



Astley, Tyldesley and Mosley Common

Team Magazine



June - July 2026



Church in the community Matt 5:14-16, Acts 2:44-47, Phil 2:3-5

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Giving Thanks for Fathers

There is no finer sound in the world than your child calling you 'daddy', or 'dad'. I love it! As I look around our neighbourhood, dads today are far more involved in their children's lives than when I was young. Pushing prams, holding hands while out on a walk, bathing, playing games. Dads are in all these activities and more. I see the dads on either side of our house, and they obviously love their kids with all their hearts.

Unfortunately, too many kids grow up without a stable and involved male figure in their lives over the whole of their childhood and beyond. And no prizes for guessing the outcome; when they reach fatherhood, their kids often grow up without a stable and involved male figure in their lives.

The month of June brings Fathers' Day - this year on the 21st June. May all dads reading this be pampered like never before! If it's a fine day, it may be a case of 'Stand back everyone- dad's going to barbecue'. But before we get carried away, let's spare a thought for those who for one reason or another couldn't be dads, or whose dads fell far short of the high expectations we invest in them, or who lost a dad at a crucial time in life and feel a permanent ache where 'Dad' should be.

Our Christian faith teaches us to look at God as a 'Father'- we address Him as such in the opening words of the Lord's Prayer, and it was Jesus' custom to talk to God as 'Father'. Maybe, taking into account those who have had a very mixed experience, or a bad experience of fathers, we should qualify what we say of God and call Him 'the Good Father', or 'our Good Father'.

Because that is what the experience of countless Christians would testify to; that God is a good father. I think of the picture Jesus paints in the parable of the Prodigal Son; the father on the look-out for his wayward son day after day, and when he sees him in the distance runs all the way to meet him. Now in Jesus' time, in that culture, fathers did NOT run, least of all to welcome returning ner-do-wells who had wasted half the father's fortune. Fathers were people of dignity. Run? Never! Jesus turned that on its head.

We can be sure that a welcome awaits us when we turn to God, or return to God; we find that He's already half-way towards us, coming at speed to embrace us.

Revd Roy Shaw (retired but active priest in the diocese of York)

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 - ORDINARY TIME

At the time of writing this article things are not ordinary in the world. There is a war in the Middle East and at the edge of Europe. Climate change appears to be merging our seasons into each other. The local and national political scene is changing.



The Season of
ORDINARY TIME

After Pentecost and Trinity Sunday the church enters the longest part of the liturgical year covering 33 or 34 weeks not included in the major seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. This time in the church calendar is called 'Ordinary Time'. The word ordinary implies usual, common or lacking in special quality.

To me this seems an unusual name for a period of the church calendar. Why? Because no time can be ordinary when we have God's divine presence in us!

Jesus promised his disciples, in the Gospel of John, that he would not leave them as orphans when he was put to death on the cross. Despite Jesus' appearances after his resurrection he did ascend into heaven to be with God his Father. He did promise however, that his Advocate, helper and comforter would be IN US! Not beside as he had been with his disciples but in us. This is the Holy Spirit.

This would not be some ephemeral, ghostly presence but a person who would always point us towards God the Father. The Holy Spirit's effect on those gathered, frightened in a locked room at Pentecost, drove them outside to tell others about Jesus and what he had achieved. That is a forgiveness from sin and the conquering of death and his defeat of the devil.

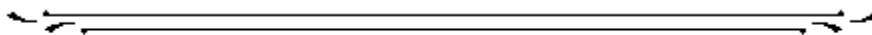
This is not ordinary this is WONDERFUL.



The next few months will not be ordinary for our Team either as we welcome our new Rector, the Reverend Sachin Awale and his family. We will journey with him to continue to bring God's Kingdom to others in our community.

Ordinary Time is a time to focus on the teachings and miracles of Jesus to help us as Christians to grow, mature and live out our faith in everyday life.

Mike Stuckey



UPDATE ON NEW TEAM RECTOR

It has recently been announced that the Reverend Sachin and his family will live at the vicarage at St John's, Mosley Common. There is some work which will need doing at the vicarage before the family can move in and we will update you as soon as there is any further news. In the meantime please continue to pray for Sachin and his family, trusting in God's promise that He has plans for hope and for the future (Jeremiah ch 19 v 11).

TEAM SERVICES FOR JUNE AND JULY

You are warmly invited to join us for worship in any of our Team churches.

Date	St Stephen's	St George's	St John's	Mission Church
4th June Thursday	10am Thursday Communion			
7th June Sunday	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion 12.30 Baptisms	2.30pm Sunday service
13th June Saturday	3pm Stepping Up			
14th June Sunday	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church 12.30 Baptisms	10am Service of the Word	
21st June Sunday	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church	2.30pm Sunday service
25th June Thursday	10am Thursday Communion			
28th June Sunday	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
5th July Sunday	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church 12.30 Baptisms	10am Service of the Word	2.30pm Sunday Service
11th July Saturday	3pm Stepping Up			
12th July Sunday	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church 4-6pm Pizza & Prayer	
16th July	10am Thursday Team Communion			
19th July Sunday	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion 12.30 Baptisms	2.30pm Sunday Service
26th July Sunday	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church 12.30 Baptisms	10am Service of the Word	
2nd August Sunday	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church	2.30pm Sunday Service

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 - JUNE AND JULY

St Stephen's and locally

- Jun 7th Classic Car Show 11.00am to 4.00pm - Lancashire Mining Museum - phone 01942 895841 for more info or see Facebook
- Jun 17th 7.30pm - St Stephen's Mothers Union - Pimms and Hymns
- Jun 20th /21st Damhouse - 1940's Weekend - 11.00am to 4.00pm . Contact 01942 876417 or info@damhouse.net for more info or check website. See further information in this magazine.
- Jun 20th 10.00am - 12.00pm St Stephen's Coffee Morning - in church meeting room
- Jun 25th 3.30pm Communion Service at The Rowans, Lindale Road, Mosley Common M28 1BG
- Jun 27th Summer Fair - St Stephen's School 11.00am to 2.00pm - see poster in this magazine
- Jul 11th Damhouse- Theatre on the Lawn - Rain or Shine Theatre Company - Pickwick Papers -phone 01942 876417 for more info or email info@damhouse.net or check the website
- Jul 15th St Stephen's Mothers Union - Afternoon Tea
- Jul 18th 10.00am - 12.00pm St Stephen's Coffee Morning - in church meeting room
- Jul 26th Astley Green Fete 11.00am to 4.00pm - Lancashire Mining Museum - phone 01942 895841 for more info or on Facebook
- Jul 30th 3.30pm Communion Service at The Rowans, Lindale Road, Mosley Common M28 1BG

HOUSE- GROUP MEETINGS - SUMMER RECESS

We are pleased to announce that our next series of meetings will begin on Tuesday 11th August 2026 following our summer recess.

The meeting will be at 8.00pm as usual at 33 Ullswater Road, Tyldesley - hosted by John Howarth. Tel 07471 460 988. Please come along - all are welcome.

All August and September dates and studies will be published in the August and September edition of the Team Magazine. Please come along in fellowship, conversation, prayer and learning, come along even if it's just to listen.



In God's Love - John Howarth

St George's Diary dates for June & July

The months of June and July are a lot quieter than recent months.

14th June - Brass Band Concert: Farnworth & Walkden 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.

There are no Brass Band concerts in July or August. Advance warning of the September date: 27th September will see Longridge Band return to St George's

The Early Doors Club

At the time of going to press we are awaiting confirmation about whether the funding bid submitted to allow these events to continue has been successful; no announcements were to be made until after the recent local elections.

If funding is granted, we will share details of forthcoming dates in notices and on Social Media.

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

The Historical Society will continue to meet on the last Monday of the month **but will now be meeting in the new Heritage Gallery situated within Tyldesley Technical School**. Refreshments from 7pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm. Contact Susie Mallon - 07873 149627 for further details.

There are a couple of potential events under discussion but not yet confirmed. Any updates will be shared in Church Notices.

Sr John`s Diary Dates

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 6 th June | Blooming Mosley Common. Litter Pick. 11am - 12pm. Meet at the Pit Wheel. Please come and help us keep our village clean. |
| 8th June Monday | Mosley Common Historical Society Meeting 7pm in the Lounge at St. John's Church with Andrea Taziker. Anglo Saxon Britain and Anglo Saxon Mosley Common. With Anglo Saxon refreshments! |
| 20 th June | St. John's School and Church Summer Fair. In school 12 till 2.30pm |
| 27 th June | Saturday Strawberry Tea at St John's Church Mosley Common. Ticket only. Contact Joan Taylor on 01942870095 |

- 4th July Blooming Mosley Common. Litter Pick. 11am - 12pm. Meet at the Pit Wheel. Please come and help us keep our village clean.
- 11th Jul Scarecrow Competition - Entry forms available from Marje on 07519 853 279 / 0161-790-7177 or Ann - 07840 032 645. The Cafe will be open in the church lounge from 10am - 4 pm Please support us by making a scarecrow, if possible, to ensure the event is a success.
- 13th July Monday Mosley Common Historical Society Meeting 7pm in the Lounge at St. John's Church. With Alan Davis on 'Children in the Mines'.
The 1842 Children's Employment Commission (Mines). Shocking verbatim evidence mainly from men, women and children working in the Lancashire coal industry, leading to the Coal Mines Act 1842

Date for your diary

19th - 20th September Heritage Open Day at St John's School.

Mosley Common; The Roots of the Past are Deep

Mosley Common is in a moment of great change. The roots of the past are deep and endure in memory and place. Come and learn of the past, present and future of our village.

The distant past of Mosley Common was based on the clearance of the ancient woodland that covered the area and its subsequent use for farming. This changed with the exploitation of the coal seams underneath the village and the population surged, houses and shops were built to serve King Coal. All this ended with the closure of 'Superpit' Mosley Common Colliery. Today the village is changing again as swathes of land are being developed into housing estates. The stories that the land, buildings and people tell us gives life and meaning to that which survives but what happens when they are all gone? Our exhibition at St John's School on, 19th and 20th September, will tell the story of these events in the past of Mosley Common through images, records, films, maps and word. It will also look at community plans for our village which include a new mural on the gable end of the school which you can view on the day. The exhibition is based in St John's 1822 Georgian Sunday School and you will be able to see the school records, logbooks and look around the building with guided tours also being provided on both days. There will be refreshments served with hot and cold drinks, cakes, scones and sandwiches. On Sunday 20th September from 10am - 11am Cafe Church will take place in the school hall with an informal service with chat, singing and croissants!

Regular events continue with:-

Place of Welcome Café

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

Toddler Group

Thursdays (term time) 9.30 - 11.00am - £1 per person (including 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



RECIPES FROM JOAN OWEN

WHOLEMEAL PIZZA

8oz Wholemeal flour

2tsp Baking powder

2oz Margarine

5 tbsp Milk

2 tbsp Tomato Puree

4oz Cheese - grated

1 small Onion- chopped

A few Mushrooms - chopped

2 Bacon Rashers chopped

Pinch of Oregano



METHOD

Grease a baking tray.

Sieve the flour and baking powder into a bowl and rub in the margarine then mix with the milk into a dough.

Knead it to make a flat, round base for the pizza.

Spread on the tomato puree and grated cheese, chopped onion, mushrooms, bacon and sprinkle with oregano.

Bake in the oven for 15/20 mins on 180` C

ROAST POTATOES IN THE AIR FRYER

Serves 2-4

4 Maris Piper, Russet or Red Skin Potatoes peeled and cut into quarters

2 Tablespoons vegetable oil

1 tsp fine salt

Heat the air fryer to 160` C

In a mixing bowl toss the potatoes in the oil and salt then tip them into the fryer basket

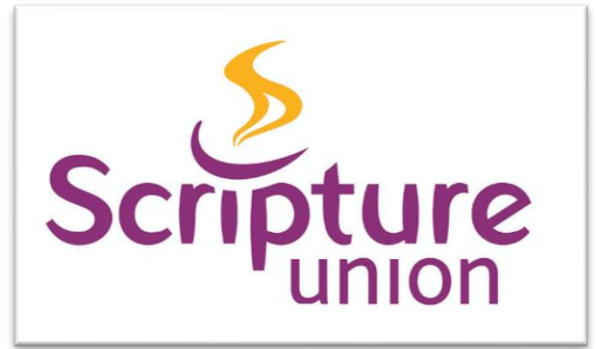
Cook for 30 minutes, toss them every 10 minutes with a fork to make them fluffy if required

Increase heat to 200` C for a further 6 minutes then serve



MOMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

The Scripture Union (SU) has recently published a new booklet "It's Time to Act". It follows up the findings of the "quiet revival" which records a growing sense of the spiritual amongst the young. Here is a moment of opportunity. Will the Church miss it?



Quite a lot of children now grow up never encountering Jesus in their lives, but it is noted that there are signs of a change. There seems to be more openness to spirituality, to meaning, purpose and hope for the planet in their attitudes. They are asking big questions. Can our churches actively reach out to children and young people? SU wants to help.

Perhaps they could help start up something new. Or maybe "pop-up" or expand what is there already. SU says it's time to act. If the children and young people have no awareness of Jesus maybe they've never been introduced in a way that is relevant to their world.

Lots of children today live with pressures and anxiety, identity struggles and loneliness. They are overwhelmed in a digital world. Many children are spiritually curious, searching for belonging, hope, meaning and truth. They are surprisingly open to talk about Jesus if not patronised!

Surely there is a spiritual opportunity? It matters because children shape their identity and beliefs early so it is worthwhile for churches to grasp this. Many children are ready to explore if we create a safe meeting space where they can be themselves. SU reminds us that children and teenagers are everywhere - in schools, parks, sports pitches, online, hanging about with friends and so new contact can be made. Some are aware of church through various activities and SU can help through mission enablers etc to inspire and build on existing work.

All that is needed is a heart for the next generation. A commitment to a regular, maybe small, activity long term - a belief that Jesus is already at work. SU wants to help.

SU mission starts by noticing what's going on for youth in the area targeted. This leads on to presence alongside. It's not by organising an "event" but by being known, trusted and accepted by the young people. Only a handful of adults are needed here. The work must be relational i.e the young must sense they are seen and heard, valued and understood.

The most effective mission often starts small using what skills volunteers have, but of course Jesus is the centre of our whole purpose in life. So there should be a delight and love in sharing Him. Shared stories, scripture, honesty, shared questions and chat, moments of care. Jesus is revealed in relationship and through people who reflect Him.

It's time to take these opportunities seriously. Pause and reflect. Can our churches do more than we are now doing? Prayer, listening and being close to God to sense the gentle nudge, knowing He is with us must surely be our response.

"This is a hopeful moment
A significant moment
A moment the church must not miss".
(su.org.uk/discoverers)

Michael Williamson

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01942882412 or via e-mail to

enquiries@admin.astleysaintstephens.wigan.sch.uk



DAMHOUSE 1940`S WEEKEND - 20th and 21st JUNE

Experience the sights and sounds of the 1940`s

Live music, singing and dancing, living history displays, vintage trade stalls, military vehicles, vintage cars, best dressed competition.

Saturday 20th June - 10am start to 5pm
Sunday 21st June - 10am to 4pm finish



The event is free to attend.

If you would like to get involved contact the office on 01942 876417 or email info@damhouse.net



FRIENDS OF ASTLEY MEMORIAL



The Memorial was removed from the Bullcroft in February as the steel was showing some early signs of rust. The Friends of Astley Memorial made the decision to get it repaired quickly under the guarantee.

The repairs have taken longer than originally expected because the powder coaters wanted to make sure the rust would not return and so they sandblasted all the original paint off and protected the steel memorial with an anti-rust zinc paint before re-applying the white undercoat and outercoat of paint. We are hoping that the memorial will be re-installed on the Bullcroft sometime over the summer.

In the meantime, we are planning our usual Remembrance Service on Sunday 8th November and our Carol Service on Thursday 10th December. We hope you will be able to join us for those events.

Michelle Lewthwaite on behalf of the Friends of Astley Memorial



TYLDESLEY HERITAGE CENTRE

A VISION REALISED

One of Iain Hodcroft's passions was local history. This was evident through his involvement in several local projects including the Leigh, Atherton and Tyldesley Heritage Group, the Lancashire Mining Museum, Tyldesley Technical School and supporting the reopening of Tyldesley Library. He was also instrumental in reviving the Tyldesley Historical Society which meets monthly and he was happy to attend Mosley Common Historical Society run by one of his fellow churchwardens Andrea Taziker.

Iain was ecstatic to discover that in the former Tyldesley Technical School there was the only remaining Miners Training Suite in the UK - he loved giving tours of the training suite, particularly during the annual Heritage weeks.

He was recently described as 'a visionary and driving force behind the ambitious project to lease and restore Tyldesley Technical School and advocate for developing the Heritage Centre within that building'. One of the last things he was involved with was a consultation exercise for a set of vision boards for the Heritage Gallery.

Since his death, members of the Historical Society and the Technical School have worked tirelessly to realise Iain's vision for a 'Tyldesley Heritage Gallery'.

The girls and I were very touched to discover that the gallery was to be named 'The Hodcroft Gallery' in memory of Iain. We have had an opportunity to visit for a 'preview' before the gallery is officially opened to the public [date to be confirmed]. The gallery is bright and full of interesting Tyldesley related artefacts and memorabilia, information boards and photographs.

Iain would hate the fuss but we think he would be very pleased with what has been achieved and hopefully it will continue to evolve. We are extremely grateful for the hard work of everyone involved in bringing Iain's vision to fruition - the Directors of Leigh Atherton & Tyldesley Heritage Group and members of Tyldesley Historical Society. Special thanks go to Keith and Sarah Garratt for taking the lead in sourcing the memorabilia on display. They put the call out for items to be given on loan or donated and then set out the displays which involved hours of work.

Look out for details of the official opening and do go for a visit - there is much to look at. There will be a reliance on volunteers to help with opening times so if anyone has an hour or two to spare help will be appreciated.

Susie, Bethany and Amy

ST STEPHEN'S COFFEE MORNINGS

The coffee morning organised in April by Jane Jones was in aid of the Scargill Community and managed to raise an amazing £97 for that charity.

In May the chosen charity was Christian Aid. A total of £130.41 was raised via the raffle and donations on the day of the coffee morning. In the next magazine we will be able to announce the full total raised by our three churches in Christian Aid week. Thank you to everyone who donated in cash or on-line. We really do appreciate it.





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AROUND THE WORLD

In England a "Youth Culture and Trends" report says 1 in 15 children are unhappy with their lives. Ten years ago it was 1 in 30. There is concern about young people's wellbeing.



In France a Bill to introduce assisted dying has been passed and awaits the next stage. Catholic bishops urge continued resistance in the final stage. Jews, Muslims and Orthodox support the bishop's stance, but the United Protestant Church has decided to let people make up their own minds.

In England an Anglican Standing Committee has questioned the position of the Archbishop of Canterbury as its automatic president. They recommend changes in its leadership structure. Over the centuries we have seen our Communion grow as the Church of England extended worldwide. Now every continent has its own provinces with their Archbishops. Yet the relationship is always to the Archbishop of Canterbury. Our Communion seems to be valued by countries with no historic links to England (e.g. South America) for its Catholic structure of bishops etc but with many Reformed or Pastoral ideas. Shouldn't the presidency be on a shared collaborative team basis? The Archbishop shouldn't develop into another Pope! And maybe not every province needs to be in full communion with Canterbury.

The Indian cricketer, Sanju Samson, was "man of the match" wicketkeeper/batsman, leading India to win the T20 World Cup recently. He comes from Kerala and is a Christian, which is certainly not fashionable there, and can also present difficulties today. Samson has often spoken about how his prayers and faith help him deal with pressures and uncertainty in professional sport and belief plays a part in shaping his mental approach to setbacks and success.



Sanju Samson

During the present troubles in the Middle East Christians are bombed in every part. Iranians, Israelis and Americans are fighting a war and the small Anglican Church has dioceses in every area. It is faintly like COVID - the bishops communicate by WhatsApp, services have to be online. Even so, churches have been able to help with the tourists and businessmen stranded over there.

Michael Williamson

SMILE LINES

Somebody complimented me on my driving yesterday. They put a note on my car windscreen saying "Parking Fine" Tommy Cooper

How can you kill a circus? - go for the juggler! Peter Kay

The surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that it has never tried to contact us.



Mosley Common, Common Spring



Spring is now well underway on our Commons and surrounding green spaces. The May blossom is glorious, and our apple trees too are looking healthy and covered in flowers. You may have noticed that 3 of our apple trees have 'lost' their supports. They appear to have been dug up and stolen at some point between the 24th of March and 4th of April when we noticed them missing during the monthly Litter Pick. We have reported this to the police. It was made worse because that weekend the gale was forecast to hit Mosley Common, so a quick trip to RHS Bridgewater ensued. We returned after advice and put what looks like a real Heath Robinson concoction of ties and posts together which seem to have done the trick. We may replace the large supports, but they should be in for 12 -18 months and had been there for 13 so we will see how it goes. We will be onto a second mulch soon and some more, very heavy horse manure!! We reported the Giant Hogweed that we were informed about to our then Local Councillor Jess and she informed Wigan. It is in the wood and not on a path but is in a busy and used public space especially used by children, and thus we are keeping an eye on the situation.

An Experiment in Wildflowering



On March 24th 15 Pupils of St John's and Holy Family Primary Schools, with the support of Blooming Mosley Common, were out Wildflowering the area around the Apple Trees and 12 of the rocks nearby to increase biodiversity on our Commons. The pupils wore protective gloves and used a mixture of wildflowers and flour to spread the seeds; the flour was to show where they had sown as most of the seeds are tiny and dark coloured.

We also used some 'seed bombs' which were little balls about the size of a big pea, but which contained 1500 wildflower seeds! The ground around the rocks had been prepared for the seeds and a pupil from each school was allocated a couple of rocks to spread the seeds round. They were real experts from the

start acting like gardening professionals. We then gave each pupil an area around one of the apple trees and more seeds were spread there. We are hoping to create a meadow here to attract insects and birds and other wildlife. We had an agreement with Wigan Council not to cut the grass however not only was it cut the day before but it has also been cut since. We are corresponding.

A range of native wildflowers including Ox Eye Daises, Poppies, Cornflowers, Borage and Red Clover have been sown. This will help to attract bees and butterflies and other insects. We are hoping that they will grow and increase! The white powder that you may have seen at the time was normal flour which not only helped to see where the seeds had been spread but helped to hold them in the soil and will wash out quite quickly. The area around the rocks is already showing some growth in plants, and grass but we are going to remove that, and so hopefully the seeds will take! It is an on-the-edge waiting game with plants!



Planting of the New Christmas Tree



On the 27th of March we planted our new Christmas Tree with the help of 2 Reception Pupils from St John's and Holy Family Schools. It is a lovely little round tree! The tree and pupils were the same age and height and they will grow up together. However, the tree, a Spruce, will grow much taller and will later be able to add lights for Christmas. A big thank you to the pupils who were of great help with adding the mulch to the hole for the tree and patting down the mulch around the tree. We will still be lighting the old tree for a few years whilst our new tree grows,

which will hopefully be well, and when our new tree is of a suitable age and height, we will transfer the lights and plaque. Then we will have to decide what happens in the railing with electrical supply space? If you have any ideas, please let us know! A date for your diary, Carols on the Common around the pit wheel and including the old and new trees will be on the 2nd of December and this year we will have members of Astley Youth Band playing for us! Should be a brilliant evening!

Primary Schools

We are working once more with our 2 Primary Schools to plant the raised beds and pots around their school buildings. We have discovered that beans grow well, raspberries do not but carrots love the raised beds at Holy Family. Both schools have a fine crop of potatoes growing and we will start this week to add flowers and other veg!

Pit Head Hanging Basket Hooks

Soon you will be able to see these wonderful reminders of the past in Mosley Common around the village. One is already up at St John's School and another will be up soon. Two have been given to Holy Family and one will be placed at the front of the Beehive with more to come!

Mural

We will soon be able to name the artist chosen for the mural to be painted on the gable end of St John's School. Watch out for the community exhibition and community planning sessions that will take place over the next few months! Exciting times!

Andrea Taziker

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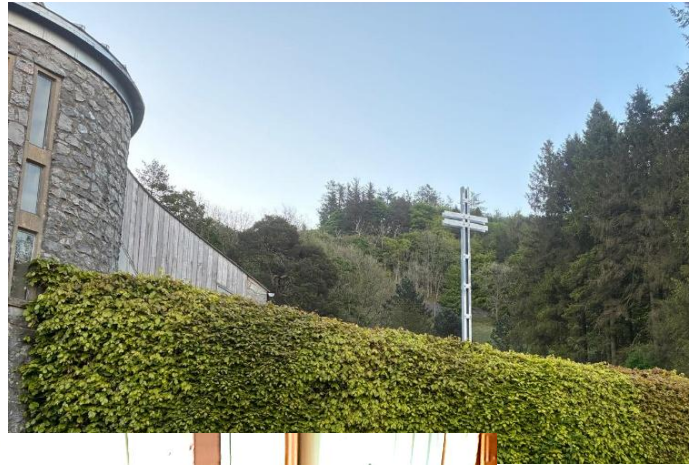
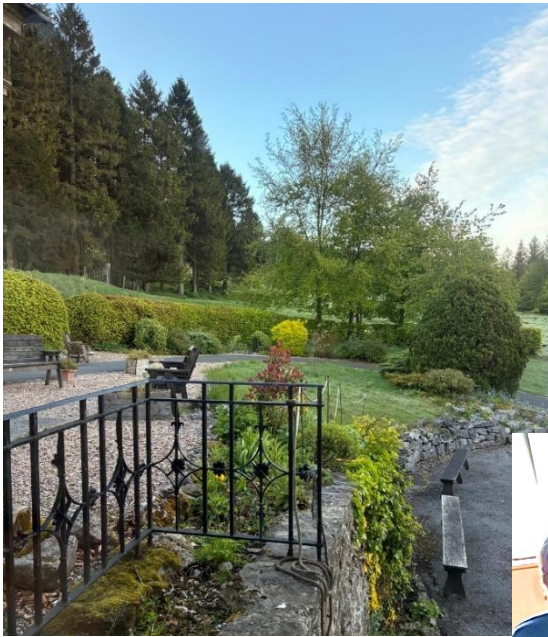


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SCARGILL WEEKEND 2026

On Friday 15th May several members of St George`s, St John`s and St Stephen`s congregations made their way to Scargill House in Wharfedale for a weekend of spiritual refreshment. Everyone enjoyed their time within this welcoming Christian community which is situated on a 90 acre estate.



During one of the group sessions long swathes of blue and white fabric were placed along the floor to represent a flowing river; and the message to consider was "how deep will you go paddling with God?".

Would we be prepared to go into the waters up to our ankles, or knees, or would we go up to waist deep, or deep enough to swim with him? Or, put another way, how deeply are we prepared to commit to God? It was an exercise to promote spiritual development which provoked a lot of thought about our trust in God.

Photos courtesy of Elaine Dickinson and Jane Jones

AROUND THE WORLD

With the fall of Viktor Orban in Hungary's April elections the presiding Lutheran Bishop has called for unity in a fearful, divided country. Some Christians say Orban's values on abortion, euthanasia, marriage, family and gender were better than the opposition.

In Ukraine the Greek Catholic Archbishop says the Russian airstrikes have weakened the ecosystem causing pollution, harm to nature, water and soil.



The Pope has called Donald Trump's social media threat to Iran that "a whole civilisation will die tonight" as "this threat against an entire people... is truly unacceptable."

At a White House prayer meeting Franklin Graham (son of Billy) thanking God for President Trump prayed "You've raised him up for such a time as this, and Father, we pray that you will give him victory."

The Christian population of Iraq is barely 1% and falling, yet 5 of the 26 members in the national football team for the World Cup are Assyrian Christians.

In India a law regulating foreign donations is likely to be used to seize Christian properties that serve vulnerable people and "will have immediate and potentially irreversible consequences" the All India Christian council says.

A Finnish MP has been fined €1,800 for calling homosexuality a "developmental disorder".

In UK anti-semitism has increased to an alarming extent in the past three years and the Government is concerned. The Archbishop of Canterbury is "appalled" and said "an attack on Jewish people is an attack on us all - we must stand together against the virulence of anti-semitism that brings only violence, fear and hatred".

Michael Williamson



CHILDRENS PAGES

COLOUR IN



The tale of the Salt and Light

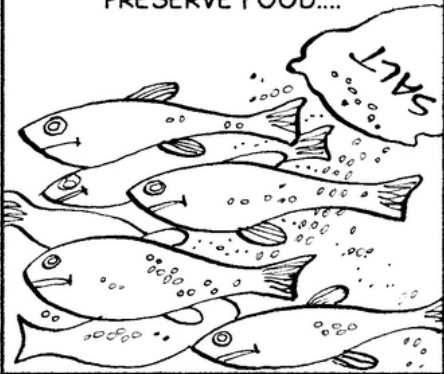


JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



HE ONE EXPLAINED TO HIS
FRIENDS THAT THEY WERE A
BIT LIKE SALT!

IN JESUS' DAY, SALT WAS
VERY PRECIOUS. IT HELPED
PRESERVE FOOD....

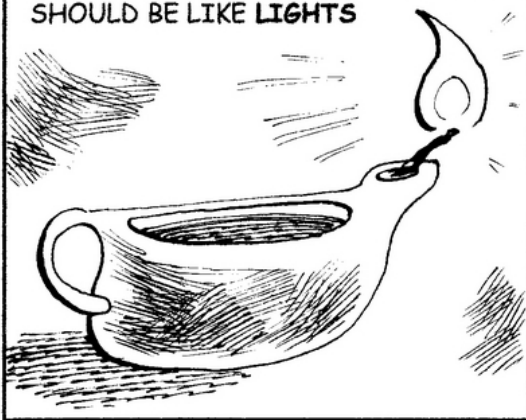


....AND SALT GAVE FLAVOUR.
IT WAS VERY USEFUL INDEED



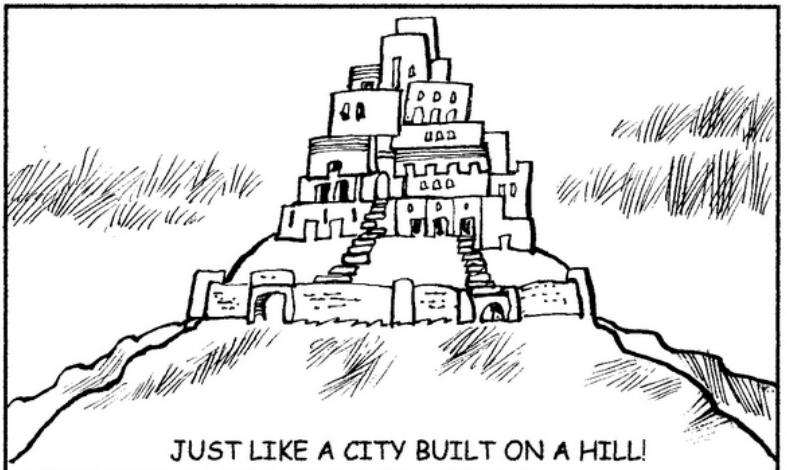
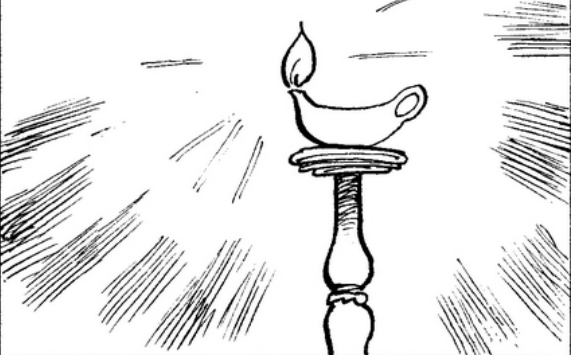
SALT HELPED MAKE LIFE
BETTER - WE TOO SHOULD HELP
MAKE LIFE BETTER IF WE
CHOOSE TO FOLLOW JESUS!

JESUS ALSO SAID HIS FOLLOWERS
SHOULD BE LIKE LIGHTS



'NOBODY LIGHTS A LAMP - THEN PUTS
IT UNDER A BOWL', SAID JESUS

THE WAY WE LIVE OUR LIVES AS
CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE
TO THE REST OF THE WORLD.



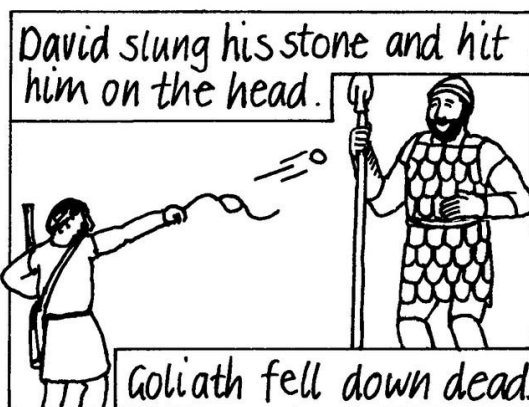
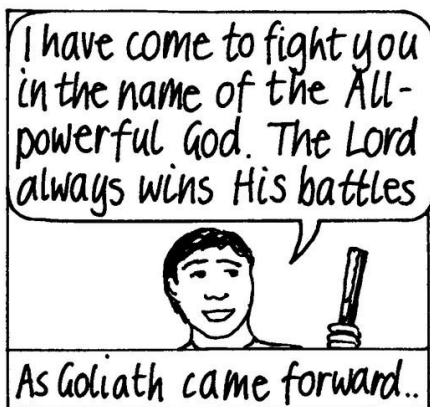
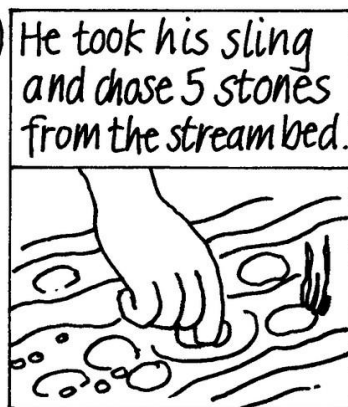
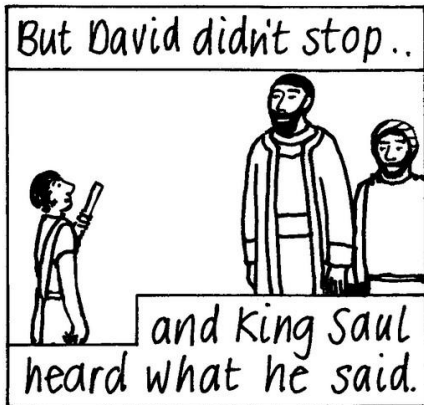
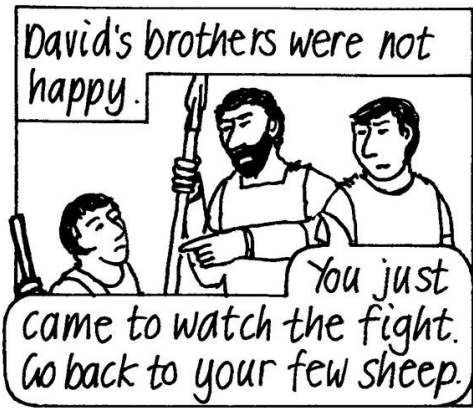
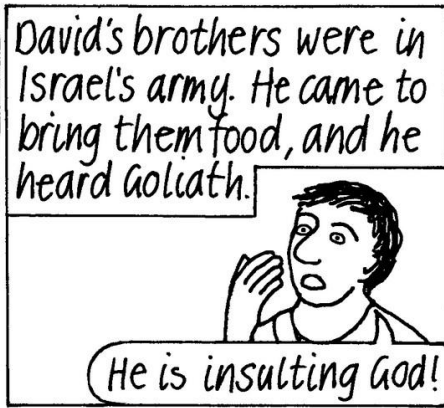
JUST LIKE A CITY BUILT ON A HILL!

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 17:1-50

The Philistine and Israelite armies
faced each other. For 40 days, the gigantic
Philistine champion, Goliath, taunted them..



WORDSEARCH

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soldier

insulting

army

cowards

lions

food

Goliath

Saul

heard

stone

armour

brothers

stick

David

chance

battles

watch

Israel

chased

believe

slung

Philistines

slaves

head



Scan Me!



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THE ROOTS OF THE PAST RUN DEEP

This is the title of the Heritage Open Day event at St John's Mosley Common School on the weekend of 19th and 20th of September this year. Further details will be given nearer the time but keep that date in your diary!

It is wonderful that the history of Mosley Common can be a treasure of increasing knowledge, sometimes looked for and sometimes a surprise. And yet at the same time in this moment there is also great loss of the physical remains of that past.

In April we held History drop-in days for people to come and share their memories and photographs of Mosley Common. At the Rowan's we were hosted marvellously with a delicious buffet and discovered a great deal of new facts and some marvellous pictures.



This is a photograph of Mosley Common Colliery Football Team provided by Eddie Dootson. There was also a Mosley Common Team which was part of the league and it cost 3p to watch them play. The pitch was to the side of St John's School behind the terraced houses and there was a Pavilion with changing rooms. There was also a Mosley Common Cricket Team! If anyone has any information about Mosley Common football teams or cricket teams, please get in touch. Eddie, aged 86, remembered when petrol cost 2'6 a gallon from Prunnell's Garage, where the car wash is now. He was a 'ripper' down the pit - the person who cleared the roads after the pit coal had been extracted. He remembered when the pit closed that many of the miners and their families were taken by the NCB in coaches to Doncaster to see if they wanted to work in the coal mines that were still in production there. Kieth Roberts, 92, also worked in Mosley Common Colliery and on building the East Lancashire Road. He attended Mosley Common School and had a wealth of memories of our village which he remembers as being surrounded by countryside in his youth. He went swimming in the colliery lodge and skating on Jacks Pond at the back of Chaddock Hall. His family lived in the prefabs that stood where the Rowans bungalows are now and were built by German and Italian prisoners of war in World War II. They were only demolished in 1970. He used to pump the organ in St John's church where he also was married. That organ is still there and older than the church and was used in the school before the church was built. It still plays strong and clear!



At St John's drop in we had some wonderful images of Ellenbrook Farm which once stood to the SE of Mosley Common Colliery brought in by Christine Mullineax who lived there for 20 years before it was demolished in 1985. Fred Dibnah used to keep his tractions engines at the farm and Christine remembered the demolition of the Pit Head Gear by explosives!

Mavis Wright brought in some fantastic pictures of Parr Bridge Farm which was across the road from where her family lived on Parr Brew. The Parr family, for whom this and the other Parr Farm on the Brew were named after, are a cadet branch, a junior line that does not inherit the primary family titles, of the Parr family of Henry VIII's 6th, and last, wife Catherine Parr.

Up to this point we had no pictures of this farm, so this was a very exciting discovery! Apparently, Mavis's grandad helped with the gardening there, although the huge urn in the garden feature you can see in the photograph does not seem of the best design. The house has horizontal sash windows, also known as Yorkshire Sashes, which emerged in the 16th and 17th centuries. The kitchen at Garret Hall Farm had a window of this same design which was mentioned to be of particular historical importance in the listing of the building.

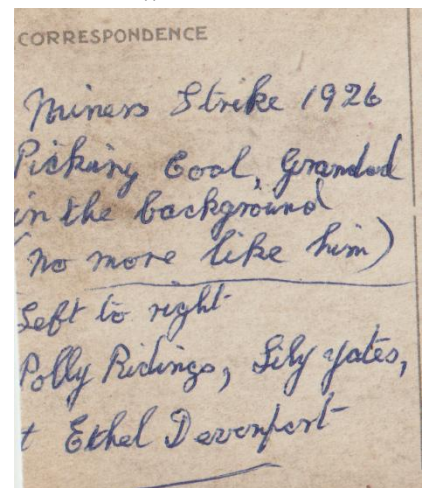


Mavis also brought in some brilliant photographs of coal picking on the rucks, the pit waste heaps, at Mosley Common during the 1926 General Strike, a hundred years ago this year. The images are very clear, and her mother had carefully written details on the back. Such images are like gold dust to the local historian and to say that I was very excited was an understatement!

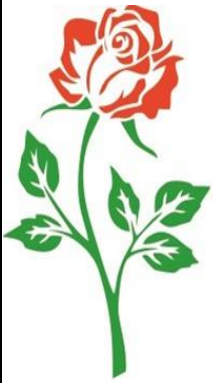
Our War Memorial lists

have now been conserved and are back at St. John's and will be displayed ready for Remembrance Day this year once we have prepared the wall for their arrival. They are in a wonderful condition now and have been conserved excellently.

The next meeting will be on Monday the 8th of June at 7pm in the Lounge at St Johns Church. Andrea Taziker will be giving a talk on 'The Anglo Saxons and Anglo Saxon Mosley Common. With Anglo Saxon refreshments of course!



Andrea Taziker



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Charter
Funeral
Plans



MISSION CHURCH UPDATE

We had an eventful Easter this year, with opportunities across the week to experience aspects of the Easter story. On Maundy Thursday, part of the Café at Mission Church was partitioned to create an intimate, upper-room atmosphere. In that quiet space we shared reflections and communion together, entering the story in a simple and meaningful way. The space was used again on Good Friday afternoon, when we gathered for a short time of reflection and prayer.

A particular highlight was Good Friday morning, when Mission Church joined with congregations from across Tyldesley for the Ecumenical Service, hosted by the Independent Methodist Church and prepared and organised by Mission Church. We gathered on the market square, where a large wooden cross was carried at the head of the procession as we walked together through the town and into the IM building. Once inside, we shared in a moving service of readings, reflections, prayers and music. It was especially heartening to hear voices from each church taking part, reminding us that Good Friday is a story we hold in common and a hope we walk towards together. A special thank you to members of the IM for such a warm welcome and the home-made cakes and refreshments after the service. It was a wonderful reminder of the strength of our shared faith and the good things we can do together.

After the quiet waiting of Easter Saturday, Mission Church was transformed on Easter Sunday with colour, light and joyful celebration. Moving through the contrasting experiences helped us enter more deeply into the heart of Easter and share in the hope of resurrection as a church family.



Around 40 - 45 from the community were given a special treat in the Easter holidays as a team of volunteers from Mission Church worked hard to plan, organise and hold an Easter party for the children. A day of fun, food and crafts. There was a visit from the Easter Bunny who shared eggs and other goodies donated by the Colliers Arms. Mission Church donated crafts and prizes.

Some of the volunteers picking up Easter Eggs from The Colliers where they had been donated.

Mission Church is blessed with so, so many wonderful volunteers, friends and supporters. There are too many to name personally. Thank you to everyone.

*Rev'd Eileen Hartigan
for Mission Church*

It's a joy to celebrate the gifts and talents of those who contribute so much to the daily life of Mission Church. Here we highlight two of them. Thank you, James and Sarah.

In the last edition, we featured a photograph of the Mission Church plaque created and presented by Dave. Here is an acrostic poem written by James Stackhouse and inspired by that wooden plaque, reflecting on its place in our worship and the story it represents.

My view of Mission Church is from up high,
 I see the service from above.
 Sometimes I hear of a man who'd die,
 So the world could feel his love.
 I was crafted by hands of skill,
 Once I lived and breathed.
 Now I hear of a Carpenter who will,
 Cherish any that believe.
 Humans have a chance to praise,
 Unfortunately I am but wood.
 Resurrection, life, of Him who saves,
 Can cleanse any through His blood.
 Here I stay, a silent symbol of that love.



Wooden plaque fixed to the wall above the screen

*James Stackhouse
 for Mission Church*

We are also very proud of Sarah who recently completed a 12-week course with The Kings Trust. Some of us attended Sarah's Certificate Presentation Day. Each of the young people prepared and presented some words to show how the course had encouraged them to grow together and to learn new skills. Below is Sarah's presentation.



Hello my name is Sarah Eccles I'm 16 and live in Leigh, Wigan. I have 2 brothers called Tyler and Tommy, 1 sister called Emma.

My mum works as a vicar at St George's, St John's, St Stephen's and Mission church.

My Dad is a forest school teacher at Pennington Flash.

I support Wigan Athletic and I like watching them with my Dad. I also like helping out at Shakerley community centre in the kitchen making toast and cutting up fruit for the children's group. I also make the best brews like teas and coffee.

Before I joined the King's Trust I was working at Shakerley community centre, I was volunteering in the centre, in the kitchen and the café. My jobs were to help cook the food and to serve members of the public. The kitchen helps to support the people in the community by cooking the food.

When I had my interview with Andy I was too nervous to speak to him, but when he told me about all the things they do on the King's Trust I really wanted to try it. I started King's Trust, and I felt shy nervous and lonely, but I stayed because I wanted to improve my confidence and make some friends my own age.

My work placement was at HSP Charity shop in Leigh. I was responsible for stocking up the shelves, pricing things up and going on the till. I feel that the placement has helped to improve my confidence, as I was speaking to other staff and customers. I worked alongside Daniel and other staff members there, I worked on my own but also in a team using my teamwork skills.


The skills I have learned on the King's Trust are, teamwork and communication skills. I also improved my confidence on my work placement, and on residential doing things like the leap of faith, caving and also doing canoeing.

The programme has also helped me meet new people and make friends my own age. I have made a CV and I have learned about interview skills and lots of other stuff. I think when I finish the programme, I might find a job or go to college.

I would like to thank my team mates and Nicky and Andy. Thanks.

*Sarah Eccles
for Mission Church*


YOU NEVER WILL BE OLD



You never will be old
With a twinkle in your eye,
With the springtime in your heart
As you watch the winter fly.

You never will be old
While you have a smile to share
While you wonder at mankind
And you have the time to care.

While there`s magic in your world
And a special dream to hold,
While you still can laugh at life,
You never will be old.



*Written by Iris Hesselden
Contributed by Sue Robinson*

The Christian backstory is interesting. There is a persistent legend that St Thomas, Jesus' Apostle, first brought the faith to India. It could be true. Christians are recorded very early, but hard evidence is from the 4th century. So, Christianity was in India before it was in Britain. The difference being that in India no ruler found Christ whereas in England a King did and so attracted wide support. In 1799 the Church Missionary Society was formed in a period of widespread Christian mission outreach. Some of the earliest missionaries were sent to India and they were astonished to find the faith already there! They realised ancient oriental churches had survived. Could they encourage something like a Reformation? In the end, though progress was made, it seemed right to perpetuate all the Western denominations. However, after the 2nd World War Indian Christians had had enough and most formed together beginning with the Church of South India.

The problems that growing nationalism gives is key to understanding the daily lives of Christians in India today. Indian Christians are proper Indians!

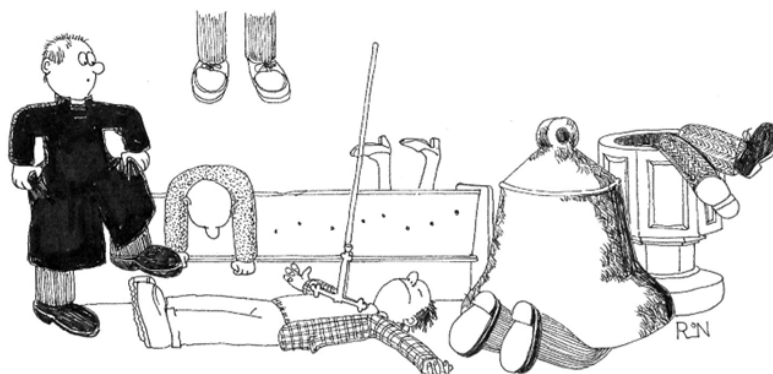
Our prayers are asked for much encouragement.

Michael Williamson



BLOOPERS – CHURCH MAGAZINE MESSAGES WHICH DIDN'T SOUND QUITE RIGHT!

- ❖ This being Easter Sunday we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
- ❖ The Associate minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday - "I upped my pledge - Up yours".
- ❖ Remember in prayer the many who are sick both of our church and the community.
- ❖ Correction: The following typo appeared in our last magazine: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please correct to read '12 noon.'
- ❖ The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring a friend, a vegetable, and a sweet, all in a covered dish. Meat and drinks will be provided.
- ❖ Remember the church jumble sale. We have a gents three-speed bicycle, and also two ladies for sale, in good running order.
- ❖ This afternoon there will be a service in the north and south ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.



It was a normal Sunday Morning in Midsomer Parish Church



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FROM THE TEAM MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

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. You can find our contact details on the inside front cover of this magazine.

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 for you.

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.*

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

MAGAZINE EDITION	EDITORIAL MEETING	CUT- OFF DATE	PERSON COMPILING THE MAGAZINE
August / September	Wed 24th June	Tues 7 th July	Andrea Taziker

SHOCK AND AWE!

Every January Open Doors publish a list of the 50 countries worldwide that are the most unsafe for Christians due to persecution. Mostly the list is fairly predictable (1st North Korea, 2nd Somalia) but this year Syria has spectacularly jumped from 18th in 2025 to 6th today.



It is radical Islamists and disorder that is to blame. Assad fell in 2024 and the new government is not strong enough to keep order. There are many factions and warring ethnic groups that make up modern Syria. In attempts to purify the land for Islam, violent extremists bombed St Elias Church in Damascus last June (22 killed). In the Kurdish held region 14 Christian schools have been closed (for refusing to teach a new imposed curriculum). Cities face the worst trouble where churches are under constant surveillance. Vans equipped with loudspeakers roam in Christian neighbourhoods telling residents to convert to Islam. In 2025 there were over a million Christians in Syria. In 2026 the figure is 300,000. Christians now take care not to be noticed.

Why are Christians vulnerable? There is a fair bit of anti-Western prejudice and newer churches (planted mostly in 19th century) are seen as Western and trying to convert local Muslims to Western religion. The old traditional Syrian Orthodox and ancient oriental churches are believed to have ties to Assad and their church buildings are much more visible.

There are an estimated 388 million Christians worldwide who face persecution or high levels of discrimination (Sudan, Nigeria and Mali have the maximum possible points for violence). More subtle persecution spreads instability, targeted persecution (e.g individuals singled out) undermines human rights and hidden persecution creates an underground church where information is difficult to obtain.

Our UK government has placed Syria and Iraq on a list of priority countries in its Freedom of Religion or Belief (FORB) strategy. Open Doors have 27 trainees to offer practical help in six Syrian cities.

Our prayers are asked.

Michael Williamson



A PERSONAL PRAYER

As the good Shepherd, Lord, you know my capacity for self-deception, and my tendency to wander away from you like a lost sheep.

Guard me daily, I pray, from temptation and strengthen me in my trials. Be with me always.

Amen

Contributed by Michael Williamson

Mothers' UNION

March Meeting

There were 7 members and one visitor at the March meeting.

The agenda included the Annual General Meeting and a Bring and Buy sale.

Claire opened the meeting with prayers and a story about a young woman from Rwanda called Grace who had benefited from Mothers' Union funding. Grace had been able to use the funding to set up her own small business.

At the AGM we approved the minutes and financial report from last year's AGM.

The following roles were approved for 2026/27 :-

Treasurer: Linda Leese

Secretary: Jennifer Grimshaw

Committee members: Jennifer Grimshaw, Linda Leese, Janet Graham, Claire Wright

Julie Salam also agreed to continue to send members' birthday cards out.



Buy a
Make a Mother's Day
gift & change the lives of people
all over the world

The meeting then concluded with the Bring and Buy sale which raised £90 towards the Mothers' Union "Make A Mother's Day" project.

Claire Wright

April Meeting

The meeting initially considered Spring and that any garden is like a pinprick in the whole of creation and yet can carry significance and meaning for our lives. We may consider biblical gardens or bring to mind gardens holding some personal life experience or memory.

We considered the poem:

The kiss of the sun for pardon, the song of the birds for mirth
One is nearer to God in a garden than anywhere else on earth
He broke his heart for us in a garden under olive trees
Where the angel of strength was the warden and the soul of the world found ease

At Easter time many churches create an easter garden where moss and spring flowers surround an empty tomb, but in the Middle East, gardens are rare the Arabic word for garden is paradise surrounded by desert beyond.

GLADYS JACKSON 1946 - 2026

Gladys died suddenly and unexpectedly on 10th April, a few days after returning from Nerja, Spain, her second home as she used to say.

She and Vic enjoyed many holidays with family and friends whether touring England and France in their caravan, walking in the Lake District or Yorkshire Dales in all weathers including rain and snow. They also loved to travel further afield abroad, enjoying cruising especially in the Caribbean.

Gladys loved sport of any kind be it tennis, track events or winter sports in which she had a keen interest. Her love of Liverpool football club was known to all - No 1 supporter she was.

She was a valued member of St John's Church where she sang with the music group. Gladys would also help at Messy Church, working in the kitchen preparing food for the children who attended and was always willing to do her bit.

Gladys had concern for others; she was a kind, caring and generous person, the "Queen" of roast dinners, as many people can testify, always welcoming people into her home to share a meal and fellowship.

Vic and Gladys for many years hosted and lead a Bible Study Group. Gladys knew and loved her God. She had a strong faith which was very important to her.

We have been blessed and honoured to have had Gladys in our lives. We are going to miss her so much.

Please pray for Vic, Louise, Paul and the wider family as they come to terms with their sad loss and her presence in their lives.



Contributed by Marjorie Owen



ST JOHN`S CHURCH FLOWERS

JUNE

- 7 Barbara Wilson and Maureen Anders in memory of Sandra Phillips
- 14 Glenys Robinson in memory of mother, dad and Eddie
- 21 David Watkinson in memory of his parents, sisters, Elsie, Francis and brother John.
- 28 Marian Blundell and family in memory of Marianne

JULY

- 5 Mavis and Joan in memory of their mum and dad
- 12 Ann Hilton in memory of her son Martin
- 19 Leah Bezeck in memory of Arthur and their parents
- 26 Vacant

PRAYERS

- Thank God for the work of local and national politicians. Pray for all our existing and newly-elected councillors, that they will represent the best interests of all their constituents conscientiously, fairly and with compassion.
- Pray that God will help you to love others as he loves you, and that He will use us all as peacemakers in a world that is desperately searching for true and lasting peace.
- Ask for God's blessing on all the activities carried out by His people, especially across our team:-
Remember the prayer groups and house churches, the people who organise gardening, cleaning and repairs that support the upkeep of our buildings and their surroundings and those who arrange food and support for others.
Thank God for those who take communion to people who can't come to church, those who organise and deliver our magazine.
Pray for all those people who will take on responsibilities as sides people, wardens, treasurers and members of PCCs and synods at our annual church meetings.
Pray for our Stepping Up team, those who are involved in the activities of our schools and everyone who supports our services in whatever way.
- Pray for all those who are looking for something but don't yet realise that it's God.



Contributed by Sara Yarwood

MAVIS MURGATROYD

We were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Mrs Mavis Murgatroyd who passed away peacefully in Bolton Hospital on the 27th March 2026 and whose funeral took place in her beloved St George's on 16th April 2026.

Mavis was a true Christian Lady whose outward appearance was matched with a rare eternal beauty, and her devotion to St George's and to the local Community was absolute, whether as a Teacher at the Mission School, a chorister, a flower arranger or in other ways, she ministered with great love, care and commitment and in doing so enriched many, many lives.

We commend her to God's gracious keeping and we extend to Alan, Beth and Paul our deepest condolences and the assurance of our prayers.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.



Contributed by Kath Topping and David Kerfoot

DREAMS AND VISIONS AND WHAT TO MAKE OF THEM

Earlier this year CRE (Christian Resources Exhibition) held a survey on what churches up and down the country felt were their most pressing needs or challenges. What are our dreams and visions?

The things that came out top of quite a long list were equally, how to grow church attendance and how to engage the younger generation (numbers and youth). Sometimes, preoccupation with our aims and purpose becomes just anxiety, fear of failure and a sad lack of faith and trust in God; but a check on how we are doing is good for us, making for confidence, maturity in faith and joyful acceptance of our calling in Christ. Perhaps this is why we have Annual Parochial Church Meetings !



Years ago, when I was in Droylsden, I had a recurring dream over a few weeks. I was urgently hurrying about sorting people into their seats - we were going away on holiday- some were late or slow and they needed encouraging. Gradually I saw we were at an airport and the plane was getting ready to leave. I was the package holiday rep in uniform and had a clipboard etc, matching people up! Soon I began to recognise actual people I knew. It was important and urgent to get people on board... and then I woke up.

I remember not feeling any particular panic or being depressed, or a failure, or a success. the dream was just factual and ended as a fade-out, without a conclusion. Was the dream just telling me to continue the work - not to ask the reason why? - Or more likely - Get More Help!



Amy Carmichael

The famous missionary, Amy Carmichael, had a vivid dream where she was standing at the foot of a cliff. She could see people strolling along above her near the crumbling edge, unaware of the danger. Desperately she tried to warn and save them. There were people nearby sitting on the beach making daisy chains, all content and relaxed - not seeing the danger. She called to them for help but they remained absorbed in their own world. When she awoke she understood God telling her; here were

people in great need, heading for disaster without Jesus; and here were the daisy chain makers who were the church, all distracted from the opportunity before it.

In the Bible there are accounts of dreams. The Pharaoh of Egypt famously dreamt of seven fat and thin cows and seven fat and wizened ears of corn (see Genesis ch 41). He was troubled and Joseph was able to tell him the message was from God, which was in effect, there will be a famine and you have seven years to plan for it.

What to do about our dreams or visions or aims for our work! Are we sure we have them?

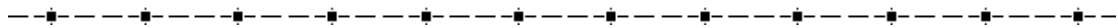
Earlier this year, Scripture Union (SU) brought out a booklet "It's time to ACT" to encourage churches who have noted youth work as a priority.

The whole church should be concerned and made aware of the need. Pray for the children you see and know "If you want to draw children into a relationship with God, first build up a relationship with them" was a SU guides response. It would be worthwhile to look for and concentrate on just one contact point beyond the church walls or deepen an existing one. A team of one or two people who want to help will help with ideas. The first simple step is made there and then SU is ready to help with support, guidance and resources.

This is a big moment to get in touch with them as the church senses God's call to mission beyond its walls. SU have Vision Enablers who come to listen and have ideas, advice, contacts and coaching etc. They have more resources, tools that can help to build relationships, introduce Jesus naturally and explore faith. There is a framework and a plan of action. Also, SU has a long-term partnership approach. They don't just run ahead of you but stand beside you and stay alongside you.

It's all about how to put into practice the dream or vision really !

Michael Williamson



TEAM MAGAZINE - DONATIONS

This time last year we ran a campaign to help finance the printing costs of the Team Magazine - very successfully. During 2025 we received a total of £670.00 (as reported in the April/May magazine) and so far this year we have received £120.00 in donations.

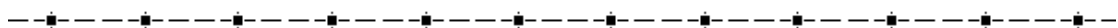
As you all know the magazine editors, compilers, contributors and distributors all give a lot of time and effort on a voluntary basis **BUT** the magazine is printed professionally as I am sure you can all tell - a great job each and every issue - and obviously needs paying for.

So, in light of this, during June and July we aim to run the campaign again as the amount received last year covered approximately 2.5 issues of the magazine and when added to the advertising revenue for the year we covered just over 50% of the printing costs - so the 3 churches only had to meet the balance of costs.

We will put some envelopes out in church for any donations (and as always we are happy to accept donations at any time).

As before, if you are able to help with these costs "Thank You Very Much" - if you aren't then that is no problem - you will still receive your magazine as before.

The Magazine Committee



SMILE LINES

If your supermarket has been lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

WALKING DAYS AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS

Not too long ago walking days were a big feature of church life and here are a few photos to remind us what wonderful occasions they were. The first two photos were kindly supplied by Joan Hartley, St Stephen`s parishioner.



The photo on the left shows Joan holding a ribbon under the Kindergarten banner at St Stephen`s walking day in the late 1940`s.

The photo on the right is from 1949 and shows Joan in her special walking day outfit in the front garden of her home on Princes Avenue. Note the beautiful basket of flowers which just set the right tone for the walking day.



Here is the same Kindergarten banner on full display at a walking day around 1934 on Manchester Road, near Princes Avenue. Photo courtesy of *The Second Pictorial Astley*, by John and Sylvia Tonge.

If anyone has any other photos of local walking days they would like to share then please get in touch with the Magazine Team.



Joan provided some other photos of St Stephen`s annual events which many people looked forward to. The next two photos were taken at St Stephen`s Choir luncheon in 2004. Many of you will recognise familiar faces amongst those enjoying the elegant surroundings and wonderful atmosphere at the Rendezvous.

From left to right Jim Walmsley, Peter Hartley, Joan Hartley, Gladys Jones and Edna Pearson

From left to right Kathleen Gregory, Edna Pearson, Harry Gregory, Joan Hartley and Gladys Jones.



Joan also provided a photo of St Stephen's Parish Concert from 1996 which we will show in a future edition of the magazine.

If anyone has any other photos of church events that they would like to share then please get in touch with the Magazine Team.

Thanks go to Joan Owen who provided the photos below of the Jubilee celebrations of Queen Elizabeth II at St John's church in 2012.

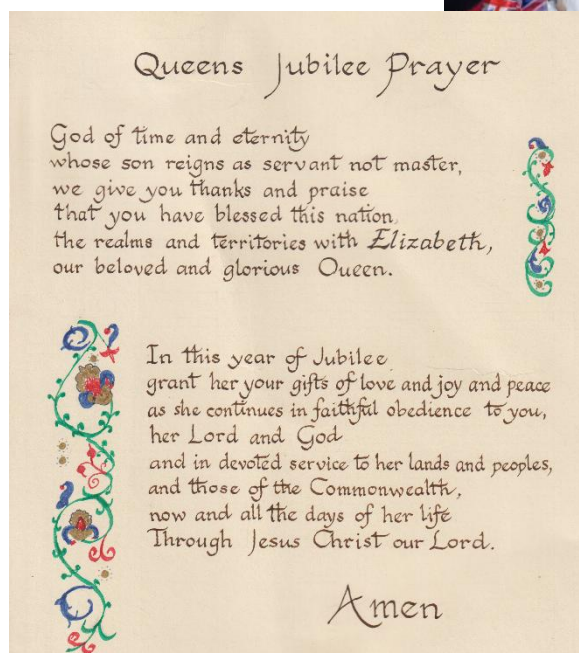


A tasty buffet was provided by the ladies of the church.

Sylvia Taziker sets out the delicious looking trifles and cakes.



The photo below shows the Jubilee prayer written by Sylvia Taziker who used her calligraphy skills to produce this beautiful keepsake of the event.



Compiled by Michelle Lewthwaite

G O O D

UNIQUE

Psalm 139:13

SPECIAL

Ephesians 2:10

LOVELY

Daniel 12:3

PRECIOUS

1 Corinthians 6:20

CHOSEN

John 15:16

FORGIVEN

Psalm 103:12

S A V E S
you are

Contributed by Jean Williamson
Courtesy of the Parish of Mossley