



Astley, Tyldesley and Mosley Common

# Team Magazine



April - May 2026



Risen Christ,  
you filled your disciples with  
boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us to proclaim  
your risen life and fill us  
with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father



*Paul Judson*

## KEY TEAM CONTACTS

Team Rector:	Vacancy		
Team Vicar:	Vacancy		
Pioneer Minister :	Rev Cath Eccles	07425 760255	catheccles50@gmail.com
OLM:	Rev Angela J Dand	01942 879608	
Curate:	Rev Debbie Clarke	07824 326007	debbie.clarke80@yahoo.co.uk
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:	Marjorie Owen (St J)	0161 7907177 / 07519 853279	m.owen111@sky.com
Churchwarden:	Andrea Taziker (St J)	07967 096555	a.taziker@gmail.com
Acting Warden	Amy Farrer (St G)	07891 564034	
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

Happy Star Wars Day - May the Fourth (be with you)

Three years ago, one of the first times I actually solo edited the Team Magazine (a very scary time) I used this as my theme for the Editor's Note.

"Many of you who have children of roughly the same age as my daughter and son (both in their late forties) or were yourselves youngsters in the late 70's/early80's will have no trouble in relating to the title of this article. Much of the dialogue of the original Star Wars film has been assimilated into our collective consciousness - "May the Force be with You" "Use the Force".

I think that these phrases relate to the way we think about our own church lives across the Team and the way we have been praying to our "Force" to make things right for us - it has taken a while but that is God's timetable - not ours.

As I write this editorial (early in March) we have just had the brilliant news that God has answered our prayers and we are getting a New Team Rector in the very near future - may we all welcome Sachin with love in our hearts and give him and his family a wonderful start in the ATMC Team.

Jenny Evans

This Team Magazine is also available on-line and can be found at [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://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.

# REFLECTIONS

This latest team magazine for April and May 2026 brings us straight into the Easter Day celebrations on April 5th.

Easter Day is a Principal Feast in the church's year. Christmas Day is also a Principal Feast in the church's year, and of course without Jesus's birth, and celebrating it on Christmas Day, we wouldn't have the Easter Day celebrations.

Easter morning begins in a cemetery, and always arrives quietly at dawn, and not with trumpets, or choirs, or celebrations. Scripture tells us that the resurrection wasn't first discovered in a moment of triumph, but in confusion, grief, love and hope all mixed up together. Easter Day can still meet us that way in our day and age.

We come to Easter 2026 carrying a lot - joys and celebrations - but also grief for those we've lost, together with questions, perhaps some weariness, and unanswered prayers.

The world around us continues to shift at a pace that can feel overwhelming. Some people are asking, "who can we really trust?" and "where can we find hope?"

As Christians of course we know who the answer is to those questions - Jesus Christ.

Easter doesn't answer with an argument but with an empty tomb. The resurrection of Jesus isn't simply a happy ending to a seemingly tragic event, it's an actual declaration that God is still at work exactly when we think hope has ended. The stone was rolled away, not so that Jesus could escape from that tomb, but so that the world could see that death doesn't get the final word.

Fear doesn't win, love remains stronger.

What makes Easter so powerful is its honesty. The resurrection doesn't erase the cross, Jesus' body still bears the scars. This tells us something fundamental about our faith in Jesus Christ - God doesn't redeem the world by avoiding suffering, but by entering it fully, and transforming it from the inside out - so our pain isn't ignored, our losses aren't forgotten- they're met by God who knows them himself, personally. Easter is an invitation to believe that new life is possible - not just someday - but right now.

Resurrection shows up in quiet ways. It appears when forgiveness is offered after a long silence. It grows when a family chooses patience over bitterness. These moments might not look dramatic, but they're signs that the risen Christ is still walking among us.

The women who first went to the tomb didn't go expecting a miracle, they went to mourn, they expected death to be still in charge, they came to preserve a body, not to meet The Saviour. They carried spices not hope. Some of us might come to Easter the same way, carrying spices made up of regrets that we can't undo, prayers that feel unanswered, losses that still ache, and fears we've learned to live with. The women came to do what love always does - show up, even when hope feels lost. We believe in God, but perhaps we're not always sure that resurrection applies to us, and then we're reminded again of that question that the angel asked "Why do you look for the living among the dead?" It was there in their faithfulness that the women encountered resurrection.



The resurrection doesn't deny suffering - Jesus was really crucified, the tomb was really sealed, death was really shocking. The Christian faith isn't pretending things don't hurt, that's why it doesn't skip Good Friday.

The resurrection happened while no one was watching, no disciples cheering, no prayers being offered, no faith being demonstrated. God raised Jesus while humanity wasn't there - and that's important, because it means resurrection is God's work, not ours. We don't resurrect ourselves, we don't earn new life, we don't overcome death by being strong enough or faithful enough. Romans 8 verse 11 reminds us of this " If the spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He will give life to your mortal bodies".

Easter confirms to us that even when we're exhausted, discouraged or doubting - God is still working. Easter reminds us that God often meets us not when our faith is strong, but when our love is willing. The Good News isn't meant to be kept inside our churches, the resurrection sends the disciples back into the world with a message to live, not just to believe - "Go and tell".

Easter faith moves outwards, it reshapes how we speak to each other, how we treat the vulnerable, how we handle conflict, and how we imagine the future.

To say " Christ is risen " is to say that despair is never the end of the story. It's to commit ourselves to being people of hope in a world that desperately needs it. Hope that's patient, hope that's courageous, hope that doesn't deny reality, but refuses to be ruled by fear - 2 Timothy 1 verse 7 confirms that "God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

So as we celebrate Easter 2026 let's allow the resurrection to surprise us once more, let it breathe new life into things we had quietly given up on. When we leave this season let's leave it not only rejoicing, but transformed ready to carry resurrection into our homes, our workplaces, our community and our world, because Easter isn't just a day we remember, it's a life we're invited to live. Christ is risen not just in history, not just in theology, but here and now for everyone !

*Peace to you and yours  
David Kendrick*



## **DIGNITY**

Dignity is a strange and precious gift. You can't see it, you can't touch it but you always know when someone has it. It is often found amongst the poorest people on God's earth. They may have little else, but if they have dignity they are rich indeed.

Now a warning: dignity is fragile and has to be treated with the greatest care. Try to stand on it - as some folks do- and you are likely to fall flat on your face.

## Where to find worship services across the Team in April and May

Date	St Stephen's	St George's	St John's	Mission Church
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> April Maundy Thursday</b>	10am Communion	10am SGCS KS2 Easter Service		6.30pm tea with communion [food provided]
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April Good Friday</b>	3pm Prayers at the Cross	9am Prayers at the Cross	12 noon Prayers at the Cross	10.30am Ecumenical churches together service [led by Mission Church – hosted at Tyldesley Independent Methodist Church]
<b>5<sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday</b>	10am Communion	10am Communion	10am Communion	2.30pm Service with meal
<b>12<sup>th</sup> April Sunday</b>	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church  12.30 Baptisms	10am Service of the Word	
<b>19<sup>th</sup> April Sunday</b>	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church  4-6 Pizza & Prayers	2.30pm Service with meal
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> April Thursday</b>	10am Thursday Team Communion			
<b>25<sup>th</sup> April Sunday</b>	3pm Stepping Up			
<b>26<sup>th</sup> April Sunday</b>	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion  12.30 Baptisms	

Date	St Stephen's	St George's	St John's	Mission Church
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> May Sunday</b>	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word	2.30pm Service with meal
<b>9<sup>th</sup> May Saturday</b>	3pm Stepping Up			
<b>10<sup>th</sup> May Sunday</b>	10am Service of the Word + APCM	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church	
<b>14<sup>th</sup> May Thursday</b> <b>Ascension</b>	10am Thursday Team Communion			
<b>17<sup>th</sup> May Sunday</b>	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	2.30pm Service with meal
<b>24<sup>th</sup> May Sunday</b> <b>Pentecost</b>	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church  1pm Baptisms	10am Service of the Word + APCM	
<b>31<sup>st</sup> May Sunday</b>  Trinity	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion +APCM	10am Café Church  4-6pm Pizza & Prayer	2.30pm Service with meal
<b>4<sup>th</sup> June Thursday</b>	10am Thursday Team Communion			
<b>7<sup>th</sup> June Sunday</b>	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion  12.30 Baptisms	2.30pm Service with a meal

Changes or additional information will be shared in church notices, on social media and 'A Church Near You' pages.

For those able to access information online please check out our Facebook page: *Astley, Tyldesley, Mosley Common 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.

# What's On - April and May

## St Stephen's and locally

- Apr 4th/5th Easter Trail and Teddy Bear's Picnic 11.00am to 4.00pm - Lancashire Mining Museum - 01942 895841 for more info or on Facebook
- Apr 4th Damhouse - Easter Egg Hunt - 10.00am to 3.00pm - £4.00 per child - 01942 876417 or [info@damhouse.net](mailto:info@damhouse.net) for more info or check out website
- Apr 14th House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Road hosted by John Howarth. Tel. 07471 460 988. The theme is The Disciples and all are welcome. Philip- Learning to Trust. John 6: 1-13
- Apr 15th 7.30pm - St Stephen's Mothers Union - Speaker Rev Cath Eccles on Mission Church
- Apr 18th 10.00am - 12.00pm St Stephen's Coffee Morning - in church meeting room
- Apr 28th House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Road hosted by John Howarth. Tel 07471 460 988. The theme is The Disciples and all are welcome. John - Seeking To Be The Greatest. Matthew 20: 20-28
- Apr 30th 3.30pm Communion Service at The Rowans, Lindale Road, Mosley Common M28 1BG
- May 2nd/3rd Plant Sale 11.00am to 4.00pm - Lancashire Mining Museum - 01942 895841 for more info or on Facebook
- May 12th House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Road hosted by John Howarth. Tel 07471 460 988. The theme is The Disciples and all are welcome. Thomas - Leaving Doubt Behind. John 20: 19-29
- May 16th 10.00am - 12.00pm St Stephen's Coffee Morning - in church meeting room
- May 16th/17th Steam Rally 11.00am to 4.00pm - Lancashire Mining Museum - 01942 895841 for more info or on Facebook
- May 16th Damhouse - Local History Weekend - Dr Tom McGrath - 01942 876417 or [info@damhouse.net](mailto:info@damhouse.net) for more info or check out website
- May 20th 7.30pm - St Stephen's Mothers Union - Poetry and Readings
- May 26th House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Road hosted by John Howarth. Tel 07471 460 988. The theme is The Disciples and all are welcome. Nathanael - Developing Spiritual Insight. John 1: 43-51
- May 28th 3.30pm Communion Service at The Rowans, Lindale Road, Mosley Common M28 1BG

## **St George's Diary dates for April & May 2026**

### **10<sup>th</sup> April - The Early Doors Club, 5pm-8pm: Dave McCabe [Zutons]**

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

### **11<sup>th</sup> April - Piano Recital 3pm - 5.30pm with Paul Lewis & friends**

This very special event is to help raise funds for The Christie NHS Foundation Trust and particularly for the Professor Mark Saunders Colorectal Research.

Doors open at 2.30pm. Tickets are available via Eventbrite and start from £10 for under 16s and range in price from £20 - £50 for adults [all tickets subject to a small booking fee]. See separate article for more information.

### **19<sup>th</sup> April - Brass Band Concert: Bolton Hoover Band**

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.

### **10<sup>th</sup> May - Brass Band Concert: The KNDS Fairey Band**

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

### **May - The Early Doors Club, 5pm-8pm: to be confirmed**

Please see separate article for further information

### **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 27<sup>th</sup> April**

The Historical Society will continue to meet on the last Monday of the month but in April they are hoping to meet in the new Heritage Gallery in Tyldesley Technical School. At the time of printing the venue is provisionally booked - please check beforehand. Refreshments from 7pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm.

Contact Susie Mallon - 07873 149627 for further details. **There is no meeting in May due to the Bank Holiday.**

## **St John's What's On**

14<sup>th</sup> April Monday 7pm in The Lounge Mosley Common Historical Society.

'Treasure?' with Andrea Taziker. This includes a look at some of the current Mosley Common local history delights and horrors but will also cover the Portable Antiquities Scheme which I know sounds boring but honestly is the height of archaeological and historical excitement! And of course there will be Historical Refreshments! Everyone is most welcome!!

11<sup>th</sup> May Monday 7pm in The Lounge Mosley Common Historical Society.

A thrilling talk promised by John Blackledge on the "**The Ages of Britain**" about how our ancestors came to live in Britain. With Prehistoric refreshments! A modern version! No woolly mammoth!

### **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

#### **St John's Mosley Common. Toddler Group**

Thursdays (term time) 9.30 - 11.00am - £1 per person (incl drink and toast)

#### **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 [www.bewellwigan.org](http://www.bewellwigan.org)



## **St George's Announcement**

At a meeting of the PCC, Mrs Amy Farrer was appointed as (Acting) Churchwarden for St George's Church Tyldesley. Contact telephone number 07891564034

# ECO CHURCH UPDATES

Looking for simple ways to take action for the climate and nature?

A Rocha UK's Eco Tips Calendar for 2026 is here to keep us and our church inspired all year long. With fresh, practical ideas each month, it's designed to help build a lasting commitment to greener living.

You can explore the "Easy Eco Tips Calendar" by searching for the following link :-

<https://arocha.org.uk/easy-eco-tips-2026-calendar/>



## Toilet Twinning: A Practical Way to Make a Difference

People in the poorest countries are affected the worst by climate change. Droughts, flooding and extreme weather can severely limit access to safe water and sanitation, increasing health risks and deepening inequality.



St Stephen's Church is supporting Toilet Twinning, a scheme that funds the provision of safe toilets, clean water, and hygiene education through local partner organisations. We are twinning one of our church toilets with a toilet project in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Access to safe sanitation helps prevent disease, supports

children's education, and restores dignity. Projects funded through Toilet Twinning are designed to be sustainable, with communities involved in building, maintaining, and using the facilities.

The cost is straightforward:

- £60 twins one toilet
- £120 twins two toilets

If you would like to contribute, please donate via our JustGiving page:-

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/saint-stephens-1?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/saint-stephens-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)

Thank you for helping us support this practical and life-changing work.

*Contributed by Ingrid Voss  
St Stephen's Eco Champion*



## Announcement of New Team Rector

On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026 it was announced in all our churches that a new Team Rector has been appointed for the ATMC Team (including Mission Church).

The announcement from The Ven Dr Rachel Mann, Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton reads as follows:

We are delighted to announce the appointment of the Rev'd Sachin Awale, currently Team Vicar in the Saddleworth Team, Rochdale Archdeaconry, Diocese of Manchester as the Team Rector (Incumbent) of the Benefice of Astley, Tyldesley and Mosley Common, Salford Deanery in the Archdeaconry of Salford, Diocese of Manchester.



Sachin writes:

"I am delighted and humbled to have been called to serve as Team Rector in the Astley, Tyldesley, and Mosley Common benefice. My family and I are really looking forward to joining the ATMC team and seeing how God will guide us as we serve Him together.

At the same time, it is with gratitude and some sadness that we prepare to leave Saddleworth, where we have grown, worshipped and shared many joyful and challenging moments. We give thanks to God for the support, friendship and encouragement we have received and we pray that He will continue to guide all of us.

As I step into this new role, I ask for your prayers for me, my family, and for both communities trusting in God's promise that He has plans for hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11)."

The date for Sachin's licensing is yet to be arranged.



## Magazine Funding

As reported last year the magazine is issued every 2 months in order to keep parishioners of all four churches informed about things that are going on and hopefully also providing some entertaining and informative articles (which we are always happy to accept from anyone who would like to contribute).

The printing costs every 2 months are:

for 350 copies £255.00 - for 400 copies £298.00

In 2025 businesses who advertise with us paid £450.00 and the contributions received from the congregations of all the churches amounted to £670.00 - thank you so much to everyone.

So in summary for 2025 - the total cost of the magazines was £1973 - the amount received £1120.00 - a substantial amount to offset against the costs the church had to spend.

We intend to run a campaign again this June/July for any donations if anyone would like to contribute if you are able - although we are happy to accept contributions at any time.

So - from the Magazine Committee a - **GREAT BIG THANK YOU**

## DAFFODILS



T'other week wen a wer axed ta go un recite ut a Daffodil Tea  
Ov course A said "Yes!"reet away, then a thowt, "Oh dear me,  
Warr 'ave a let misel' in fer, A've never 'eard o' a Daffodil Tea,  
What goes on at such a function? A'st just 'ave ta wait un see".  
A dunna know much 'bout daffodils, ther yellor, ther green un they  
grow

We 'ave one er two in t'garden, but we don't 'ave that much ov a  
show.

Un yet, A like ta see 'em un the new born 'ope they bring,  
Fer after each long 'ard winter they are the " 'Eralders of  
Spring".

A know ta me they give new 'ope wen t'winter ills er past  
Un mother nature's miracle comes burstin' forth at last.

The crocuses un snowdrops er such dainty little things  
Burr a daffodil's golden trumpet wer fashioned just to sing

Ov aster round the corner, un ov summer days ahead

Un ov love un life un 'appiness, now cold winter days 'ave sped.

A remember once, A wer on a bus, A ferget now we-er A wer goin',

Burr out o t'winder, across the fields the daffodils wer showin'.



Un A thowt ta misel' on that spring day us Wordsworth ud gorr it reet,

Ta see a host ov daffodils is a truly lovely seet.

A reckon as God knew worr 'e wer doin' when 'e med this world ov ours

Ta give us t'rain un t'sunshine un o' these lovely flowers.

Un wi' apologies ta Wordsworth un them lovely Lakeland 'ills,

Before A'm done A'd love ta walk amongst the daffodils.

# Church Shopping and Live Music Fundraising Evening

With local pianist and vocalist

**Tony  
Nicholls**

**Monday 20 April 2026**

Doors open 7pm | Live music starts 7.30pm

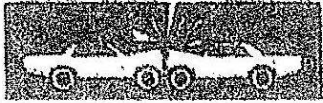
All profits to St John's Church. Contact Michelle 07977 297148

**TICKET PRICE £5 PER PERSON** (Non-refundable)

**Drinks and Refreshments on Sale  
Please Bring Cash.**

**Money raised for upkeep of the church.**

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



**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  
dmlewthwaite@talktalk.net

**Moving home  
or considering  
remortgaging?**



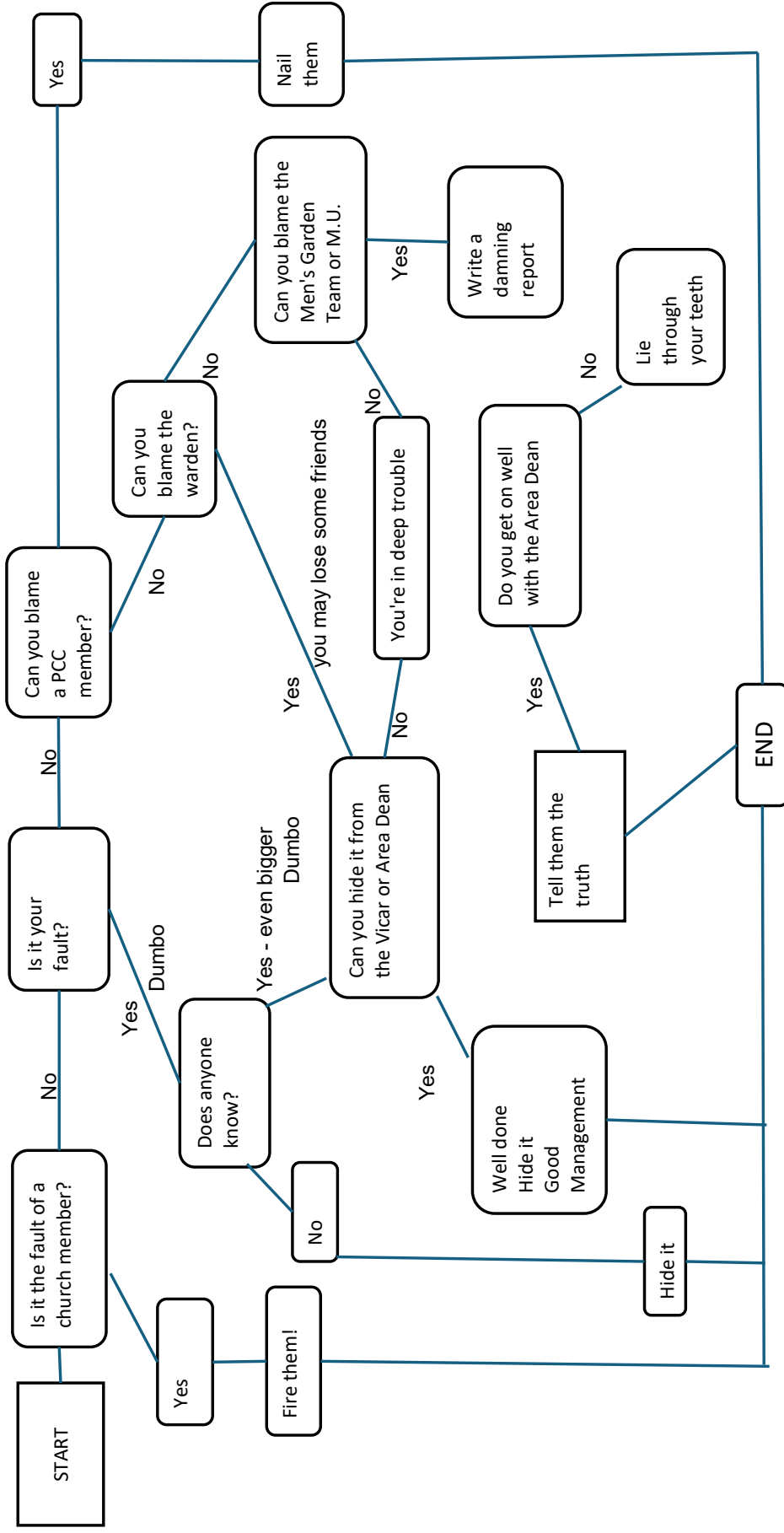
**Millhall Financial  
can help you with:**

- 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](http://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.

# Flowchart for the New Team Rector and Chair of PCC : what to do when a cock-up occurs



Contributed by Michael Williamson

History Drop-in Sessions    Andrea M Taziker

This year Heritage Open Days will return to Mosley Common on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September 2026 so add this date to your diary! We will once again be opening our wonderful Georgian School to visitors, built in 1822 when George IV, Priny of Brighton Pavillion fame, was king. The theme of this year's event is 'Mosley Common; Past, Present and Future?', there will be more details in the next editions of the magazine! As part of this I am hoping initially to talk and listen to anyone who has memories, or stories or old photographs of Mosley Common in the past. I am hoping to record these chats and scan any photographs to be saved as a record of the Mosley Common of the past. You may personally have stories or they maybe ones that your parents or grandparents or family members told you. It may be of special events such as the Walking Days; football or cricket matches or wartime memories. Or it may be everyday life, working at the pit, washing clothes in a boiler, going to school. Or memories about a special place, The City, Holy Family School, Garret Hall, the Labour Club or King Billy pub. I am interested in it all!

I am planning to be in the **Rowans, Mosley Common on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April from 10.00 o'clock in the morning until 3.00 o'clock in the afternoon** and there will be refreshments including cake!

The second session will take place in the **Lounge at St John's School, Mosley Common on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> of April from 10.00 o'clock in the morning until 3.00 o'clock in the afternoon** and there too will be refreshments including cake!

Please come and have a chat and record your stories so that they are remembered in the future and part of the rich history of our village. Please bring your pictures, one can never have too many images, and they too will be a visual story of the life here in the past. It is planned that some of this material will be used in the exhibition and in a book about Mosley Common that is currently being written.

I look forward to meeting you and your memories!

Thank you

Andrea M Taziker

(If you are unable to visit but want to share your memories please get in touch with me.

( [a.taziker@gmail.com](mailto:a.taziker@gmail.com) Mobile 07967096555)



## AROUND THE WORLD



Where any building is a listed place of worship in UK it qualified for financial help with repairs - introduced by Tony Blair's government in 2001. Now the government proposes to withdraw this. The Church of England has over 5000 listed buildings and 1000 of these are on the "At Risk" register. So now it is feared that many small congregations will be tempted to spend time and money on keeping up a local building rather than its core mission.

The site on the River Jordan where Christ was baptised by John the Baptist has re-opened. It is one of the most popular pilgrimage sites alongside the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. One million people visited the site in 2019.

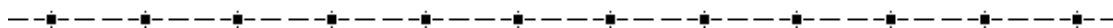
The Episcopal Church (USA) is one of many churches to go to court over the American police crackdown on immigration policy. A judge has ruled in favour of the protestors : "the routine enforcement of the immigration laws.... cannot justify the harm to religious freedom posed by the new policy".

In Moldova the Orthodox Church (95% of the population) is split over which Patriarch to give their loyalty to. 1000 parishes are faithful to Moscow and 250 to Romania. It's political and the President says "the church must not be used as a political tool or a factor of social division."

The Vatican "will not participate" in President Trump's Board of Peace for Gaza - at the international level it should above all be the UN that manages these crisis situations.

In China, Pastor Ezra Jin, leader of the Beijing Zion church (one of the largest unregistered churches) was arrested in October. No trial date fixed, no contact with family allowed.

*Michael Williamson*



## SMILE TIME

I recently called an old engineering buddy of mine and asked what he was working on at the moment. He replied that he was working on "aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminium and steel under a constrained environment". Then I realised he meant he was doing the washing up with hot water under his wife's supervision.

Seen at a council carpark "PARKING AVAILABLE IN EMPTY SPACES ONLY"

Behind every man who thinks he wears the trousers is his wife, who tells him which ones to wear.

"People from Dubai never listen to The Flintstones: but those from Abu Dhabi do"

*Cliff Graham (St Stephen's) at Men's Group BBQ*



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10<sup>TH</sup>-16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026

Where hardship means hunger... urban farmers can grow hope.

In the crowded and noisy settlements of Nairobi, most parents wake every single day knowing that they must go and earn money, otherwise their children won't eat that evening. With no formal work opportunities, heartbreakingly low pay, and no social support, it's a precarious and frightening daily struggle that no family should have to face.

The aching hunger is bad enough. The relentless stress is overwhelming. "When I wake up, I have a lot of worries. Sometimes I don't have food", says Fridah Moraa, a recently widowed grandmother determined to support her family on what little she earns. "Now I'm responsible for everything." With school costs, rent and water to cover, providing food for every meal is a problem that never goes away.

But Fridah's faith in God, and in her own ability to provide, is unwavering. With tools, seeds and specialist training from Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope, Fridah is now making the most of a small space in the city to grow a steady supply of fresh vegetables that she can cook for her family or sell on her market stall.

Reflecting on her new role in life, Fridah says: "I never thought that a woman could also be a provider."

With her inner strength, unstoppable resolve, and a little help from Beacon of Hope, Fridah is overcoming poverty to feed the youngest members of her family and protect them from the threat of malnutrition. Fridah rightly takes pride in all she's achieving. "When I harvest what I've planted, it makes me happy. Urban farming has changed my life."



*Fridah and her grandson, Quillan, outside their house in Dagoretti, Nairobi.  
Photo: David Macharia, Christian Aid*

Christian Aid and its supporters are joining together once again during Christian Aid Week (10<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> May) to fundraise in all kinds of ways - from coffee mornings and craft stalls to hiking and biking for the 70k in May challenge.



*Fridah turned a tiny unused space into a source of nutrition and income for her family.  
Photo: David Macharia, Christian Aid*

With **seven days to make a difference**, every gift, act and prayer counts. What can you do to support someone like Fridah to grow food, protect their children from hunger, and nurture hope?

- **£5** could buy the seeds that kickstart a family's nutritious vegetable garden.
- **£10** could pay for a pair of chickens that produce fertiliser for an urban farmer.
- **£15** could buy the hand tools that mean an urban farmer can tend their crops.
- **£30** could buy a trio of cone garden planters that host hundreds of plants in a tiny city space.

Please donate whatever you can in the attached envelope and return it :-

- To the drop-off point in Tyldesley - Pen to Paper card shop
- At the Coffee morning at St Stephen`s church meeting room on Sat 16<sup>th</sup> May 10am - 12pm
- Or to one of the contacts at St Stephen`s, St George`s or St John`s (contact details on the opposite page)

Find out more about the campaign at [caweek.org](http://caweek.org) Thankyou

*Contributed by Michelle Lewthwaite*

**70<sup>k</sup>  
IN MAY**

**CHRISTIAN  
AID'S**

## **70k IN MAY CHALLENGE**

This year's Christian Aid Week is focused on Nairobi in Kenya, where families are working hard to beat urban poverty and hunger.

Meanwhile, Christian Aid supporters can show solidarity with their global neighbours by signing up for the **70k in May** fundraising challenge.

You can cover the 70km distance any way you like. You could take part by yourself or form a group with your church, friends or family. You can split it into manageable sections or even do it in relay. However you take on 70k in May, do it your way!

If you're on social media, please post your challenge and inspire others. You can even bag yourself a welcome pack with a t-shirt when your fundraising hits £10!

Find out more and how you can take part at [christianaid.org.uk/70kinmay](http://christianaid.org.uk/70kinmay)



Please donate whatever you can in the attached envelope and return it :-

- To the drop-off point at "Pen to Paper", 167 Elliott St, Tyldesley.
- Or at the **Coffee morning** at St Stephen's church meeting room on **Sat 16<sup>th</sup> May 10am - 12pm** where you can join us for tea, coffee, toasted tea cakes and other refreshments
- Or to **Michelle Lewthwaite** at St Stephen's Church
- Or to one of the **contacts** below :-  
St Stephen's - Elaine Dickinson  
St George's - Kath Topping  
St John's - Marjorie Owen  
(contact details on inside front cover of this magazine)



## **PEN TO PAPER**

We are a family run greeting card and balloon shop established in 1985.

We sell cards, stationery, gifts & party balloons

📍 167 Elliott Street, Tyldesley

☎ 01942 896654

### **OPENING TIMES**

Monday	9am - 5pm
Tuesday	9am - 5pm
Wednesday	9am - 5pm
Thursday	9am - 5pm
Friday	9am - 5pm
Saturday	9am - 4pm
Sunday	CLOSED



# Mosley Common

## Historical Society



**Mosley Common Historical Society** meets at 7pm in the Lounge at the back of St John's Church Mosley Common on the second Monday of the month. Everyone is welcome and the meetings are free to all! The first meeting of this year is the 13<sup>th</sup> of April. There will be no official meeting in September as we are taking part in the Heritage Open Days events when on the weekend of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of September in St John's School there will be historical displays, archives, videos, guided tours and historical refreshments! This year our title is 'Mosley Common 2026; Past, Present and Future?'. Its going to be interesting!!

### 2026 Meeting Schedule.

- 14<sup>th</sup> April
- 11<sup>th</sup> May
- 8<sup>th</sup> June
- 13<sup>th</sup> July
- 10<sup>th</sup> August
- 12<sup>th</sup> October
- 9<sup>th</sup> November
- 14<sup>th</sup> December



6inch 1888 - 1915

The meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April will be led by Andrea Taziker and will be on 'Treasure?', this includes a look at some of the current Mosley Common local history delights and horrors but will also cover the Portable Antiquities Scheme which I know sounds boring but is the high of archaeological and historical excitement! And of course there will be Historical Refreshments!

Everyone is most welcome!!

For further information please contact Andrea M Taziker on; mobile 07967096555 or email

[mosleycommonhs@gmail.com](mailto:mosleycommonhs@gmail.com)

# Bridgewater Funeral Service Ltd



*Our family caring for you and your loved ones*

Contact Emma or Abbie

**0161 637 7550**

24 Hour Service

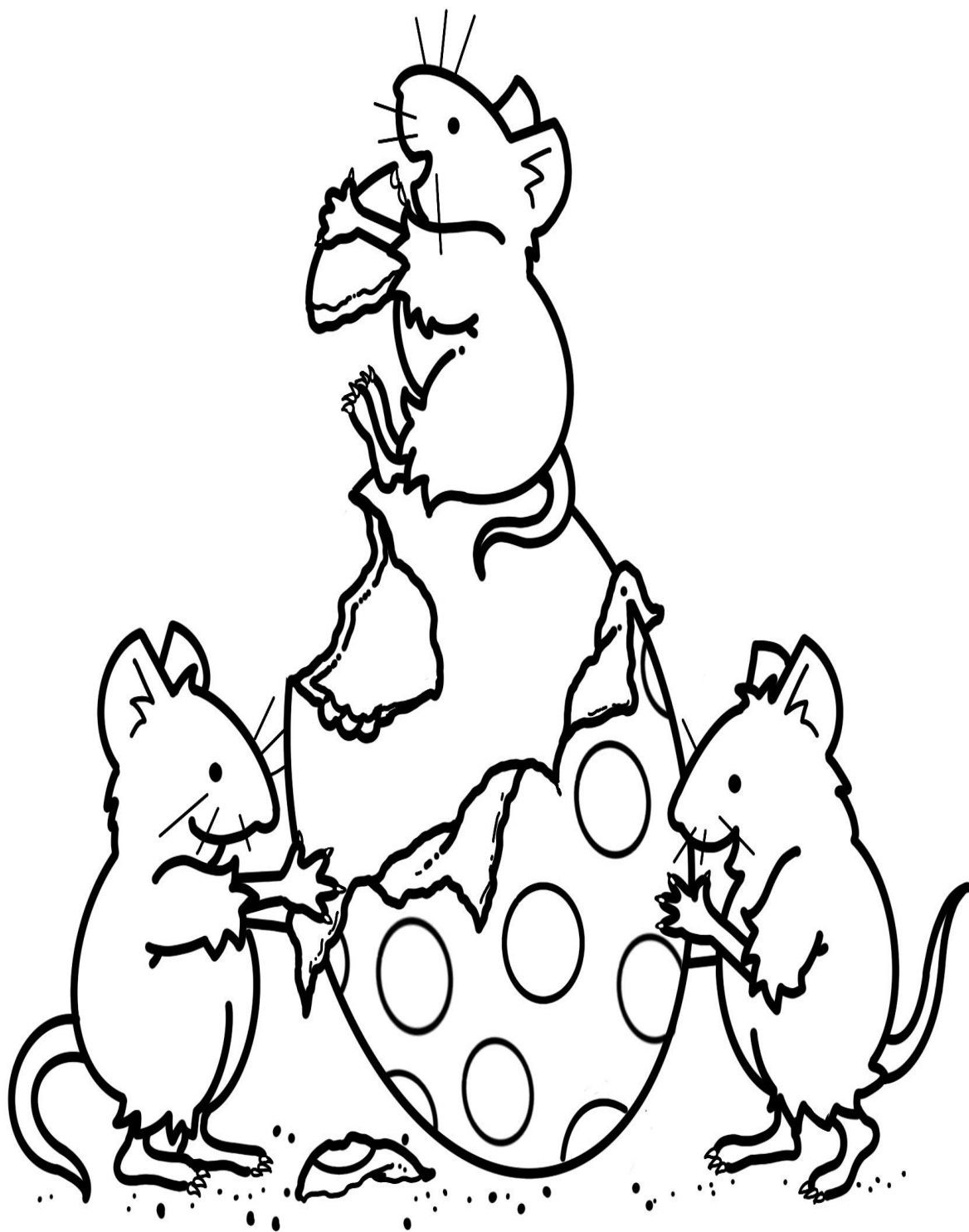


**ecclesiastical**  
Planning Services



**27 Chaddock Lane Boothstown Worsley M28 1DB**

**[www.bridgewaterfuneralservice.co.uk](http://www.bridgewaterfuneralservice.co.uk)**



# The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

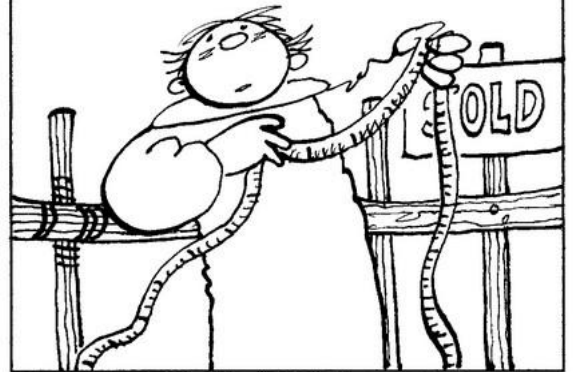


OH! NO!!

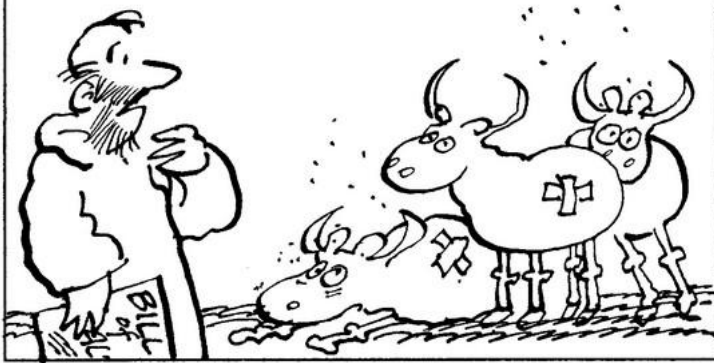


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR

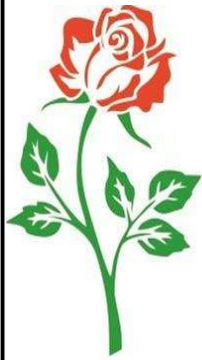


ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.



**Dootson & Harrison**

**Funeral Services**

**240, Elliott Street,**

**Tyldesley**

**M29 8DS**

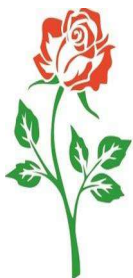
**01942 883643**

Email: [info@dootsonandharrison.co.uk](mailto:info@dootsonandharrison.co.uk)

Website: [www.dootsonandharrison.co.uk](http://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



# SCHOOL WORSHIP CABIN / HAPPY HUT



On 21<sup>st</sup> January Bishop Mark formally opened the new school worship cabin at St Stephen`s Primary School and the children are enjoying using the place which they have named the Happy Hut!

The plan is that this quiet, spiritual space in the garden, away from the hustle and bustle of the main school building, will provide a comfortable environment for children to have time just for themselves if they need it whilst also providing a place for play and learning in small groups.

In 2025 the school`s Ethos Team, which is made up of several of the older school children, began planning for this new space to be made available. They organised a family sponsored walk to raise the majority of the funds to get things started. St Stephen`s church was very pleased to be able to contribute to the project by obtaining some grant funding which had been set aside by the Diocese to help churches make worship more accessible. As an example, some churches have used the funding to enable them to install audio visual equipment, but because of the situation at St Stephen`s this wasn`t possible for us. However, a case was made to



allow us to apply for the grant for this school / church project and offer it as a thank you to the school for allowing us access to the school hall for our Sunday services over the last 5 years.

As well as the £3,000 grant obtained from the Diocese, St Stephen`s church has also put some money towards the furnishings for the Happy Hut following a Coffee Morning in December which was arranged by Jane Jones. It raised £226. A beautiful wooden cross, made by John Howarth, was fixed above



the doorway and bunting was added for the special opening ceremony. So far Years 1,2, 3 and 5 have loved spending time in the Happy Hut - enjoying the calm, cosy space created by the schools Ethos Team.

The fabulous work being done at St Stephen`s school is driven by the recognition that when children and young people feel safe, included, and supported, they are better able to regulate their emotions, engage positively with learning, and truly thrive.

The school continues to hold family worship services on Tuesday mornings when family members are invited to join the children; and on Wednesday afternoons members from St Stephen`s church regularly join the children to lead "Open the Book" worship sessions. Sandra, Janet, Jane and Nicky recently helped out at a pancake making session which went down a treat.

Head teacher Jill Southern has been a real inspiration behind many initiatives which have brought success for the school. As she leaves later this year we wish her all the best and much happiness in her well-earned retirement.

*Michelle Lewthwaite*

With contributions from Sandra Morris (Man Dio Growing Faith Deanery Enabler) and Jane Jones

## New Life Among Us: Celebrating Two Years at Mission Church

Mission Church marked our second anniversary on January 21st, and it turned out to be an unforgettable mid-week celebration. As it fell on a Wednesday, Bishop Mark, Richard our Area Dean, Sandra Morris from the Diocese and their photographer were able to drop in, say hello, and join us for our community lunch. There was the usual busyness with Mission Tots in the large hall and Café Eva full. Our visitors were able to mingle and speak with everyone. We all sat down to enjoy fish and chips cooked by our wonderful kitchen volunteers - always a favourite - followed by a specially made celebration cake for the occasion.



Later, Bishop Mark gave a warm and encouraging talk. He spoke about how Rev'd Cath had once shared the vision of what the Lord was raising up here at Shakerley, and how wonderful it was now to see the fruit of that vision - the commitment and work that have shaped these two years.

He finished by telling us a little of his own faith journey, including the time he spent in Calcutta working with Mother Teresa and the Sisters of Mercy. She told all the volunteers as they left, "Go home, discover where Jesus longs to plant you, and wherever He plants you, be His love in action and make a difference."

Bishop Mark turned those words towards us, bringing tears to a few eyes. He reminded us that Jesus has planted us here, on this estate, to be His love in action - and that we really do make a difference, with Him and with each other. I'm not sure what people expected it would be like to meet a Bishop, but many commented afterwards on how friendly he was and how much they had enjoyed the afternoon.

Another highlight of our anniversary month was being surprised with the beautiful wooden Mission Church logo, lovingly crafted by Dave, one of our volunteers.

He spent hours shaping, sanding and finishing it; the result is something very special.

It deserves to be seen and celebrated.



At the end of January, we also held our Volunteers' Meal at the Farmhouse Kitchen. It was a chance simply to say "thank you" to the many people who quietly keep Mission Church running week by week. It was a relaxed, happy afternoon with plenty of laughter, good food, and the usual Shakerley teasing! The photograph feels like a snapshot of the heart of Mission Church.



Fitting with this theme, at our Café Church recently each table was given a small jigsaw to work on together. It was wonderful watching people lean in, laugh, swap pieces, and help each other out - although at times it did get a little competitive between the tables! It helped to remind us of that well-known Scripture in Corinthians about being one body with many parts — how every piece matters, every person has a place, and there are no "spares" in God's family. We're all needed, and when we come together, something beautiful takes shape.

All these moments remind us that God is still bringing new life into our church community. As we step into our third year, we do so with hope and expectation, trusting that God will continue to grow good things among us.

At Easter, we remember that the heart of the Christian story is death transformed, hope restored, and new beginnings offered to us all. We thank God for all He has and is doing in this place and within the Team.

*Rev'd Eileen Hartigan  
for Mission Church*



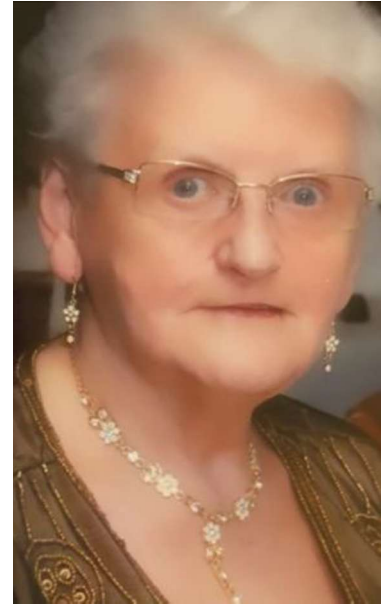
## JOYCE THOMPSON 1940-2026

Joyce Thompson was the kind of parishioner that formed the bedrock of St Stephen's church. She and her husband John were vergers for several years, offering caring support to many bereaved families who attended funerals of their loved ones at St Stephen's.

Joyce hadn't always lived in Astley. For a while the family lived in John's home-land of Ireland and had many happy years there. But on settling at their new home in the Parish of St Stephen's John and Joyce became valued members of the church and contributed in so many ways to the day to day running of the church.

Joyce was also a prominent member of Girlguiding locally. She had a huge passion for Girlguiding, its principals and ideals and gave generously in so many ways. Many girls and Leaders have her to thank for all the fun, experiences and opportunities Girlguiding gave them. Joyce was a Guide Guider and went on to hold positions as District and Division Commissioner, positions of trust and commitment with responsibility for all aspects of Guiding in her area. Joyce supported girls and Leaders in their international adventures to many countries all over the world; she organised a Guide trip to India for an annual Jamboree and that can't have been easy - even in the days before Health and Safety went mad! When her Leader and Commissioner days were over, Joyce continued to support Girlguiding by becoming a member of the Trefoil Guild.

Joyce was also famously the foremost "Flower lady" at St Stephen's and, with the help of her team of flower arrangers, she produced magnificent displays for key Christian festivals like Easter, when the church was decked all around with beautiful flowers, some cascading down the altar steps, and filling the whole place with the wonderful scent of spring and new life. Janet Graham also remembers Joyce's expert touch in the floral arrangements at her daughter Helen's wedding.



In 2012 Joyce took on the huge challenge of creating a Flower Festival to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. The end result was a great success; not only was the event hugely popular with visitors who came to see the many displays, but Joyce also used the opportunity to involve many parishioners who had never arranged flowers before, one as young as 11 years old. She also nurtured the relationship between St Stephen's, St George's and St John's by bringing people from all 3 churches together in fellowship and with the joint aim of celebrating the late Queen's special anniversary. One lady recalled her experience at the time and said it had been "just like a master class in flower arranging". Evelyn and Joyce Marsh were involved as was Enid Gallimore whose potential had already been spotted by Joyce some time earlier and whose help she had enlisted in creating floral displays at weddings.

The church magazine of the time carried an article about the flower festival and this is an extract of an interview with Joyce which tells you a lot about the character and values of this remarkable lady.

"As I look back on six very busy months for me, designing and working on the festival, I can relax in the knowledge that all the designs, which I could see in my head, were created as I imagined they would be. So many people have worked hard to produce a stunning display to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of our Queen and her Commonwealth. One of the really great things about the festival was that the displays were made by flower arrangers from St George`s and St John`s as well as from our own church. This is what Team is all about.

I must say a big thankyou to my son Philip for all the photos he produced and to John for all his running around in the car, the lifting and moving of equipment in church. Thanks also go to the people who served tirelessly in the Jubilee tea room all weekend and to everyone who took the time to come and enjoy our beautiful flower festival."

Great friendships were formed amongst the "Flower girls" and they met up for lunch once a month, often at Applewood Farm, (as it was then). Floristry workshops were a feature of the church social calendar when Joyce would continue to teach others the valuable and therapeutic skills of flower arranging. Knitting was another skill of Joyce`s - her friends remember that she was a lovely knitter and always had some knitting project on the go.

As well as her devotion to duty for St Stephen`s church Joyce also found time to enjoy lovely holidays with John and the pair often set off for some well-earned rest and relaxation on a cruise ship heading to warmer climates.

Joyce is remembered as a very capable lady who gave generously of her time and her skills to enrich the lives of others and, in fellowship with them, she lived her Christian life serving the church which she loved. Joyce will be greatly missed.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

*Michelle Lewthwaite*

*With contributions gratefully received from Enid Gallimore, Janet Graham, Glenys Maddison, Gaynor Woolhead, Valerie Wright, Jane Jones and Joan Kinghorn-Hooper*

---



## CHRISTIAN AID REVIEW

2025 was a turbulent year for Christian Aid marked by the scale of emergencies around the world and dramatic cuts in official aid funding.

However, the generosity of committed supporters has enabled life-saving and life-changing work to continue through their gifts and prayers. Christian Aid would like to pass on their grateful thanks to you all for sowing the seeds of hope.

Last year Christian Aid raised a total of £71.1 million with 6,486 churches in the UK contributing to that figure. A total of 28,883 new people gave to Christian Aid for the first time in 2025 and this helped to fund 463 projects in 28 different countries around the world. Over 4 million people received direct aid from Christian Aid and 57% of these were women and children. The total spent was £77 million with Christian Aid having to use reserves in order to sustain some urgent programmes.

This year the charity plans to focus on 3 priorities - mobilising it`s partners, communities and supporters to make the most impact for people living in poverty; achieving a sustainable funding balance with at least 60% coming from supporter donations and transforming their organisational model to shift power closer to the communities they serve.

*Michael Williamson*

# Mothers' UNION

## ST. STEPHEN'S MOTHERS' UNION

### January Meeting

We began 2026 by gathering at The Bulls Head pub for our annual meal, together with one or two friends, Originally 22 members and friends were expected, but sadly five people were not able to join us because of illness.



When we were all seated and ready for our meal, Jennifer welcomed everyone and we had a prayer. We also sang "Happy Birthday" for Janet and Margaret before looking forward to our delicious meals with much chatter and laughter.

We thank Jennifer for her excellent organization of the event. Everything went very smoothly indeed so we all had a lovely relaxing evening – good food and good company.



*Jean Williamson*

### February Meeting

As there were several members unable to attend our February meeting due to holidays or sickness, it was decided that we cancel our speaker.

6 members met for an informal meeting with Bible reading, a hymn and some prayers.

This was followed by tea and biscuits and a chat!

*Linda Leese*

## MOTHERS' UNION CELEBRATE 150 YEARS

A century and a half years ago Mary Sumner gathered together the women from the big houses and the labourers cottages in her husband's Hampshire parish of Old Alresford to a meeting in her drawing room. They became the first members of the Mothers' Union.

In this our 150<sup>th</sup> year we celebrate what has become "our international movement" of around 4 million members in 84 countries around the world.

Mary was born in Swinton, her father being a banker in Manchester, with premises in St. Ann's Square. When he married he decided that the centre of Manchester was not a suitable place to bring up a new family so they moved to the "countryside" in Swinton where Mary was born and baptized in Swinton Parish Church.

Each year Jean Driver and I travel across the British Isles to the "Annual Meetings" which are held all over the country. Last year it was in York.

25 years ago the meeting was held in Portsmouth at the very same place where Mary was asked by the Bishop to speak to the women gathered there - and the Mothers' Union was established.

Jean and I remember that meeting in Portsmouth well, whilst staying there we visited Arundel a short drive away and it was the day when the twin towers of the World Trade Centre in New York were destroyed on Tuesday September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001.

This year there will be a Global Meeting in South Africa and the Annual Meeting in London.

However, the Province of York, of which we are a part, will celebrate the 150 years with a service in Manchester Cathedral on Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> at 2.30 p.m. A good choice of venue since it was here in our own Diocese where Mary Sumner was born.

*Jean Williamson*

Our meetings are open to all - young, old, male, female, members or non-members of MU and we meet at 7.30pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:

Apr 15th                    7.30pm - Speaker Rev Cath Eccles on Mission Church

May 20th                    7.30pm - Poetry and Readings

## How Christians Live in China

In Romans ch13 we read "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities for there is no authority except that which God has established"



When the Communists took over China, under Mao Zedong, all foreign missionaries were expelled and their work with the churches amalgamated into a single patriotic enterprise.

There are 46 million Christians in China today according to official estimates but the real number could be around 100 million. All reports suggest the numbers are increasing. The population of China is 1.4 billion and it's an enormous country and not uniform in it's local government or culture.

China's Constitution allows for freedom of religious beliefs and the government recognises 5 religions. Christianity, Catholicism (separated from Christianity) Islam, Buddhism and Taoism. You must be 18 years or over to take part in any religion. Places of worship and officials or employees must be registered with the government. All teaching and instruction must take place within the registered places of worship where religious books are allowed to be sold (and not online).

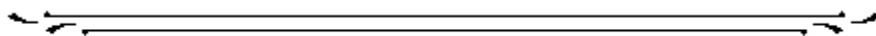
The Bible Society has been allowed to supply Bibles and encourage the registered Christian churches for 40 years and has not experienced or heard of them being persecuted, though they do face restrictions at times in what they can or cannot do. Yet many Christians have found these restriction and government interference too much and refuse to register, thus making their work illegal. In some areas where regulations are less strict they manage, but their work is risky. In other places where regulations are strict they can be arrested for getting together etc and have to change meeting places to keep secret. All sorts of arbitrary restrictions can be applied from time to time - an example being an area which forbade the displaying of crosses and caused much trouble.

Ivy Chan, a Bible Society worker, writes how she visited Shanghai recently and enjoyed the lifestyle, was impressed by the high quality services but said "for those who prioritise material comfort over equality, freedom or social justice, modern China might just be one of the best places to live". She visited a government approved Christian bookstore but noticed a stark lack of Bible Study books and commentaries and wondered - how do Christians grow?

At the moment it is thought up to 90% of young Christians who come to faith abroad and return to China end up backsliding.

Nevertheless, in spite of all the difficulties the overall feeling is upbeat with churches growing in numbers.

*Michael Williamson*



A six year old boy went to the office with his father on a "Take Your Child To Work Day". As they were walking around the young lad burst into tears. His father asked what was the matter. As the staff gathered round with comforting words he sobbed loudly "Daddy, where are the clowns you said you worked with?"

# AUSTIN HELPS OUT AT CAFÉ CHURCH

Café church teams from St John`s and St Stephen`s have both welcomed the kind support of volunteer Austin over the last few months.

Austin has generously volunteered his time and energy in preparing tables, making coffee and serving up pastries and other refreshments at services across the 2 churches since December.

It`s all part of Austin`s work towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award which encourages children and young people between the ages of 14 and 24 to try a wide variety of different experiences and hopefully discover new talents, develop essential skills and have fun with friends.



*Austin with Café Church team members at St Stephen`s*

Volunteering in the local community is one of the 5 essential categories which young people undertake as part of the scheme along with categories involving physical activities, developing new skills, going on expeditions and residential courses (Gold award only). Austin has already experienced water sports and hiking at Patterdale in the Lake District as part of his D of E challenge. He says he enjoyed the canoeing more than the hiking!

We all want to wish Austin the best of luck with achieving his award - it will be very well deserved; and of course, he is very welcome to join us again whenever he has the opportunity.

*Michelle Lewthwaite*



## FROM THE TEAM MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

The Magazine Team is currently looking for articles which can be included in the June / July edition of our Team Magazine. We welcome any contributions which you think would be interesting for others to read about.

So, if anyone has a story to tell or interesting fact to share, jokes, poems, photos of recent events or photos of old Astley, Tyldesley or Mosley Common or dates for our social calendars etc then please get in touch with us.

If you haven`t got much time for putting pen to paper then come and have a chat with us and we will be happy to make some notes and get your story typed up.

Please keep the magazine in mind for any future items you may want to add - it goes out to a readership of 350 - 400 people so it`s a good way to get a message out there.

Thank you from :- *Andrea Taziker, Jenny Evans, Kath Topping, Marjorie Owen and Michelle Lewthwaite.* You can find our contact details on the inside front cover of this magazine.

The cut-off date for submission of items for the next magazine is:-

MAGAZINE EDITION	EDITORIAL MEETING	CUT- OFF DATE	PERSON COMPILING THE MAGAZINE
June / July	Wed 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Michelle Lewthwaite

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](http://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



Blooming Mosley Common holds Litter Picks now on the first Saturday of the month from 11.00-12.00. We meet at the Pit Wheel on the Common and at the moment are concentrating on collecting the litter from the 3 Commons. There are plans to range further around Mosley Common as the weather gets warmer! You do not have to stay for the whole hour but give whatever time that you have. We provide all materials with litter picks, rubbish bags and the ringy things to hold them - which frankly I struggle with putting the bags between the rings - and HiVis jackets plus training and insurance. Everyone is welcome to come and join in, but children must be accompanied by an appropriate adult.

2026 timetable.

March 7<sup>th</sup>

April 4<sup>th</sup>

May 2<sup>nd</sup>

June 6<sup>th</sup>

July 4<sup>th</sup>

August 1<sup>st</sup>

September 5<sup>th</sup>

October 3<sup>rd</sup>

November 7<sup>th</sup>

December 5<sup>th</sup>

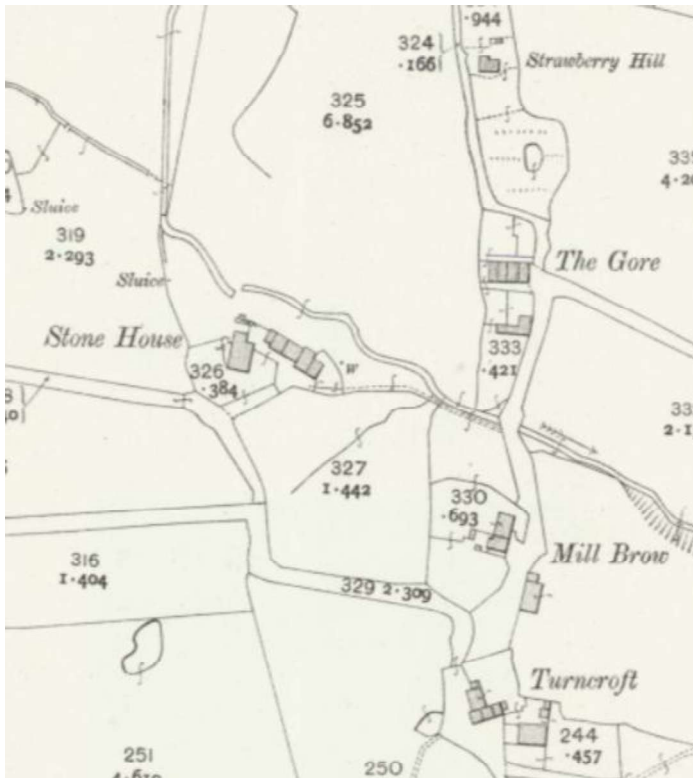
Simple changes in our **rubbish habits** can have radical results. Here's some tips on making household waste less rubbish for wildlife:

- **Put a knot in it!** Tie a knot in empty bags before they go in the bin, this might just save a scavenging animal a slow death by suffocation.
- **Break the loop!** Never just discard the plastic that holds drinks cans together as animals can easily become entangled and suffer terrible wounds trying to break free, snip the loops before discarding and that also goes for the ear loops on disposable masks!
- **Stamp it out!** Animals can get trapped in cans and containers so after fully removing the lid take a moment to stamp these containers shut before consigning to the bin.
- **Put a lid on it!** Small creatures are attracted to glass and plastic containers such as bottles and jars which can act as suntraps and shelters but once inside they may find it hard to get back out. Simply replacing the tops on these everyday items before disposal could save a life.



## STONEHOUSE FARM, MOSLEY COMMON

This farm derives its name from the hand trimmed stone of which it was built and was part of the manor of Tyldesley and was tenanted. In 1695 there are records of a rent of 3s 4d paid by Thomas Hamond to the Lord of the Manor, by 1810 this rent was paid by Henry Hampson to the Bridgewater Trust. However, in 1838 Jeremiah Hampson is listed as both owner and tenant and the farm covered, 15 'Cheshire acres. He was still there on his death in 1854, but the site was also infamous for the drownings of 2 Hampsons, James in 1835 and John in 1857. In 1881 John Barlow was listed in the census as farmer there, he was the father of Elizabeth who married Ellis Mather Whitehead, first organist at St John's Church, in 1889. The Barlow's came from Flixton, and their 2 daughters were born in Horwich. In the 1891 census Ellis, Elizabeth and their 7 month old daughter, Ann, were listed as living at the farm. Edwin Roscoe states that Alan Burns was resident in his memory. From here in 1920 Florence, born 1912, and Helen Hurst, born 1915, were admitted to Mosley Common School. They were from Toronto, Canada and later returned there in the same year.



This is a section from the OS map in the 19<sup>th</sup> century showing the small hamlet that grew alongside the Honksford Brook and along from Sheep Lane, Stone House was part of this collection of buildings and was in an imposing spot on a hill above the brook. As you can see from the name of the house, Mill Brow, that there would probably have been a water mill here to grind the settlements corn.



Above is a Google Maps image of the farm in former years whilst still a working building. Below is a photograph of Stonehouse Farm in 2025 after a period of neglect.

It had been altered over the years but if you look carefully you can see the original farm stonework and in the bottom right hand corner, an old window that has survived.





This is the same window but taken from inside the house. This is called a Stone Mullion Window and was popular from Medieval Times.

In the Masterplan Document Land North of Mosley Common July 2022, it states:

The site does not contain any designated built heritage assets. There are four non-designated heritage assets within the site identified on the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER). These are Stone House, Turncroft Farm, Mill Brow and Platts Fold. A further locally listed non-designated heritage asset (Burgess Farm) is located to 400m to the north east of the site. An Archaeological Assessment demonstrates that the site has the potential for buried remains to be below-ground dating from the Roman period and the post-medieval and industrial period. All non designated heritage assets will be retained and further work to identify the presence of archaeological assets will be undertaken as the development progresses.

- ▲ Non-designated heritage assets
  1. Stone House
  2. Turncroft House
  3. Platt's Fold
  4. Mill Brow
- ★ Listed Buildings



This is a picture of Stone House Farm in 2026 earlier this year.

"All non-designated heritage assets will be retained..." ?

## Music events at St George's

Over the past 3 years we have very much enjoyed the diverse range of music events that have taken place at St George's. The regular series of brass bands continue to be well received and appreciated by the community - many of whom were regular supporters of band concerts at the Formby Hall before it was closed.

The Early Doors Club appeals to a completely different audience who come along to events showcasing alternative music genres such as rock, country, Indie, folk - performed by solo artists, duos, bands and include acoustic sets as well as some louder [in some cases very loud!] sets.

Both styles of concert have given us an opportunity to engage with the wider communities - some of whom travel quite a distance for the Early Door Club events. Without exception every performer has commented on the acoustic of the building and how it enhances their sound.

More recently we were approached by the CEO of Park Pianos in Atherton about hosting a piano recital on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 3pm -5.30pm [see the diary page for details].

This will be a very special performance by internationally acclaimed pianist Paul Lewis and friends. The concert will be performed on a magnificent Yamaha CFX grand piano, promising a truly special afternoon of music.



"Behind this event is a very personal story. A special link exists between all the performers which is an extraordinary piano teacher who has inspired each of them. Preferring to remain in the background, he has chosen to channel gratitude into action by raising funds for the remarkable Christie's research team whose pioneering treatments and care have significantly extended and improved his life.

This concert is both a celebration of music and a heartfelt thank you. By supporting this event, you are helping to ensure that vital colorectal cancer research continues, treatments advance, and more lives are transformed. All proceeds will support The Christie Charity and the Professor Mark Saunders Colorectal Research Fund".

Tickets are available via Eventbrite. Further information about the recital and how to donate can be found on Facebook on the Park Piano page.

The **Early Doors Club** project is coming to the end of its current funding stream. At the time of writing further bids have been submitted to The Arts Council and various other organisations. We are hopeful of a positive outcome which will allow the project to continue. We are grateful to Rachael McEntee from The Snug for everything she does to promote 'grass roots music' and giving us the opportunity to be part of the story.

Whilst all of the events take time, energy and rely on volunteers to work behind the scenes before and after events, set up/clear up, provide refreshments and ensure all goes smoothly the benefit to church has been worth it in terms of community engagement ...and have helped generate some much appreciated funds.

Susie Mallon



## ST JOHNS FLOWER ROTA

### APRIL

- 5 Susan and Alan Howarth for their parents
- 12 Christine and David Barnes in memory of their parents
- 19 Elaine Kidd in memory of her father John and Olwen Hill
- 26 Andrea Taziker in memory of her Grandad Thomas Cooper

### MAY

- 3 Mike and Marie Stuckey in memory of her parents
- 10 Joanne Haigh in memory of Betty and Derek Jones and Doris
- 17 Ann Hilton in memory of Mark and Tom Woolley
- 24 Mavis and Joan in memory of their sister Phyllis
- 31 Christine and Derek Darlington in memory of their loved ones.



## Announcement from St John's

St John's are very sad to announce that one of their valued members Gladys Jackson, passed away suddenly on March 11th She was a much loved part of our church family and also a member of our music group.

We extend our sincere condolences and love to her husband Vic, daughter Louise and son Paul.

# PRAYERS



- As we approach the local elections in May, remember all those involved in local government in whatever capacity. Pray for a fair and respectful process and results that will be to the benefit of our communities.
- Pray for our incoming Team Rector, Rev Sachin Awale, and his family. Thank God for guiding him to us and keep in your prayers the congregations and parishes that he will leave behind.
- Pray for those families who wait anxiously, sometimes for many years, for news of a missing relative.
- The 7th April marks the start of Parkinson's Awareness Week. Pray for all those who are living with the disease, those who support them and those searching for a cure.

*Contributed by Sara Yarwood*

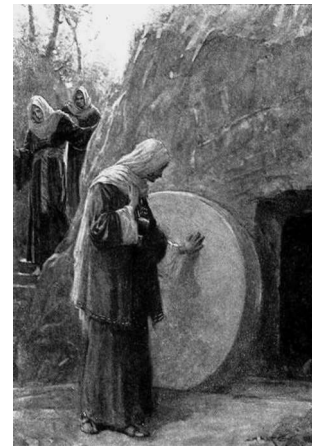


## JOY AND HOPE BE YOURS THIS EASTER

May our hearts be full of hope Lord at the wonder of your rising from the dead.

- Risen Lord, bless those we know who find life a heavy burden to bear, Those who feel depressed, those who have lost hope, those full of sadness and weariness.  
May you be their strength.  
Comfort them in their affliction, give them fresh hope,  
And in the joy of your resurrection may they know the gift of your peace.  
*Amen*

- Risen Lord, in your loving kindness we ask you to pour your blessings upon us.  
We turn to you full of hope and confidence, for you came forth from the darkness of the tomb to be our guiding light.  
Fill our hearts with your joy Lord so that we may live with you in your presence always.  
*Amen*

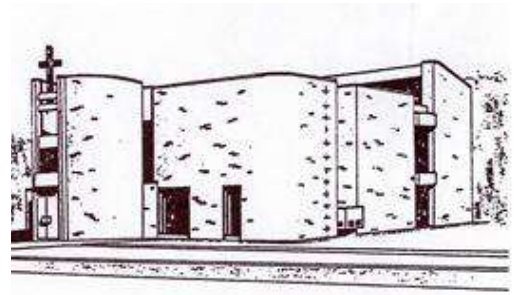


# UPDATE ON ST STEPHEN`S CHURCH BUILDING

On 24<sup>th</sup> February members of St Stephen`s PCC met with the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC) at St John`s House in Bury.

Present for the DMPC were: Bishop Mark Davies (Chair), Archdeacon Rachel Mann, Father Alan Murray-Simpson, Area Dean Richard Worsfold, Canon John Walsh, Canon Richard Lewis and Father Paul Hutchins.

From St Stephen`s PCC were: Angela Dand, Keith Revill, Polly Forster, Janet and Cliff Graham and Elaine Dickinson.



Bishop Mark explained that this meeting was a listening exercise, an informal conversation for PCC members to express their views, voice their concerns and ask questions. The committee members would do their best to provide answers.

It was clarified that church closure measures are a legal process that must be followed through to the conclusion. Father Alan Murray-Simpson explained the process in detail. He said the DMPC carefully considers all the information, objections and views put before it and all the options available and only then do they recommend an outcome. At this moment in time, no decisions have been made about St Stephen`s church building. It was said that this process takes time, but there was no agenda to remove a Christian presence from Astley and the PCC would be kept informed of any developments.

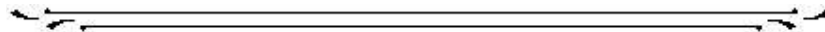
When a decision is made, it will be passed to the Bishop of Manchester for his consideration. If approved by him it would be passed to the Church Commissioners in Westminster for their consideration. At that point the decision would be out of the hands of the Diocese. The Church Commissioners would approve or reject the proposed decision for full closure of the church.

It was important to note that the Garden of Remembrance would remain in place and untouched whatever the outcome.

Members of the DMPC said they would visit the vestry area as requested by the PCC in their letter of November 2024 as this was a request made by the PCC to discuss and hopefully maintain the use of this part of the church. The church / school relationship was complimented.

Bishop Mark made no promises and /or offered solutions for the future outcome, the process was lengthy and had to be followed.

*Angela Dand and Elaine Dickinson*



## **Update 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Following the joint meeting, detailed above, 9 members of the DMPC visited church on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March. They were Bishop Mark Davies, Archdeacon Rachel Mann, Father Alan Murray-Simpson, Area Dean Richard Worsfold, Canon John Walsh, Canon Richard Lewis, Father Paul Hutchins, James Lawley Mission Leader, and architect Paul Vipond. Keith, Polly and Elaine were also present.

Bishop Mark expressed his thanks for the meeting held in February and said that the DMPC found it both helpful and encouraging. He confirmed that the legal process in relation to the draft proposal to close our church had commenced and this had to be followed through to it`s conclusion. By no means had any decisions been made about the building and the process remained open to discussion and consultation. This includes the suggestion by the PCC, made in November 2024 and July 2025, that the vestry area remains open for use.

The DMPC asked questions about the construction of the church building and roof repair in 2017 and its history to this point in time, the costs- both in respect of the roof and the interior of the worship area - and confirmation of legal fees of which Elaine held the opinion that Jones, Maidment Wilson solicitors, who acted on our behalf in respect of litigation, did not serve us well in hindsight, also regarding the use of the meeting room and any independent quotes for the roof repair that had been received. Bishop Mark was keen to note the close proximity of the school to the Church.

All members of the DMPC went into the worship area and spent a great deal of time in there in discussion with Paul Vipond (Diocesan Advisory Committee Architect) who had requested information about the construction of the vestry and the external wall between the current worship area and the vestry. Paul viewed the plans in relation to the construction of the vestry area and he took measurements of the meeting room. All members of the DMPC visited the Garden of Remembrance.

Bishop Mark said that the next stage of the process was for the DMPC to discuss this visit to our church in their next meeting. Keith expressed his wish that the Church remain open and the costs of demolishing the building could be used to build a new roof.

Bishop Mark thanked us for the opportunity to view the building and felt he had a greater understanding of where the church currently stood.

*Elaine Dickinson*



## **ASCENSION DAY - 30<sup>th</sup> MAY - 40 Days with the Risen Christ**

Forty days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (*Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.*)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.



Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands - and blessed them."

Just as Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completed it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be; they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles - persecution and death - and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus. 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

*Ack [www.parishpump.co.uk](http://www.parishpump.co.uk)*

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11*

The Vision of St John's school is based on the bible verse above that *'With God's love, we will inspire all of our children to believe in themselves and unlock the potential that lies within each and every one of them, preparing them to be happy, successful and responsible citizens in the future.'*

Recently I have been talking to the Ethos Group of pupils at St John's to see how this Christian Vision is demonstrated. The Ethos group of 8 pupils, 2 from year 3, 4, 5, and 6, meet every Thursday and take lead in creative spirituality and prayer supported by Mrs Green. I wanted to discuss their role in knowledge and spirituality, and to discover their knowledge of the Christian ethos and the fundamental beliefs of St John's pupils.

The pupils enjoyed being in the Ethos Group and stated that not only was it interesting to learn about Religions but that it also allowed them to be creative and to learn skills about sharing ideas and learning how to present ideas in assemblies and thus expanding their skills. A number of pupils mentioned Bible stories they had presented on in Assemblies and the prayers that they had written on rocks to be placed into the spiritual areas of each classroom. They felt it was good to 'speak of their own ideas' such as 'how much I like God'. They thought that it was important to have knowledge of Christianity, and they mentioned the importance of the school bible verse, and one quoted it off by heart. I was impressed! They said that not only was it important to have special festivals such as Easter but also a belief in God and the 'special values' of Christianity of love, hope, faith, trust, joy, peace, kindness, friendship and respect - they did indeed list these and from surveys previously undertaken with larger numbers of pupils these are what forms the basis for their Christianity.

The pupils had a good knowledge of the other faiths studied in the school of Judaism, Islam and Hinduism. They could name festivals and practical worship styles of each. One pupil said how their study of Hinduism was strengthened and 'made more fun' by a pupil in their class being a practising Hindu. They also linked the knowledge of Religion in History with Anglo Saxon and Viking Gods giving names to days of the week and Roman and Greek Gods such as Zeus and Posidon. They had a lively discussion on the various similarities - God or Gods, Holy Books, symbols - and differences- rules, praying in different ways, symbols! They well informed and enjoyed the sharing banter of knowledge.

I asked them about what effect their Christian Ethos had on their lives. They stressed the need for prayer for a variety of reasons - asking for support, thanking - but also that in thinking of God they remembered the core values that should lead in their lives. They talked about festivals such as Easter and Christmas and about writing and reading the prayers in the 3 church services that all the school take part in every year. I was impressed by their strong and articulate opinions of what it was to be a Christian and how this helped them to be kind and have love and positive attitudes to other pupils and to pupils of different faiths and beliefs. They were also glad that the Ethos group allows them to share that faith in a number of ways including creative art and crafts for the cross based spiritual areas in the classrooms and in class presentations and in helping other pupils. I came away thinking that in the hearts and minds of these representatives, and indeed of other pupils whom I talked to about faith and Christianity around St John's school, our faith, and our world and its peoples, will have a happy and successful future.

