



Astley, Tyldesley and Mosley Common

Team Magazine



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

August - September 2026



Contributed by Jean Williamson
Courtesy of the Parish of Mossley

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A number of times in the last few weeks I have found myself in St John's Church, alone. And in the gaps when I am not 'doing something', and I am doing something a lot whether tidying up gardening equipment, waiting for roofers who do not turn up, or wondering how much of the vestry floor the fungus has eaten... In those times, in the silence, I just sit and wait let the presence of God flow through me, nothing expected.

I have just spent a few days in Wales and, this will not come as a surprise, I visit many ancient churches there. One recently in a tiny valley near to Bala, St Melangells, founded 1200 years ago by a Celtic Saint alongside a beautiful, wooded stream in the mountains. Here I sat and waited for God in the sunlight flickering through the trees where pilgrims have visited for over a millennium. It reminded me of the R S Thomas poem, 'Kneeling'. That it was indeed in the silence of waiting that I feel God is nearest to me.

Andrea Taziker

Kneeling

*Moments of great calm,
Kneeling before an altar
Of wood in a stone church
In summer, waiting for the God
To speak; the air a staircase
For silence; the sun's light
Ringing me, as though I acted
A great role. And the audiences
Still; all that close throng
Of spirits waiting, as I,
For the message.*

*Prompt me, God;
But not yet. When I speak,
Though it be you who speak
Through me, something is lost.
The meaning is in the waiting.*

By R S Thomas

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

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

REFLECTION

It's a beautiful summer's day in July as I'm sitting at my laptop to write a reflection for the Team magazine. I'm appreciating the summer plants in the garden and seeing the odd butterfly fluttering around - God's beautiful creation.



This summer, the good news is that we have a new Team Rector, Revd Sachin Awale, and are eagerly awaiting his arrival as soon as the necessary work at St. John's vicarage is completed, hopefully sometime in September.

Parish life continues as usual across our four worship centres, with our regular Sunday worship services, baptisms and funerals. Across the Team, our members are also active in the week. There's lots going on - Coffee mornings, concerts, Place of Welcome, a Mission church and the opening of Café Eva as part of their mission, Café church, toddler groups, Food Bank collections, a Fashion show, Mothers Union, Stepping Up, Open the Book, Messy church, helping with School services, monthly Thursday Holy Communion, Home Communion visits, St. John's Walking Group, various home groups.

We should be celebrating all these very positive activities and fellowship opportunities. Of course, parish life doesn't just happen - it carries on through the dedication of church family members across the Team. All of us need to give our great thanks to absolutely every person who is involved in serving our parishes, in whatever capacity - too many to mention individually, but we know who you are. Thank you so much!

Saturday 11th July marked the last Stepping Up Session before our summer break. I chose the familiar "Parable of the Sower" as our theme - some of the seeds are eaten by birds, some wither on stony ground, weeds choke other seeds, some grow producing a bountiful harvest.

A few of the children will be moving on to secondary school in September and life changes as they grow into their teenage years - maybe some won't come to Saturday church, hopefully some will continue their faith journey.

What is the message we want the children to take forwards with them?



God's word is the seed, and it's all in the Bible, waiting for us to read. Jesus is teaching that some people don't listen to God's word, others try to listen but give up too easily, and some people listen to God's word and do understand. The last group try to live like Jesus and to follow his word. As long as we listen to his word, we can be like the seed in the good soil and God's love will grow in our hearts and our relationship with him will develop and grow.

For Christians of all ages, it definitely remains a good message for all of us to remember.

This summer we look forward to the future, to the blessings of Revd Sachin's upcoming ministry amongst us. Let's be a supportive, united team as we enter the next phase of taking our local churches forwards.

So, let's breathe deeply, give thanks and enjoy the beauty of the summer months, secure in the unconditional love and grace of God.

Angela

Dates for services in August and September

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

Date	St Stephen's	St George's	St John's	Mission Church
2nd August Sunday	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church	2.30pm Sunday Service with a meal
6th August Thursday	10am Thursday Team Communion			
9th August Sunday	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion 12.30 Baptisms	
16th August Sunday	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church 12.30 Baptisms	10am Service of the Word	2.30pm Sunday Service with a meal
23rd August Sunday	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church	
27th August Thursday	10am Thursday Communion			
30th August Sunday	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	2.30pm Sunday Service [5 th Sunday]

Date	St Stephen's	St George's	St John's	Mission Church
5th September Saturday	Men's Group BBQ			
6th September Sunday	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church 12.30 Baptisms	10am Service of the Word	2.30pm Café Church
12th September Saturday	3pm Stepping Up			
13th September Sunday	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church	2.30pm Service of the Word
17th September Thursday	10am Thursday Communion			
20th September Sunday	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word Harvest w SGCS	10am Team Communion	2.30pm Café Church
27th September Sunday	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word	2.30pm Communion 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 - AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

St Stephen's and locally

Aug 8th	Damhouse -Summer Garden Party - 10.30am to 6.30pm 01942 876417 or info@damhouse.net for more info or check our website
Aug 11th	House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Rd hosted by John Howarth. Please come along, all are welcome. Tel 07471460988. We continue to study the Disciples through August. This week we look at Judas Iscariot - Turning Away. Matthew, ch26: 14-30, 47-50 and ch27: 1-10.
Aug 15th	10.00am - 12.00pm St Stephen's Coffee Morning - in church meeting room
Aug 19th	7.30pm - St Stephen's Mothers Union - Brian Topping - "Tales of a Customs Officer"
Aug 25th	House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Rd hosted by John Howarth. Please come along, all are welcome. Tel 07471460988. We continue to study the Disciples; this week we look at Three Others, Faithful to the End, Luke 18: 18-30.
Aug 27th	3.30pm Communion Service at The Rowans, Lindale Road, Mosley Common M28 1BG
Sep 8th	House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Rd hosted by John Howarth. Please come along, all are welcome. Tel 07471460988. In September we will study Meeting the Holy Spirit : John 16: 5-15.
Sep 19th	10.00am - 12.00pm St Stephen's Coffee Morning - in church meeting room
Sep 19 th /20 th	Damhouse- Heritage Open Weekend 10.00am to 4.00pm - 01942 876417 or info@damhouse.net for more info or check our website
Sep 19th	7.30pm - St Stephen's Mothers Union - Tony Stanton - "Research into St Stephen's Old Churchyard"
Sep 19 th /20 th	Heritage weekend 1.00pm to 5.00pm - Lancashire Mining Museum - 01942 895841 for more info or on Facebook
Sep 20th	Battle of Britain Afternoon Tea - Lancashire Mining Museum - 01942 895841 for more info or on Facebook
Sep 22nd	House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Rd hosted by John Howarth. Please come along, all are welcome. Tel 07471460988. We continue to study Meeting the Spirit : The Spirit Invades, Acts 2
Sep 24th	3.30pm Communion Service at The Rowans, Lindale Road, Mosley Common M28 1BG

St George's Diary dates for August and September 2026

The months of August & September continue to be quieter months in relation to events.

There are no social events booked for August - if there are any late changes information will be shared in notices and on social media.

18th September - The Early Doors Club, 5-8pm - act to be confirmed.

Funding has been secured and released. Tickets are available on a Pay What You Can basis - choose a price that suits you best. The Early Doors club has partnered with a new ticket provider - Humantix. Use the link <https://events.humantix.com/host/the-early-doors-club> to book, or contact Susie Mallon on 07873 149627 for information.

27th September - Brass Band Concert: Longridge

Come and join us for what is sure to be an entertaining evening with the band performing a Proms Celebration. 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.

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 continues to meet on the last Monday of the month **but now meets in the new Heritage Gallery situated within Tyldesley Technical School**. Refreshments from 7pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm.

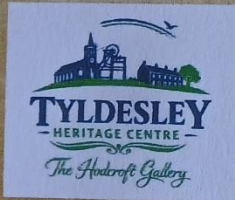
There will be no August meeting due to the bank holiday weekend so the next date for your diary will be **Monday 28th September**.

Contact Susie Mallon - 07873 149627 for further details or check Facebook posts on the Tyldesley Historical Society page.

Tyldesley Historical Society

- Free admission, (normally)
- Meets from 7.00pm on the last Monday of the month except for Bank Holidays & December
- Presentation commences at 7.30pm
- Tyldesley Heritage Centre

Tyldesley Technical School, Upper George Street, M29 8HQ



27 th July 2026	 150 Years of Tyldesley Swimming & Water Polo Club	Paul Costello
31 st August 2026	Bank Holiday (No Meeting)	
28 th Sept 2026	"Boom Town" The making of Urban Tyldesley	Sarah Garratt
26 th October 2026	Worsley in the Second World War	Judith Atkinson

Mosley Common Diary Dates

- 10th August Mosley Common Historical Society meeting 7pm in The Lounge at St John's Church, Mosley Common. Andrea Taziker with a talk on 'Mosley Common in Medieval to Tudor Times'. With time appropriate refreshments!
- 11th August Local Area Walk into the Countryside that survives. No set route yet due to 'survival' changes. Meet on City Road where it crosses the bus route at 6pm. Rough paths.
- 5th September Musical Afternoon with Martin James with Pastie and Mushy Peas. Ticket only. Contact; Joan Taylor

19th - 20th September

Mosley Common Historical Society Heritage Open Days Event

Exhibition at St Johns School 1822 Georgian building will tell the story of Mosley Common through images, records, films, maps and word and at community plans for our village including a new mural on the gable end of the school which you will be able to view on the day. You will also be able to see the school records, logbooks and films and look around the building with guided tours also being provided on both days. Plus refreshments!

Please see full page advertisement for further details.

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

The Toddler Group will break for the Summer Holidays from the 16th July until the 3rd September.

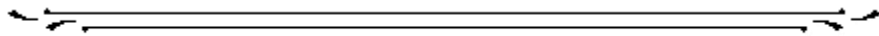
Welcome to CAMEO. Come And Meet Every One

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



Ellesmere Street Update

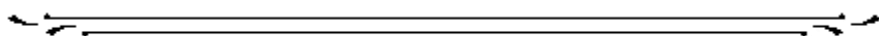
Reported to St Stephen's Congregation on 31st May 2026

Just before 8am on Bank Holiday Monday, a fire was reported at the Ellesmere St site causing extensive smoke damage to two upper rooms with flooding to one of those upper rooms and the foyer/changing room below. The fire service attended and discovered an electrical fault in an exterior flood light overlooking the car park. The wires to the flood light were fitted through the brick work - adjacent to two vents in the main upper room. The heat cracked a water pipe below the two vents between the radiator and boiler and flooded the room and foyer below. The information has been provided to the insurance company. **If you hear any gossip suggesting any local property development company was involved in the fire - please ignore, there is no information to suggest this is the case. Clearly Danny (13th Dimension) was mortified. He had no option but to close for the week until things can be put in place for him to resume his classes in the main gym area which luckily was unaffected. **

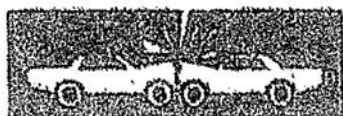
Update

In relation to the fire at the Ellesmere St site on Bank Holiday Monday, Jenny, Elaine and Danny (13th Dimension) are working with the Ecclesiastical Insurance company and Centurian Claims Management to prepare a schedule of works for repairs to the building. There is no suspected foul play on this occasion. Extensive damage was contained to the upper floor and landing along with water leakage to the lower floor.

Elaine Dickinson



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PRAYERS

- Pray that we will walk lightly on the earth, contributing more than we take.
- Thank God for the work of the Disasters Emergency Committee and all the organisations that operate under its umbrella.
- Pray for the work of our government and public servants as they support our laws and communities.
- Remember before God the broken hearted, those with a broken spirit or broken dreams.



Contributed by Sara Yarwood

DAILY PRAYER

At Debbie's recent licensing service Bishop Matthew encouraged all those in attendance to install a marvellous app on their phones. It's called "Daily Prayer".

I'd never seen it before but others had already been using it for quite some time.

I found it to be quite a revelation. It provides a real focus for the day if you can get into the habit of setting aside 5 minutes for prayer at some point in your day.

I'm a convert, albeit a bit late to the party. In fact, I'm quite sure that someone mentioned it to me many moons ago but maybe they weren't quite as insistent as Bishop Matthew about getting the app installed. Even to the point of guiding me through the process!

It struck me that this is the kind of sincere recommendation which I could try to utilise when I'm talking to people about my faith. I'm grateful for the idea because I've been wondering for some time about how I could become a better evangelist, or as Nick Hardman recently put it, .. how to go out and "faithfully share the good news of Jesus".

For those who haven't yet experienced the app - here is a taster:-

Morning Prayer

Blessed are you, creator of all; to you be praise and glory for ever.

As your dawn renews the face of the earth, bringing light and life to all creation, may we rejoice in this day you have made.

As we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep, open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our hands to do your will, that the world may rejoice and give you praise. Blessed be God forever.

Evening Prayer

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep.

Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, sustain the dying, calm the suffering, and pity the distressed: all for your loves sake, O Christ our Redeemer.

Michelle Lewthwaite

Acknowledgement: Daily Prayer: from the C of E

St. Stephens Mens Group Presents

A FAMILY BBQ



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

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

**£10 Adults
£5 Children**

**SATURDAY
5th September
3.30pm**

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

REVD CANON SIMON COOK TO BE THE NEXT ARCHDEACON OF SALFORD AND BOLTON

Currently Area Dean of Bolton, Revd Simon will succeed the Ven Dr Rachel Mann who retires at the end of July.

The Manchester Diocese website recently shared the news that the Revd Canon Simon Cook has been appointed as the next Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton.

Simon brings to the role his significant experience of parish leadership and collaborative ministry, having served as Area Dean of Bolton for the past five years alongside his recent work as Acting Assistant Archdeacon.



Accepting this new role, Simon said: "I am humbled and delighted that Bishop David has invited me to become the next Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton in succession to Rachel. I have loved serving as Area Dean of Bolton for the past five years and will miss many aspects of that ministry, but I am thrilled that I will continue to serve the deaneries of Bolton, Bury and Rossendale, and Salford and Leigh in this new role. I look forward to meeting many new, and reconnecting with familiar, friends and co-workers for Christ in the coming months. I am conscious that Rachel's shoes are big ones to fill and that I will have much to learn, so I would ask for your patience and your prayers as I take up this new post. I hope that this time of transition will be marked by anticipation and excitement for what God is going to do in the Archdeaconry of Salford and Bolton in the years ahead."

On the day of the announcement, Bishop David said: "I am delighted to appoint Simon as the next Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton. He has already demonstrated strong leadership as Area Dean, as well as wisdom and generosity of spirit. I hold both Simon and Rachel in my prayers as they navigate this time of change and new beginnings, giving thanks for all that has been and trusting God for what is yet to come."

Acknowledgement - www.Manchester.anglican.org



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10TH-16TH MAY 2026

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

The final total raised by our three churches and St Stephen`s school, including the Coffee Morning organised by Jane Jones, and the collection jar at `Pen To Paper` is an amazing **£755.27**

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

This is a fantastic total and was gratefully received by the charity. The funds were deposited on 2nd June.

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

Michelle Lewthwaite

MISSION CHURCH AT SHAKERLEY

Mission Church at Shakerley is shaped by the Five Marks of Mission, which describe how Christians are called to share God's love: proclaiming the Good News, nurturing faith, responding to human need through loving service, working for justice and peace, and caring for creation. It is in the everyday stories of people that these marks come alive. These stories remind us that ministry belongs to anyone who responds to God's love by loving their neighbour and helping build God's Kingdom where they are.

Margaret's story. - During a time of grief and isolation, and with a lot of coaxing from my daughter Becky, I walked into the Community Centre for the first time. I wanted to turn around and walk straight back out. Bit by bit, though, I began to feel I belonged — as if I was being held on a comfortable cushion. After being unable to go to church for a long time, the services became my pathway back to God, and the Eucharist my lifeline. I loved how everyone was welcome and there was no judgement.

Rev Cath quickly recognised my gifts and my passion for design and craftwork. After months of loneliness, it meant so much to be truly seen — to have someone notice what I carried inside and gently draw it out. I knew how painful isolation can be, and I wanted to help others feel the warmth and connection I had begun to rediscover. My craftwork had been important to me for much of my life, and I longed to share it. Cath believed in me — built me up, trusted me, and gave me a free hand to start a friendship group with craft activities. Cath's mum, Carole, worked alongside me. She is another great source of support and encouragement.

The group has grown and is now well established in the Community Centre — we even have our own sign outside. Because we're open to everyone, people come from the estate and beyond. Many new friendships have formed. We do crafts, play games, or simply chat.

One of my greatest pleasures is seeing people who say they're "not artistic", after a bit of encouragement, walk out with something beautiful they've made with their own hands. Among other things we have created candles, cards, sun catchers, Christmas and Easter decorations, and wreaths.

If I had to sum up what has happened, I would say growth. Seeds were sown in my life by someone who believed in me. They were watered and tended, and I feel I have grown and flourished — and my branches are now touching others.

Mission Church is so much more than the building you see from outside. Inside is a labyrinth of love and gifts, inspired by God. And if anyone would like to join us, the Fellowship Nook meets every Tuesday from 12 to 2pm — you will be warmly welcomed.

Margaret Clutterbuck
For Mission Church

There are many people who share in the work of Mission Church, often quietly and behind the scenes. We were very proud of Caroline, who took part in Race for Life "Pretty Mudder" recently to raise funds for Cancer Research. Her desire to do something for a good cause reflects in everything she does at Mission Church, without expecting any recognition.

Caroline's story - I'd say I'm part of the furniture at Shakerley Community Centre. I've lived on the estate since I was a child, and I grew up being part of the after-school clubs, outings and all the activities. After not going in for a while, I found myself being drawn back when my daughter, Jennifer, joined the dance group. Things grew from there when Cath started Mission Church. I had many questions and doubts about my faith, and I still do sometimes. The world can seem a cruel place. Mission Church has helped me find faith in people again, and it's helped me feel like I can give something back in life.

My mum, Dawn, has been a great inspiration to me. After coming through a difficult time and knowing what it feels like to be without, she became a Food Waste Hero. She did an online course and started picking up slots to collect and distribute food from supermarkets that would otherwise be thrown away. I followed her lead and became a Food Waste Hero too. The food was given to people who needed it, and before long I found myself stocking and looking after the community fridge in the centre. We also have a small group at Mission Church who do batch cooking. Our most recent meals were sausage in onion gravy, chilli and rice, and spaghetti bolognaise — 60 meals in total, all frozen. Some go into the free food parcels, offered to people in the community or to those referred by Wigan Council, and some are sold as frozen ready meals — two for £1.

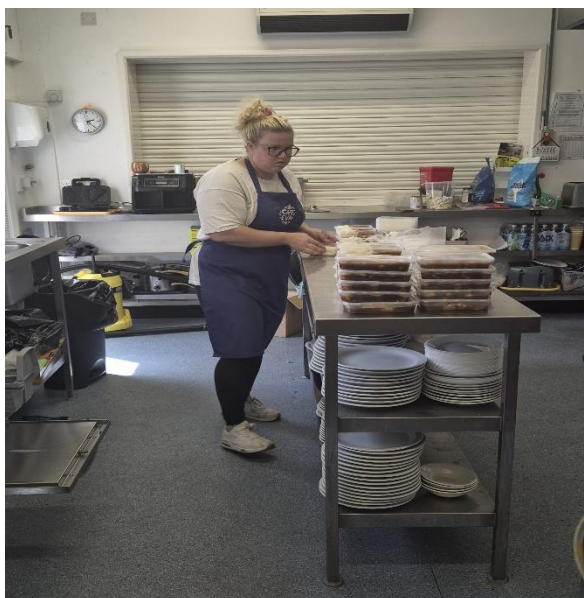
I do what I do because I see a need, and this feels like a way to give back. The community fridge is open to anyone, because we don't want good food going to waste. If it can help someone, even in a small way, that means a lot to me. My mum very generously helps where she can and tells people in the community about everything happening at Shakerley, including Café Eva, where I also help out. Mission Church brings people together. I've met new close friends, and it keeps me sane. And if anyone would like to pop in, Café Eva is open on Mondays from 12-2pm, Wednesdays from 12-2pm for a free community meal, and Fridays from 11-2pm — everyone is welcome.

Caroline Gallagher
For Mission Church

So, we see how Mission Church lives out the Five Marks of Mission in everyday, ordinary ways. The Good News is shared through welcome, friendship and worship. Faith is nurtured as people discover their gifts, ask honest questions and find their way back to God. Human need is met through loving service — food parcels, batch-cooked meals, the community fridge and the kindness that runs through it all. Justice and peace grow as people are valued, included and supported. And creation is cared for through reducing food waste and sharing resources wisely.

All of this happens through people who simply want to love their neighbour. These stories show how faith grows when people feel seen, welcomed and encouraged, and how hope takes root when people give what they can for the sake of others. This is what Mission Church looks like — community, love and simple acts of goodness lived out in real lives.

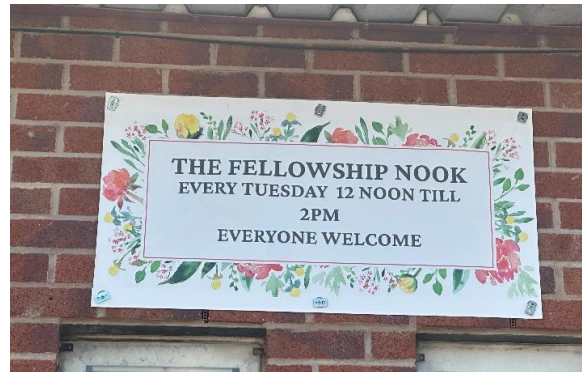
Rev Eileen Hartigan
For Mission Church



Caroline batch cooking for the freezer.



Caroline - Walk of Life



Sign on the community centre - far right.

"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God". 1 Corinthians 10:31

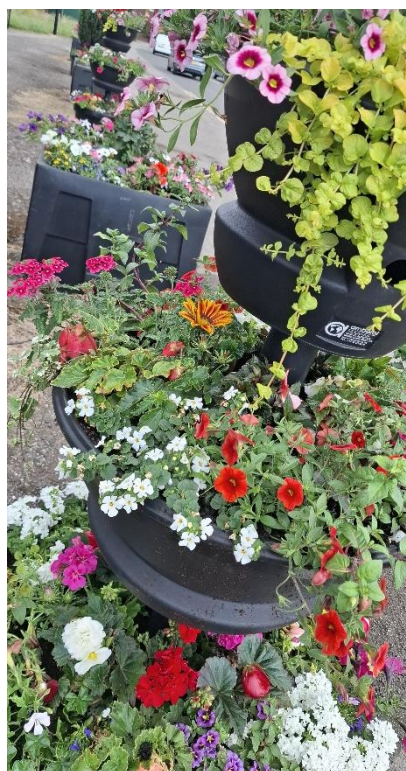
"Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully all over the world, answering that of God in everyone." George Fox

"Joy is the serious business of heaven." C S Lewis

Litter Heroes

We would like to say a huge thank you to all, large and small, who come to help us on our litter picks on the Commons. Come rain or shine, and heat at the moment, on the first Saturday of each month you will find community volunteers removing litter, the majority plastic wrappers and bottles, into blue council bags for the lovely litter bin people to collect on the following Monday. We thank everyone who turns up to support the litter picks, and we now have Litter Champion stickers, but also those who pick up litter when they are out for walks or have their own litter pick schedule. And also, to the council for providing the litter bins around the Commons and those who empty the bins! This community effort creates communal green spaces which are clean and pleasant for everyone to enjoy and helps protect wildlife, there have been hedgehogs sighted in the woody areas, and the plastic rubbish supports recycling! So huge thanks to everyone and if you are free come and join us one first Saturday.

The planters are back - and in force



The planters are back and they're looking beautiful and colourful in the sunshine with a huge thank you to the Council and Councillors, the people of Mosley Common, and especially the In Bloom organisation. They listed all the planters we should have had (a lot!), and BMC pointed out how many we actually had (a few!). We have actually gained many more of the 3 tier planters with 4 at the Commons and 2 back on the corner of Thornton Road. They added bright colour and cheerfulness to our village and they look fabulous!

School Planters now renamed 'School Allotments'

Thank you to Britian in Bloom who visited Mosley Common in June and commented on our 'School Allotments'. We thus now have a new name for our school planters and a fitting one! In the school allotments the potatoes are nearly ready, and the beans and peas are doing well and hopefully will be ready to harvest by the end of August. The herbs are gradually settling in, but we had to admit to failure with the raspberry bushes. However, after asking advice we are going to pot the struggling blueberry bushes with ericaceous compost as this is apparently what they need to thrive! The pupils have enjoyed the butterflies and various other insects, including the St John's bees, who appreciated our wildflowers some of which had just appeared, and grew very tall!

Pit Wheel Common

The long grass on the Pit Wheel Common as causing some discussion in the village. Blooming Mosley Common did not ask for the grass not to be cut over the entire Common, what we did ask for was a number of small areas near the edges of the Common to be left to grow until July as pockets of biodiversity, with a very clear colour coded map provided! Cutting grass just a month later in the season is significantly better for wildlife, delaying the cut allows wildflowers to bloom, seeds to drop, and gives insects the time they need to complete their breeding lifecycles. Blooming Mosley Common is dedicated to improving the biodiversity of our area; indeed, this was one of the founding reasons given

to us by our local Councillors and MP. The biodiversity of this Common has indeed risen from 1.6 last year to 6.5 this year, from data from biodiversity surveys by St John's School Council, just from stopping cutting the grass for 1 month. With the people's support we hope that we can ask for these pockets to be created next year so our Common can be fit to serve all both for the present and the future.

97% of our wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930s and 40% of pollinating insects are now at risk of extinction. Britain's bird populations face critical threats, with nearly half (46%) of regularly occurring species classified as threatened or critically endangered. Hedgehogs are now classed as an endangered species with numbers falling from 30 million in the UK in the 1950's to about a million today. When nature loses, we all lose. We have very little ancient grassland left and intensive farming methods mean many spaces are heavily damaged. In Mosley Common we are gradually losing most of our surrounding countryside and it is vital for our wildlife that we create small areas of wilder grassland to support and hopefully increase biodiversity in our lovely village. We hope that you will support the pockets of longer grass as they are so important to provide a diverse environment for all the future inhabitants of our village to enjoy.

Tomato Plant Growing Competition

The Tomato Plant growing competition has been a great success with so much learned by both pupils and staff. One teacher said they had learned that you have to have holes in your pot! The pupils said that they have learned loads about watering and sun, and repotting and support for your plant. It has been a real success! Our tomatoes have grown high, and some wide, all have flowers and many fruit. The pupils at St John's were happy to see most had some tomatoes on with Year 1 having the most tomatoes, 24 and Year 5 being the tallest at 166cm! However, Year 3 had the largest number of flowers so could overtake Year 1! In September and a new school year we are now thinking pumpkins!

Pit Wheel Bed



On a lovely sunny day in June we held our first gardening group, and it was a great success! We weeded the Pit Wheel bed, which is much bigger than it looks and added some beautiful colour with bright Begonias and a variety of blooming Geraniums and it looks so much more cheerful! We are now trying to water

the plants as much as possible in the very dry conditions that we are having at the moment. Our helpers both large and small were wonderful and we hope to have future projects and gardening group events, as we continue to make Mosley Common bloom!

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AROUND THE WORLD



*In UK the campaign group, Women & the Church (WATCH) are seeking a bar on the appointment of diocesan bishops who do not accept the ordination of women.

*In Germany the Roman Catholics face division as Cardinal Marx (Munich) has authorised ceremonies of blessing for same-sex couples.

*A special network for Hispanic populations has been formed by the Anglican Communion. Spanish is spoken by about 636 million people and is the 4th most widespread language.

*A deacon (a Korean-Chinese citizen) from North Korea was caught helping people escape and cross the border about 2010. He also shared his Christian faith with people. Normally that means the death penalty. In November he was released. No explanation given. He is now recovering with his family in China.

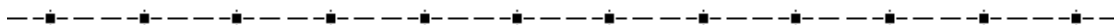
*In Manipur state (India) 3 pastors have been ambushed and killed when their convoy was attacked on their way from a conference. Anti-Christian violence is worst in remote areas where attacks on pastors continues, as well as anti-conversion laws and pressure on Christian institutions are threatened.

*Joseph Vijay has been elected as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadur state in India. He is openly Christian and campaigned on welfare, education, health, women's safety and employment.

*In May talks were held between the Anglican Communion and the Ecumenical Patriarch for the Orthodox Church in Istanbul. The Anglicans included Bishop Michael Lewis formerly Bishop of Manchester and Cyprus and The Gulf.

*On May 17th 14 women were ordained priest for the Church of the Province of Central Africa. The Archbishop addressing them said "Thank you for your patience".

*In USA St Paul's Church, Maryland has been ordered to close its unregulated emergency shelter for the homeless. No identification or sobriety needed. "The ministry is rooted in the gospel call to care for 'the least of these' says the Rector who has no plans to cease the work.



SMILE LINES

*Q. Where do you learn to make ice-cream?

A. Sundae School

*Q. Where did the boat go when it felt sick?

A. Straight to the dock

*Colin: How do you spell Queue?

Brian: 'Q' ...er...'u' ... you only need q, the rest don't matter, they are silent and redundant

Colin: Surely not silent and redundant Brian - they are just waiting their turn.

With thanks to Michael Williamson for all the above

ST STEPHEN'S SCHOOL FAIR



On Saturday 28th June St Stephen's School held their Summer Fair. The weather was beautiful, warm and sunny and plenty of parents and children were in attendance. Quite a few of the stall were manned by our church members. The fair made a grand total of £1210.77 - a great effort by the organisers and a huge "Thank You" to all who helped out and came and spent their money.

Some of the Men's Group manned the "Train Game" - you had to guess at which station the train (Thomas the Tank Engine) would stop - good fun - even some of the adults were having a go.

St Stephen's church members manning the refreshments stall and the tombola stall for the school.



Martin from school overseeing the raffle



THE 1926 COAL MINERS STRIKE AND THE GENERAL STRIKE

*"Do you remember 1926? That summer of soups and speeches,....
The great dream and the swift disaster.." Idris Davies*

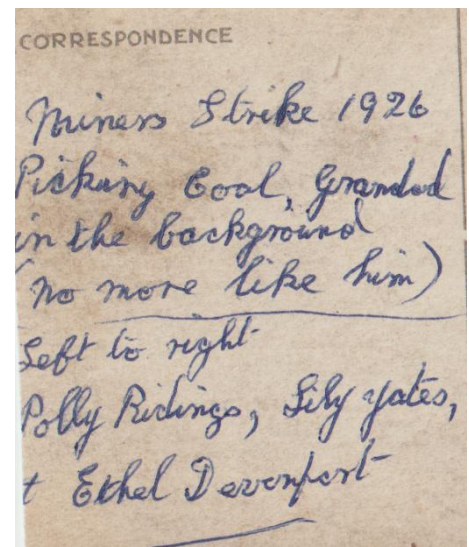
Coal was very important in the 1920s Britain. It was used to heat homes, power trains, and run factories. In 1924, a plan called the Dawes Plan helped Germany. It allowed Germany to sell coal to France and Italy. This extra coal made coal prices lower around the world. In 1925, Winston Churchill, who was in charge of the country's money, brought back the gold standard. This made the British pound very strong. A strong pound made it harder for Britain to sell its coal to other countries.

Mine owners wanted to keep making money. So, they cut miners' wages. Miners' weekly pay had been cut in half over seven years. They were also asked to work longer hours. The Mine owners demanded that miners take pay cuts and work longer shifts and they refused. The miners' famous slogan was: "Not a penny off the pay, not a minute on the day". The owners locked them out of the mines. The miners, about 1.2 million, went on strike. This forced mining families into starvation and poverty with

no wages coming into households. Communal Kitchens were set up in mining areas, often organised by the miner's wives and local authorities and schools provided meals for the children. Miners and their families would go to the coal waste tips and collect the poorer coal in them to fuel their houses. This was against the law, but many would take their families, and sometimes a pram which they would use to hide the coal!

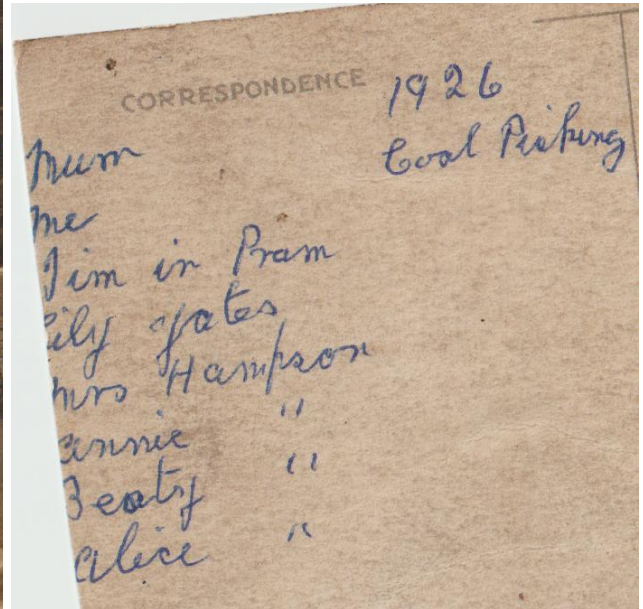


This picture to the left is of striking miners outside the Miners Hall in Tyldesley. (Wikipedia)



This is the Devonport family, from 204 Parr Brew, and friends on the Mosley Common pit rucks in 1926. On the right is the back of the photograph. These pictures are from Mavis Wright whose mum is Ethel on the right, the other girls are her friends.

The miners asked other workers across Britain for help and support. The Trades Union Congress, a group representing many workers unions, organised a massive national strike. The TUC worried that a full national strike could cause too much trouble and they limited who would strike. They called on railway workers, transport workers, printers, dock workers, ironworkers, and steelworkers. So, on May 4th across the country millions of people downed tools and walked out in support of the miners. This brought the country to a standstill. This is known as the General Strike, a strike to support fellow workers.



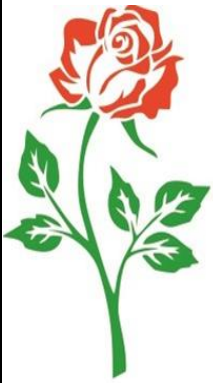
This is the Devonport Family and Hampson family, with pram, off coal picking in Mosley Common. The pram was used to hide the coal in with a wooden plank above and then the baby on top of that!

The government had prepared for the strike for nine months. They created groups like the Organisation for the Maintenance of Supplies. This group helped keep the country running. They used the Emergency Powers Act 1920 to make sure important supplies were available. They used volunteers and the army to keep vital services running such as the railways and other transport systems. This weakened the impact of the strike and when some of the coal miners from Nottingham went back to work it undermined the strike even further.

After nine days, on the 12th May the union leaders called off the general strike, leaving the coal miners to fight alone. The miners stayed on strike for another seven gruelling months, a total of 9 months strike. They eventually ran out of food and money and were forced to surrender and return to work on the owners' terms with drastically less wages, more hours increasing from 7 to 8hrs, and continuing brutal working conditions. Many who had strongly supported the strike were refused work and thrown out of their houses and had to leave their home, often with their families, to find work.

This strike however was also defined by the strength and solidarity of local communities. In just one week in the Rhondda, 18,050 children were fed through a school feeding programme. These stories highlighted the resilience, care, and collective spirit that carried coal mining communities through one of the most challenging periods in their history and would never be forgotten.

*"O what is man that coal should be so careless of him,
And what is coal that so much blood should be upon it?" Idris Davies*



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Mosley Common Historical Society

Mosley Common; The Roots of the Past are Deep

Saturday 19 September - Sunday 20 September

10.00am - 3.00pm

At St Johns Church of England Primary School, Commonsides Road, Mosley Common,
Manchester, Greater Manchester, M28 1AN



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 all are gone?

Our exhibition at St Johns School will tell the story of these events in the past of Mosley Common through images, records, films, maps and word. 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 pasty and mushy peas.

Find out more:

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CHRISTIAN: PERSECUTED OR PREJUDICED

Earlier this year on April 7th a judge ordered the Liberal Democrats to pay damages to David Campanale, a Christian, who was stopped by them from standing for Parliament. The judge said he was unlawfully discriminated against "because of his protected beliefs".



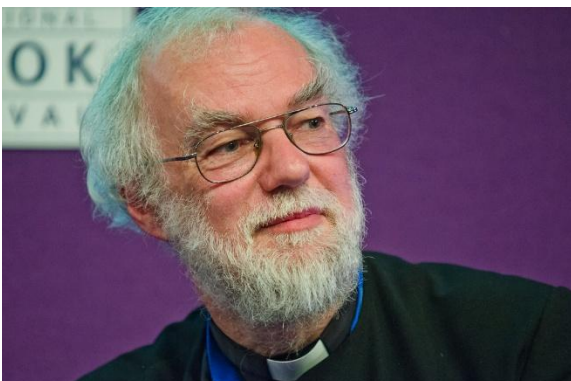
David is a former BBC journalist and a keen Christian joining the Christian Peoples Alliance which gave him a concern to serve and help the community. I guess the Alliance was too small for his vision and the Liberal Democrats provided a bigger platform for him. Lib Dem values reject prejudice and discrimination based on sex, gender and they support same sex marriage and the right to abortion. David genuinely rejects prejudice and discrimination and was happy to accept those Lib Dem values. He became a successful local Councillor (1986-19994) and he was approved by the Party as a parliamentary candidate after he had told them he had been associated with the Christian People's Alliance

(members would probably accept traditional views on gender, sex and not approve of same sex marriage etc).

In 2017 the Party approved him as their prospective parliamentary candidate for Sutton and Cheam. The local Party were not told about his past or Christian associations. David says he never hid his religion, his faith or beliefs and was always open and honest and they could have quizzed him closely. The leaders were antagonistic and very concerned when they discovered his details. They assumed him to be inflexible, selective and dogmatic and so he lost their confidence. They mocked him as a Christian, excluded him from meetings and literature and tried to undermine him. Gradually, they attempted to de-select him, which took place in 2023.



Leading the campaign was Luke Taylor, who replaced him as candidate and is now the MP. Luke was said to want the Lib Dems to build a secular party "We are evidence based. You are religious. David's de-selection was not related to his religion but to his unwillingness to address our concerns" He said the past Party of Shirley Williamson and Charles Kennedy was over. Yet bordering Luke's constituency are 2 Lib Dems who are practising Christians and Ed Davey is a churchgoer.



20,000 people signed David's petition for re-instatement including Rowan Williams (former Archbishop of Canterbury) who said it may become impossible for Christians to stand for Parliament as Lib Dems. (The 2010 Equalities Act protects beliefs including: marriage is exclusive to the union of one man and one woman and abortion is wrong).

So secularists have now joined the ranks of all the other narrow-minded bigots!

However it is true that people don't trust and are wary of the weirdo and the extremist. In the 1650's Cromwell kicked out the long parliament saying he wanted only pure Christians. The resulting parliament is said to be the worst we've ever had! They abolished Christmas - riotous gluttonous behaviour - narrow minded interference with private lives. They forbade mince pies - oval shaped like a cradle & a Popish idolatrous image - prejudiced bigots.

Or the experience of our own school in Droylsden. The Headteacher was shocked and rather hurt when to his letter to parents informing them about the new sex education for juniors they said "NO" to his apparent Christian values. I suppose they feared being told what to do in their private lives! Yet the nativity plays and the school carol services were popular and also the weekly school assembly in church when parents would sit at the back. But we are wary of weirdos and extremists!

Surely the real joyful, life fulfilling experience of Christians who rejoice in Jesus is the one we aspire to. Reflect on our world today. Are we about to be persecuted by Secularists denying our faith, or are we being warned about the danger of prejudice?

Michael Williamson



PRECIOUS MEMORIES

As many of my Church family will know, my dear sister Joan passed away on the 20th June after some six months of deterioration in her health. I want to thank each and every one of you for your kind words, cards and support and especially the hugs at this awfully sad time. It made me reflect on my happy childhood with Mum, Dad, Joan and my sister Phyllis who also died a few years ago.

Looking back I realise now how hard times must have been. Not much money, , food rationing, no television, no telephones no central heating and certainly no luxuries.. Things we now take for granted..



I remember one hot summer evening the three of us had been playing in a small makeshift tent on our lawn which Dad had constructed for us. We decided [well Joan being the eldest decided] that we wanted to sleep in it overnight. Quite a safe thing to do in those days. Mum didn't like the idea but Joan was determined so Mum kitted us out with pillows and blankets. When

Mum and Dad were finally going to bed Mum came out to us and gave us one last chance to change our minds and come indoors to bed. We said no, we were going to sleep outside.. I had no say in the matter really. We heard the back door close but when we heard the door being locked up we screamed to be let back in, banging on the door in fear for our lives. Thankfully Mum let us in again.

It was a happy childhood. Just the occasional "wait 'til your Dad gets home" when we had been naughty. There wasn't much money about so we made our own entertainment. Our imagination created the rest and made precious memories.

Mavis Wright

Mothers' UNION

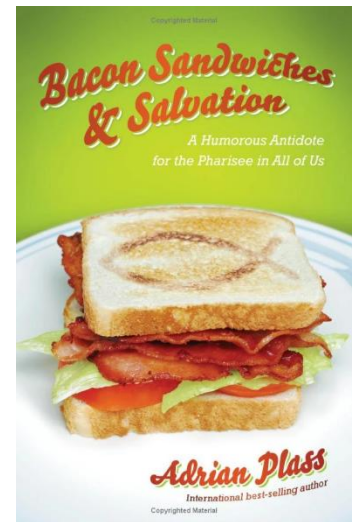
May Meeting – Poetry and Readings

This month the MU members had a poetry evening, where members were able to share poems which were meaningful and evoked memories

Linda Leese read a poem from the book by Adrian PLASS "BACON SANDWICHES AND SALVATION", the book's title comes from a real-life moment when Plass and his wife were asked by their minister what the most important thing in the world was. Plass gave a pious, holy answer ("Salvation") whilst his wife replied with profound wisdom ("Bacon sandwiches")

Adrian has the power to make you laugh one moment and cry the next such is his capacity for words

Jennifer Grimshaw also read out her granddaughter's poem (aged 14) which had been published.



Joan Kinghorn-Hooper

June Meeting

There were 8 members and 4 visitors present for our Hymns and Pimms Night.



Hills of the North Rejoice

Jennifer opened the meeting with prayers.

We all chose a favourite hymn and explained why it was special to us. A variety of hymns had been chosen including Lord of the Dance, O Lord My God, Praise My Soul the King of Heaven, The Lord's My Shepherd, I the Lord of Sea and Sky, Hills of the North Rejoice, He Who Would Valiant Be, Autumn Days, Dear Lord and Father of Mankind, The Day Thou Gavest. The singing was enhanced by Philip, who played for us.

Janet provided the Pimms, which we all enjoyed. The meeting closed with us all saying the Grace.

Jennifer Grimshaw

MU Anniversary

In 2026, we will celebrate 150 years since Mothers' Union was founded in the small parish church of Old Alresford, Hampshire, by Mary Sumner, a vicar's wife with a bold vision. She believed that women, regardless of class or status, could come together in faith to support one another and strengthen family life within the Church.

From that single spark of an idea, a global movement was born - and Mothers' Union has grown to 4 million members across 84 countries.

There are nationwide celebrations

Astley St Stephens branch was asked to contribute to a jigsaw puzzle piece for Mothers Union grand jigsaw puzzle, each branch of the Mother's Union was asked to personalise one piece of the jigsaw which will be displayed in Manchester Cathedral on Mary Sumner's day on August 9th, each branch was asked to consider how Mothers Union had had an impact over the last 150yrs



Mary Sumner

Joan Kinghorn-Hooper

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

Our Next Meetings are:

Aug 19th	7.30pm - Speaker - Brian Topping - "Tales of a Customs Officer"
Sep 16th	7.30pm - Speaker - Tony Stanton - "Research into St Stephen's Old Churchyard"



Magazine Donations - Update

During June and July we once again asked for contributions to the printing costs of the magazine. Thank you to all the people who have so generously donated - as at 6th July we have received the staggering sum of £510.00. Thank you everyone.

The Editorial Team

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TEAM MAGAZINE

We welcome any contributions to the Team Magazine.

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

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 your message out there.

Magazine Contacts - 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
October / November 2026	Wed 26 th August	Tues 8 th September	Jenny Evans

HOW THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SHAPED ANDY BURNHAM

Years ago, a young, upwardly mobile Andy Burnham liked to explain himself to interviewers by saying that there were three institutions that made him, shaped him, meant something to him. They were Everton Football Club, the Labour Party and the Catholic Church. "In that order."

So, perhaps it's fitting that he recently won the Makerfield by-election because Ashton-in-Makerfield has its own important Catholic heritage. There you will find the church of Saint Oswald and Saint Edmund Arrowsmith in which there is a relic of St Edmund - his right hand, all black and desiccated - in a glass jar. Pilgrims of the 18th century would walk miles just to touch it. St Edmund was a Jesuit priest, born in Haydock, who was martyred in 1628. For years he had administered Mass from the wardrobes of families who practised their faith in secret, but eventually he was betrayed and was executed at Lancaster.



During the Makerfield campaign, Andy Burnham spoke in familiar terms of "Eddie Arrows" in reference to St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic school which his three children attended. He also attended Catholic schools as a child, being raised in the Catholic faith by his mother, Eileen. (His father was notionally Protestant but not religious). Burnham has previously said that he and his mother shared an "unshowy" Catholicism. Nevertheless, he had been an altar boy in his youth, as were his brothers, and Eileen revealed that they all used to fight to be the one to carry the Communion plate.

During Burnham's youth the Archbishop of Liverpool was Derek Worlock, a man whom the government considered a dangerous liberal due to his criticisms of Margaret Thatcher and his unsuccessful attempts to mediate in the miners' strike of 1984. But Derek Warlock knew and loved his laity, warts and all, and believed the urban working classes, like those in the pit towns within his Diocese, needed their own style of humane ministry. It was Warlock who took to the steps of Liverpool's Cathedral to preach to 6,000 shellshocked Liverpudlians the day after the Hillsborough disaster. In that spirit he became very close to his Anglican counterpart, Bishop David Sheppard.

The young Burnham watched and listened. "There was, and still is, a direct link between what I was learning at school and at church and Labour values", he has said. "What I was seeing then, in the mid-Eighties- how people were being treated- wasn't an expression of Christian values." The church he knew was compassionate, forgiving, sometimes irreverent. He read the catechism, listened to Warlock, saw the miners striking outside the pit at Golborne where he lived and saw the devastation wrought by Liverpool's decline. He has said that he feels a connection between his two religions (football and the church) and party politics in that they all give a sense of identity, solidarity and values.

After his meeting with Pope Francis in 2023 Burnham praised the Pope as a leader who "spoke for equality and compassion and for humanity". Does this give a hint as to what we can expect from our new Prime Minister? We know he is a believer in people, and voted for the social reforms introduced by Blair's and Brown's governments. He will bring his experience, as much as his faith, to his new role and we hope to see the benefits of that before too long.

Compiled by Michelle Lewthwaite

Ack:- extracts taken from The Times - Weekend Essay by Patrick Maguire

CMS in DR CONGO

The Church Mission Society continues to offer help and hope in the Democratic Republic of Congo in the heart of Africa. It was in January 2025 that M23 rebels seized Goma in the East in a conflict that has raged for 35 years. If you are young then your whole life has been lived in the shadow of violence. Violence, armed robbery, murder and sexual assault is the norm for you. You have no memory of peaceful times. Where can you go for help or for comfort and a talk? You must bottle it up inside.

A 2013 Report speaks of a mental health crisis. The Anglican Bishop of Goma, Martin Gordon a CMS mission partner, speaks of increasing suicide, addiction and domestic abuse with but a handful of social psychiatrists for millions. The church is at the front of recognising this need.

The immediate result of the M23 take over was 8500 deaths, a peak in sexual violence, arbitrary arrests, public beatings and executions, kidnapping, raids on hospitals and hundreds of thousands of displaced persons. The banks, airport, prisons and courts are still closed. However there is slightly more calm, all tense and uneasy, but violence is simmering just under the surface.

The church is the one remaining institution that can be trusted. There is an increase in attendance. People come asking for prayer. Money from Anglicans worldwide has been able to pay for school teachers, clergy and diocesan staff and also to repair schools.

There are good signs of hope. Sixteen new churches have been built for outlying parishes. Twenty two plots of land have been bought for building new churches. Large scale evangelistic campaigns have been held. Two days from Goma, by motorbike, lies Walihale in the forest. Here church leaders are being trained and they are buying land for school buildings and planting new churches. In 2024 there was just a handful of believers, but now there are seventeen churches and nineteen leaders have completed two years of training.

One man attending an evangelistic rally said he was a witch doctor serving ancestral deities but now "glory to God through Jeus Christ, I'm a Christian saved and ready to serve Him"

Bishop Gordon says the big problem as part of our calling as Christians is to pursue peace and reconciliation. All the faith leaders across the city issue joint media statements to change hate and fear and promote a good sense pf community, including sports events.



Peace with God is first priority in the training and then this to be seen in lives and in the community, church and family. After one peace training session leaders from four different ethnic groups took to the stage, joined hands, and gave a public commitments that they would work together to bring healing. More usually they would have been at each other's throats !

Times are very hard in Goma. Many struggle to make ends meet. there is real suffering. However the churches are strong with hope, seeing the faithfulness of God and putting their trust in Him through Jesus.



Michael Williamson

JUST A MINUTE

* "Most of the harm that is done in this world is due to people who want to feel important"

T S Eliot

* The one thing about baldness is that it's neat

* "To see what is front of your nose needs a constant struggle"

George Orwell

* "Sex, Work and Money... are great goods. They are intrinsic to our being made in God's image. If God is second place in your life and one of them is first, you're cooked"

Tim Keller

* Take no thought for the harvest: only for the proper sowing

* "I'm now glad that our search for understanding will never come to an end and that we will always have the challenge of new discovery.... without it we would stagnate"

Stephen Hawking



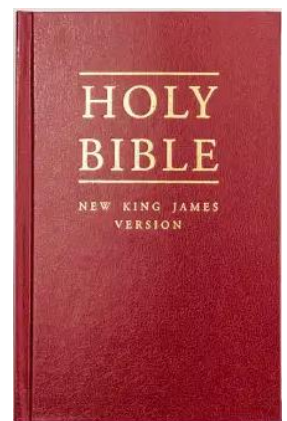
*In 1950 there were an estimated 36 million hedgehogs in the UK. Today (2026) there is an estimated 900,000 of them remaining. Hedgehogs are now officially vulnerable to extinction in UK. Since 2000 there has been an estimated 75% decline. Why? Habitat destruction, fashion for tidy agriculture and horticulture, tightly enclosed gardens, poison, loss of food, road accidents etc.

R.H.S Garden

*Today, in 2026, we have 12,000 fewer firefighters than we did in 2000. This is partly due to ongoing fire prevention work and education with businesses, schools and communities.

*"Well over a quarter of the world's population still has no access to Christianity despite recent Bible translations and advances in missionary work"

Centre for Study of Global Christianity - USA



With thanks to Michael Williamson

**Scan Me!**

Carer In Leigh and local areas?

You deserve a break - and we're here to help. At the HUB, we understand how heavy the responsibility of caring can feel. Take time for you - reassured that your loved one is in good hands.

- Carers Group every second Wednesday of the month
- Specialist Care and Support for all adults 50+
- Warm Welcoming Staff
- Peace of Mind for Carers
- A place that feels like home



About Us:

Established in 2016, we're your local space providing tailored support & care for older adults, including those living with Dementia & learning disabilities. Working in partnership with Wigan Council and the NHS.

Contact us:

 01942 673327 zoe@thehubcic.comwww.thehubcic.co.uk

We are situated within:
Little Rainbows 2 Day Nursery,
30 Bond Street, WN7 1BP

I AM - AUTISM CHARITY

St Stephen's coffee morning, which was organised by Jane Jones in June, raised money in aid of the I AM Autism Charity based in Stretford. **The total raised on the day was an amazing £130 for that charity.**

I AM is a registered charity working with and supporting a wide range of people, aged 10 years and upwards, who have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition (which can also be called Asperger Syndrome, High Functioning Autism or Autistic Spectrum Disorder) as well as their families, guardians and carers in Greater Manchester.



Their Mission is to support, empower, and celebrate **autistic people**. The aim is to be the region's leading developer and provider of autism support services - the **first point of contact** for anyone navigating an autism diagnosis in Greater Manchester. More than a provider, I AM strives to be an **exemplar**, shaping best practice and championing neurodiversity.

The charity was founded in 1968 as the Autistic Society of Greater Manchester Area (ASGMA) by a small group of parents. They began as a support group offering guidance to families with children on the autism spectrum. Over time, this has evolved into a city-wide charity (registered in 2001) dedicated to improving the lives of autistic people.

The charity offers coaching and life support for individuals on the autism spectrum and helps them to build skills in independent living, health and wellbeing, emotional regulation, and daily life navigation. Whether it's learning how to travel independently, manage anxiety, or build confidence, the support is tailored and compassionate.

Autism can often bring social isolation - the charity wants to change that. They run regular group activities, clubs, and peer-based programmes to help people connect, grow friendships, and feel a genuine sense of belonging.

Their services actively support both mental health and physical wellness, recognising the full spectrum of challenges autistic individuals may face. They work to empower every participant to thrive not just survive. I AM supports parents, carers, and guardians too. Monthly support groups, as well as phone and email helplines, provide a safe space to share, learn, and feel heard.

"We know the journey can be overwhelming - you're not alone".

Contact info :- I AM, 1114 Chester Rd, Stretford, Greater Manchester M32 0HL

Tel : 0161 866 8483 Email: enquiries@i-am-autism.org.uk

Charity details supplied by Barbara Grundy



NAME GAME ANSWERS

1. Twiggy 2. Cary Grant 3. Barry Manilow 4. Boris Karloff 5. Freddie Mercury 6. David Bowie
7. Judy Garland 8. Adam Ant 9. Meat Loaf 10. Bob Dylan 11. Tina Turner 12. Eric Clapton
13. Cher 14. Lulu 15. John Wayne 16. Sir Michael Caine 17. Ginger Rogers 18. Big Daddy
19. Adam Faith 20. Dusty Springfield

WHIT WALKS - ST STEPHEN`S

Following our request for more pictures of walking days we received these fantastic photos from Adrian Broom, son of Elsie and Fred Broom. The photos especially caught our interest because of their historic significance.



The photo on the left was taken on Church Road, Astley outside the gates of the old St Stephen`s church. In the background you can just see the National School building which stood there until it was demolished in 1967.

The size and scale of the old church is clear to see in this photo below of children in front of the kindergarten banner. Adrian`s sister Jacqueline is the girl smiling and looking straight at the camera.

Elsie Broom made all her own clothes including this beautiful walking day outfit below. She`s the one looking at the camera. Fred Broom was a great photographer who also developed his own photos.



The next photo also caught our eye because

it clearly illustrates the height of the church tower in the background. It was taken in May 1961. Elsie can be seen with the young Adrian in his pushchair.

We must thank Adrian for taking the time to hunt out these fantastic photos and for emailing them to us.

Scenes like these may have vanished from our community long ago but, thanks to Adrian they are not forgotten.

Michelle Lewthwaite

With grateful thanks to Adrian Broom



MEN`S GROUP VISIT to the AVRO HERITAGE MUSEUM

Some of the Men's Group members set out on a wonderful summers morning to visit the AVRO Heritage Museum at Woodford.

A.V. Roe, from his early days marvelling at the sea birds in flight as a young marine engineer, went on to form a company that was a world leader in so many fields of

aviation. A.V. Roe himself discovered the site in the 1920's while looking for a new and permanent location for him to fly and test his aircraft. This wonderful museum celebrates his company and his vision.



What an amazing experience to be so close to the post-war Avro Vulcan aircraft XM603 and what's more to experience cockpit tours of the Avro Vulcan XM602, the Lancaster (R5868) 'S' Sugar and the Maritime and Multi-Role Hawker Siddeley Nimrod; an experience not to be forgotten any time soon.



Thank you to all who could make this day trip, a most enjoyable time spent together and thanks to the staff at the AVRO museum who gave us their time and shared their in-depth knowledge.

The Men's Group



SMILE LINES

Q. Where do you learn to make ice-cream?

A. Sundae School

Q. Where did the boat go when it felt sick?

A. Straight to the dock

WALK WITH BE WELL



Get active, meet new friends and enjoy the great outdoors.

For more info and to see full timetable of upcoming walks, visit bewellwigan.org/walking

How to book a walk and download the Be Well app:

Step 1: Create Your Account

Visit the booking page: Gladstone Go
<https://bewellwigan.gladstonego.cloud/book>

Select your location (Community Venues), unless walk starts from a leisure centre
Choose **your** activity and click **Book now**
Go to your basket and click **Book now** again

Login or create an account:

If you already have a Be Well account. log in.

If new, fill in your details and confirm via the email link (check junk folder)

Step 2: Download the App

Search "Be Well Wigan" in your App store

Step 3: Activate your Account

Open the app and tap the three-line menu (top left)

Go to Accounts and log in with your email and password.



August Walks - Wednesdays - 11am

- 5th Howe Bridge Sports Centre, Atherton, M46 0PJ
- 12th Damhouse, Astley House Drive, Astley M29 7TX
- 19th Marsland Green, Lay By, Marsland Green Lane, M29 7LH
- 26th Leigh sports Village, Leisure Centre, Sale Way, WN7 4JY

August Walks - Fridays - 11am

- 7th Three Sisters, Three sisters Road, Ashton, WN4 8DD
- 14th Polly's Pond, Kingsdown Road, Abram, WN2 5RN
- 21st Higher Folds Community Centre, Stirling Close, WN7 2UB
- 28th Bridgewater Medical Centre, Henry St Leigh WN7 2PE

September Walks - Wednesdays - 11am

- 2nd Golborne, Tanners Lane Car Park, WA3 3AW
- 9th Leigh RUFC Car Park, Hand Lane, WN7 3NA
- 16th Lilford Park, Elmridge Road, Leigh, WN7 1JE
- 23rd Plank Lane, Pennington Marina, Leigh, WN7 4EZ
- 30th Low hall, Car Park, Liverpool Road, Hindley, WN2 3UA

September Walks - Fridays - 11am

- 4th Fir Tree Flashes, Edna road Car park, Wigan road, WN7 5ES
- 11th Colliers wood, Miners Welfare Car park, Astley, M29 7DW
- 18th Windy Bank wood, Bents Garden Centre, WA3 5NT
- 25th New Manchester, Bridgewater road, near A580, M28 1 AD

We will put the walks for October and November in the next magazine - enjoy



THANK YOU TO MICHAEL WILLIAMSON



In every issue of the magazine you will see what the Editorial Team know as Snippets. These are the little footnotes at the bottom of pages, sometimes humorous, sometimes thought provoking, sometimes spiritual but always entertaining.

Since the magazine started Michael has contributed hundreds of these "Snippets" many of which have been used, some of which are still being held for the perfect opportunity.

But for all these "Snippets" which do not have a contributor name on them and which Michael has provided time and again, Thank You.

Michael has also suggested that his Around the World articles (and also Just a Minute) be set out in a more accessible manner (at the suggestion of Jean, his wife) so that is what we have done - please let us have your feedback on this different format - we are eager to know what the readership feels about this.

Jenny Evans

THE NAME GAME

Think you know the stars? Here's our quiz:

Real celebrity names with a clue as to their identity - but can you guess who they are?

1. Lesley Hornby (1960's icon)
2. Archibald Alexander Leach (sunglasses maybe?)
3. Barry Alan Pincus (who could ask for more?)
4. William Henry Pratt (sounds scary, or is he?)
5. Farrokh Bulsara (the winged messenger)
6. David Robert Jones (danced in the street)
7. Francis Gumm (wore ruby slippers)
8. Stuart Leslie Goddard (was his career flush?)
9. Marvin Lee Aday (a heavy dish)



10. Robert Zimmerman (the names they are a-changin')
11. Anna Mae Bullock (lived near Bushnut, or was it?)
12. Eric Patrick Clapp (too easy)
13. Cheryl Sarkisian (far too long sonny)
14. Marie McDonald McLaughlin Lawrie (a Scotswoman perhaps?)
15. Marion Michael Morrison (was he an aristocrat?)
16. Maurice Joseph Micklewhite (not many people know this...)
17. Virginia Katherine McMath ("Left Right" said Fred)
18. Shirley Crabtree (destined to be a parent)
19. Terence Nelhams Wright (did he find religion?)
20. Mary O'Brien (she was always close at hand)

Find the answers at
the bottom of the
page entitled "I AM -
Autism Charity"

Quiz kindly contributed by Janet Graham

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

The following funerals have taken place in St. George's Church during May, June and July 2026.

21st May Joyce Taylor

8th June Bryan Belcher

15th June Mark Shotton

24th June Hazel Casilli

7th July Linda Jones

14th July Margaret Tooley We are sorry to report the passing of Mrs Margaret Tooley on 22nd June. Margaret was a member of St. George's congregation and had been a member of the Mothers' Union for over 50 years. She will be sadly missed. Our condolences go to John and the family. (Linda Leese)



We wish to offer our sincere condolences to their families and friends with the assurance of our prayers.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Flower Rota

August 2nd Sybil Hall in memory of her mum, dad and Auntie Annie

August 9th Andrea M Taziker in memory of her mum and dad

August 16th Susan and Alan Hiowarth for their parents

August 23rd VACANT

August 30th Mike and Marie Stucky in memory of his parents

September 6th Phil Wood and family in memory of Elsie

September 13th Glenys Robinson and family in memory of Eddie

September 20th Susan and Alan Howarth in memory of their parents

September 27th Elaine Kidd in memory of her husband Alan and parents John and Olwen Hill

Joan Holt 1931 -2026. Joan passed away on 20th June 2025 after a long illness. She was the dear Sister of Mavis Wright, a member of our church family at St John's. Joan grew up in Mosley Common, was married at our church and attended St John's with Mavis. She will be sadly missed and our love and prayers are with Mavis and Joan's family at this sad time

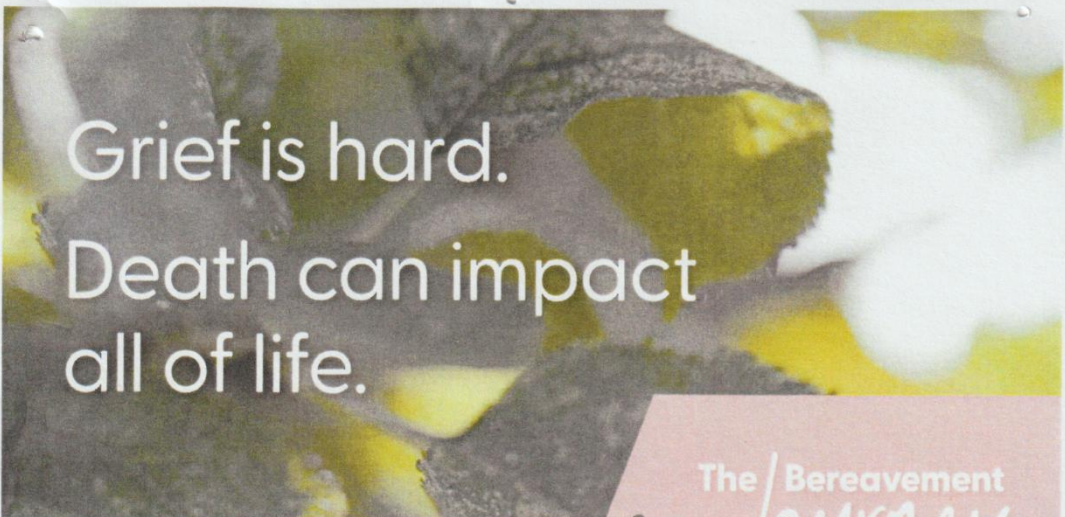


Tom Knox. We also sadly announce the passing of Tom, Maureen's Husband, on 7th July after a long illness His funeral will take place on 3rd August at St John's and we extend our sincere condolences to Maureen and all his family.

David Alan McCormick (Dave) 19th June 1947 - 24th June 2026. It is with sadness that we report the death of David on 24th June. Dave worshipped at St John's Church in the 1980's and 1990'S with his family. Dave was born in Salford and lived in Boothstown for many years. Dave was a wonderful dad to his three children and a loving grandad. He was calm, a kind, gentle man and a friend to many. He had a strong Christian faith and was a faithful witness to many others. An accountant, by profession, he

became Treasurer at St John's and for many years was the Examiner of the annual accounts for all three churches. When Dave left St John's he went to worship at Elmwood in Salford. His funeral took place on the 13th of June at Howe Bridge and a Memorial Celebration was held at Elmwood on 17th June. At this service we learned that his strong faith shone through and he was always ready to serve. He had been Treasurer at Elmwood and also on a voluntary basis for many other organisations. He had used his considerable financial knowledge for many even through his illness. Dave will be fondly remembered and much missed. May he 'Rest in Peace'.

Marie and Mike Stuckey.



Grief is hard.
Death can impact
all of life.

The Bereavement
Journey.
a place to talk

7 Sessions of films
and discussion
for *anyone* bereaved *anytime*

Topics include:

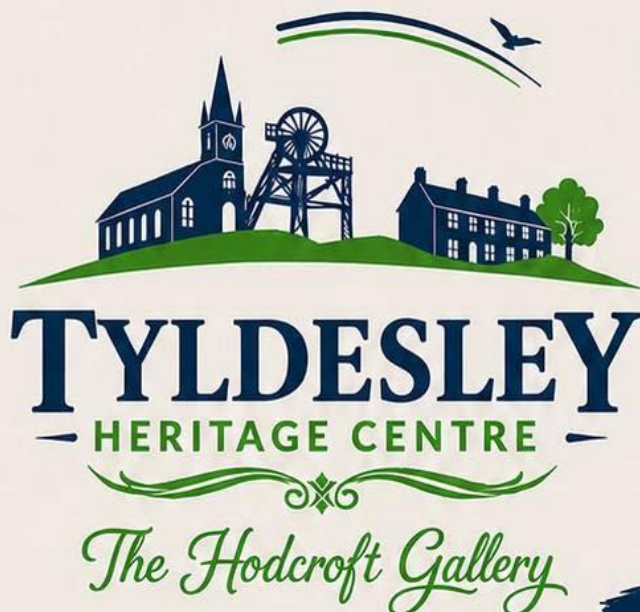
- Attachment, separation and loss
- The pain and responses of grief
- Anger and guilt
- Coping with others' reactions
- Delayed and suppressed grief
- Adjusting to change
- Moving forward healthily
- Faith questions – a Christian perspective (optional)

To find out more visit:
thebereavementjourney.org

Running soon:

**Wednesday from 7pm
to 9pm
Sept 2nd to Oct 14th
incl**

in St John's church lounge
Mosley Common M281AN
To book a place contact
Graham Ridge 073962060 or
Diane Leakey 07503195547



**WE ARE
OPENING**
FROM
SUNDAY 12 JULY!

Everyone Welcome!

**FREE
ENTRY!**



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Why not try Tyldesley's new Heritage Centre?
We have a ghost trail, detective search,
dress up, and colouring.



**WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT
THE PLACE YOU LIVE?**

Come and find out about Tyldesley,
from the Romans to the present day.



**WE ARE A COMMUNITY RESOURCE,
RUN BY LOCAL VOLUNTEERS.**



SUMMER OPENING TIMES

SUNDAY 2PM – 4PM



MONDAY 2PM – 4PM

TUESDAY 2PM – 4PM

WEDNESDAY 10AM – 12 NOON

FRIDAY 10AM – 12 NOON

Follow us on Facebook for our latest
opening times, news and events.

**DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF TYLDESLEY
FROM THE ROMANS TO THE PRESENT DAY**



**UNCOVER THE HIDDEN STORY OF
TYLDESLEY'S UNIQUE MINERS'
UNDERGROUND TRAINING GALLERY.**



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UPPER GEORGE STREET, TYLDESLEY**
VISIT US AND UNCOVER YOUR LOCAL HISTORY!

Damhouse 40's Weekend



Wartime Bobby



GI Joes



German Officers



Army and Air



Lovely Outfits



Lancashire Belle



*Kyle Roberts - George Formby
Tribute*



Wartime First Aider



American Jeep