



Astley, Tyldesley and Mosley Common

Team Magazine



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

October - November 2026



God commanded the earth to sprout all kinds of vegetation - seed-bearing plants and fruit-bearing trees, and it was so. . . and God saw that it was good.

Gen 1:11-12

KEY TEAM CONTACTS

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As I sit here on 26th August pondering about the editor's note for this magazine I have just learned the news that Dolly Parton has passed away. What a shock !! I listened to her music for most of my life but, apart from her music, she appeared to have a wonderfully realistic grasp on life. "The way I see it, if you want the rainbow you gotta put up with the rain" "Storms make trees root deeper" both sayings of hers showing perseverance, resilience and growth through challenges. "You'd be surprised how much it costs to look this cheap" " I always thought if you see someone without a smile, give them yours" - showing her humour, self-confidence, generosity and positivity. She was a superstar but also a remarkable philanthropist, giving millions to charity and also founding the Imagination Library in 1995 which encourages children into reading by sending them an age appropriate book each month, from the ages of 0-5, at no cost to the families. "I just give from my heart" she always said. And maybe that should be our mantra going forward "I just give from my heart" be it money, ideas, time or anything else that God and the Church need from us.

"When I get where I'm going and I see my makers face
I'll stand forever in the light of His amazing grace"

When I Get Where I'm Going by Brad Paisley (feat Dolly Parton)

Jenny Evans

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

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

REFLECTIONS : A New Chapter

Greetings to you all.

As I write this, it is Friday afternoon. As I look outside through my window, I can see the rain falling over the beautiful Saddleworth countryside. The hills are misty, the fields are green, and everything seems a little quieter under the rain. The summer months are beginning to give way to September, and the countryside itself seems to remind us that one season is changing into another.

It feels like an appropriate moment to write my first article for our ATMC magazine, about three weeks before my Licensing and Installation as your Team Rector. As the season changes around us, I too am preparing to begin a new chapter in my ministry.

I must confess that I feel a little nervous. There is excitement about beginning a new chapter, but also a real sense of the responsibility and privilege that comes with being called to serve a new community. Although I have not yet had the opportunity to meet many of you, through the discernment process I have come to know a little about the life of ATMC, and I have had the opportunity to meet a few people over the last couple of weeks. I am very much looking forward to getting to know more of you and sharing in the life of our churches and communities.

Even before I have had the opportunity to meet many of you, we have already experienced your welcome in very practical ways. I want to say a special thank you to everyone who has helped us as we prepare to move into St John's Vicarage. Some have given their time to help with painting, one person kindly brought us a tin of paint, and others have dropped cards through the door. Our churchwardens also kindly gave us a bag full of essential things for the house, which came at just the right time and was a great help while we were decorating and preparing the vicarage.

These may seem like small things, but for us they have been a real expression of welcome and kindness. Even before I officially begin my ministry among you, you have already begun to make us feel at home. For that, Neeta, the boys and I are very grateful.

That welcome has also made me reflect on what it means to begin a new ministry among people whose story has already begun. As I prepare to begin this ministry, I keep coming back to St Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 3:6

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth."

Those words remind us that the Church belongs to Christ. Many people have planted and watered in the life of the ATMC Team before I arrive. Priests, lay ministers, churchwardens, PCC members, volunteers, families and many others who have given their time, prayers and gifts. I come into a story that has already begun, and I am grateful for all that has gone before me. My hope is to build on that good work as I listen, learn and lead, and together discern where God is calling us next.

That image of planting and growth seems especially appropriate as we move into the season of Harvest. A farmer can prepare the soil and plant the seed but cannot make it grow. Much of the work happens quietly and beyond our sight. The same is true in the life of the Church. A conversation, a prayer, a welcome given to someone who is new, a child hearing about Jesus, or a person finding hope in a difficult season may seem like a small thing. Yet God can use these small acts of faithfulness in ways we may never see.

So, I pray that, together, we will faithfully plant and water, trusting God with the growth. I pray that our churches will continue to be places where people can come as they are, discover the love of God, grow in faith and find a place where they belong. And I pray that we will look outward as well as inward, serving our communities and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in both words and actions.

As I prepare for my Licensing and Installation, I look forward to meeting you properly, worshipping with you and beginning this new chapter together. I come with gratitude for the call to serve among you and with confidence that God is already at work in the life of our churches. I look forward to discovering together what he has in store for us.

Please pray for me and for my family as we prepare to make our home among you. I will be praying for you too, asking God to give us wisdom, patience, courage and joy as we begin this journey together.

The coming months will bring new opportunities, new relationships and, I am sure, some challenges too. But we begin with confidence in the faithfulness of God. He has been faithful to his Church in the past, he is faithful to us now, and we can trust him with the future.

With gratitude for the call to serve among you, and with hope for what lies ahead, I look forward to this new chapter.

With every blessing,

Revd Sachin S Awale
Team Rector

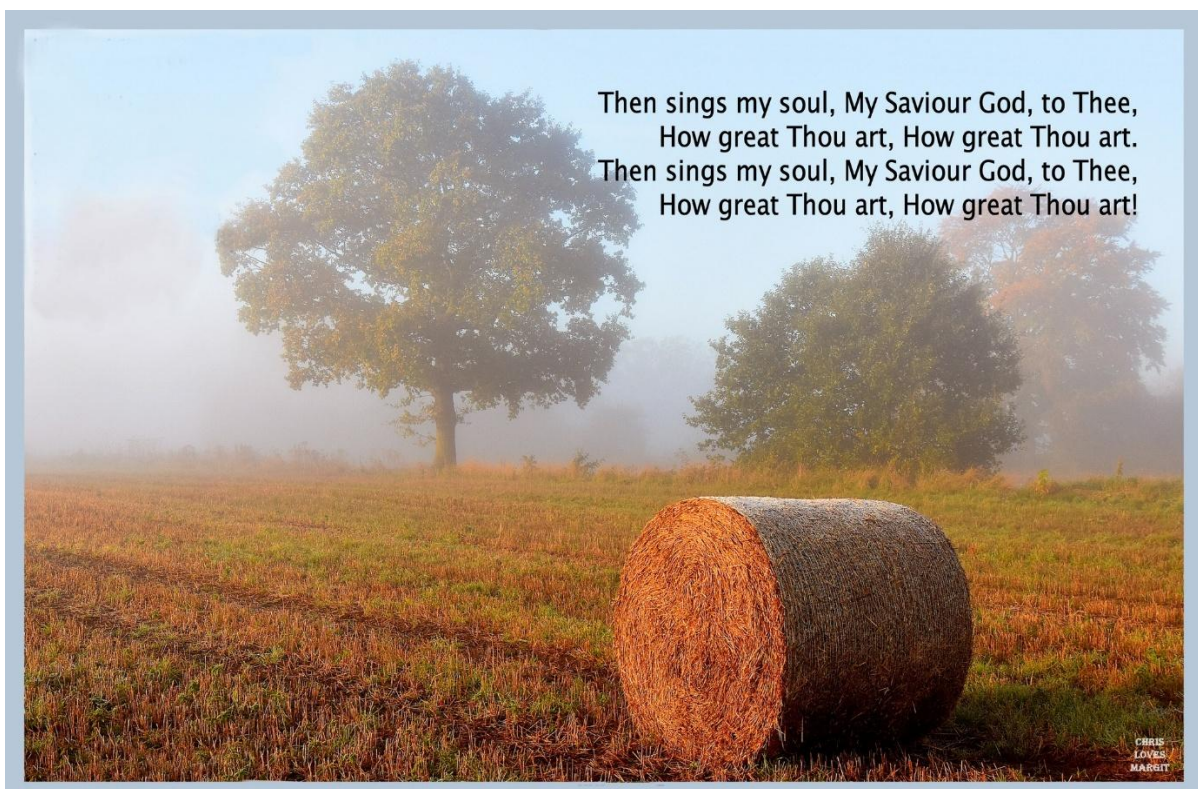
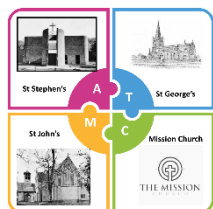


Photo courtesy of Chris Saunders



Where to find worship services across the Team in October and November

Date	St Stephen's	St George's	St John's	Mission Church
1st October Thursday		7pm Team Rector Licensing Service		
4th October Sunday	10am Service of the Word <i>Harvest</i>	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church	2.30pm Café Church
8th October Thursday	10am Thursday Team Communion			
11th October Sunday	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion 12.30 Baptisms	2.30pm Service of the Word
17th October Saturday	3pm Stepping Up			
18th October Sunday	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church 12.30 Baptisms	10am Service of the Word	2.30pm Café Church
25th October Sunday	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church	2.30pm Communion
29th October Thursday	10am Thursday Team Communion			

29th Oct 3.30pm Communion Service at The Rowans, Lindale Road, Mosley Common M28 1BG

26th Nov 3.30pm Communion Service at The Rowans, Lindale Road, Mosley Common M28 1BG

Date	St Stephen's	St George's	St John's	Mission Church
1st November Sunday	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	2.30pm Café Church
8th November Remembrance Sunday	9am Service of the Word with Act of Remembrance + 12.30pm Act of Remembrance at Astley Memorial	9am Service of the Word with Act of Remembrance + Parade from Square to Tyldesley Cemetery and Act of Remembrance at Cross of Sacrifice	9am Service of the Word with Act of Remembrance	2.30pm Service of the Word
14th November Saturday	3pm Stepping Up			
15th November Sunday	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church	2.30pm Café Church
19th November Thursday	10am Thursday Team Communion			
22nd November Sunday	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word	10am Team Communion	2.30pm Communion
29th November Sunday Advent 1	10am Team Communion	10am Café Church	10am Service of the Word	2.30pm 5 th 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 on line 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 - OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

St Stephen's and locally

Oct 13th	House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Rd hosted by John Howarth. The theme is meeting the Spirit and all are welcome. Tel 07471 460 988. The Spirit speaks, 1 Corinthians ch2
Oct 17th	10.00am - 12.00pm St Stephen's Coffee Morning - in church meeting room
Oct 21st	7.30pm - St Stephen's Mothers Union - In House Entertainment - Janet Graham
Oct 24th	Damhouse - Halloween Hunt £4.00 per child - 01942 876417 or info@damhouse.net for more info or check our website
Oct 27th	House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Rd hosted by John Howarth. The theme is meeting the Spirit and all are welcome. Tel 07471 460 988. The Spirit Renews, John ch3: 1-8
Nov 10th	House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Rd hosted by John Howarth. The theme is meeting the Spirit and all are welcome. Tel 07471 460 988. The Spirit Empowers, Acts ch6: 1-15 and ch7: 54-60.
Nov 18th	7.30pm - St Stephen's Mothers Union - Speaker - Epiphany Trust - A Children's Charity
Nov 21st	10.00am - 12.00pm St Stephen's Coffee Morning - in church meeting room
Nov 24th	House Group meet at 8pm at 33 Ullswater Rd hosted by John Howarth. The theme is meeting the Spirit and all are welcome. Tel 07471 460 988. The Spirit Guides, Acts ch16: 1-15.
Nov 28th	Damhouse - Christmas Craft Fair and Santa's Grotto - 10.00am to 3.00pm - 01942 876417 or info@damhouse.net for more info or check our website
Nov 28th	Parkside Colliery Male Voice Choir - St Stephens - 7.30pm Tickets £10.00
Dec 7th	Wreath Making at St Stephen's - with Mulled Wine and Mince Pies - Afternoon Session 1.00pm to 3.00pm Evening Session 6.30pm to 8.30pm - £5.00 pay on the day

St George's Diary dates for October and November 2026

8th October - The Early Doors Club, 5-8pm - Trampoline

Please note this event is taking place on a Thursday evening this month.

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.humanitix.com/host/the-early-doors-club> to book, or contact Susie Mallon on 07873 149627 for information.

19th October - Brass Band Concert: Trinity Girls

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.

8th November - Brass Band Concert: Trinity Girls

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.

27th November- The Early Doors Club, 5-8pm: Steve Pilgrim

Please note this event is taking place on a Thursday evening this month.

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.humanitix.com/host/the-early-doors-club> to book, or contact Susie Mallon on 07873 149627 for information.

29th November - Tyldesley Christmas Markets: the regular Makers Market moves indoors this month. More details to follow,

Regular events continue with:

Team Prayers

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

Place of Welcome @ St George's

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

Mosley Common Diary Dates

Oct 10th Astley Unlimited Band at St John's Church, Mosley Common. Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets £8.00 per person non-refundable. Contact Joan Taylor 01942 870095.

Oct 12th Mosley Common Historical Society Meeting 7pm in the Lounge at St. John's Church, Mosley Common. John Blackledge 'Stonehenge, the Druids, and Lineages'. With Prehistoric refreshments including flowerpot bread!

Nov 9th

Mosley Common Historical Society Meeting 7pm in the Lounge at St. John's Church, Mosley Common. Andrea Taziker. Tales from the Mosley Common War and War Memorials. With interesting wartime refreshments.

Regular events continue with

St John's Mosley Common. Place of welcome Café

Come and join Jean and Joan for our weekly café in the church lounge

Tuesdays from 10.00 - 12.00

Contact Jean 07817 857988 or Joan 01942 870095 for any queries

St John's Mosley Common. Toddler Group

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

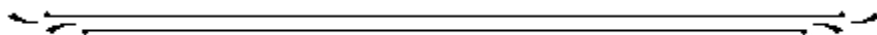
Welcome to CAMEO. Come And Meet Every One

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

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

For further info contact Marje on 07519 853279

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



PARKSIDE COLLIERY MALE VOICE CHOIR



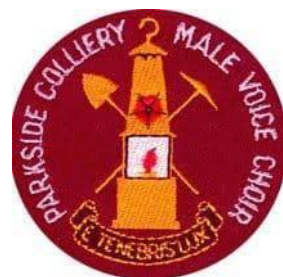
Saturday 28th November 2026, 7:30 p.m.

Venue ; St Stephen's Church Astley.

Join us and enjoy a fabulous evening with a variety of music and fun with the Parkside Colliery Male Voice choir.

Tickets £10 (including light refreshments) are available from St Stephen's church Elaine - Church warden or Jennifer Grimshaw on behalf of the choir.

Elaine 07926698719 Jennifer 07840867220.



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ST STEPHEN'S MENS GROUP BARBEQUE



What a wonderful afternoon we had at the Family BBQ on Saturday 5th September.

The sun was shining and the 60 or so guests were seated under the marquees which were set up outside the church building and on the field. Guests were drawn not just from our own church family but also from friends in the Team and local families.

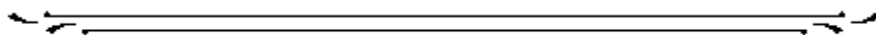
The members of the Men's Group had worked hard in the preparation of the site and at the event, supported by a number of very willing volunteers. Thanks must go to the members of St. Stephens Church for supporting us with the many gifts which they donated as raffle prizes and supporting the event in so many ways.

Thanks also to Tesco Stores by supplying the bread for the BBQ at no cost.



We are pleased to report that we made £935.00 for our two charities, Mission Aviation Fellowship and Wigan and Leigh Hospice. A big thank you to everybody who supported us in any way.

Keith Revill



Diner to waitress "What's the duck like?"

Waitress: "It's like chicken but it can swim"



Michael Williamson

MISSION CHURCH AT SHAKERLEY

A Fun Day was held on Saturday 29th August. The community came together in a way only Shakerley can! At the centre of it was Café Eva volunteer Becky Barnett, whose hope was simple and heartfelt: to create a day where everyone felt welcomed and able to enjoy time together.

Becky and co-volunteer Caroline were supported by Rev Cath and Hal in completing and submitting grant forms to Wigan Tenant Voice. Once the grant was approved, Becky and Caroline worked together on the planning and preparation for the day, with other volunteers gladly stepping in to help — a real team effort from start to finish. On the day itself, volunteers worked hard to keep everything running smoothly, but they also enjoyed being part of it all, sharing in the fun and the sense of community.

Bookings were taken, with children needing to be accompanied by an adult, although plenty of families also walked in on the day. There was more than enough food for everyone. Burgers, hot dogs and chips were free for all children, along with a drink. Café Eva was open too, offering reasonably priced food and drinks for adults or anyone who wanted something extra.

There was plenty to enjoy throughout the day. Indoors, a DJ and entertainer kept things lively, with visits from cartoon characters, Stitch and Bluey, adding to the excitement. There were games, dancing, candy floss, face painting and a photo booth in the main hall. In the café area, Sarah's homemade lanyards, a tombola and a raffle. Outside, a real highlight for the children, the Fire Service brought their engine, and many loved climbing in and having their photo taken. Local PC Gill even arrived in a Police Van — on what should have been her day off.

Another lovely part of the day was having the Be Well Team involved. Darren, Joanne and Joe are such familiar, friendly faces in Café Eva, and it meant a great deal to have them with us, along with their colleague Chantel. We're always grateful for the way they support our community, and it was wonderful to see them sharing in the day. Joanne, who is Community Health Improvement Coach (TABAs) with the Be Well Team in Wigan Council's Strategy & Innovation Directorate, sent the following words:

'It was lovely for our organisation to be able to attend Shakerley fun day last weekend and raise our profile within the community while gathering valuable community insight. We felt like we had a really good presence and by showing an interest in the community, managed to engage with a lot of the community, family's and children. Everyone was very welcoming to us. The prizes we brought and the spin the wheel that the children could have a go at after providing some community insight from them and their parents seemed to go down a treat and they obviously liked the gifts that they could win. We also went around handing out pictures for colouring and crayons which again went down really well. We bought 4 or 5 bags of toothcare products for the children but in hindsight we could have brought a lot more. We also had fruit and bottled water which people could help themselves to. After consistently turning up at the centre over the last few months and getting involved in the community we feel we are building really good trusting relationships and all the insight we gather gets fed back and we constantly follow it up so we can contribute to building on the brilliant work that's being done at the community centre. It was lovely to see the children and families partaking in everything that had been put on for them and their happy faces. It would be good at future events if we could get the family hub to have a presence and become directly involved with the community again.'

Everyone who played a part, too many to name, were appreciated and thanked. It was a real team effort from start to finish. Team and community would like to thank Caroline, and especially Becky whose ideas and hard work set it all in motion. They both agreed the whole day was full of joy and community spirit. As they said themselves: *"An amazing day, enjoyed by all!"*



Becky, Stitch and Caroline in the photo booth



Setting Up



Photo Shoot in the Fire Engine



Meeting Bluey

Something that is unfolding at Mission Church is the way volunteers and those who belong to our church community are using their own initiative to gain recognition and build on the work we're doing together in Shakerley. Among them is Kirk Tuckwell, who, along with his wife Toni and their young children, Georgia and Bobby, became actively involved from the very early days. When a new community fridge was needed recently, Kirk approached his employers, Currys Distribution in Bolton. Although the company often supports charitable organisations, it was Kirk's initiative that opened the door. They very kindly donated a fridge-freezer for the community fridge, along with a chest freezer. This is now used to store meals that are batch-cooked by Café Eva staff — both for food parcels and for sale at a very reasonable price — as well as other foods that support the wider community.

The dispatch office at Currys, Bolton now has a permanent box where food donations can be given towards Shakerley Community Food Bank. In August they held a Bake Off, which brought in generous donations of both food and money for the Food Bank. Another one is planned for October, with Shakerley once again being the recipient of their kindness.

We would all like to say a big thank you to Kirk for his initiative, and to Currys for their generous help and ongoing support.

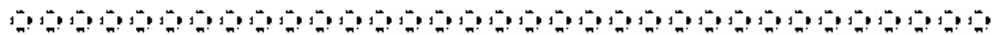


Kirk putting the new Community Fridge in place.



Chest Freezer

Contributed by Rev Eileen Hartigan for Mission Church at Shakerley



St John's Flower Rota

4th October	David Watkinson in memory of his parents, sisters Elsie, Francis & brother John
11th October	Maureen & Tom Knox in memory of Johanna Tilson
18th October	Susan & Alan Howarth for their parents
25th October	Andrea Taziker in memory of Margaret & Alan Goddard
1st November	Maureen & Tom Knox in memory of parents Connie & Percy, Isa & David
8th November	Mavis Wood in memory of Alan
15th November	Joanne Haigh in memory of her parents Ann & Victor & their parents
22nd November	Ann Hilton in memory of James and Edith Hilton
29th November	Mavis & Joan in memory of their niece Barbara



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DO NOT ASK ME TO REMEMBER

Do not ask me to remember,
Don't try to make me understand,
Let me rest and know you're with me,
Kiss my cheek and hold my hand.

I'm confused beyond your concept,
I am sad and sick and lost.
All I know is that I need you,
To be with me at all cost.

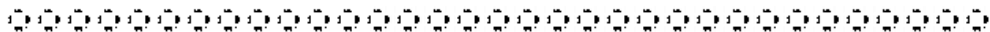
Do not lose your patience with me,
Do not scold or curse or cry.
I can't help the way I'm acting,
Can't be different though I try.

Just remember that I need you.
That the best of me is gone.
Please don't fail to stand beside me,
Love me 'til my life is done



Forget-me-Nots

*Owen Darnell(for the Alzheimers Society)
Contributed by Jean Driver*



GOD'S LOVE AND BLESSINGS



PROVERBS Ch12 v10 says that the righteous care for the needs of their animals because caring for a defenceless creature is a way of reflecting God's love. Every time you give your dog water, food, or a safe place to live, you are not just caring for a pet, you are fulfilling a purpose, because God placed a living being into your hands who cannot speak, who cannot ask for help with words and He trusted you to be

their voice, their protector, their home and that is why, when you are kind to someone who can never repay you, Heaven takes notice.

It is no coincidence that people who love and care for their animals often experience more peace, more gratitude and more blessings in their own lives, because the love you give always finds its way back to you. So, if today you cared for your dog, your cat or any animal that depends on you, God saw it, and your blessing is already on its way.

Jean Kendrick

"The righteous know the needs of their animals"

PRAYERS

- October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Remember in your prayers all those affected by this and any other form of cancer, the health professionals who care for them and those undertaking research into a cure.
- Remember in your prayers all those young people starting university, especially those leaving home for the first time. Pray that God will protect and guide them as they begin this new phase of their lives.
- As we celebrate Harvest at the beginning of October, thank God for the food we enjoy from across the world but most especially that grown locally. Remember the work of farmers, growers and those who process and transport our food. Pray for those who have little to eat and for a more fair and equal distribution of everything God has provided.
- As we commemorate in November those who have given their lives in previous conflicts, pray too for the men and women currently serving in whatever capacity in our armed forces across the world. Give thanks for their service and for the support they receive from their families, those who travel with them and those who stay behind.



Contributed by Sara Yarwood

A Prayer for All Souls day 2nd November 2026

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

A Prayer for those who have died on active service

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

THE HOPE OF THE SAINTS - EPHESIANS CH1 11-23 AND LUKE CH6 20-31

On Sunday 1st November we celebrate All Saints Day and 2nd November is All Souls Day. On these days we pause to remember the great cloud of witnesses, those who have gone before us in faith, whose lives, though imperfect, reflected the light of Christ. It's a time of both remembrance and renewal. We remember those who showed us what love looks like, and we renew our call to live as saints, not distant, flawless heroes, but ordinary people through whom God's extraordinary grace shines.



In Ephesians 1, Paul writes with overflowing gratitude. He reminds the church that in Christ "we have obtained an inheritance". That inheritance isn't money or land it's the hope of salvation, the promise that our lives are caught up in the eternal purposes of God. Paul says "God has made known to us the mystery of his will....to gather up all things in Christ".

That's what the saints believe, that everything, even sorrow and death, will one day be gathered into God's redeeming love. Paul prays that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened to know three things; the hope to which we are called, the riches of God's glorious inheritance among the saints and the immeasurable greatness of God's power.

That is the power that raised Jesus from the dead, and it is the same power at work in us. Think about that; the same power that rolled away the stone, that brought life from death, is still stirring in the hearts of God's people today. That's what makes the saints shine, not their own strength, but the power of resurrection at work within them.

When we turn to Luke chapter 6 we read that Jesus lifts up the Beatitudes, blessings that turn the world upside down. "Blessed are you who are poor...blessed are you who hunger... blessed are you who weep". Jesus is not praising suffering for its own sake. He's revealing that in God's kingdom those who seem forgotten are actually held closest. The saints have always understood this; that God's favour rests not on the mighty, but on the merciful; not on the rich, but on the compassionate; not on those who win, but on those who love.



Jesus then says something even more radical: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you." This is the heart of sainthood. To love when the world hates. To forgive when wounded. To give when nothing will be returned. The saints have never been saints because they were perfect, they were saints because they dared to love as Jesus loves.

And that's what we are called to do too. On All Souls Day we remember those who embodied that love in our own lives, the grandmother who prayed for us, the friend who stood by us in our darkest hour, the church member who served quietly and faithfully for decades. They were saints not because they were famous, but because their lives pointed us towards Christ.

When Paul prays that we would know "the hope to which we are called", he's inviting us to see ourselves in that same story. The saints are not just the names in stained glass or on memorial plaques. They are

the living, breathing community of believers who trust that God's light is stronger than death, and who live with that hope shaping every choice they make.

So, as we light candles and speak the names of those we love on All Souls Day, we should give thanks, not only for what God has done in their lives, but for what God is still doing in ours. The inheritance of the saints is ours too. Their hope is our hope. Their faith becomes our faith.

May the eyes of our hearts be enlightened, that we may see the hope, the power and the glory that is already ours in Christ Jesus.

And may we live so that, when others look at us, they too will see the light of the saints, the light of Christ, shining in us.

*Jonathan Ruhumuliza
(November 2025)*



DAYS GONE BY - PARISH CONCERT NOVEMBER 1996

Happy memories were stirred when we received this photo from Joan Hartley of St Stephen's.

It's a backstage photo of the cast of a parish concert held in November 1996, and there are several people you might recognise, including people from St John's church.

As you can see from the costumes and props in the photo there was a war time theme to the concert but there was definitely no sombre mood to it. The script was apparently written by Kathleen Gregory and, by all accounts, it was extremely funny. I wish someone had recorded it at the time!



Back row Hilda Walmsley, Evie Steele, Joyce Carter, Gladys Jones, Pauline Roberts, Donald Pearson, Arthur Hughes, Kath Gregory, Rhona Campbell, Ruth Wright and Christine Darlington

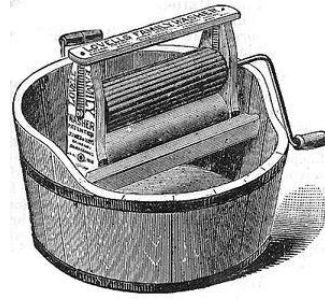
Seated Margaret Goddard, Joan Hartley and Sylvia Taziker.

Thank you to Joan for the loan of the photo.

Michelle Lewthwaite

CLOCK WATCHER – A POEM

Dolly tubs, posers and wringers,
Vera Lynn and Wesleyan singers,
Blackouts and gas masks, nothing to fear,
Sirens, shelters and the all clear.



Coldest winters, thick ice on the glass,
Food rations and forty kids in a class,
Our soldiers fought so hard and did us proud,
Invaded France and lifted the German cloud.

Beatles, Stones, Elvis rock and roll,
Pop music now a change from Soul,
Oil, gas and nuclear forever going green,
Electric cars, wind and solar in your dreams.



We`ve never been as old as we are today,
Not much fun having a birthday,
I`ve tried so hard to stop the clock,
All this technology yet time runs amok.

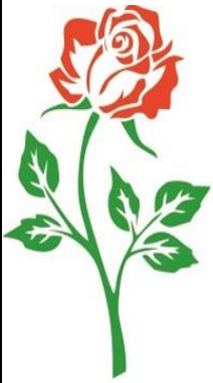
How did we get here so quick?
Keeping busy did the trick.

Harry Matthews



SMILE LINES

- My mind is like an internet browser. At least 19 open tabs, three of them are frozen and I have no clue where the music is coming from.
- My granddad always said, "Where one door closes, another door opens." Lovely man. Terrible joiner.



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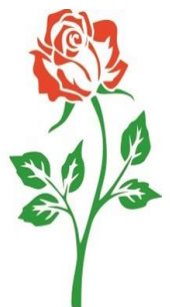
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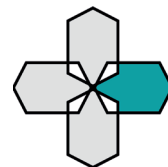


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With guest speaker, Bishop Matthew Porter

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To book, scan the QR code or visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1992571301401>

Saturday 10th October
10am-1pm (registration
from 9.30am)



St. Andrew's CE Primary
School, Vicars Hall Lane,
Boothstown, M28 1HS

DAYS GONE BY - ST STEPHEN`S CHOIR

More happy memories were stirred when we received these photos from Christine Darlington of St Stephen`s.

The first one was taken of the choir in front of the altar at St Stephen`s church in April 1978.



In this photo we think you will find: Charles Tonge (left of back row with the staff), Harry Gregory, Olwyn Gregory, Kathleen Gregory, Ruth Wright, Alice Banks, Bill Tooley, Elsie Broom, Evie Steele, Alan Steele, Harriet Davies, Christine Darlington, Gladys Jones, Ron Barrow, Jessie Barrow, Leslie Emmett, Joanne Thompson (daughter of Joyce), Joyce Thompson (wearing the black vergers outfit), Rev Jack Finney and Frank Speakman amongst others.

This second photo was also taken in front of the altar at St Stephen`s, possibly in the year 1983 when John Findon became vicar.

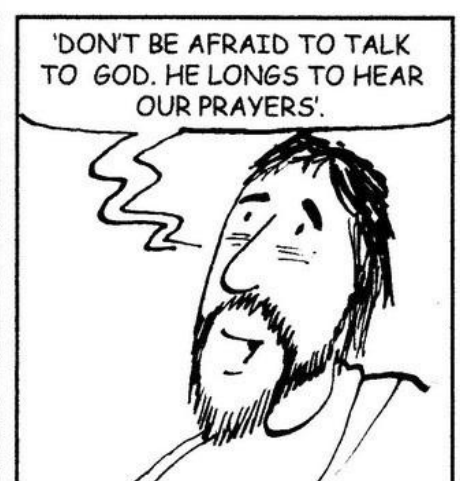
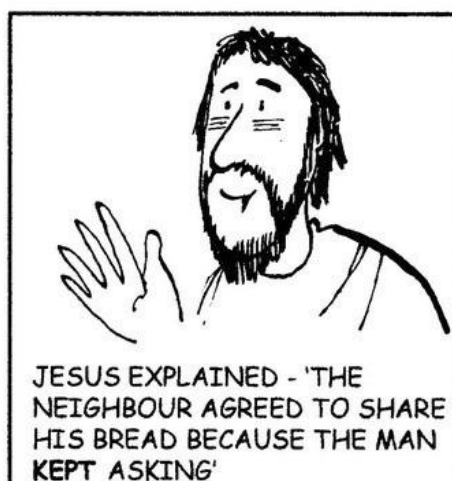
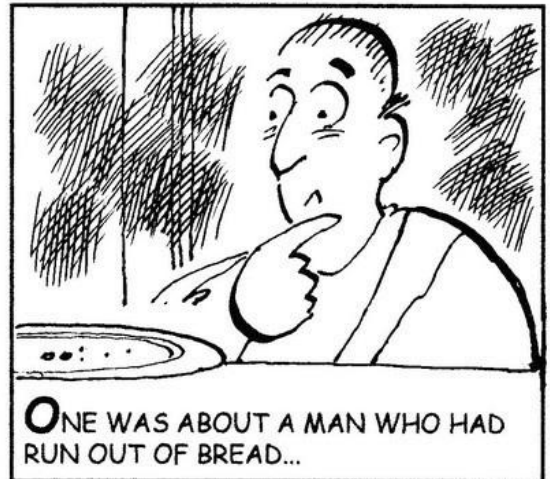
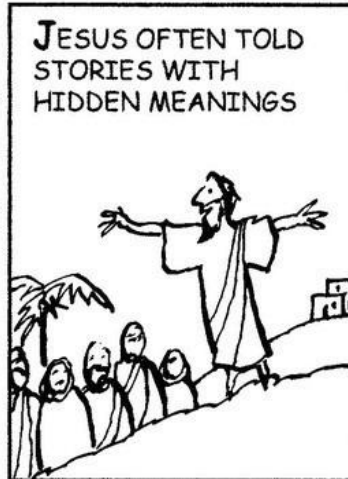


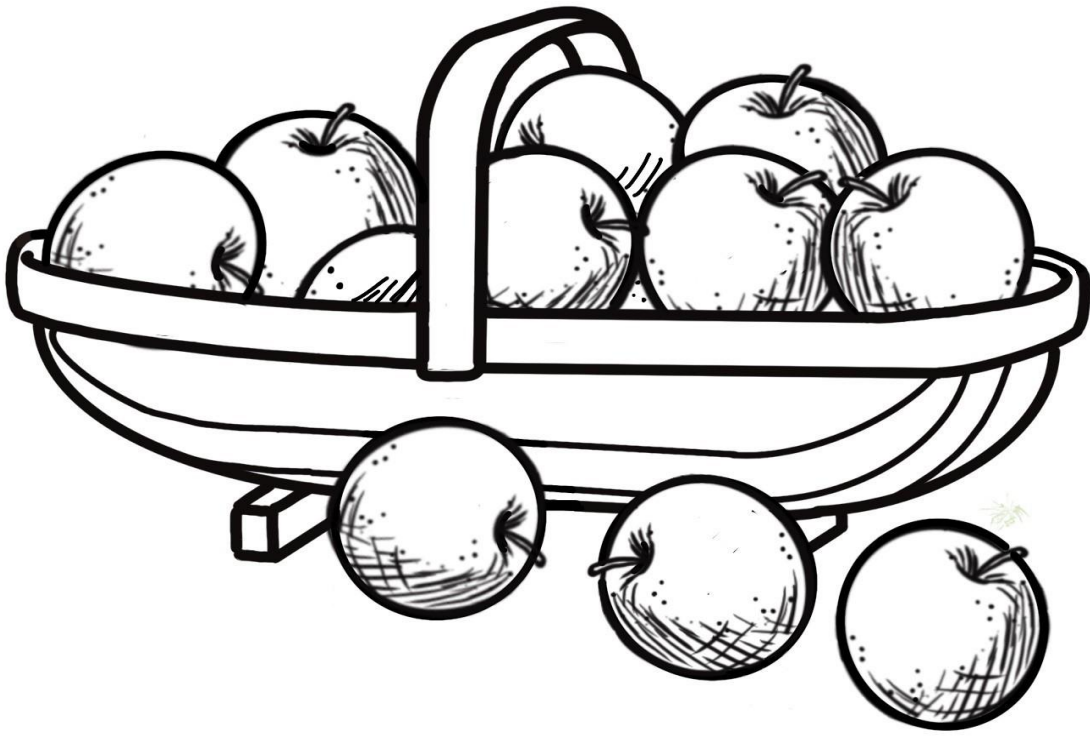
In this photo we think you will find: Arthur Hughes, Neville Parry the organist (front left with the tie), Gladys Jones, Pat Calcutt, Ruth Wright, Alice Banks, Vera Lawley, Evie Steele, Rev. John Findon, Keith Tither (holding a staff and standing on John Findon`s left), Christine Darlington, Elsie Broom, Olwyn Gregory, Kathleen Gregory, Stephen Ormon, Pauline Roberts and Harry Gregory amongst others.

Thank you to Christine for the loan of the photos.

Michelle Lewthwaite

The Tale of The Friend at Midnight



Mothers' UNION

JULY MEETING - ANNUAL AFTERNOON TEA

On 15th July, 16 Mothers Union members and friends met at Astley Point for our annual afternoon tea.

As usual, they gave us a lovely meal, various sandwiches, cakes and scones with jam and cream.



The staff looked after us very well and the service and food is highly recommended.

Linda Leese

AUGUST MEETING



In August we were treated to a lovely enlightening talk about Scuba diving, given by a member of St Stephens congregation, Mrs Nicky Wallace, who amazed the meeting with her very heavy scuba diving gear. She almost needed to be a weightlifter, as well, because of the large and heavy amount of equipment a scuba dive necessitates. Thank goodness for wheeled suitcases!

Nicky and friend Janet Brandish were fortunate to train incrementally at the Barton Sub Aqua Club in swimming pools, which included a lot of safety training. Nicky gained her certificates and was so proficient that she became a sub aqua trainer and was able to train her husband Chris so he could join her on her adventures.

We were treated to some glorious photographs of exotic places like Red Sea diving including all the beautiful varied and colourful fish.

She described the UK waters as green, as shown in pictures of kelp forests and fish in the UK seas.

The photographs also demonstrated the difference in the visibility around UK waters.

She has done several dives in quarries and around the UK coast and she has dived in Scapa Flow, a body of water in the Orkney Islands, Scotland where, in 1919, the Imperial German Navy High Seas Fleet was scuttled by its sailors and it has now become an internationally acclaimed diving location.



Nicky described UK waters, as sometimes being particularly difficult to dive due to poor visibility, change in tides and swells. She described her dangerous dive off the coast of Anglesey and although she dived as a threesome with a support boat above, taking the necessary safety precautions which are always used when diving. However, a change in swell and tides changing direction, meant she, with her colleagues, surfaced in a different bay to the support boat. Luckily Nicky, Chris and their diving colleague were rescued by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, by a class D rescue boat, which was televised. She described the experience as a very humbling and praised the work of THE RNLI - they are her real-life heroes!

MU JIGSAW

On Sunday 9th August, several members attended a service in Manchester Cathedral celebrating 150 years since the Mothers Union was established.

9th August is also Mary Sumner day, who was the founder of the Mothers Union in 1876.



To mark the occasion, every MU branch was asked to design a jigsaw piece and these were fitted together on the day.

The picture below is the piece that St Stephen's contributed.



All were different and made a colourful display.

A very enjoyable afternoon.

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:

Oct 21st 7.30pm - In House Entertainment - Janet Graham

Nov 18th 7.30pm - Speaker - Epiphany Trust - a Children's Charity



SMILE LINES

*I have a friend who damaged his legs when he rescued me from a burning building. As a thank you I suggested I take him on a Continental holiday.

We had a great time. We went to Paris. No, we did not climb the Eiffel Tower - he can't walk, he needs crutches. We saw the Alps, and no, we didn't go on the slopes - he can't walk, he needs crutches. We also went to Rome and there we met the Pope. The Pope said to him "Put away your left crutch and he did. The Pope said "Put away your right crutch". And he did that too ! - then he fell over. He can't walk, he needs crutches.

Dave Allen



*I'm passing this on because it worked for me today. A doctor on TV said that in order to have inner peace in our lives, we should always finish things that we start. Since we all could use more calm in our lives, I looked round my house to find things I'd started and hadn't finished. I finished a bottle of Merlot, a bottle of Chardonnay, a bottle of Baileys, a bottle of wum, the remainder of a Valiuminun scriptins, and a box of choclutz. Yu has no idr how fablus I feel rite now. Sned this to all ur frenz who an inner piss. An telem I luvum.

from Redhorn News

*The vicar was surprised at the sudden large increase in volunteers and helpers signing on for work and the increase in those responding to be leaders in organisations. Then he realised there was a typo in the parish magazine :- " Get involved in the affairs of your hamlet or village or perish"

All contributed by Michael Williamson

THE HOLLY AND THE IVY



Come and make beautiful festive decorations to hang on your door over Christmas!

Monday 7th December 2026 in St Stephen's meeting room.

Afternoon session 1.00 - 3.00pm * Evening session 6.30 - 8.30pm

£5 - pay on the day

with Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

We've had a lovely time in previous years and we'd love you to join us this year

For more information, or to book, please email janet.graham7@btinternet.com

or send a message to 07947 557299 leaving your name and contact details.

Fun



Friendship



Festivity

Janet Graham



Christmas Card Greetings 2026

Sending Christmas cards is a tradition going back to Victorian times. They are our way of sending festive greetings to friends and family at this very special time of year.

As an alternative, please consider having your greetings included in the December Team Magazine. By doing so you will help raise funds for *The Children's Society*. Our target is to raise £400.

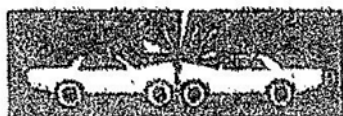
If you would like your name to be included and to donate to the charity, here's what to do:

- Place your cash donation (your chosen amount) in an envelope and seal the envelope.
- Write your name on the front of the envelope (as you would wish it to appear in the magazine greeting) and also write 'Christmas Card Giving'.
- Hand the envelope to Kath Topping, Andrea Taziker, Marjorie Owen, Michelle Lewthwaite or Janet Graham.
- Please do this by Sunday 15th November at the latest

Look out for the next Team Magazine where your name will be on the 'Christmas Card Greetings' on the back page. Thank you



Janet Graham



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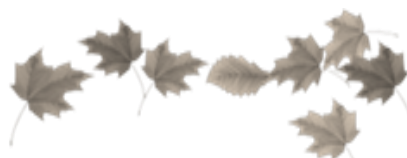
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ST STEPHEN`S COFFEE MORNINGS raise money for RSPCA and NSPCC

The coffee mornings organised in July and August by Jane Jones were in aid of the RSPCA and the NSPCC and raised £247.50 and £150 respectively.

Below is an illustration of how the RSPCA will spend each £1 donated.



Every year the RSPCA answers more than a million calls about animals which lead to thousands of animal rescues. This is only possible with the help of people who are willing to donate.

Currently, one of the issues which the RSPCA is focussed on is the issue of "extreme conformation" in pets. Many people are prioritising appearance over the health and welfare of pets; breeding pets for certain physical and extreme features which lead to unnecessary suffering. Flat faces, folded ears and short corkscrew tails may be deemed to be cute in this present trend but animals bred for these features face a future of poor health, breathing issues, skin problems and bone deformities.

Many extreme features have become so normalised in today`s society that owners often don`t realise that they are abnormalities, and that these abnormalities can eventually lead to pain and suffering for their pet and large vet bills for them.

The RSPCA feels that there is a lack of regulation, enforcement and awareness of the pain caused by extreme conformations and it`s something they are striving to change.

If you would like to support their campaign then log onto the website www.rspca.org.uk and search for **Email your MP**. This will take you to a list of campaigns which the RCPCA currently need our support for. They have made it easy to use a template letter to send to our local MP and ask him/her to lobby for changes.



Michelle Lewthwaite
Acknowledgement: www.rspca.org.uk



SMILE LINES: Genesis for Cats

On the first day of Creation, God created the cat.

On the second day, God created man to serve the cat.

On the third day, God created all the animals of the earth to serve as food for the cat.

On the fourth day, God created honest toil so that man could labour for the good of the cat.

On the fifth day, God created expensive furniture so that the cat would have objects whereon to sharpen its claws.

On the sixth day, God created veterinary science to keep the cat healthy and the man broke.

On the seventh day, God tried to rest, but the litterbox needed changing.

LEST WE FORGET

A chance discussion with Joan Taylor of St John's led me to the realisation that her grandfather, Frank Hilton, was one of the 60 men from the First World war who are commemorated at the Astley Memorial on the Bullcroft, near the Bulls Head pub in Astley.

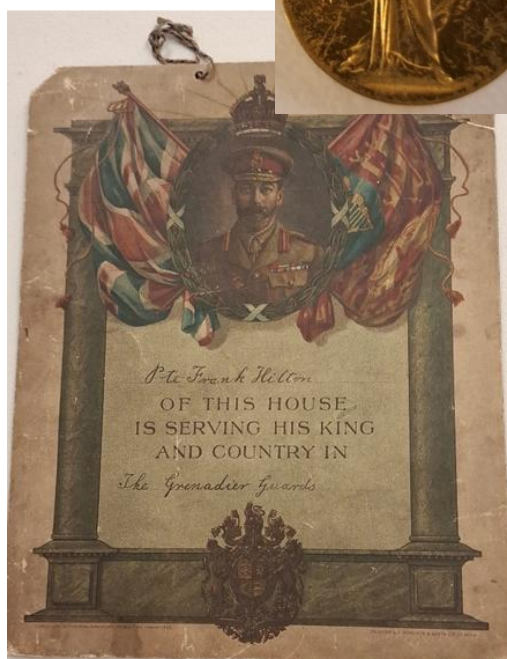
All I knew about Private Frank Hilton was the small amount of information which had appeared in a couple of articles in the Leigh Journal when he was reported as missing. One headline read "local footballer missing" and explained that he had worked at the Nelson pit (at Shakerley), played for the local football team "Astley Villa" and had signed up in 1915 and served in the Grenadier Guards. The article went on to say that Frank was reported missing after one of the battles on the Somme which took place between 14th and 17th September 1916. At this time he was aged just 22 years old and was married with one child.



Joan was able to provide us with much more information from the memorabilia in her loft and it was touching to be able to see Frank's war medals and the letters which were sent to his wife, Alice, to inform of Frank's death.



The medal on the far left is a British War medal, in silver, showing King George V. On the near left is the British Victory medal issued as a campaign medal and depicting the winged figure of Victory holding a palm branch in her right hand as a symbol of triumph over conflict.



Another artefact which Joan has carefully preserved is a window card which would have been issued to Frank when he enlisted in the Grenadier Guards on 19th March 1915. His family would have displayed it in the window of their home and passers-by could see that a member of the family was serving his King and country. Apparently, it's unusual to see an original window card because they were only issued between 1914 and 1915. Many became damaged over time and were inevitably thrown away.

The photo on the right is of Frank and his wife Alice Ann (nee Gregory). It could have been taken on their wedding day on 28th August 1915. They were married at St George's Church in Tyldesley and, in the

marriage records, Frank's occupation is given as private in the army. It's a very poignant photograph as they both look so happy on this day, despite the fact that they were soon to be parted when Frank travelled out to France shortly afterwards.



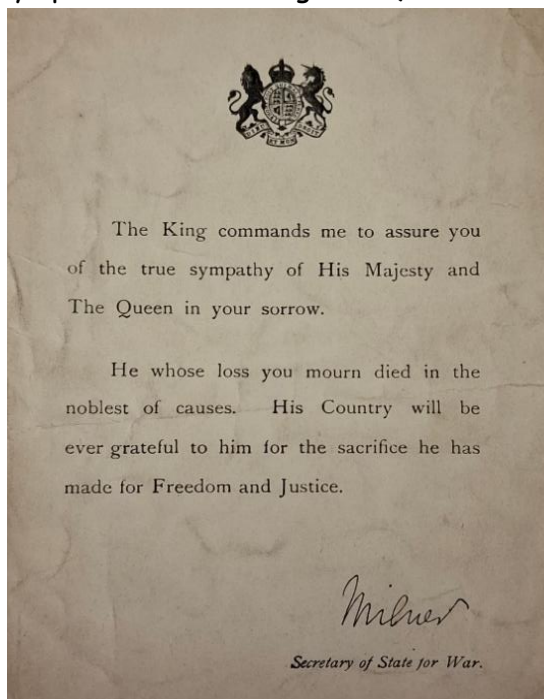
In September 1916 Alice was told that Frank was missing following an engagement with the enemy on the Somme.

It was reported that Alice received this terrible news in the same week that she gave birth. She became a widow and a mother in the same week.

Cutting from Leigh Journal 20th October 1916



It was only in June 1917 that Alice received a letter from an official source at the Grenadier Guards to say that Frank was presumed to have died on 14th September 1916. She later received this letter (below) from 1st Viscount Alfred Milner, the Secretary of State for War (1918-1919) to express the sympathies of the King and Queen.



Also, a bronze WW1 Memorial plaque was issued to the family to commemorate Frank's sacrifice.

It is inscribed with the words "He died for freedom and honour". His name is also inscribed

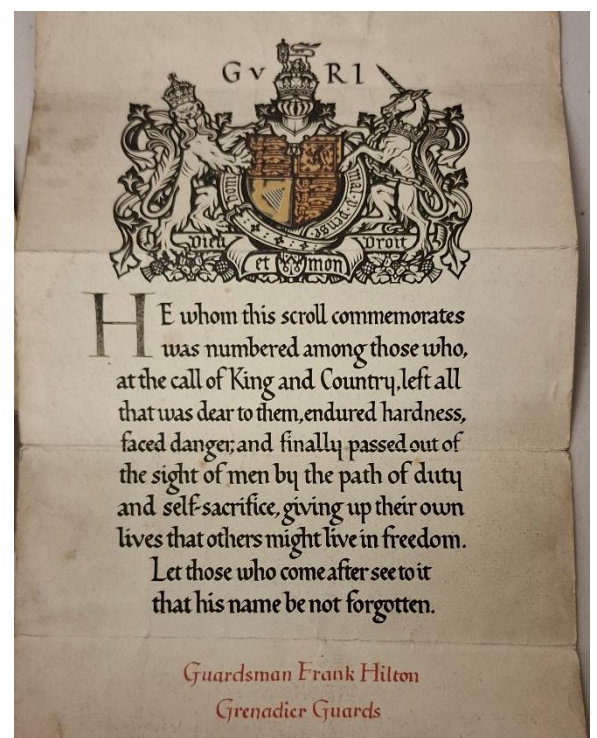
within the raised box on the right hand side of the plaque.

Frank Hilton has no known grave but his name is remembered at the Thiepval Memorial in Picardy, France along with the names of 72,000 other soldiers who also lost their lives during the battles of the Somme. The Thiepval Memorial is the largest Commonwealth War Memorial in the world.

Michelle Lewthwaite

Grateful thanks to Joan Taylor for allowing us to see the precious memorabilia of her grandfather, Private Frank Hilton 23424 of the Grenadier Guards.

Ack: Some information also used from the research papers of Tony Stanton of the Tyldesley Historical Society.



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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.



October Walks - Wednesdays - 11am

- 7th Hindley Bridleway, Formby's Car Park, Hindley, WN2 3DF
- 14th Borsdane Woods, Kingsdown Road, Abram, WN2 4BT
- 21st Shakerley, Corner of York and Lancaster Avenue, M29 8LN
- 28th Higher Folds Community Centre, Stirling close, WN7 2UB

October Walks - Fridays - 11am

- 2nd Pickley Green, Coal Pit Lane, Westleigh, WN7 5QL
- 9th Marsland Green, Lay By, Marsland Green Lane, M29 7LH
- 16th Pennington Hall Park, Pennington Avenue, WN7 3JD
- 23rd Lilford Park, Elmbridge Road, Leigh, WN7 1JE
- 30th Howe Bridge Sports Centre, Atherton, M46 OPJ

November Walks - Wednesdays - 11am

- 4th Hindsford, James St off Lodge Road, M46 9BS
- 11th Polly's Pond, Kingsdown Road, Abram, WN2 5RN
- 18th Bridgewater Medical Centre, Henry St, CP, WN7 2PE
- 25th Windy Bank wood, Bents Garden Centre, WA3 5NT

November Walks - Fridays - 11am

- 6th Astley Point, Ann Lane, off A580, M29 7SG
- 13th Amberswood, Formby's Car Park, Hindley WN2 3DF
- 20th Golborne, Tanne's Lane Car Park, WA3 3AW
- 27th Damhouse, Astley House Drive, Astley, M29 7TX

We will put the walks for December in the next magazine - enjoy



WHY DO YOU MARCH OLD MAN

I have kept this poem for many years. I have no idea where it came from but at this time of year we remember those brave soldiers. Even today there are selfless men and women risking their own lives for those same values. The author is unknown.



Why do you march old man, with medals on your chest
Why do you grieve old man for those you laid to rest
Why do your eyes still gleam old man, when you hear the bugles blow
Tell me, why do you cry old man for those days so long ago

I'll tell you why I march young man, with medals on my chest
I'll tell you why I grieve young man for those I laid to rest
Through misty fields of gossamer silk come visions of distant times
When boys of such a tender age marched forth to battle lines

We buried them in a blanket shroud their young flesh scorched and blackened
In a communal grave so newly dug in blood stained gorse and bracken

And you ask me why I march young man, I march to remind you all
That but for those apple blossomed youths you'd never know freedom at all.

Mavis Wright

FRIENDS OF ASTLEY MEMORIAL- NEW PATHWAY



Thanks to a very generous grant from Green Earth Developments Group and Whitehead Restoration Ltd we now have a pathway suitable for wheelchairs and prams which leads from the pavement on Church Road to the memorial itself.

This is a project which has been on our "to do " list ever since we saw an elderly resident in a wheelchair trying to get closer to the memorial one Remembrance Sunday. We are very pleased to see the plan come to fruition in time for this year`s Remembrance Day service.

This type of path is called a "Hop" path and it`s often used in parks and grassy areas because it provides a more natural looking finish than tarmac. It consists of a stabilised aggregate surface which is a mix of small, natural stones plus a binding element that is engineered to be very durable and which won`t rut or wash out over time. The path has been laid to a depth of several inches and will last longer, require less ongoing maintenance and has cost much less than tarmac.

The company which laid the path is called Red Fox and they have lots of experience of laying similar paths around the Wigan Borough including in Astley Street Park and other parks in our area. We would like to thank them for their expertise and professionalism on this project.

The Friends of Astley Memorial are planning our usual **Remembrance Service on Sunday 8th November** at 12.30pm (once the clergy have returned from the service at Tyldesley Cemetery).

Our **Carol Service will be on Thursday 10th December at 6.30pm**. We hope you will be able to join us for these events.

Michelle Lewthwaite on behalf of the Friends of Astley Memorial



JUST A MINUTE

* "For millions of years mankind lived just like the animals, then something happened which unleashed the power of our imagination, we learned to talk"

Stephen Hawking

* "See everything, overlook a great deal, correct a little"

Pope John XXIII

* Life is not a possession to be defended but a gift to be shared.

Henri Nouwen

Contributed by Michael Williamson

DRONES – GOOD OR BAD



In the last 20 years or so we have all heard an awful lot about drones. Ukraine brought them to the fore as soldiers had to learn how to cope with gusts of flying explosives trapping them in their trenches unable to advance.

And also the trials of prison staff. Strangeways we are told is awash with drug carrying drones raining down on them.

Are drones getting a bad name?

Enter, and full of hope comes the Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). Founded in 1946 by demobbed Christian war pilots who wanted to put their skills to good use, they planned to help the missionary work of the Church. They could help to fly workers to newly established areas as well as equipment, including Bibles and literature for growth in faith and worship, together with medical supplies for their clinics and also ferrying patients to hospitals.

Now as the work has developed there is a great need of medical supplies and specialist equipment. Until now an airstrip has been needed to deliver. What about remote areas e.g. steep mountainous areas or dense jungle? This must be done on foot or mule etc from the nearest airstrip.

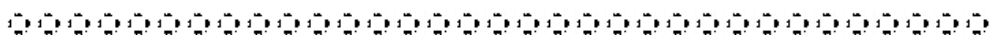
At its July meeting St Stephen's Men's Group heard John Howarth describe how MAF is considering using drones. Drones could drastically reduce the nervous waiting for help to arrive.

Dave Waterman, MAF's Fleet Innovation Project Manager is conducting research with companies developing machines for humanitarian purposes and in the tough areas where MAF works.

It is expected that 3 years of tests will be needed before a good actionable machine could be offered for a serious trial run. So 2030 is the date aimed for. Dave says "it's about the right tool for the job...For a delivery of cargo below 300kg it's efficient to use a drone"

Good or Bad? It's not the machine it's (sadly as always) human beings who contribute to the delight and joys of creation or its doom and destruction.

Michael Williamson



SMILE LINES

*THEY told him it couldn't be done, with a SMILE he went right to it !
He TACKLED the thing that couldn't be done..... And couldn't do it

*A 'Blairite, a 'Brownite' and a 'Corbynite' went into a pub. And the barman said "What'll you have to drink Andy?"

*A man was arriving home late from the office. "Have you had a busy day?" his wife asked.
"Yes" was the reply "the computer broke down and we all had to think !"

Contributed by Michael Williamson

DESTINATION LIGHT

Forgiven not forgotten,

Broken Hearted,
Innocence! Taken
Unreachable Trauma,
Distinct,
Primal Loss

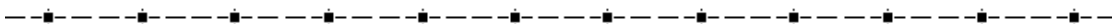
Time! Self-Destruction,
Isolation, Anguish!
Hope shattered, Reflection, Doubt!!

New Beginnings,
Opportunities Wasted,
Confidence!
Politics!
Medication!
Highs, Lows, Close
Love, Always!

Family, Church Morals,
Empathy, Social Isolation
Dignity
Lost in Transit
Reels Turning,
Life!

True Fulfilment,
Faith
GOD

Anonymous



Lord,

As we move into autumn and the month of October, the normal seasonal changes are all around us, the beautiful colours, the falling leaves, the cooler days. And that is reassuring.

But, so much else in our world is changing so rapidly, often in ways we don't understand. And that can be worrying.

You promise us Your Peace - a peace of heart that steadies us and helps us move forward.

Thank you that whatever comes, we are secure in You, when we put our trust in Jesus.

From a prayer by Daphne Kitching (with acknowledgement to Parish Pump)

EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY

Eagle-eyed readers may have spotted the appearance of a new logo.

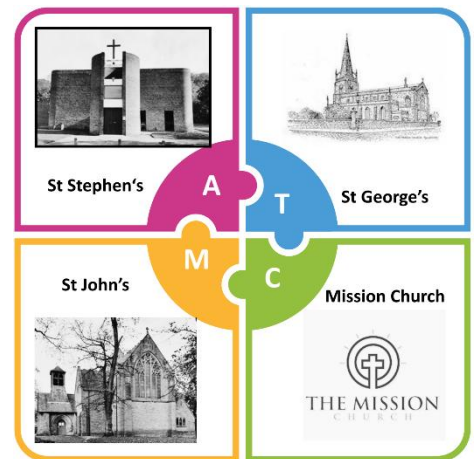
Once the date for the Team Rector's Licensing service was confirmed the Area Dean contacted me to discuss some practicalities before then meeting with Churchwardens to begin planning for the service.

One of Revd Richard's main tasks was to produce the order of service, and he asked if there was a 'team logo' which could be included. Over the years we have used different 'logos' representing '3 in 1' [interlinked circles with a central cross, a celtic knot and an image of the three church buildings]. In recent months I've been mindful of the fact that none of the logos we use currently makes any reference to Mission Church and it niggled me. I'd recently been toying with some ideas to amend this so Revd Richard's request provided the impetus to **do** something.

Now I'm not a graphic designer but Canva is a great tool to use! After several attempts I settled on a 'jigsaw' theme to reflect the fact that we are all separate entities but together we connect to form the 'ATMC Team'. I came up with two options - one square and one oblong layout. Previously when trying to incorporate Mission Church I think I worried too much about whether the name we use would have to change from ATMC Team [for Astley, Tyldesley, Mosley Common]. However, Revd Richard needed a logo quickly and as I worked on the jigsaw theme it occurred to me that as Mosley Common and Mission Church share the same initials there was no immediate need to for a name change. In the first instance I had been working on an oblong image, but in conversation with my Amy I was explaining what I was trying to do and she said "it's like $ATMC^2$ [ATMC squared]" which gave me the idea to work on a square logo too!

The Churchwardens opted to use the square version in the order of service for the 1st October: both versions may appear in the coming months so I hope this has provided some context.

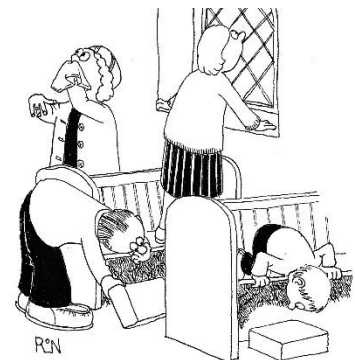
Susie Mallon



...I take it our local supermarket has a rather good offer on tinned peas at the moment!



The harvest produce was taken to the old people's bungalows



They knew it was left over from the Harvest Festival, but not what it was, or where...

Nora Eckersley

Nora was born on 15th February 1928 at Commonside Road, Mosley Common. She was baptised at St John's Church and later attended Mosley Common School. On leaving school, she worked for the Post Office four doors from her home.

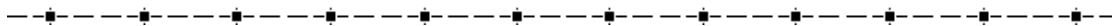
Many of her friends from school went to work in the cotton mills in Tyldesley and Atherton so eventually Nora joined them.

She married Bill at St. John's Church and she had a daughter Susan. Ann Hiton was a neighbour and she said they were a lovely family, very friendly and helpful. She remembers they had two beautiful dogs which were very much part of the family. .

Nora moved after Bill's sudden death but Ann saw her and Susan occasionally in Leigh whilst shopping. Nora and Susan became very involved in Makants greyhound rescue and used to walk the dogs and attend fetes to raise money for them.

Nora sadly passed away on 19th July and her dear wish was fulfilled when she came back to St John's on 10th August for her funeral service. We even had a rescue dog from Makants in church for the service.

Our love and blessings go to Susan and her family at this sad time.

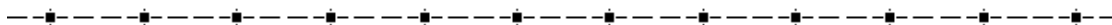


ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

The following funerals have taken place in St. George's Church during August and September 2026.

11th August	Valerie Gittins
21st August	Lillian Newman
25th August	Carol Goulding
1st September	John Shaw Robinson (Jack)

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



Also the Wedding of Mr Alex James Barnes and Miss Danielle Stockton took place in St. George's Church on Saturday 8th August 2026.

We wish them every happiness in their married life together.

UNKNOWN SOLDIER



This poem was in my Mum's possession for very many years. She kept it in a shoe box along with other bits and bobs. It is faded and is almost unreadable in places but I have managed to decipher it. At this time of year I want to share it with you and it deserves to be shared. It would have belonged to my Mum whose brother James was killed in the First World War so it is almost certainly a First World War Poem.

Look God, I have never spoken to you, But now I want to say "How do you do"
You see God they told me you didn't exist and like a fool I believed all this.

Last night from the shell hole I saw your sky, I figured right then they had told me a lie
Had I taken time to see the things you had made, I'd have known they weren't calling a spade a spade

I wonder God, if you'd shake my hand, somehow I feel that you'd understand
Funny I had to come to this hellish place before I had time to see your face.

Well I guess there ain't much more to say but I'm sure glad God, that we spoke today
But I guess the "zero hour" will be a horrible fight who knows, I may come to your house tonight.

Though I wasn't friendly to you before I wonder God if you'd wait at the door.

Look I'm crying, fancy me shedding tears, I wish I'd known you these many years
Well, I have to go now God, goodbye, strange, since I met you, I'm not afraid to die.

Author - an unknown Soldier

The caption at the beginning of the poem reads -

"It was found on the body of a dead soldier who evidently
wrote it just before his final battle."

Mavis Wright

THE QUIET REVIVAL

For some time there has been a sense that young people are a lot more positive towards the spiritual today. Rumours of a spiritual awakening for the under 30's are persistent.

Bible sales are up in the UK. There are growing numbers of adult baptisms and confirmations and more taking evangelical courses. The once trendy Militant Atheism seems to have lost it's edge and is beginning to fade. It seemed empty and lonely.

However in March this year YouGov contacted the Bible Society and reported their findings, showing very positive results on the Christian faith of the young were faulty. The key quality control techniques had not been properly activated. They apologised and are doing the research again with stronger safeguards.

So the positive feel of a "quiet revival" is still waiting the proof of factual support - but it's good to feel positive anyway.

Michael Williamson

UKRAINE - FOUR YEARS ON



CMS Mission partner, Alison Giblett, tells of life in Ukraine today. Peace, lasting trustworthy peace, is what everyone is praying for.

At the beginning of the war Alison felt called by God to stay in Ukraine and fulfil the work and purpose for her in being there. She works closely with a couple who lead a chaplaincy ministry and also with bereaved women and children. Much of the work is visiting the bereaved and despairing and offering food bags or prayers. She has even helped to build bomb shelters! She also runs camps

for orphaned children and those from the occupied areas.

Trauma recovery sessions are important and she helps with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) rehabilitation. "God's word is just a powerful today to set people free whatever the circumstances" She sees an increase in alcohol and drug consumption to dull pain and to cope with memories and numb the fear of being at the front or being called up.

God promises to be always with us especially when we feel we can't bear anymore. We're only coping because we receive strength from God. God is our hope. 1 Corinthians ch10 v13 encourages "God is faithful. He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted he will also provide a way out so you can endure it" Also Ephesians ch5 v18-20 encourages us to give thanks, singing songs of praise for His mercy. The Psalms also give encouragement: 91, assures us of protection; 46, his defence; 2 and 13' our pouring out of woes.

Everyday life becomes a prayer of thanksgiving. In a lift - that the power will stay on so that you can get out ! Going to church - that the metro will still be running to get us home; Using any machine - that the power will remain on to let us finish the job!

There are odd miracles of grace. The one who stayed off sick from his work place the very day bombs hit and destroyed it all. The soldier who experienced an illegal scatter bomb on his group who all dived down to the ground, all to be injured except him! A drone bursting over a car in metallic dust but doing no damage. Another drone landing in front of a car but only damaging the headlights. All these people just "sensed" God's protecting hand with them and "knew" His presence.

As the war continues new problems arise. Soldiers returning with multiple injuries, concussions and long term emotional needs due to stress. There are higher numbers of cancer diagnoses, ulcers, heart attacks and digestive problems. Alison is helping more with rehab work and chaplains ministry, helping adjustment back to 'normal' life. She says much of mission is about being available. "I don't think it always means doing amazing things but it means being faithful in your situation. Staying sensitive to God's heart and trusting His Word"

We can be discouraged through unanswered prayers or we can see His answers to prayer and praise and worship our God in Jesus our Lord who carries us through it all.



Michael Williamson

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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
December 2026 / January 2027	Wed 28 th October	Tues 10 th November	Andrea Taziker

St. Stephen's Men's Group



Are holding their **Annual Men's Charity Dinner** on Friday 27th November at
Astley & Tyldesley Miners Welfare Club at Gin Pit.
7pm for 7.30pm.

The meal is a set 3 course Roast dinner
(with Vegetarian alternatives. By request))
Followed by tea or coffee
and the price is £35 per person

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

If you are able to join us please write to the following
e-mail keith@revills13.plus.com
or text 07840 718840

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

Our after dinner speaker this year is Tony Stanton
'Historic Tyldesley Museum, Genesis and Rebirth'

In order that we can ensure that we have sufficient guests to go forward
with the planned meal, would you kindly let us know by 20th October
at the latest if you are able to attend.

In order for us to be able to pay the caterers and to avoid hold ups
on the night, payment must be made in full by Sunday 22nd November
to any of the following.

John Howarth, Chairman Keith Revill, Secretary, Roy Smith Treasurer

AROUND THE WORLD



*The former Eltham United Reform church is now home for St Gabriel Tigray Orthodox Tewahedo Church from Ethiopia. The 2021 census recorded 22,152 people as born in Ethiopia.

*The World Council of Churches, with other groups, has called for a global end to fossil fuel use.

*Russian drones and missiles hit Kyiv, Ukraine in a June attack. Among the sites hit was the Dormition Cathedral - "one of the holiest places in the Christian world" says Ukraine's Metropolitan Epiphany. Nine people were killed.

*In the Middle East a 'ceasefire' means 'shooting in a more moderate manner'

Donald Trump at a press conference

*At Belfast in July the Anglican Consultative Council (who advises on Anglican matters) has affirmed that to be an Anglican you must be in communion with, and recognised by, the Archbishop of Canterbury. A proposal for shared leadership of worldwide leaders on a circulating basis was rejected by 72 votes to 8.

*David Walker, our Bishop of Manchester, has been asked to join a Parliamentary Group set up to ask - How should the level of Universal Credit be decided?

*The Pew Research Centre (USA) records 55 countries with high religion related hostilities.

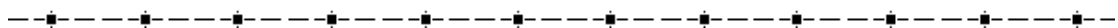
*The Vatican has excommunicated the Society of St Pius X(SSPX) for consecrating its own bishops. The Society has been resisting the reforms of the 1960's - mass in English, nave altars etc for years. It's founder Archbishop Lefebvre was excommunicated in 1988.

*In Estonia the government has given the Orthodox Church 6 months to sever it's ties with Patriarch Kirill of Moscow or be dissolved, since that leader is regarded as a threat to national security.

*The European Evangelical alliance has distanced itself from Christian nationalism. Political and narratives do not reflect members who are diverse in politics, multi ethnic and non-partisan.

*In Karachi, Pakistan a local Christian family has been saved from being attacked by a Muslim mob by the intervention of Muslim students and the authorities.

*The C of E General Synod meeting in York voted to "hear" a report stating Israel as a "colonial enterprise" inflicting a "genocidal war against Gaza".



We do not just live in this world. We live in a picture or vision of it, of how it hangs together and what it means. Worship is a focus of that vision and the purpose of a building/church is to express it.

Notice in Kings College Chapel

All Contributed by Michael Williamson (with acknowledgement to Church Times)

Our mural and Heritage Exhibition at St Johns

So, Our Mural - it's on the back page. Blooming Mosley Common applied for a grant for 'MADE YOU LOOK' a programme of socially engaged public artworks in Wigan Borough. After much discussion we arrived at commissioning a mural for the gable end wall at St John's School Mosley Common. There were over 50 artists applied, brilliant! We chose Hayley Garner, who works under the name AYLO, and is a Northern Artist from Rochdale with a worldwide reputation and helped organize the Common Walls International Mural Festival. We then had visits, an assembly for St John's pupils who were mesmerised by how the spray paint made such amazing and delicate images but also puzzled by the technicalities of transferring an image from a small drawing onto a huge wall! Then the pupils took part in workshops to brainstorm ideas of images which could go into the mural. The artist also met people at the Beehive and the Chatty Café and discussed what they felt about Mosley Common and what they wanted in a mural. They went away with all this knowledge, images in words and photographs and created the wonderful mural you can now see today.

The mural took one week to paint. The artists worked long hours, including one day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., despite the intense heat. It looked amazing from the first coat. The bricks, dating from the school's 1970s gable-end rebuild, proved surprisingly good, while the high-quality spray paint gave the first layer a rich, velvet-like finish. As each image went onto the wall people visited and commented and marvelled at the feat of creativity they were seeing develop before them. On the Friday with one little addition our Mural was finished on the gable of the 1822 school, a fitting place for a mural celebrating our village's past, present and future.

Our mural was then launched as part of the Heritage Open Day exhibition of history at St John's School on Saturday 19th September where, on a rather drizzly morning, a good number of people came to launch the mural including the artist, Hayley. The mural is fantastic and much praised, people have been really moved by its portrayal of Mosley Common and of the shared values, ideas and stories of its residents, old and new.

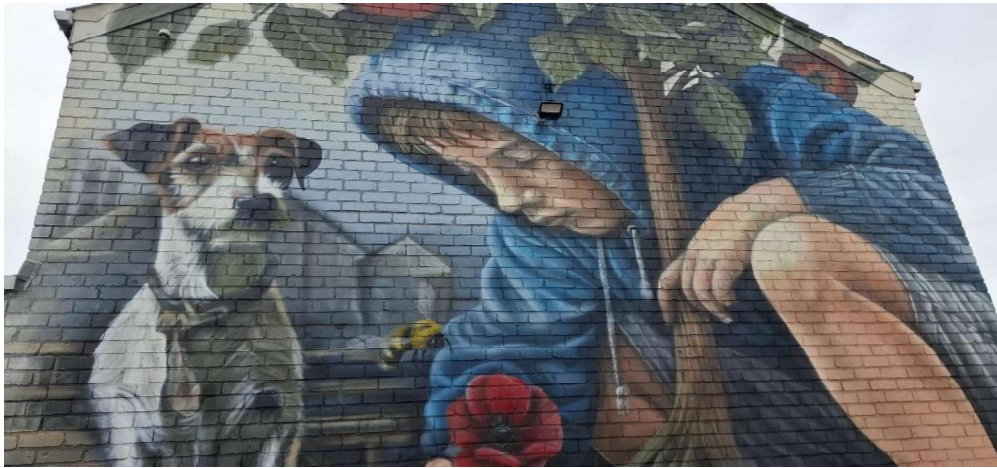
For the rest of the weekend many people came to see the exhibition and the school logbooks and registers, and to eat pasty and peas! Visitors discovered images of people and places lurking in memory and were surprised to see the changes over time in the landscape and buildings of Mosley Common. Our newly conserved First World War Rolls of Honour were seen for the first time alongside the War Memorial Plaque from The City Chapel War Memorial. Each soldier from our village who did not return from both of the wars of the last century were part of the exhibition including Fred Simkin who died at Gallipoli aged 17 and Harry Alcock whose ship was sunk in the Atlantic, part of the convoys that were the lifeblood of our country in the Second World War. This was only part of the exhibition which also included a section on 'LOST, Documenting Destruction' which looked at the historic buildings, archaeology and landscape that has been lost in recent years. There was also the joy in remembering past events such as walking day, and school mates in strange costumes, and a lot of very large flat caps! People came and laughed and cried, and talked lots and shared their own memories, some stayed all day! A strong event to celebrate a strong community.



Garret Hall
2003
and 2026



Our Mural Stories



The child, in the St John's School hoody represents the hope and growth for the future of Mosley Common. They are planting a poppy underneath one of the 16 apple trees on our Common, for the 16 young men from our village who died in the

World Wars of the 20th century. The roots of the apple tree are in the coal beneath, both in the ground and in our village's history but its branches continue to look ahead reflecting that strong communities continue to grow by caring for both the places they live and the people around them.

Mosley Common Pit and the miner's lamp and pickaxe are a tribute to Mosley Common's mining history and the people who worked beneath its streets. Placed amongst the tree's roots, they remind us that every community is built on the hard work and sacrifices of previous generations, and that our future grows from those foundations.



The pit dog is part of the Mosley Common story of Old Dick Evan's, the miner's faithful dog and the preservation of his grave by a persevering local, Carol, whose proud family were present at the launch. The dog represents loyalty and community spirit and the stories that help to define Mosley Common today.



The Bee is a tribute to the Manchester Bee of hardworking togetherness and The Beehive Community and the tremendous work it does to support the local community.

'The mural explores the relationship between past and future. The tree's roots represent the history of the place and the people who shaped it, while the child represents the next generation. Nature gradually reclaims the industrial landscape, celebrating the idea that communities grow strongest when they honour their roots and continue to invest in the future.'



Blooming Mosley Common and Mosley Common Historical Society



The new mural at St John's School Mosley Common