

Astley, Tyldesley and Mosley Common



Team Magazine

October - November 2025



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We all go through spells of rough weather and it is sometimes easy to feel helpless when tossed about on life's seas.

We are in a time when we are unsure exactly what the future holds for all three of our churches. Will we be able to find a new team rector? Will we be able to keep our churches growing? Will there be a good outcome for St Stephen's church building?

Maybe when we are buffeted by adversity just remember this: we can't change the direction of the wind, but we can adjust our sails and steer a different course.

For I the Lord your God hold your right hand: it is I who say to you "Do not fear, I will help you"

Isaiah Ch 41 v13

Jenny Evans

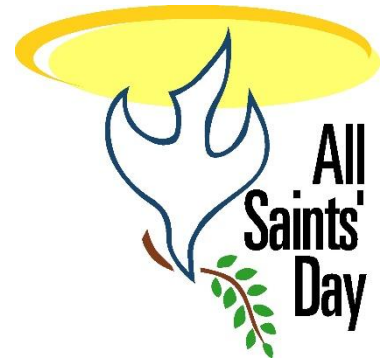
This Team Magazine is also available on-line and can be found at www.achurchnearyou.com Where it says **Enter your location** type in **your postcode**. A drop down list of options will appear. **Select your address**. Then click the **Arrow/Find**. A list of nearby churches will appear. Select the one you want. From the Menu select **News and Notices**. 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..

AUTUMN REFLECTION

Hello everyone, I hope you're keeping well as autumn settles in. With the year's turning, we enter a season that naturally draws us into remembrance, a time to reflect, give thanks, and hold one another close in heart.

November is such a special month in our church calendar. We begin with All Saints, remembering the faithful who have shown us what it means to walk with Christ. On All Souls, we hold in prayer all those we've loved and lost, trusting they rest in peace in God's care. These gentle days remind us how love and loss are woven together, and how God's promise of life everlasting brings comfort even when grief is close.



And then, of course, comes Remembrance Sunday, this year, on the ninth. We gather to honour those who gave everything for peace and freedom. Jesus tells us, "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." The choices made by generations before us, sometimes in great moments of heroism, sometimes in small acts of love, show forth this highest love.

But remembrance isn't only about grand sacrifice. November reminds me of the quiet heroes all around us. A parent who sits through a sleepless night, a neighbour's knock at the door, hands offered in service, prayers whispered faithfully. These small acts build the kingdom of peace that Christ calls us to, bit by bit, day by day.

Grief is part of loving deeply. The late Queen Elizabeth said, "Grief is the price we pay for love." Our hearts ache when those we cherish are gone, but the bonds of love are not broken, they're transformed, held in God's comforting arms forever.

God's love and peace call us forward. Remembrance is not only about looking back, but also renewing our commitment to peace-making, reconciling, and healing. Whether in our families, our communities, or our nation, we are called to take up Christ's work, sometimes simply by offering listening, forgiveness, or kindness. Sometimes by speaking up, or choosing justice over indifference.

Micah's prophecy comes alive this season, when swords become ploughshares and spears pruning hooks. Peace begins with us, one gentle choice at a time.

As we light our candles and fall silent in prayer this Remembrance season, let's remember the cost of our freedom and the hope that endures. Let us pray for peace in Ukraine, in Gaza, and wherever conflict still divides God's children. Let's ask God for wisdom, courage and comfort for all who bear the wounds of war. May our lives be shaped by hope, the hope that love is stronger than hate, that God's peace is deeper than any darkness, and that the light of Christ carries us through every stress.

So through November, as we remember and give thanks, may God's love fill your heart, your home, and our world.

Take care of yourselves and each other.



Reverend Cath

Service rotas for October & November

All details are correct at time of going to press – any changes will be shared in church notices, on social media and A Church Near You website.

Date	St Stephen's	St George's	St John's	Mission Church
4th October Saturday		<i>Kite Festival w SGCS details tbc</i>		
5th October Sunday	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word	2.30pm Sunday service with meal
9th October Thursday		6pm Confirmation Rehearsal		
11th October Saturday	3pm Stepping Up			
12th October Sunday	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church	
16th October Thursday	10am Thursday Team Communion			
18th October Saturday	10am-1pm Diocesan Lay Leaders Conference, St Andrews School, Boothstown Keynote Speaker: Bishop Matthew			
19th October Sunday	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word 5pm Confirmation Service Bishop Matthew	10am Team Communion	2.30pm Sunday service with meal
26th October Sunday	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word	

Date	St Stephen's	St George's	St John's	Mission Church
2nd November Sunday	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church	2.30pm Sunday service with meal
3rd November Monday	<i>7pm short service @Astley Memorial [lit up]</i>			
6th November Thursday	10am Thursday Team Communion			
9th November Remembrance Sunday	9am Service of the Word with Act of Remembrance + 12.30 Act of Remembrance at Astley Memorial	9am Service of the Word with Act of Remembrance + Parade from Square to Tyldesley Cemetery and Act of Remembrance at Cross of Sacrifice	9am Service of the Word with Act of Remembrance	
15th November Saturday	3pm Stepping Up			
16th November Sunday	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word	2.30pm Sunday service with meal
23rd November Sunday	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church	
27th November Thursday	10am Thursday Team Communion			
30th November Sunday	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	

What's On - October and November

St Stephen's and locally

Oct 14th	House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Road, Astley - hosted by John Howarth. Tel: 07471 460 988. The theme is Meeting Jesus and all are welcome. Jesus the Prophet, Matthew 24: 1-31.
Oct 15th	7.30pm - St Stephen's Mothers Union - Angela Dand - Science & Religion
Oct 18th	10.00am - 12.00pm St Stephen's Coffee Morning - in church meeting room
Oct 21st	7.30pm - Men's Group meet at Union Arms
Oct 26th	Halloween Afternoon Tea - Haunted Museum - Lancashire Mining Museum - 01942 895841 for more info or on Facebook
Oct 28th	House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Road, Astley - hosted by John Howarth. Tel: 07471 460 988. The theme is Meeting Jesus and all are welcome. Jesus the Sacrifice - Matthew 26: 1-30.
Nov 1st	Bonfire - Lancashire Mining Museum - 01942 895841 for more info or on Facebook
Nov 9th	The Friends of Astley Memorial will be holding a Remembrance Day service at the memorial on the Bullcroft, Manchester Road, Astley at 12.30pm. You are very welcome to join the community of Astley for this service.
Nov 11th	House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Road, Astley - hosted by John Howarth. Tel: 07471 460 988. The theme is Meeting Jesus and all are welcome. Jesus the Dying King, John 19: 16-42.
Nov 15th	10.00am - 12.00pm St Stephen's Coffee Morning - in church meeting room
Nov 16th	2.00pm - Remembrance Day - Mining Museum - 01942 895841 for more info or on Facebook
Nov 19th	7.30pm - St Stephen's Mothers Union - Keith Revill - Experiences as a Sales Rep
Nov 25th	House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Road, Astley - hosted by John Howarth. Tel: 07471 460 988. The theme is meeting Jesus and all are welcome. Jesus the Risen Lord, John 20.
Nov 28th	Men's Group - Charity Dinner - for further info pls contact Keith Revill on 07840 718840
Nov 29th	Lantern Festival - Lancashire Mining Museum - 01942 895841 for more info or on Facebook
Nov 29th	7.30pm Parkside Colliery Choir at St Stephen's School Hall - see advert in magazine

St George's Diary dates for October and November 2025

12th October - Brass Band Concert: Pemberton

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.

24th October - The Early Doors Club, 5pm-8pm: Act to be confirmed

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

9th November - Brass Band Concert: Besses o'the' Barn

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.

14th November - The Early Doors Club, 5pm-8pm: Jeremiah Ferrari

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 November - Tyldesley Christmas Markets: the regular Makers Markets move indoors for this month. More details to follow.

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.

Tyldesley Historical Society: 27th October & 24th November

Meetings on the last Monday of the month in **St George's Church**.

Refreshments from 7pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm.

Contact Iain Hodcroft for more details - 07976 314012

St John's What's On

20th October - Church shopping and Live Music Fundraiser - Doors open 7.00pm Entry £5.00- see advert elsewhere in magazine for all details.

10th November - Blooming Mosley Common AGM. 7pm In the Lounge at St John's Church

15th November - Astley Unlimited Choir 7.30 pm in Church

17th November - Mosley Common Historical Society. 7pm In the Lounge at St John's Church
AGM. The War Lists and War Memorials of the people of Mosley
Common. With Refreshments. Andrea Taziker

6th December - Christmas Afternoon Tea in lounge at 3 pm

15th December - Mosley Common Historical Society. 7pm In the Lounge at St John's Church

The events and celebrations of St John's Church and School in photographs; walking days, pantomimes,
Village queen. With displays and artefacts and a celebration of Northern Christmas Fare!

19th December - Soup and Roll lunch 12 - 2 pm

Bible Study at St John's - Making the most of Exodus

If you want to understand God, his plan for salvation and the place of his people in his purposes,
study Exodus. God brings his chosen people out of slavery in Egypt into his service to himself. In
doing so he shows his character and his glory. It is a path that leads in the end to his Son, Jesus!
Find out more by coming to the Bible Group in the Church Lounge at St John's 7.30pm on the
following dates....

September 30th,

October 14th,

November 4th, 11th and 25th

December 9th.

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.

For further info contact Marje on 07519 853279

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>

St. Stephen's Men's Group BBQ.



Enjoying the barbeque

The Men's Group held their annual Charity Family BBQ at St. Stephens Church on the afternoon of Saturday 30th August.

Despite the rain we had a really good time underneath our gazebo's with just a little reminder of the heaven sent showers dripping down our necks as we moved around between the tents.

The atmosphere among our guests from all three churches had a real sense of fellowship and a good time was had by all.

The afternoon raised exactly £800 for our two charities, Mission Aviation Fellowship and Wigan and Leigh Hospice.

We would like to offer our thanks to all our members and supporters for all the hard work that they put into the day, for their gifts of money, prizes and their time and talents.

Chiefly we would like to thank all the folk who supported us in any way by purchasing tickets, raffle tickets and donations and also Tesco Stores Atherton, for their help with the supply of BBQ buns.

1st prize in the raffle went to Nicky Wallace



Mike and Ross – 2 of our chefs

Keith Revill (Secretary)

ST. GEORGE'S NEWS

The Wedding of Mr Jack Grimshaw and Ms Margaret McLeod took place in our Church on Saturday 19th July 2025.

We wish them every happiness in their married life together.

The funeral of Mr John Naseby took place in St. George's Church on the 17th September 2025.

We offer our sincere condolences to his family and friends with the assurance of our prayers.

Salford and Leigh Deanery Lay Leadership Conference



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH FOR A DIFFERENT WORLD

Salford & Leigh Deanery Lay Leadership Conference

Sat 18th October

A day for lay leaders from across Salford and Leigh Deanery to come together for worship, fellowship and leadership training.

Guest Speaker :
The Rt Revd Matthew Porter, Bishop of Bolton



10am-1pm

📍 St Andrews School,
Boothstown, Worsley
M28 1HS

A letter from James Cowley, Salford & Leigh Lay Chair

This first **Deanery Lay Conference** is a real chance to come together, meet our new Area Dean, and here reflections from **+Matthew Porter, Bishop of Bolton**. We will also have a live worship band. It is for anyone serving in church life in any capacity, and for those exploring a role.

When: Saturday 18 October, 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

Where: St Andrew's School, Worsley, M28 1HS

Refreshments: Light refreshments provided

Book here: <https://SandLLayConference.eventbrite.co.uk>

From the Lay Development Team:

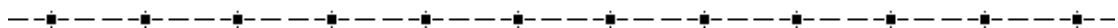
- A unique opportunity for lay leaders to gather, learn, be encouraged and empowered.
- Open to all lay people who contribute, or are interested in contributing, to church life across Salford and Leigh Deanery.
- Aims: build relationships across the deanery and within Mission Communities, ensure lay leaders feel valued and supported, and explore what it means to be missional leaders.

I would love to celebrate the many faithful people serving in our churches by seeing a strong turnout from **Mission Community 1**.

Blessings,

James Cowley

Please scan the QR code for further information



Magazine Contributions

When Iain wrote the article about the Team Magazine in the April-May edition he noted that although all the contributors, editorial team and delivery teams were volunteers we did, however, still have printing costs to cover and we asked if anyone was able to help with these costs via a small donation.

Once again, the congregations from all three churches have rallied round and we have received a sum of £475.50 towards the cost of this important area of outreach.

If anyone would still like to donate the NEW bank details are as follows:

Astley St Stephen's Team Account
Lloyds Bank (this is classed as a business account)
Sort Code 30-54-66
A/c No 43718168

Once again - thank you everyone.

From Witch Doctor to Pastor

Sixty years old Bahadur was a witch doctor before he found Jesus. "Knowing God is the greatest joy of my life" he says, "He is the creator of everything and sustains us with food from our planet and our whole bodies are created by Him"



Bahadur leads a small church in his village in remote rural Nepal. He gets a lot of opposition. After faithfully following Jesus over the past 15 years he is now beginning to see some of the scoffers come along with him.

It was when his son was ill that Bahadur began to turn to Jesus. The doctors, the other witch doctors, shamans and Buddhist priests all failed to help. Someone told him about a church set up by

and for people with disabilities. He went along, but also found care and understanding there and a new purpose in living (disability is seen as a curse and these people are shunned in many areas). He said "After coming to Christ my anxiety, pain, struggles in my heart and life, started to cease for me"

The church gave him some basic training and he also went on a month's course to India where he felt strong enough to minister to others. The church now has seven daughter churches supported by Brother Raj, an ASIA CMS partner. Much of the Church Mission Society's work is done this way today where foreign nationals find it difficult to get visas.

Now Bahadur has been invited to lead one of these daughter churches and Bahadur says "Brother Raj shares the Word with us and his presence is very encouraging to my ministry"

Less than 2% of Nepal's population are Christians and life for Christians is increasingly challenging. New anti-conversion laws make it difficult and dangerous to share Jesus. Often if something bad or tragic happens in the villages the people will blame Christians. Also some claim that people are bribed with money to become Christians. This might imply that there is an increase in people becoming Christians just now and statistics are hard to come by.

Since Bahadur has been a church pastor one more witch doctor and several of those who rejected him have come to faith in Jesus. Bahadur says "It is important to be a loving witness for Jesus and to trust God to work in people's hearts. I feel blessed when these people come to know Christ and I see them change. I come to realise that we just need to trust in the living Word of God and when we trust in that things happen".

Michael Williamson



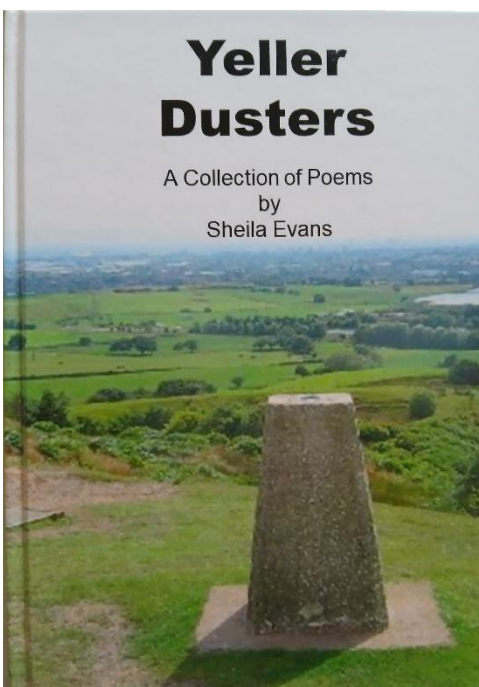
"Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people but to offer them space where change can take place"

Henri Nouwen

OUR TRUE FRIEND

Another year has come and gone, another year older we've grown,
Another joint has started to creak, giving cause for another little moan,
Another grey hair has shown itself, one more amongst the many,
Another wrinkle appeared in a cheek, where once there were not any,
A pair of eyes that were once so bright have grown a little more dim,
A jaunty step that was once so light, now falters on shaky limb.
But even though we creak and groan with each step that we tread,
With a smile on our face and a lilt in our voice, and the will to keep moving ahead,
We'll find that our lives can be lived to the full, if we take just one day at a time,
And if we remember our blessings to count when the hill we find harder to climb,
If we look toward one whose strength never fails, if we lean upon Him for a while,
If we sup from the fount that is His life's blood, if we greet each new day with a smile,
Then no matter how hard the road has become or how hard the path we must take,
If we trust in the Lord, make Him our true friend, then our load will be light for His sake.

Sheila Evans



This poem was written by my Mum and after she died myself and my siblings collated all her poems and had them published in a book we called "Yeller Dusters" - a poem she wrote reminiscing back to her youth when only really rich people could afford yellow dusters - the majority of households using bits of old clothing as a duster. All the proceeds from the sale of this book were donated to Dr Kershaw's Hospice in Oldham.

Most of the poems are in Lancashire dialect but this one was written in ordinary language and I think it is beautiful - I hope you agree.

Jenny Evans

SISTER MARY ALICE MARSH COMMEMORATED

A commemoration and tribute to Sr Mary Alice Marsh VAD was held in Tyldesley Cemetery on Sunday afternoon, 7th September. In the presence of four generations of descendants from her immediate family.



It was arranged by Tyldesley Historical Society and supported by members of St John Ambulance, The Royal British Legion, The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Members of Wigan Council and local people.

Mary's name appears on the Cross of Sacrifice in the cemetery, on the St George's Church Great War Memorial, and she is also honoured on the Caleb Wright Mill Memorial kept in Wigan and Leigh Archives.

She grew up in Tyldesley and was trained by the St John Ambulance Association in first aid and by the St John Ambulance Brigade, Nursing Division in 'home nursing'; she volunteered for nursing duties at Garswood Hall Military Hospital in Ashton in Makerfield. She died in 1919 whilst on active duty, and in 2018 almost a hundred years later, was designated a casualty of war, and thus eligible for a CWGC headstone for her family grave.

It was a low-key community ceremony held between the showers of rain. The importance of remembrance and service were noted; and RBL members read the 'Exhortation', displayed their Standards, and played the Last Post. Mary's nonagenarian niece was helped to lay a specially commissioned wreath during the music; two minutes silence was maintained and then the Reveille was played and the Kohima Epitaph read.

Remembrance is important because it honours the sacrifice of those who served and defended our freedoms, provides a communal way to reflect on shared history and the cost of conflict, fosters empathy and gratitude, and serves as a potent reminder of the value of peace; particularly important in the world today. Remembrance also allows for both personal reflection and collective commemoration, and creates a sense of unity and shared experience for both local communities and nations.

A hundred years ago it was profoundly important to take time to look back, not only to honour those who served and those who continued to serve, but also to acknowledge the realities of the costs of war. The Armistice of 1918, the ceasefire of the 'war to end all wars', was, tragically, not the final chapter in the chronicle of the conflicts of humanity. As we know, warfare endures, civilians are now more often the casualties, men women and children experience death, trauma and suffering alongside military personnel, in so many parts of the world - Gaza, Sudan and Ukraine - the ones we regularly hear about and sadly many more, that we often don't.



So, why should we continue to remember?' Why remember the failure of lasting peace on 11th November? ... when the very worst of humanity was revealed less than a generation after the Armistice, with the industrialisation of genocide by the Nazi regime and to this day, the scourge of war continues to kill and maim the innocent and displace millions across the globe.

Many of us believe that the act of remembrance in November is an act of defiance, and an example of the inextinguishable optimism of the human spirit. Remembering that, at one brief, optimistic moment, the world said "enough" and the guns stopped.

It did not last; but it is an act of sheer will to believe that it could ... that one day, as the bible prophesied, weapons of war would be beaten into harvester's tools, that wars would cease and peace would reign. It may seem impossible; it may BE impossible; but the flowering of a poppy on the battlefields of the First World War was also believed to be impossible!

Delicate, blood-red petals, on slender stems springing defiantly from the shattered ground in the middle of hell on earth. Life refusing to flee in the face of death and human folly. The hope which they represented, now symbolised in the poppy of remembrance.

Our hope is that we too can show the same kind of stubborn defiance as the poppy, and blossom for peace. It won't happen soon but let's refuse to accept that it never will. And until it does... along with the Royal British Legion and other organisations we will remember them; we must remember them.

.....

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is a world leader in commemoration; with a mission to ensure that those who died in service, or as a result of conflict, are commemorated so that they, and the human cost of war, are remembered for ever.

Due to the efforts of local people, Mary was accepted as a casualty of the Great War in 2018, a hundred years after that war started. Due to delaying factors of Covid 19 and other issues, it took until May this year for a headstone to be commissioned, prepared, transported from France and installed. It was installed without any fanfare just over three months ago.

Iain Hodcroft



THE ROSE THAT WITHSTOOD THE BLITZ

I am sending you today
A rose that withstood the Blitz.
It stood out in all it`s glory and put the shame on Fritz.

The bush was sadly blasted,
This little rose was never touched,
But all it`s companions were scattered to the dust.

So I give this rose to you dear,
With all my love for thee,
Praying for the dawn, when you come safely back to me.

So cheer up and smile,
Through the bruised and cruel blows,
And go on trusting God, who made this little rose.



*Anonymous poem from WW11
Contributed by Margaret Allen*

Advent

Advent this year begins on Sunday 30th November (seems a long way away but.....)

On the First of December your advent calendar might be hanging in the kitchen or on the back of your bedroom door or in your living room with 24 little doors just WAITING to be opened.

Many of these will have no mention of Baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph, shepherds or 3 Wise Men (as this picture shows) but Advent is *far* more than just ripping open tiny cardboard doors to get a quick bite of chocolate before you start your day.

For Christians in the UK and all over the world, Advent is an important time to celebrate the arrival of Jesus on Christmas Day.



Advent Calendar

Advent is a season observed in most Christian denominations as a time of waiting and preparation for both the celebration of Jesus's birth at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, often referred to as Advent Sunday. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year in Western Christianity. The name comes from Latin *adventus* ('coming; arrival'), translating the Greek *parousia* from the New Testament, originally referring to the Second Coming.

Practices associated with Advent include Advent calendars (now often quite secular in design), lighting an Advent wreath, praying an Advent daily devotional, erecting a Chrismon tree, lighting a Christingle as well as other ways of preparing for Christmas, such as setting up Christmas decorations a custom that is sometimes done liturgically through a hanging of the greens ceremony.



Advent Wreath

The modern Advent wreath, with its candles representing the Sundays of Advent, originated from an 1839 initiative by Johann Hinrich Wichern, a Protestant pastor in Germany and a pioneer in urban mission work among the poor. To deal with the impatience of the children awaiting Christmas, whom he was teaching, Wichern made a ring of wood, with 19 small red tapers and four large white candles. Every morning a small candle was lit, and every Sunday a large candle.

Modern practice only retains the large candles.

A Chrismon tree (not Christmas tree) is an evergreen tree often placed in the chancel or nave of a church during Advent and Christmastide and although it sounds like it should be a VERY old tradition it is relatively new (at least to those of us of more mature years).

The Chrismon tree was first used by North American Lutherans in 1957. The Chrismon tree tradition originated at Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia in 1957, when Mrs. Frances Kipps Spencer volunteered to decorate that year's church Christmas Tree. She designed "numerous ornaments from the symbols or 'Monograms' used by early Christians to identify themselves with Christ ... Mrs. Spencer said the tree was not finished until someone came to see it and had the story of Christ explained to them through the Chrismons."



As with the ordinary Christmas tree, the evergreen tree itself, for Christians, "symbolizes the eternal life Jesus Christ provides". However, the Chrismon tree differs from the traditional Christmas tree in that it "is decorated only with clear lights and Chrismons made from white and gold material", the latter two being the liturgical colours of the Christmas season.

The Chrismon tree is adorned with Chrismons, "ancient symbols for Christ or some part of Christ's ministry: the dove descending down, fish, Celtic cross, Jerusalem cross, shepherd's crook, chalice, shell, and others, they can be helpful in calling attention to Advent themes."

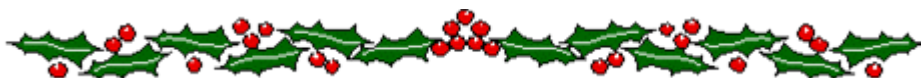


The purpose of a Chrismon tree is to tell a story. The symbols and Monograms tell the story of Christ, his teachings, life, death, and resurrection, as described in Christian scripture.

Chrismons also tell stories of tradition, creativity, faith, and ultimately, the love and grace of God, realized through the gift of Christ incarnate.

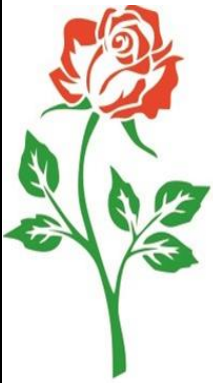
*Traditional Chrismon
Ornaments*

Jenny Evans



"I love your Christ. It is just that so many of your Christians are so unlike your Christ"

Mahatma Gandhi



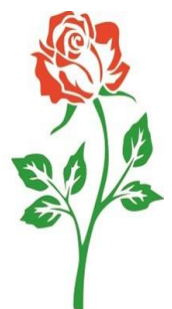
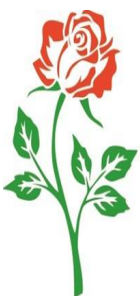
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WORDSEARCH FOR ALL HALLOWS EVE

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots in pre-Christian times. In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Druid priests celebrated the Festival of Samhain or Summers End. They lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off the dark supernatural powers of the oncoming Winter. Today, Christians turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness, but the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows Eve should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

Find these words within the wordsearch below:-

All
Hallows
Halloween
Druid
Priests
Festival
Samhain
Bonfires
Magic
Dark
Supernatural
Powers
Winter
Christians
Prayer
Charms
Deeper
True
Eve
Closer
Christ
Thanks
Loved
Death
Gone

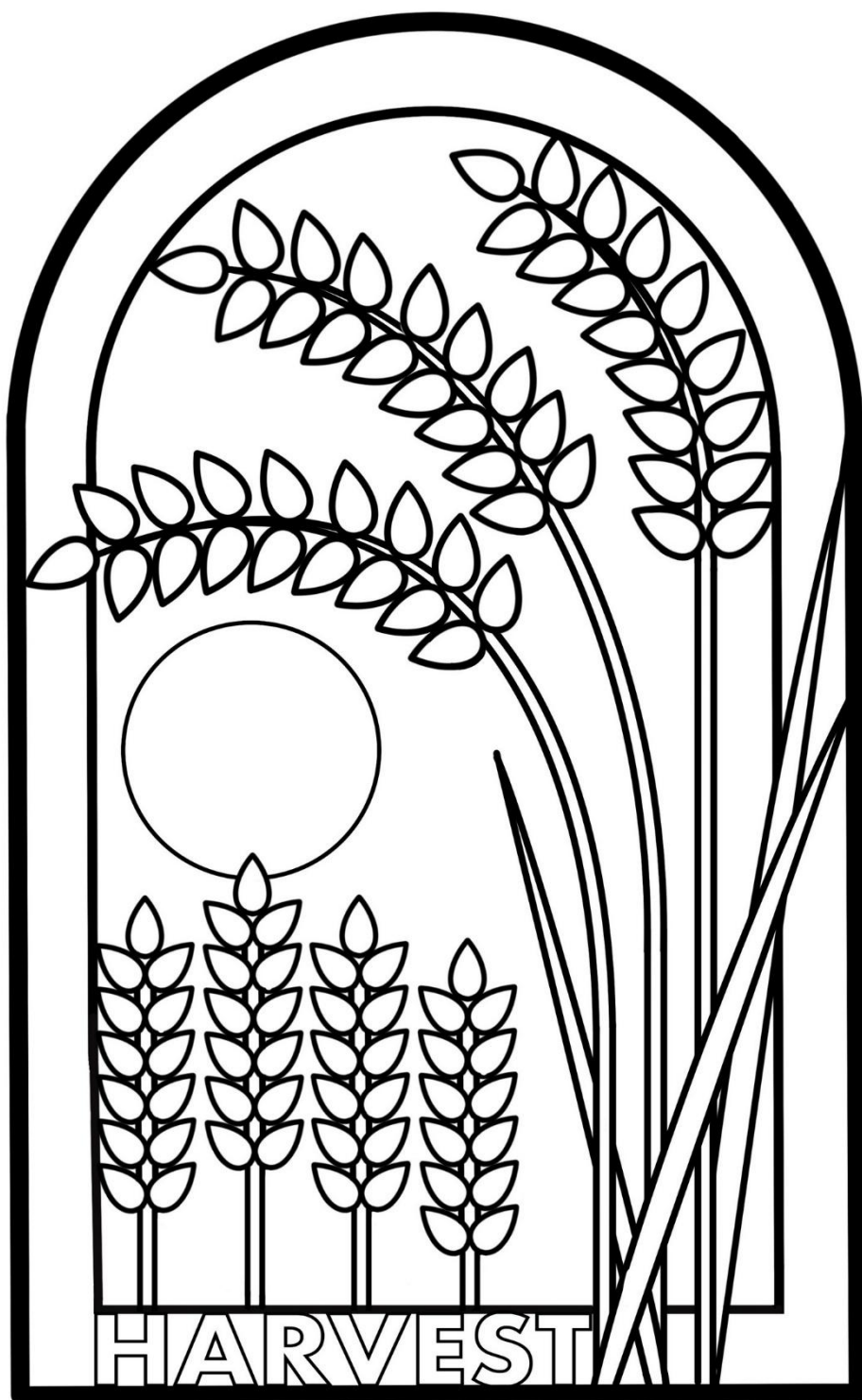


contributed by *Iain Hodcroft*

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

A six year old boy announced he was going to wear a Pope costume to the Halloween Party. "But Iain you can't do that" said his mum. "You're not Catholicyou're Church of England" she explained. Young Iain was silent for a minute as he rummaged through the dressing up box— then he held up a different costume "Well, is Dracula Church of England?"

Colouring In Page - for Harvest



The tale of the Tower Builder



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

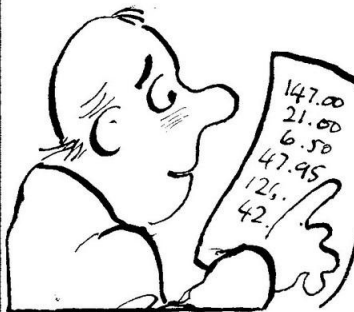


ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



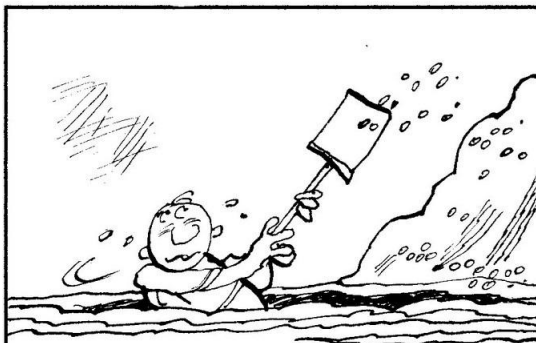
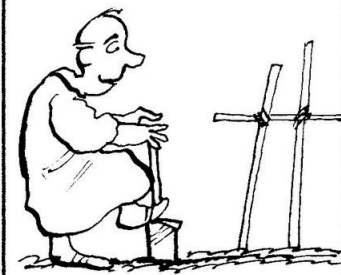
JESUS BEGAN, 'IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....

...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



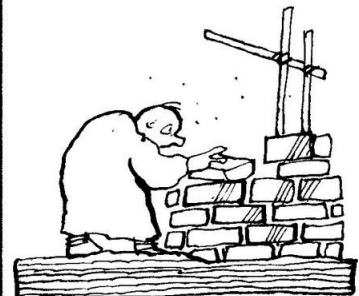
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....

...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START,

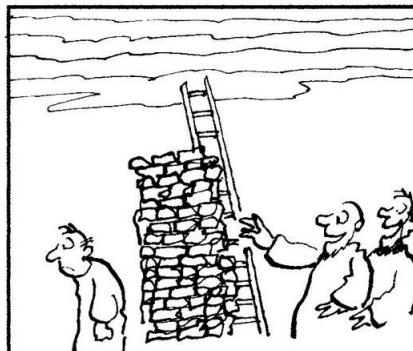
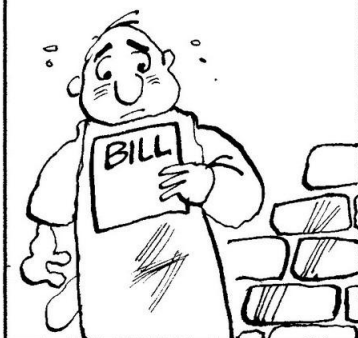


....WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS.

...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS,...



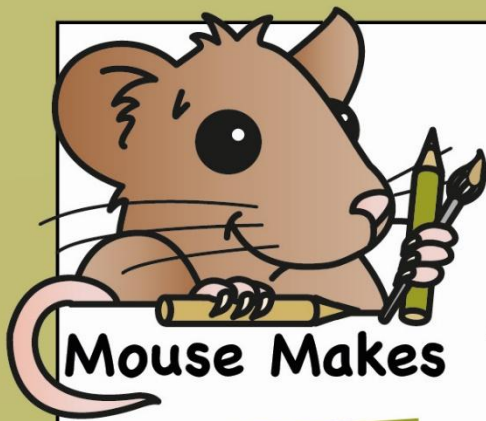
...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.



CONNECT THE BIBLE FOOD PAIRS

MANNA	HONEY
OIL	WINE
WATER	FISH
LOCUSTS	QUAIL
LOAVES	FLOUR

What drink ran out at the wedding?

and what did Jesus use to make more?

John 2:3 and 7

What food did God supply for his people in the wilderness?

_____ and _____
Numbers 11:7-9 and 31

After Elijah came to visit, what never ran out?

_____ and _____
1 Kings 17:14

What food did the ravens feed Elijah?

_____ and _____
1 Kings 17:6

What food did John the Baptist eat in the wilderness?

_____ and _____
Matthew 3:4

What did the boy give Jesus to feed 5,000 people?

Five _____ and two _____
John 6:9

FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

NBO TIBMM OPU
MJWF PO CSFBE
BMPOF, CVU PO
FWFSZ XPSE UIBU
DPNFT GSPN UIF
NPVUI PG HPE.

NBUUIFX 4:4

DID YOU KNOW?

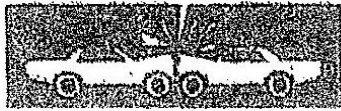
As Lot escaped Sodom with his family an angel told him not to stop or look back, but Lot's wife did look back and became a pillar of salt.

READ Genesis 19 v15-26

E B R E A D H O N E Y Q J S F
L O A V E S G Q W A T E R C I
M Q I W M F R U I T F I S H G
E U S H A L A A N O L I V E S
A I I E N O I I E G R A P E S
T L N A N U N L O C U S T S Y
M U S T A R D E I H D A T E S
E V E G E T A B L E S A L T H

Find the words below and the answers to the questions all in the word search

OLIVES • CHEESE
FIGS • DATES
MUSTARD
RAISINS • WHEAT
SALT • GRAIN
FRUIT • GRAPES
VEGETABLES



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St Stephen's Mother's Union

July Outing

This month instead of our usual meeting 19 members and friends met at The Coffee Shop, Astley Point. This is on the site of the old Rendezvous, near the traffic lights at Higher/Lower Green Lanes and the East Lincs

On arrival drinks were available at the bar and at 4.30pm afternoon tea was served to us on 3 tiered cake stands packed with a selection of assorted sandwiches including prawn, smoked salmon, ham, egg mayo together with an assortment of delicious cakes and scones (with jam and clotted cream) followed by tea and coffee - served by the excellent staff. We all went home with a "doggy bag" and one thing was certain - we had no need to cook any tea that day.



Committee member Claire then thanked Linda for organising such a lovely afternoon and the party broke up about 6.30pm. A lovely afternoon in nice surroundings enjoyed by all.

August Meeting



Linda opened our meeting this month with the info that on 9th August it was Mary Sumner Day.

Mary Sumner was born in Swinton but then moved with her family to Herefordshire. She was very well educated - spoke 3 languages and sang well. To complete her musical education she travelled to Rome with her mother and elder sister and whilst there she met her husband to be, George Sumner. In 1851 when George received the living of Old Alresford, Hampshire she went there with him and brought up her children. In 1876 when her eldest daughter gave birth she realised how young mothers were struggling and needed support.

She formed a meeting group in her husband's parish for them which, over time, grew into many branches over England and is now the world wide Mother's Union of today.

We sang the hymn "Brother, Sister" and ended with the MU prayer.

As Janet was away Jennifer ran the entertainment evening organised by Janet. We split into teams starting by naming as many individual books of the Bible as we could. The last person standing (so to speak) won a point. The second round involved answering in turn religious questions set by from our 3 churches. The third round was to mark on a map of the world where various religious buildings were sited or events had happened e.g Where is the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints based? Or Where is the Statue of Christ the Redeemer?

Finally, 10 items were place on the table which had a slightly religious connection. After a few minutes they were removed and the teams had to try to recall what they had seen. One team remembered all the items - impressive.

We certainly gave our brains an airing. The evening was enjoyable and ended with refreshments.

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:

15th October 2025 Speaker - Angela Dand on Science-Religion

19th November 2025 Speaker - Keith Revill - Experiences as a Sales Rep

Pauline Roberts



Cricket Explained



You have two sides, one out in the field and one in
Each man that's in the side that's in goes out
And when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out
When they are all out the side that's out comes in
And the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in out.
Sometimes you get men still in and not out.
When both sides have been in and out, including the not outs, that's the end of the game

SIMPLES

Michael Williamson

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM JONATHAN AND ASNATH

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ of Astley, Tyldesley and Mosley Common Benefice,

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens," Eccl.3:1

By the time I am writing this message, our ministry in the United Benefice of Astley, Tyldesley and Mosley Common is coming to an end on the 27th September

2025, after 5 years and 5 months. We are very grateful to God who gave us this opportunity to continue enjoying and learning about his goodness and his faithfulness.



Asnath and I feel a deep sense of gratitude and thanksgiving for the time we have shared together. It has been a profound privilege to serve among you, to worship, to pray, and to walk alongside you through the seasons of parish life in the ATMC. We are truly thankful for your support, your prayers, and your faithful commitment to the life and witness of the Church. Your generosity of spirit and willingness to work together for the sake of the Gospel have been a constant encouragement to us throughout our time here.



We are especially grateful for the many ways in which we have collaborated across the Team, and for the friendships and partnerships that have shaped and sustained our shared ministry.

Working together as part of this Team Ministry has been a rich blessing, and we are confident that God will continue to do good things through you all in the time to come.

In the first Team Ministry that I served in after our arrival in the UK in 2005, an elderly lady, she is late now, said to me, "Jonathan, do not allow us to change you, change us." Then I replied, "Yes and No. Let us change each other for the growth of God's Kingdom." Maybe in ATMC, I might not have changed you, but you changed us by giving us the chance to enjoy God through the fellowship we had with you all.



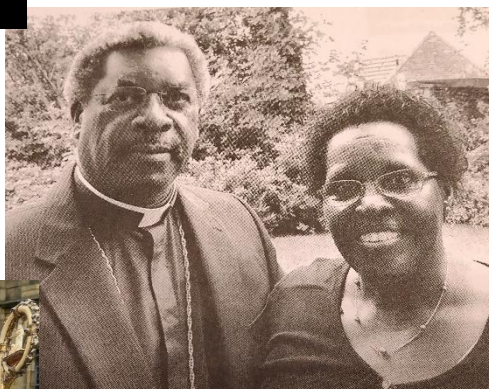
As Asnath and I move on to serve in a new context, please know that we do so with fond memories and hearts full of gratitude. We will continue to hold you in our prayers, and we trust that the same unchanging God who has been faithful thus far will continue to guide and sustain you.

May Christ continue to be at the heart of all you do, and may His peace be with you always.

With every blessing and our sincere thanks,

+Jonathan & Asnath 15.09.2025

Note : The photos above were taken when Jonathan was presiding over his last Team Eucharist Services in each of our churches.



DINGBATS- say what you see to find well known phrases, sayings or people

1.



2.



3.



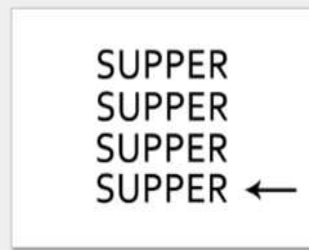
4.



5.



6.



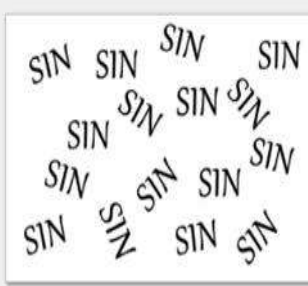
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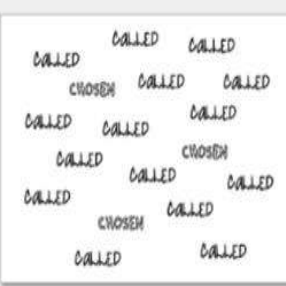
8.



9.



10.



11.



12.



13.



14.



15.



16.



17.



18.



*You will find all of the
Answers on one of the pages
in this magazine*

ST STEPHEN`S OLD CHURCHYARD NEWS

Although it has been a lovely summer this year the trees have not been happy. Stressed by the dry conditions their leaves started to go brown and fall in early August and by mid-September some of the trees were practically bare.

The bedding plants also needed regular watering to keep them alive and we had a little helper from London during August. Florence was spending some of her summer holidays at Nannie and Grandad Wrights and did a great job with the watering can.

In late summer the addition of some perennial fuchsia, lavender and rudbeckia plants has enhanced the memorial garden borders and should continue to do so in future years.

We have recently had a magnificent donation of £405 from Kay Thornborough. Kay lives in Huddersfield but has historical links to Astley. Her family used to run the petrol station at Cross Hillock and as a young leader Kay helped Margaret Hatton run Astley St Stephen's Brownies pack. The funding will give us more scope for continued maintenance and enhancement of the churchyard grounds.

Planning and preparation for 2026 are in hand with spring bulbs ordered and a new planting area for them created around the Alfred Hewlett memorial.



*Contributed by Mike Wright
Friends of Astley St Stephen`s Old 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	PERSON COMPILING THE MAGAZINE
Dec 2025/ Jan 2026	Wed 22 nd October	Tues 18 th November	Michelle Lewthwaite
Feb 2026 / Mar 2026	Wed 7 th January	Tues 13 th January	Iain Hodcroft

Contacts:-

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

For other items please email the person who will be compiling the next magazine eg:-

a.taziker@gmail.com (Andrea); dmlwthwaite@talktalk.net (Michelle); iain.hodcroft@gmail.com (Iain) or mrs.topping1944@btinternet.com (Kath)

Thank you

The Magazine Committee

✨ Church Shopping & Live Music Fundraising Evening ✨

 Join us for live music and festive shopping evening at St John's Church

Date: Monday 20th October 2025

Doors Open: 7:00 pm

Event Time: 7:30 pm – 10:00 pm

Venue: St John's Church, Mosley Common Road, Mosley Common. M28 1AN

 Tickets: £5 (entry includes access to all stalls and live music)


What's on:

Stalls with jewellery, gifts & candles – perfect for Christmas presents 🎄

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Tony regularly entertains at popular local venues such as The Waterside in Monton and Il Cortile in Culcheth

✨ Every ticket and every purchase helps raise funds for our church.

 Come along, shop for Christmas, enjoy live music (with Prosecco and wine!), and support your community!

For tickets & more info, contact: Michelle on 07977 297148 or email michelle@millhalls.com

Using the Bible



Do you possess a Bible in your house? I hope so. In my childhood home my dad had a Bible wedged in with a dictionary and other basics on his desk in the living room (I'm not sure if he used it much as now I have it!) Mum also had a Bible and now maybe my brother keeps that. She also kept her mother's Bible which I now keep. Both she and Gran were regular members of church. Probably most homes possessed a Bible then. It would be the King James Version called the Authorised Version (AV) and I bought my own copy when I was 18 years old in 1957, which I still possess.

The Bible, waiting for us in its proper place in our homes is a precious gift. We should use it because it links us in to the splendour and eternity of God and shows us flashes of insight and purpose along the way. We live trying to grasp the wonder and purpose of the Universe and our place in it! It may seem like an impossible maze in which we are stuck with no way of finding a path through on our own. That is until we begin reading, tentatively and slowly at first, trusting in God's spirit to lead us step by step (not rushing madly ahead) - finding His will for us.

"For God who said 'Let light shine out of darkness' made His light shine in our hearts, to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ (2 Corinthians ch 4 v 6)

It's not a newspaper item to be quickly read and disposed of. It's to be thought about, digested and over the years seen to affect our life and character as we pray.

We should thank God for the Bible as a gift of His grace to us. He didn't have to speak to us, but He has! Our first response in reading it is one of thanks! And then back this up with seeking out clear explanations to help us. This comes from teaching notes, one to one and also sharing with each other at our home Bible study group (see the What's On in this magazine for meetings) and in church.

For one to one I recommend Scripture Union Notes "Daily Bread" (which I have read since I was 18 years old and is for everyone); or their slightly more 'bookish' "Encounter with God" (www.scriptureunion.org.uk gives all the information about them)

The SU notes give us a daily passage to read. We prepare to meet with God each day. We read the passage through until we 'get it'. We explore its meaning. Is God saying something to us through this? What is the main point? Is God saying something about Himself or about me and my life? Is there a promise or a command or warning or example to follow? We respond to what we have learnt. Maybe its worship and prayer for ourselves and others or maybe we can share something with others.

I was told recently that we now have 400 English translations of the Bible to choose from! So we have more choice than I had all those years ago and its easier now to compare them on a smartphone! The (NIV) New International Version is a good successor to King James. It has an upgrade Today's New International Version (TNIV). This is where I think I would start but the (NRSV) New Revised Standard Version is the one we read in church. If you feel you have no background at all in English quotations from the Bible then the "Good News Bible (GNB) is for you! Its very accessible everyday English directly from the original Hebrew and Greek.

May God bless us all in reading from His Word.

Michael Williamson

Baptisms at St John's



10th August - Ronnie Samuel Harper

10th August - Posie Ann Wheeldon

31st August - Bonnie Dee Hampson

Funerals at St John's

11th August - Lilian Ridge

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Lilian. She was prayed for in our intercessions after her death and will be remembered in future prayers.



St. Stephen's Men's Group

are holding their **Annual Charity Dinner** on Friday 28th November at
Astley & Tyldesley Miners Welfare Club at Gin Pit.
7pm for 7.30pm.

The meal is a set 3 course Roast dinner (with Vegetarian alternatives)
Followed by tea or coffee and the price is £30 per person

We would very much value the company of any man who would like to join us
on this occasion and assure you that you would be very welcome.

If you are able to join us please write to the following

e-mail keith@revills13.plus.com

or text 07840 718840

Our chosen charities this year are Mission Aviation Fellowship
and Wigan and Leigh Hospice.

We have invited a speaker from the hospice to give our after dinner talk.
This is to be confirmed.

In order that we can ensure that we have sufficient guests to go forward with the planned meal, would you kindly let us know by 20th October at the latest if you are able to attend. In order for us to be able to pay the caterers and to avoid hold ups on the night, payment must be made in full by Sunday 23rd November.

John Howarth, Chairman
Keith Revill, Secretary
Roy Smith Treasurer

Looking After - caring about

I am not sure how serious this article is - but here goes!



A couple of months ago I was invited to go on a Diocesan Safeguarding Course. My old certificate had expired and I had a decision to make. I decided to renew it because, although I'm retired - 86 years old and not really fit enough to take on much, I can if necessary still preach if asked. The course was certainly useful and helpful but it got me thinking on a different tack which I share with you (there was no space to mention it at the time)

The name 'safeguarding' is wrong! Whoever thought of it should be sued. 'Safeguarding' has overtones that can sound negative. Consider a small group of children at Sunday School. They must be safeguarded - i.e protected. There is a hostile world out there waiting to get you! Protection, guarding, whispering, accusing, nasty talk, court cases, prison, crushing shame all lurk around in a world "totally depraved" (a theological term! cf J Calvin)

Therefore people are suspicious of the term safeguarding. A mature lady SS teacher in Droylsden was so horrified she resigned when we were all asked to attend and participate for the first time..... I guess many responded to those, now compulsory, courses as a bit of an imposition to be got through! All teachers and anyone working in schools, all clergy or anyone responsible in a church, the police, council workers, anyone with any responsibility in TV shows, in sport, with youth organisations and vulnerable adults now must do safeguarding.

It's a suspicious world today and people are nervous of taking on some areas of work and maybe are difficult to recruit because of this.

But why isn't all this seen as more valuable and made positive in our eyes?

It needs a name change! Something like "Looking After" or better.

We value "looking after" and do it all the time - in the family, in the street, at work, in our leisure activities, in school and church. We care. Surely it worked once - and it seemed to work in the 60's (when I started). But society is different now, composed of isolated units, lonely and unknown. Community less strong, but maybe less needed with modern lifestyles?

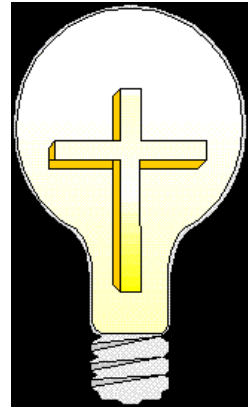
"Looking After" is personal. You notice one another - if they are 'down' or 'stressed' or showing unusual ways. If it's a small church everyone knows each other. In a bigger environment we still relate to those closer and a communications system is developed.

"Looking After" is positive. I have been chosen to go on a 'looking after morning' says the SS teacher proudly "so important and we share our expertise together" all beaming and smiles!

A name change resulting in a positive attitude would be the first step in our understanding and coping I think. Yet who do I go to in order to make the change?

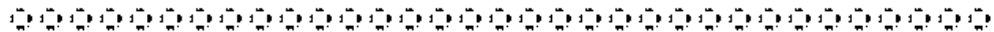
Michael Williamson

Prayers



- As the days shorten and the clocks go back, pray for people who are lonely and isolated, those who feel imprisoned in their homes or who are unable to go out alone. Ask for God's help to be good neighbours in whatever way we can.
- Thank God for the people who volunteer their time and talents for the benefit of our communities; people such as the litter pickers, the gardeners, charity shop staff, the neighbourhood watchers and those who work tirelessly to support the work and appearance of our churches and their surroundings.
- During the month of November, thank God for the Movember movement, which has done so much to raise awareness of the issue of men's health, both physical and emotional. Pray for all those who will raise essential funds during the month and the individuals and families who will benefit.
- It's very easy to feel helpless in the face of so much suffering in the world but remember that one of the most powerful things we can do is to pray, in the sure and certain knowledge that our prayers will reach our just and merciful God.

Contributed by Sara Yarwood



Prayers of Remembrance and For Those No Longer With Us.

For those who have died:

Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,
either by death or life:
hear our prayers and thanksgivings
for all whom we remember this day;
fulfil in us the purpose of your love;
and bring us, with them, to your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



For those who have died on active service:

O God of truth and justice,
we hold before you those men and women
who have died on active service.
As we honour their courage and cherish their memory,
may we put our faith in your future;
for you are the source of life and hope,
now and for ever.
Amen.

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FIRST HARVEST

Someone asked, "What's the most exciting thing you've done?" I could have said several things. I've been on safari in Africa, watched three of my children being born, seen my writing career take off after illness and failure. Thrilling experiences, but not the most exciting. My final answer, in one word, was - radishes.

I've never done anything more exciting than growing my own radishes when I was three. I remember it so well.

First you raked the earth, then you made a groove in the soil with a stick, then you opened your packet of seeds, on the front of which was illustrated the platonic ideal of the radish. A huge crimson orb with a creamy base, topped by forests of greenery. My radishes would look like that!

Then you sowed your seeds, covered them up, impaled the empty packet on a stick through two holes and stuck it in the ground. And at three I honestly believed that picture on the packet had to face the row, so that, as the plants came up, they would know what to be. You'd squat on your haunches, staring at the ground, desperately hoping that the miracle might happen immediately. But of course, it didn't.



Oh, happy day, when green shoots first poked through the earth and became two minute leaves opening up like a pair of tiny hands, as if to say, "Here I am!"

Eventually, oh, second and happier day, the radishes were ready to pull. You'd carry a bunch of them proudly to your mother, and say, "Got a few radishes, mum." She would seem so pleased. That evening there they'd be on the tea-table - my radishes. You know, I hated radishes.

But I loved my mother's reaction to that first small harvest. My mum died several years ago. I really miss her talent for appreciating. It taught me something about God. We haven't much to offer, but whatever it is, loaves and fishes, time, concern for others, radishes, he'll take it, appreciate it and perhaps use it in ways we never dreamed of. So exciting!

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DINGBAT ANSWERS: - 1. Sign of the times 2. Holy Spirit 3. Morning Star 4. Faith in God 5. Ceasar 6. The Last Supper 7. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush 8. Fly in the ointment 9. A multitude of sins 10. Many are called but only a few are chosen 11.Noel 12. See eye to eye 13. Burning bush 14. Daily bread 15. The four corners of the earth 16. Forever and ever 17. A heavy heart 18. The tree of life

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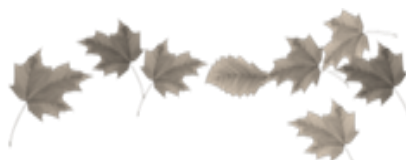
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A Concert by



Parkside Colliery Male Voice Choir
on Saturday 29th November 2025 at
7.30pm

in St Stephen's School Hall
Manchester Road, Astley, M29 7BT
(entry at rear of the school building)

Tickets will be £8.00 (including refreshments)

There will be a raffle and all funds raised will go to
St Stephen's Church

ASTLEY MEMORIAL RENEWED

Astley's war memorial, which commemorates the lives of local people who have died in conflicts around the world, has been remade and was recently installed back at the Bullcroft next to the Bull's Head pub.

Perhaps it was quite fitting that the new memorial was installed on the 8th September - the anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's passing. As our Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth was Head of the Armed Forces and throughout her reign she was a committed champion of the Army, Navy and Air Force and had a great empathy for the challenges faced by the Forces community. So, I think the timing of the installation couldn't have been better. We now have a fitting memorial which will be the focal point for Astley's commemorations of the sacrifice made by the Forces community which our Queen had such great affection for.

We are extremely grateful to our local councillors, Barry Taylor and Christine Roberts for putting us in touch with Green Earth developments and the Whitehead Funding Group. Without them, and the valuable support of Christine Elding, this whole project would not have been possible. Also, I was extremely lucky to come across Ironworx Engineering of Golborne, quite by chance. They had the necessary expertise and equipment to make the new memorial and were genuinely interested in the project. I have been quite touched by the amount of care and attention which they have put into this job. They have been so respectful throughout the work.



For me, it's such a relief to know that the memorial will still be looking good in 10, 20 and 30 year's time, and we will be rightly proud when the community gathers around it each Remembrance Sunday.

The previous steel memorial, which was installed in 2019, was showing signs of rust and weather damage and was no longer a fitting tribute to the lives which were sacrificed. The new memorial has been finished to a much higher standard and has been galvanised and powder coated which gives it a rust-proof guarantee of at least 10 years. The original 72 cascading poppies have been attached to the new memorial and represent the lives of each of the Astley men who went to war and never came home. The poppies serve as a reminder of the cost of war - "Lest We Forget".

The Friends of Astley Memorial have planned a **Remembrance Day service (Sunday 9th November) at the memorial at 12.30pm**. You are very welcome to join us for this service.

There will also be a **Christmas Carol service at the memorial on Thursday 11th December at 6.30pm**. Refreshments of free mulled wine and warm mince pies will be served from 6pm on a first come first served basis. Everyone is welcome to join us for this event as well.

*Michelle Lewthwaite
Secretary, Friends of Astley Memorial*



The New Astley Memorial



Please join the Friends of Astley Memorial and the community of Astley
for a Remembrance Day service
at the memorial on the Bullcroft, Manchester Road, Astley
12.30pm Sunday 9th November 2025