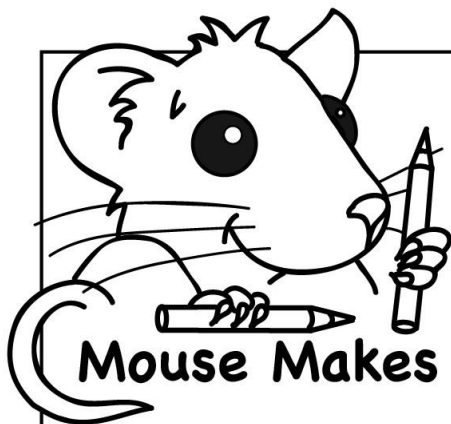


invited, and this invitation is extended to others in the community who may wish to be involved.

We have been unable to find any living relatives to date.

A commemorative pamphlet will be prepared and distributed on the day.

IH July2025



Mouse Makes

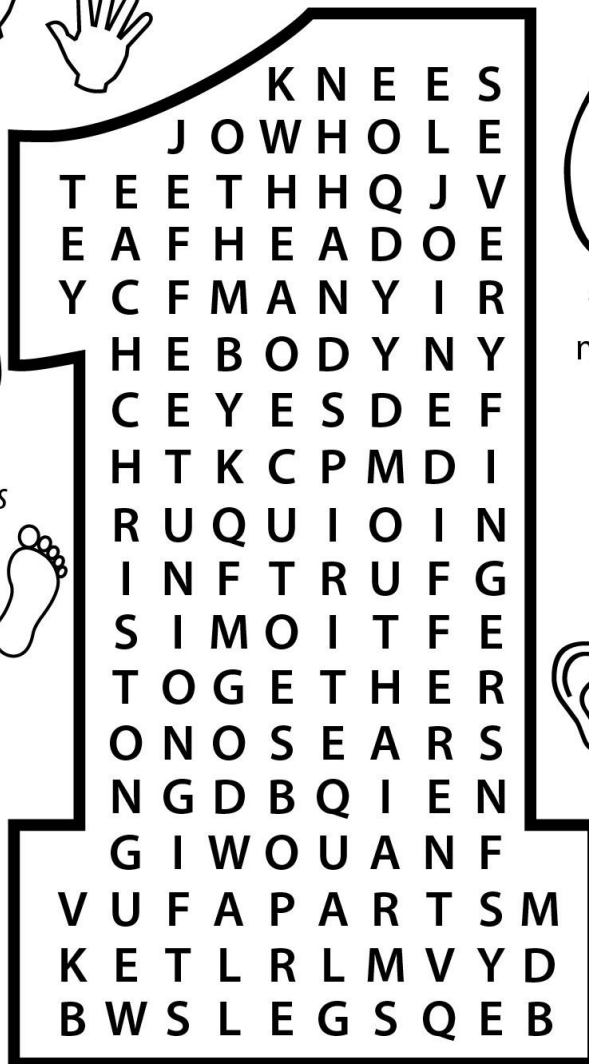
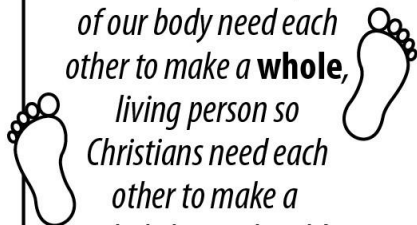
"Just as a **body**, though **one**, has **many** parts, but all its many **parts** form one body, so it is with **Christ**. For we were all baptised by one **Spirit** so as to form one body... Even so, the body is not made up of one part but of many...

...Now you are the body of Christ, and **each** one of you is part of it."

from 1 Corinthians 12:12-27



Just as the different parts of our body need each other to make a **whole**, living person so Christians need each other to make a whole living church!

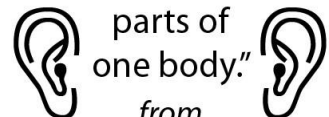


Look in the Bible verses for the words written in **bold** then look for these words too!

GOD • TOGETHER • EQUAL • ALL • EVERY
HEAD • EYES • EARS • MOUTH • TONGUE
TEETH • NOSE • ARMS • HANDS • FINGERS
LEGS • KNEES • FEET • TOES • GIFTS



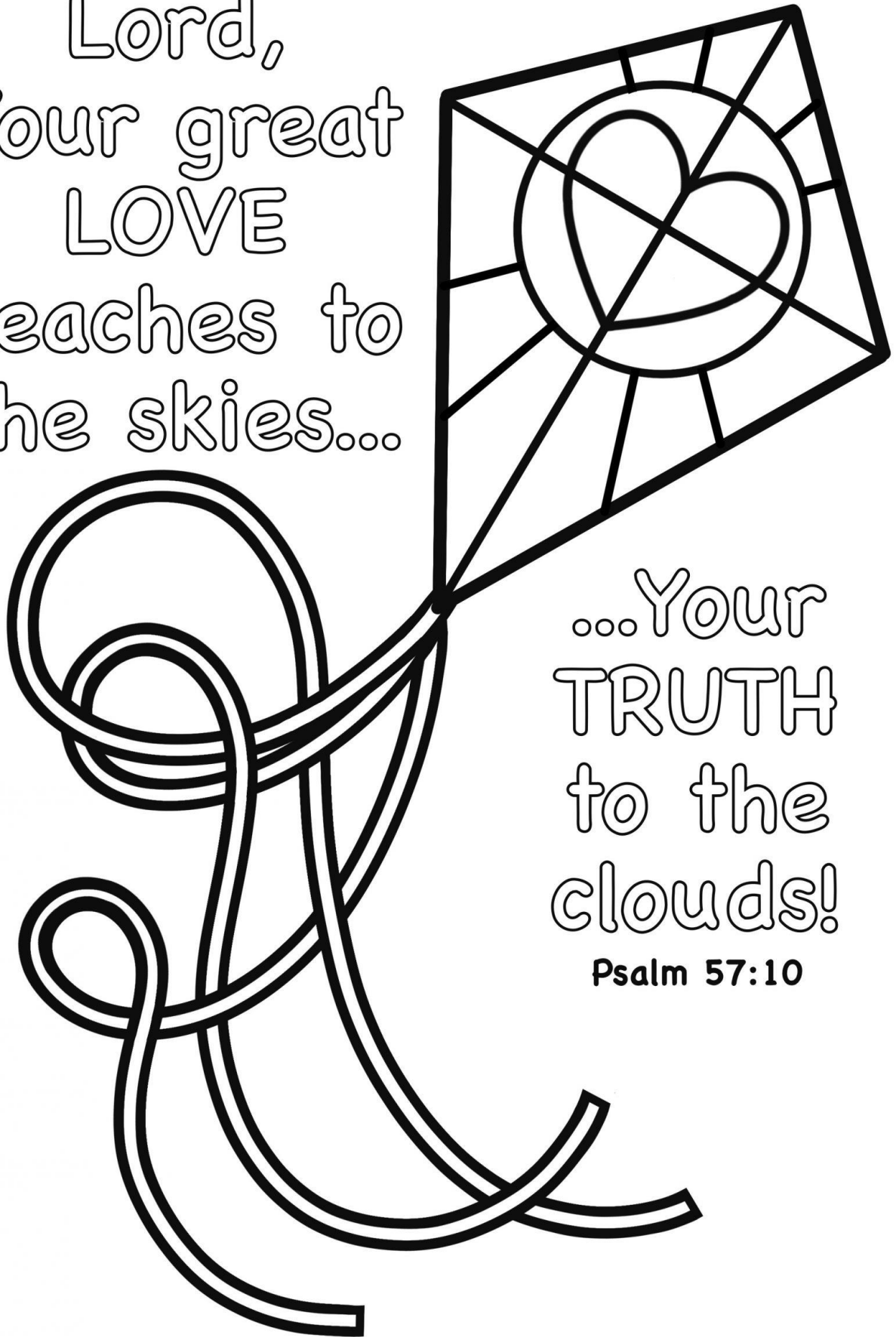
"Though we are many, we are one body in **union** with Christ, and we are **joined** to each other as **different** parts of one body."



from
Romans 12:1-7



Lord,
Your great
LOVE
reaches to
the skies...



...Your
TRUTH
to the
clouds!

Psalm 57:10

Bridgewater Funeral Service Ltd



Our family caring for you and your loved ones

Contact Emma or Abbie

0161 637 7550

24 Hour Service



27 Chaddock Lane Boothstown Worsley M28 1DB

www.bridgewaterfuneralservice.co.uk

TRADITIONAL "AUTUMN FAIRS" ...

When sitting down to write this article I first thought of a 'Strawberry Fair', but they are usually associated with summertime - and by the time you will be reading this, Summer (alas) will be almost over.

So, we'll start with 'Scarborough Fair', which was famous long before Paul Simon came on the scene. In the late Middle Ages the seaside town of Scarborough was an important venue for traders from all over England. It hosted an exceptionally long 45-day event, which started on 15th August. Merchants visited from all over England, and as far away as Norway, Denmark, the Baltic states and the Byzantine Empire, bringing wine, silk, jewellery, lace, glass, silver, gold, iron, timber, furs, amber, spices and dried fruits and taking back with them woollen cloth and leather, grain, foodstuffs and many craft goods.



Minstrels, jugglers, dancers, and fortune-tellers came to entertain the people. It was granted a charter by King Henry III on 22nd January 1253, stating "The Burgesses and their heirs forever may have a yearly fair in the Borough, to continue from the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary until the Feast of St Michael next following."

Unfortunately, the traditional "Scarborough Fair" no longer exists, it petered out in around 1788 when it ceased to have any real commercial importance, but a number of local celebrations take place every September to mark the original event.

The interesting thing about Paul Simon's reworking of a traditional folk song about "Scarborough Fair" (quoting a lover setting impossible tasks for their beloved, a common theme in folk ballads), is that it features a canticle, a second song interwoven with the traditional folk tune, not as a separate part but as a counterpoint. "Canticle" is a reworking of an earlier anti-war song by Paul Simon, "The Side of a Hill," and is sung in a countermelody to the traditional "Scarborough Fair".

In the Church of England, we normally construe a 'canticle' to be a type of hymn or song, typically derived from biblical texts outside of the Book of Psalms, that is used in Christian liturgy. Paul Simon uses a secular 'psalm-like' song to remind us of the futility of war - where 'Generals order their soldiers to kill. And to fight for a cause they have long ago forgotten.'

I travelled to the cliffs south of Scarborough to visit the present-day 'Scarborough Fair Collection' on the Spring Bank Holiday. I hoped to see a collection of historic fairground rides, fairground organs and associated transport exhibits (*It was closed!*)



Another famous fair remembered in song is of course 'Widdecombe Fair'; where the luckless Tom Pierce was persuaded to loan his grey mare to a group of friends from Devon. The rhyme dates from before 1850, and church records show that 'Cobbley, Stuer, Davy and Hawke' shared the same place of birth in Crediton parish and were very likely friends. Peter Gurney was also most probably a friend but his birth must have been registered elsewhere!

The fair is still held in Devon annually ... and the ghost of Tom Pierce may still be anxiously awaiting the return of his mare ... she, of course, ended up as 'rattling bones'!

Apparently, Cobley was a wealthy man who was not quite sure who should inherit his fortune and only after many drafts of the will eventually made up his mind ... and then lived to be 96 years old!

The word fair comes from the Latin *feria*, a holiday. Some fairs would have been specialised with traders dealing in wool, leather or cloth; others would have a dazzling array of goods. In the 19th Century a distinction arose between a 'market' held regularly for selling goods and a 'fair' an event largely for pleasure rather than commerce.

Single commodity fairs were common and the Goose Fair in Nottingham would be a place for selling more than 20,000 geese; the Dish Fair in York would specialise in the sale of small domestic ware; the Timmer Market in Aberdeen, Scotland was originally devoted to the sale of small wooden objects.

A type of fair important from the Middle Ages up to the 19th Century was the hiring fair or 'mop fair', which became common after the Black Death had decimated the working population and undermined the old manorial system. Labourers who wished to hire out their services for the coming year attended the nearest market town with their instruments (serving girls brought their mops!) . Employment laws put a stop to all that, but, mop fairs still exist as very popular annual pleasure fairs in several English towns, notably Stratford-upon-Avon, Tewkesbury and Warwick.

Other fairs, which were for pleasure, had their origins in Church festivals, perhaps even in pagan festivals which the Church took over. Such fairs became known as 'wakes' and would be held on the anniversary of the parish church or on the feast day of their patron saint and originally lasted three days - the day before, the day of and the day after the feast day.

St. Giles Fair in Oxford is probably the largest of the wake fairs still surviving. It is a great pleasure fair which began as a parish festival, grew to become a market fair in Elizabethan times and today,



once again, focuses on providing fun and entertainment.

Interestingly, 'Wakes Weekend' in Tyldesley is traditionally the last weekend in September, corresponding some 200 years ago to the dedication of the new St George's Chapel!

So, if you've read this far ... all this has been a lead into another kind of fair ... a 'Tea Fair'

Taking action for fairer tea

Tea is the world's most popular drink apart from water - in Britain alone we drink over 100 million cups of tea every day. But right now, **too little of the money**

in the industry goes back to the people who grow and pick our tea. As tea drinkers we have become used to paying very little, with an average tea bag today costing just two or three pence, while the cost to grow and pick our tea is increasing.



Despite high levels of unstable work, low incomes and wages, gender discrimination and unsafe working conditions, most of the businesses stocking our local supermarket shelves are still not taking responsibility for the impact their purchasing practices have on the people in their supply chains.

Urgent action is needed to support the people at the end of these supply chains to create positive change for themselves, their communities and our

shared environment. Any action we can take will require a collective effort to change the future with the people behind Britain's favourite drink. Together, Governments, businesses and civil society organisations can work alongside tea growers and pickers to raise tea prices, increase pay and demand human rights for the people behind the tea we drink.

Building a fairer future for tea producers

(Part of our 'Taking Action on Poverty'?)

Tea is more than just a drink—it's a daily ritual, a comfort, and a symbol of connection across the UK. But behind every cuppa lies a story that too often goes untold.

Despite tea's power to transform lives—supporting education and gender-equality, and strengthening rural communities—too little of the industry's wealth reaches the people who grow and pick it. While we pay just a few pence for a tea bag, workers face rising costs, low wages, and unsafe conditions. The industry has reached boiling point, but by working together, we can call on governments and companies to act. We can help build a fairer future for the people behind the nation's favourite drink.

And so, I return to Paul Simon and his anti-war lyrics. Can we, once again **"fight for a cause (we) have long ago forgotten"**. I travel around churches and look carefully for the once-proudly-displayed statements **'We are a Fairtrade Church'**.

I still see them ... and then I am served a coffee from a jar of Nescafe. ***I despair.***

Please note: **Saturday 4th October** is the day scheduled for a schools' project, where children, design, build and fly 'Fairtrade' inspired kites. **Fairtrade Fortnight is from 22nd September - 5th October 2025**. A 'Brew it Fair' event will take place plus a Kilombero Rice Challenge to send children to school in Malawi.



Iain Hodcroft June 2025



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 11TH-17TH MAY 2025

The final total raised by our three churches and St Stephen`s school, including the Coffee Morning organised by Jane Jones, is an amazing **£647.50**.

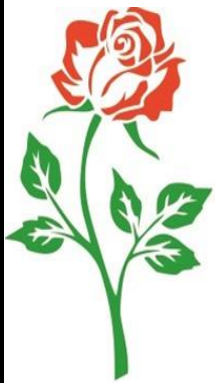
Thank you to everyone who donated money either on-line, by cash or by cheque and to those who donated time and talents during Christian Aid week this year.

This is a fantastic total and has been gratefully received by the charity. The funds were deposited on 11th June and the message from the Christian Aid campaign team was "Thank you for offering hope. A huge thank you for fundraising, worshipping and campaigning with us this Christian Aid Week. Your support will help farmers like Amelia and Aurelia in fighting the effects of the climate crisis. You're helping their communities escape hunger.

For over 80 years, supporters like you have been part of a movement built on hope—a hope that speaks out against injustice and stands firm against poverty. This Christian Aid Week, you kept that hope alive.

Thank you once again for the support you have shown to this important charity.

Michelle Lewthwaite



Dootson & Harrison

Funeral Services

240, Elliott Street,

Tyldesley

M29 8DS

01942 883643

Email: info@dootsonandharrison.co.uk

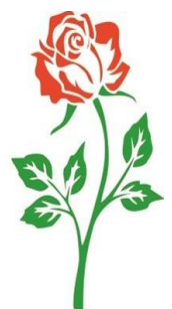
Website: www.dootsonandharrison.co.uk



We are independent Funeral Directors, taking care of you and your loved one, with empathy, dignity and respect. We offer a 24hour service provided by Karen Dootson and John Harrison whom collectively have over 20 years of experience within the funeral profession. Private, peaceful Chapels of Repose, also a chapel for private funeral service if required.



**Golden
Charter**
Funeral
Plans



THE ALTERNATIVE BEATITUDES

The alternative Beatitudes were written by Deacon Eunice Attwood who is the Church on the Margins Officer at the Methodist Church in Great Britain.

In her role, on the Evangelism and Growth Team, Eunice aims to build on biblical connections between evangelism and social justice by starting a movement of new Christian communities led by people who have been marginalised by society. It is part of the Methodist Church's ongoing work to reaffirm its mission to become a growing, evangelistic, inclusive, justice-seeking Church for the 21st century.

Eunice commented: "In the light of increasing economic poverty and the ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor, we need to embrace the commitment to be a Church at the Margins led by those at the margins, demonstrating God's love revealed in Jesus Christ for all people."



"Margins are often places of growth and adaptation, edges, thresholds between places and people. The margins of a field can enable insects, birds, and wildflowers to thrive. To be marginalised as a person, however, is to be excluded and disconnected from the life of a community by others. God loves and values every human being so any process which discriminates and marginalises is not what God desires for the human community.

In biblical stories God regularly highlights the injustices of human communities where people become wealthy by oppressing others and by failing to share with people in need. The work of the church at the economic margins recognises the harm caused by marginalisation and economic exclusion; it's not new, neither is it an initiative, it is the gospel of Christ. In Matthew 5, Jesus spoke to the crowds and offered a reflection on how to live. Jesus says, 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' Jesus did not say 'Blessed are those in poverty.' Good news to the poor is freedom to live a life of dignity and value."

- Blessed are those who challenge unjust economic structures, for they will be signs of hope.
- Blessed are those who amplify the voices and stories of others, for they will learn the wisdom of interdependence.
- Blessed are those who recognize their vulnerability and brokenness, for they will resist being the saviours and heroes of other people's stories.
- Blessed are those who respond to the needs of others, without the need for recognition or reward, for they serve Christ himself.
- Blessed are those who protest and campaign, for they draw attention to injustice.
- Blessed are those who nurture friendship amongst diverse people, for they will become an inclusive community.
- Blessed are those who rage with anger, for they challenge us to face uncomfortable truths.
- Blessed are the curious, for they will see beyond the answers of the powerful.
- Blessed are those who celebrate the worth, dignity and value of every human being, for they will recognize the face of God.
- Blessed are those who work for racial justice, for they challenge the sin of racism and know the true richness and diversity of God's image.
- Blessed are those who enable the leadership of others, for they sustain the present and the future.
- Rejoice and be glad, for those who truly listen and learn from people experiencing poverty will share in the liberating, life-giving message of the gospel of Christ.

Deacon Eunice Attwood (Church at the Margins Officer) Methodist Church

SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!

Although we may be feeling a bit frustrated that the plans from our feasibility study must be put on hold until a new Team Rector is appointed, we were pleased to receive a visit from Ed Kepczyk & Cameron Hawkins [from Buttress Architects] in June. It was with great delight that they shared the news that at the previous night's MSA Awards [Manchester Society of Architects] Cameron had collected an award based on their vision for St George's. They brought the award to show us - a simple but very tactile wooden plinth [church will receive Church will receive our own copy of the award]. We can only hope that somewhere in the near future the plans will transition from 'unbuilt to built'. Below is an extract from the article on Buttress' website sharing the good news:

St George's, Tyldesley, wins MSA Award. MSA 2025 win for Buttress Faith Team

St George's Church, Tyldesley, won the **Community Unbuilt award**, marking the first Buttress win in the category.

St George's Church is a parish church in Greater Manchester, founded as a chapel in 1825. Since then, the church has survived two fires and was designated a Grade II listed building in 1966.



Buttress were appointed to review viable and sustainable options to reimagine the church and provide further inclusive and accessible community spaces. Our approach was informed by an understanding of the context, history and significance of the building as well as extensive community and stakeholder engagement.



Cameron Hawkins, architect [2nd left holding the award]

"The award reflects the thoughtful vision of the PCC of St. George's and strength of the brief we were set through ongoing conversations with the church and community. The feasibility study was a direct response to the loss of public space around Tyldesley and explored internal reordering and a new extension with the aim of opening up the church to a wider audience - evolving from sacred space to shared space. While it's really exciting to receive the award, it even more

meaningful as a platform to raise awareness for the project. We hope this is just the beginning and we will see St. George's in the built category in the not-so-distant future!"

Judge, Glen Powell: "This project breaks down barriers for the community, it is a great asset and has vision and imagination. It does something very unusual with an inward-looking building and brings to the church a striking extension."

Edward Kepczyk, director: "This win is a testament not only to bold design ambition but also to the strength of the St George's community and the vision of our client. From the outset, the PCC articulated a clear and inspiring goal: to create accessible, inclusive spaces where everyone feels they belong. The project faithfully reflects those priorities, embodying the client's deep commitment to people and community."

Susie Mallon

CHRISTIAN AID



Christian Aid has been very active worldwide these last two years as their report shows. £83.3 million was raised (£52.6m from individual supporters) reaching out to 25m people with 410 projects across Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean; and they say "We can do none of this without your faithful commitment as supporters to give, act and pray with us and our partners".

Patrick Watt, the CEO, says "Over the past year Christian Aid and our partners have responded to a world beset by complex crises from climate change to conflict to unsustainable debt". Vital support was able to get through following a special Gaza appeal. In Ukraine psychological support and practical help was achieved through local partners; and in Libya, which is 4th on the open Doors Watch List, Christian Aid gifts helped people recover after terrible flooding using Dan Church Aid. The work can be more impactful and sustainable by working with others.

Stories are shared from many areas. Often in poorer nations women are disadvantaged especially over education. In Malawi start-up funds enabled Lidia to start a tomato selling business and, with the profits, to pay for her four children's school fees. In Sierra Leone a mobile banking service was set up to help in remote villages. Women gained social and political empowerment (they got to help make decisions in their community) and also support their children's education.



Thirty four countries in Africa spend more on external debt repayment than on healthcare or education.

The income reported came from institutional grants (£29m), regular gifts (£12m). Christian Aid Week (£5m) and legacies (£16m).

84p out of every £1 went to life changing work and 16p on awareness and fund raising. Expenditure for last year was £82.4m.

The money raised last year, 2024/5, will continue to centre on the priorities of engagement with civil society, keeping a sustainable funding balance (60% from us, the supporters, and 40% from institutional partners) and applying the values of dignity, equality, justice and love.

Christian Aid hope to continue to enable people in poverty to make their voices heard, with more local responsibility and promote more local partnerships in 2025 so that people contribute more to "lift themselves out of poverty".

Michael Williamson

MEN`S GROUP VISIT TO WHITEGATE DAIRY FARM

On Tuesday 29th May I joined the rest of St Stephen`s Men`s Group for a trip to Whitegate farm, Ian and Janet Patrick`s dairy farm, near Bolton.

Ian had invited us to have a tour of the farm and have a demonstration of how their 120 cows are milked on a modern-day farm.

Ian and Janet did the demo and explained how the milk is stored and then collected by Arla for sale to the supermarkets etc.



We had a trip on a trailer to the highest point of the farm where we could see Jodrell Bank and the Manchester skyline. The trailer was pulled along by Ian`s tractor and we all held onto a big hay bale for safety.

Back at the farm yard Janet was starting to cook a tasty barbecue of sausages and burgers. We each took our own beverages to drink.

Thank you to Janet and Ian for a very enjoyable evening.



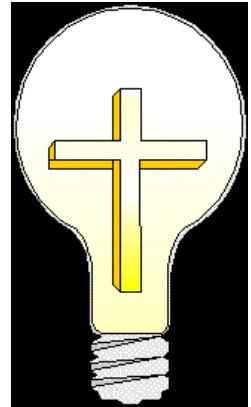
Darren Lewthwaite



Since this article was written The Men's Group has heard the sad news of the death of one of it`s long time members, Lawrence Hatton.

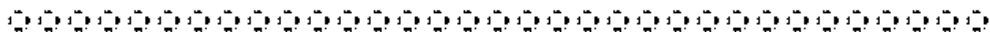
He will be sorely missed by us all. Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret and her family.

Prayers



- Pray that God will help us to value other people for their spirit and their unique gifts, and that we will be equally valued for ours.
- Thank God for the work of farmers and growers during what is, for many, their busiest season. Pray for a fairer distribution of food across the world and that God will show us how we can be part of that.
- Ask for God's protection for everyone who is travelling this summer, that their journeys will be safe, they will tread lightly in the places they visit and will return refreshed. Remember those who are unable to take a holiday for whatever reason and pray that they will have some time to rest.
- Remember in your prayers all those facing a time of change - those leaving one stage of education to move to another, those starting a new job or apprenticeship, those who are about to retire. Pray also for those having change forced on them and those who are facing loss and grief.

Contributed by Sara Yarwood



Lord, in a year of changes in our country and in the world, we thank You for the regular rhythm of each year.

We thank You for August, the month of holidays and rest for many, especially for families and those tied to school timetables. We pray for Your blessing and restoration for all.

As we take time out of normal routines, help us to still make space for You; to be refreshed spiritually as well as physically.

Feed us, Lord, by Your Word; revive us by Your Holy Spirit; encourage us by Your presence, so that we might naturally reflect Your love to all we meet, on holiday or at home or at work.

In Jesus' name

Amen

By Daphne Kitching

PEOPLE OF ASTLEY - CAN YOU HELP?

I frequently receive emails asking for information about our churches, or for confirmation of entries in church registers etc and can usually find answers to the question posed.

Most recently I have received an email from a Mr Graham Ferguson who is the grandson of former vicar of St Stephen's, Frank Ferguson (1934-1947). Graham is writing his grandfather's story to coincide with the 50th anniversary next year of his death and the centenary of his first appointment as a vicar. He is looking for any photographs of the interior of the old St Stephen's church, before 1961. Of particular interest would be a photograph of the incumbents' board showing Frank's name.

Graham is also interested in advice on where to buy either or both of Sylvia and John Tonge's volumes on Pictorial Astley. Graham does not live locally [Winchester] so if you are able to help answer any of Graham's questions or have photographs you would be able to share he has asked that you contact him directly via email at graham.50@btinternet.com or on 07474 693688.

Thank you in anticipation for any help you are able to give.

Susie Mallon

1700 YEARS OF THE NICENE CREED

The Nicene Creed is one of the foundational statements of Christian belief, shared across most Christian traditions. It was first agreed at the Council of Nicaea in AD 325, a gathering of bishops from across the Christian world convened by the Emperor Constantine. The Council sought to resolve disputes about the identity of Jesus Christ and affirmed that he is "of one being with the Father". The Creed was expanded in its present form at the First Council of Constantinople in AD 381. It sets out the Church's faith in the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - and has been recited in Christian worship down the centuries as a shared declaration of belief, unity and hope.



'When we say the creed, we never say it alone or solely for ourselves - we join our voices with the communion of faith across the world and stretching through time.'

Dr Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield and Chair of the Liturgical Commission, said:

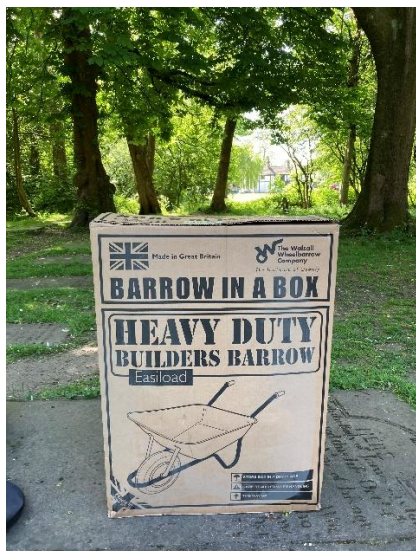
"The Nicene Creed has been a cornerstone of Christian belief for 1700 years - a statement of faith that connects us not only to one another, but also to generations before us as well as to Christians

across the world today. We Believe is a timely and beautifully written resource that will help churches explore this historic creed afresh, inviting reflection, deepening discipleship, and opening space for theological discovery. I warmly commend it to parishes, groups and individuals across the Church."

ST STEPHEN`S OLD CHURCHYARD NEWS

Further to her donation of a leaf blower and rigger gloves last year, local Astley resident Lynn Adshead has once again been extremely generous in supporting the volunteer maintenance team this year.

Lynne has supplied a new wheelbarrow which is making it easier to move grass cuttings and materials around the site of the old church.



Lynn has also given a magnificent £200 donation towards the provision of flowering plants, spring bulbs and shrubs. Free of charge compost and top soil is now awaited from Wigan Borough Council Communities Team before planting can begin for the forthcoming seasons.

We are indebted to Lynn for her continued generosity and community spirit.

Contributed by The Friends Of Astley St Stephen's Churchyard

FROM THE TEAM MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

We welcome any contributions to the Team Magazine.

You can email articles, stories, poems, dates of social events or any notices to the contacts listed below. Hand written articles are also welcomed and can be typed up by the team.

The cut-off dates for submission of items for the next two magazines are:-

MAGAZINE EDITION	EDITORIAL MEETING	CUT- OFF DATE
October / November	Wed 10 th September	Tues 16 th September
December / January 2026	Wed 22 nd October	Tues 18 th November

Contacts:-

Please email "What`s On" items (dates of social events) to jennymevans98@outlook.com

Please email all other items to a.taziker@gmail.com (St John`s) ; dmlewthwaite@talktalk.net (St Stephen`s); mrs.topping1944@btinternet.com (St George`s)

In this magazine you will find an article about how much has been raised in donations towards the production costs of the magazine. We would like to thank everyone for their generosity. Please speak to a member of the magazine committee if you would like to make a contribution.

Thank you.

MICHELE EVANS ORDINATION – Message of Thanks

The last weekend of June marked a significant event in the life of the Manchester Diocese as 21 people were ordained as Deacons at Manchester Cathedral. One of those was Michele Evans who was ordained on Sunday 29th June. Bishop David reflected that it is important to give thanks for the faith, dedication and courage of all those ordained because their ministries will be a blessing to the communities that they will go on to serve. Michele will now serve at St John the Baptist at Irlam and St Mary the Virgin at Cadishead. The Rev Rob Jackson will be her mentor.

Michele has asked us to include this thank you message in the magazine and it goes out to everyone within the Team:-

"To all at St John's, St George's and St Stephen's, I just want to say I was truly, truly blessed when I was sent to the team. I must admit I was wide eyed and terrified at first, but my fear and uncertainty were soon melted with your love and warmth towards me. Jonathan, Martin, and the team all made me feel welcome and helped to nurture and grow me as a follower of Christ and knock some of the rough edges off in equipping me towards ordination and curacy.

I have had the pleasure of meeting, talking, laughing, and listening to so many within the three churches and it has been extremely humbling and a privilege to be in the presence of God to worship and break bread with you.

Ephesians 1:3-4 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ"

I will miss you all so much, you will always be in my mind, body, soul and heart on the next part of my exciting journey with Christ, spreading the good news to all.

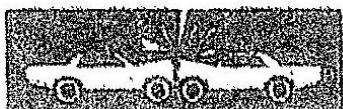


*Before the service, the ordinands joined Bishop David to sign their declarations and oaths.
Michele is second from the right*

*Every blessing and love
Michele 🙏*

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS ON LIFE

You know you`re a bad driver when your Sat Nav says " in 400 feet, pull over, stop and let me out!"



S. Croft
Accident Repair Specialists

*Insurance Work
Paintwork & Bodywork to the
Highest Standard*

*Unit 1, Tweed Street,
Off Chapel Street
Leigh WN7 2DR*

**Tel: 01942 261572
07973 850870**

MOT WHILE YOU WAIT

6 DAYS A WEEK

No appointment required

VAN SALES

4X4 Tyre Centre

Tyre Sales

Servicing & repairs

Welding

**BLACKMOOR SERVICE STATION
MANCHESTER ROAD, ASTLEY**

Tel: 01942 891795/883348

ADVERTISE HERE

£30 per annum for advert
space of this size.

£60 per annum for half page
advert.

Contact Michelle Lewthwaite
07780 680 855
dmlwthwaite@talktalk.net

**Moving home
or considering
remortgaging?**



**Millhall Financial
can help you with:**

- Remortgages to raise money for things like home improvements or to get a better rate
- Help to buy
- Buy to let
- First time buyer and homemover mortgages

millhall **T: 0161 669 4439**
— FINANCIAL — **www.millhallfs.com**
1 Bridgewater Road, Worsley, M28 3JE

Think carefully before securing other debts against your home. Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.

ST STEPHEN'S MOTHER'S UNION

May Meeting

This month Janet led the opening service with prayers and told us that the title of the talk to follow was "Beauty for Ashes" - a quote from the Bible. We sang the hymn "Make Way" and ended with the MU prayer.

Our talk was given by Becky, who lives in Astley, and is founder of the 3 "Beauty for Ashes" refuges in our area which offer safety to Muslim migrant women of whatever status. The locations of these refuges was not disclosed. Becky, who worked for a charity previously is a practising Christian who had a vision of opening a local refuge but had no money or premises to do so. With much prayer and help from friends and fund raising things slowly fell into place.

The refuges offer support to women suffering domestic abuse, trafficking etc. They are given help wherever needed and told to treat the refuge as a family home. Becky firmly believes that prayer and God played a part in the success of her charity. Esther, a work colleague of Becky read the poem "How Long" and we ended with tea and biscuits. Jane's June coffee morning proceeds are to be given the "Beauty for Ashes" charity.

June Meeting

Jennifer led the prayers then welcomed 18 people to our "Pimms and Hymns" event. The evening began with a glass of delicious fruity Pimms, shaken and stirred by Janet and Claire. We were lucky to have the husbands of our committee with us as their voices enriched the singing. With thanks to Cliff, Kevin and Michael. We were accompanied, on the guitar, by Phil Dand whose brilliant playing kept us on key.

The evening contained a mixture of older and modern hymns chosen by MU members and we had to explain why we had chosen that particular hymn. We started with "I the Lord of Sea and Sky" and "My Jesus, My Saviour" and ended with "Jerusalem" and "The Day thou Gavest". Halfway through the evening the Rt Rev Jonathan Ruhumuliza joined us and he sang heartily with the other men. And then was asked to say a prayer for us. This is the first time we have had an event like this and everyone said how much they enjoyed it.

Our meetings are open to all - young, old, male, female, members or non-members of MU and we meet at 7.30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the church meeting room at St Stephens (entry round the back of the main church building). Do come along if you are interested - you will be made very welcome.

Our Next Meetings are:

20th August 2025 In-house entertainment - Janet

17th September 2025 Stephanie Grove - Flower Arranging

Pauline Roberts

Deanery Festival

On Sunday 18th May, 4 members attended the Mother's Union Deanery Festival at St Paul's Church in Walkden. The service was led by Revd Karen Owen and the theme was prayer. We were asked to list

all the activities we had undertaken the previous week and try to identify occasions where we could have shared our faith. We were also all given a booklet on The Lord's Prayer and a prayer journal which encouraged us to pray for five people each day who may need our prayers.

It was a very enjoyable and thought provoking event - and we were all ready for the delicious afternoon tea that followed!

Linda Leese

PEOPLE OF ASTLEY - CAN YOU HELP?

I frequently receive emails asking for information about our churches, or for confirmation of entries in church registers etc and can usually find answers to the question posed.

Most recently I have received an email from a Mr Graham Ferguson who is the grandson of former vicar of St Stephen's, Frank Ferguson (1934-1947). Graham is writing his grandfather's story to coincide with the 50th anniversary next year of his death and the centenary of his first appointment as a vicar. He is looking for any photographs of the interior of the old St Stephen's church, before 1961. Of particular interest would be a photograph of the incumbents' board showing Frank's name.

Graham is also interested in advice on where to buy either or both of Sylvia and John Tonge's volumes on Pictorial Astley. Graham does not live locally [Winchester] so if you are able to help answer any of Graham's questions or have photographs you would be able to share he has asked that you contact him directly via email at graham.50@btinternet.com or on 07474 693688.

Thank you in anticipation for any help you are able to give.

Susie Mallon

SNIPPETS

"The Prayer and Fasting Conference will include meals"

From a parish magazine

"God whispers to us in our pleasures,

speaks in our conscience,

but shouts in our pains;

it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world"

C S Lewis

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice you have chosen the side of the oppressor"

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

S.U. LATEST

Rob is the Scripture Union's northern mission team leader. He tells this story to show how encouraging it is when youngsters respond to the gospel, making all their work worthwhile and the structure and planning in the Revealing Jesus framework bear fruit.

A lad describing himself as "an atheist" was quite happy to go on one of the SU holidays. He enjoyed it immensely and started attending his local church youth group. The church "signed up" for SU's Revealing Jesus framework and as a result the lad was involved in their mission strategy to the unchurched. In the buzz people saw a change in him and in others. His faith stirred and this year he was baptised. He said "Since my trip to Edale 3 years ago I have been coming to this church a lot more, being a part of all the youth groups activities which I love. God has shown me that I do belong, I am worthy, I do have a purpose in life and that I am loveable" The gospel is still changing lives!

A new SU venture is to see children's choirs growing faith and discipleship. An SU faith guide in Budeshaw village church works with Soul Children. The music makes the contact and the lyrics help to explore faith. Faith needs to be in the heart, not just in the head! On one occasion they were discussing a song "We are the Light" about Jesus being the light of the world and we can also be light too. How can both be true? One 10 year old bursting with excitement said "He's in me, so I'm the light because he's shining through me!"

Some years ago Manchester City Mission asked Mary to start work in the primary schools in Oldham. She founded the Groundbreakers team to help in assemblies, RE, lunch clubs and workshops using SU material. She has hopes for each of the 10 boroughs of Manchester. Now (from August 2024) Groundbreakers have become Local Mission Partners with SU.

A mission through sport in 3 churches in Durham, Sunderland and South Tyneside aligned with the Revealing Jesus framework (connect, explore, respond, grow) this spring and was a roaring success. In Teesdale Academy, Faith Guide Sarah has been accepted as a mentor for Christian engagement for the pupils - some of whom have formed a Bible Study Group. Also in the area a new SU Grow Community has been established and last year some were baptised.

"Fusion", a faith guide holiday for Secondary School age in North Yorkshire is the latest venture. It is a great opportunity to engage with and challenge young people especially at the 'respond' stage of the Revealing Jesus faith journey.

At a Churches Together event earlier this year in Sandbach some had not heard of SU Revealing Jesus and 5 churches represented there were keen to learn more (north@scriptureunion.org.uk)

Before Easter the Blackpool group (BSYW) ran Easter journey workshops in schools across the Fylde Coast (a bit like Open the Book in our team - see last month's magazine). Hundreds of children hear from the characters and responded the story themselves. In summer over 700 children are booked in for the Diary of a Disciple workshop.

It has been a fruitful time for SU over the last few months.

Michael Willaimson

FUNERALS AT ST GEORGE`S - APRIL, MAY, JUNE AND JULY 2025

9 th April	Dilys Owen
24 th April	Patricia Haig
16 th June	Eva Rose Thornley
1st July	Joanne Alison Swannick
24 th July	Barbara Blood
28 th July	Lawrence Hatton

We offer our sincere condolences to these bereaved families and friends, with the assurance that they, and their loved ones, were remembered in our intercessions after their deaths and will be recalled in future prayers.

Reverend Bill Taylor - We were also saddened to hear of the death of the Reverend Bill Taylor who served as an Assistant Curate at St George's Church during the time that the Reverend Oliver St John was the Vicar. He also served as Assistant Curate to the Reverend John Daulman and provided invaluable support to our Parish during the interregnum between Revd Ian McCalla and Revd Chris Straton. A native of the northeast, he was always "Reverend Bill", never William! Several members from St George's attended his thanksgiving service at St Paul's church in Peel.

Eva Rose Thornley - The parish joined with our team churches, Mission Church at Shakerley and many people from the estate to mourn the death of this young girl. Eva attended St George's Central CE Primary School and moved on to Fred Longworth High School. Her schooling was significantly impaired by her diagnosis of leukaemia, her treatment and her periods of remission. Although not unexpected, Eva's passing was traumatic for all her family and friends and our heartfelt condolences were extended. We continue to pray for her family.

Lawrence Hatton - was a long standing and valued member of the Men`s Group at St Stephen`s church. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him as a good and kind friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret and all the family at this very sad time.

THE UNLIKELY HELPER OF RED SQUIRRELS



Red squirrels have found a surprising friend in their fight to survive against grey squirrels. It is the elusive pine martin, who is a natural predator of *all* squirrels.

Now a recent study by Queen's University, Belfast, has found that pine martens are increasing, and that they kill more grey squirrels than red squirrels. This is because red squirrels are naturally wary of pine martens, and so avoid them. Grey squirrels, on the other hand, do not know to fear pine martens, as they are not native to the UK.

It is good news for the beleaguered red squirrels, who have been nearly wiped out since their larger North American cousins arrived in the late 19th century. Most red squirrels these days are confined in small populations in Scotland, Anglesey and the Isle of Wight

CONSIDER THE CREED

As often as Christians may worship and pray
Remember - consider each word that we say!
We give thanks with joy that from sin we are freed
And mindfully utter the words of the creed:
In one God, the Father, we truly believe,
All things made in heaven or earth He conceived;
Of all things Creator, both seen and unseen,
And all things that will be, or are, or have been.
One Lord we believe in, He's God's only Son
Begotten, Eternal, with God He is One
He's True God from true God, True light from true light
The Word of creation, Our Lord Jesus Christ.
He came down from Heaven, our salvation plan
Incarnate from Mary, was fully made man,
Then by Pontius Pilate He was crucified
And for our salvation He suffered and died.
The scriptures foretold it, He rose as God planned;
Ascended to Heaven and sits by God's hand;
He will come in glory and will judge us all
Then never, no never shall His kingdom fall.
We believe in the Spirit, for all life He gives
With God and with Jesus in oneness He lives;
From Son and from Father the Spirit proceeds
He's glorified, worshipped in words and in deeds
Christ's church we believe in, all following Him
One baptism for the forgiveness of sin;
The dead resurrected; a new world to come
Believe in the Father, the Spirit, the Son!
Amen.

By Nigel Beeton

STRONG HOLD

Should I slip and lose the way
The Lord will hold me fast,
Should I chose to walk away
I'm firmly in His grasp.
Though I walk through death's dark vale,
His rod and staff are there
I would not dare to walk this path
Without His loving care.
Although my hold on Him is light
His loving arms are wide,
What He's begun He will fulfil
Till I am safe on Canaan's side.
What God is this who loves us so?
Our future He has planned,
We're ever safe in His embrace
And none can snatch us from His hand.

By Megan Carter

ST JOHN'S FLOWER ROTA

AUGUST

- | | |
|----|--|
| 3 | Sybil Hall in memory of her mum, dad
and Auntie Annie |
| 10 | Andrea Taziker in memory of her mum
and dad |
| 17 | Susan and Alan Howarth for their
parents |
| 24 | Ellen Fenwick in memory of her
husband Leslie |
| 31 | Marie and Mike Stuckey in memory of
his parents |

SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|----|---|
| 7 | Phil Wood and family in memory of Else |
| 21 | Susan and Alan Howarth for their
parents |
| 28 | Vacant |

Mosley Common and Boothstown Scarecrow Festival

On a lovely sunny Saturday on the 12th of June Mosley Common and Boothstown were festooned with a wide variety of scarecrows! First Prize was won by The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Best Scary Crow was Schools Out For the Summer from Holy Family with a Judges Choice Prize to Shark Attack by Ben. Many people turned out and had great fun walking around the route and voting for the Scarecrows they liked the best, having some delicious refreshments at Leylands Farm and St Johns Church! We are Looking forward to next year already!



Blooming

MOSLEY COMMON



8 new from BMC, 2 to be lost

