

## The Rectory St James the Least

My dear nephew Darren,



So, your church does not bother with hymn books but uses one of those hideous screens which are invariably strategically placed to obscure the altar. I suppose I am not bothered as wherever you placed it in your converted cinema, it could never spoil its architectural aesthetics.

In my fortunately limited experience of such devices they provide the projectionist with endless opportunities for showing the wrong hymn, or the right hymn but wrong verse, or the right hymn and right verse but all upside down. In any case, the turnover from one verse to the next always takes place milliseconds after that verse has started. This means that the congregation, having been silenced for lack of words, is then faced with the challenge of singing two lines at double time.

Colonel Wainwright was happy so long as we continued fighting good fights and urging Christian soldiers onwards. Very keen on smiting is the Colonel; under his command the Midianites wouldn't have stood a chance. The men wanted the hymns they remembered from school, the ladies wanted those they had sung at their weddings and no one would consider anything that dropped 'thine's or 'wouldst's. Then a vicious rumour started that the new hymn book might even offer hymns written in the past 50 years. Eventually we reached the perfect solution: we did nothing. Instead, Miss Simpson was charged with buying yards of sticky backed plastic and repairing our current books.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

# HOLLINFARE St HELEN

## September 2025 Bulletin



# St Helen Hollinfare

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## Warden Emeritus Ray Shaw

**PCC Members** Rev Canon Bob Lewis (Chair), Alan Domville (Vice chair and Secretary), Veronia Prowting (Treasurer), Virginia Baglee, Janet Barcroft, Sheila Breese, Irene Collins, Jim Hall. Ex-officio: Colin Lowndes, Catherine McDonald, Ray Shaw

**Deanery Synod** Ray Shaw, Virginia Baglee

**Day School Headteacher** Catherine McDonald  
Tel 0161 775 2935

**Bulletin Editor** Alan Domville

## 50 years ago this month

An important meeting was held in Church house to consider how we get youth activities started on the right lines with young people over the age of 14 being asked to express their views. There was an astonishing response and HYPO (Hollinfare Young People's Organisation) came into being. It was decided to create a senior section for 13 to 17 year olds meeting twice a week and a junior section for eight to 13 year olds meeting once a week. Average attendance of seniors was 50. Activities included table tennis, darts, bar football, skittles and table games such as cards, draughts and dominoes. There was a record player with disco lighting and a canteen offering fare at less than normal prices. Derek Taylor and his wife Joan were elected as leaders, Noelle Atkinson was appointed as secretary and Mrs Raines the treasurer. Noelle also started netball team for the girls. Mrs Perrin, Mrs Gleave (leading the juniors), Ian Webster, Steven Shaw and Gary Bannister were involved with the administration and a youth committee was spearheaded by Julie Bannister and Jackie Strapps. Gary went on to play soccer for nine clubs including Nottingham Forest, West Bromwich Albion and Sheffield Wednesday and also England under 21s. Julie played hockey for England in the World Cup in 1986.

Our harvest festival was held on the 28th. There was no evening service but our vicar, Rev Tony Corble, had been invited to preach at Evensong at St John's in Irlam and a party of our parishioners attended.

Elizabeth Gratrix reported that £95.90 had been raised for the Children's Society thanks to donations made by parishioners who kept home collection boxes.

## Holy Cross Day: begun by St Helen

We will celebrate Holy Cross Day on September 14 and guess who we have to thank for this particular feast day...it's Helen, our own patron saint.

The cross as a symbol of triumph, the sign of Christ's victory over death. And in the year AD335 she and her son, the Roman Emperor, Constantine, agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel to seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around AD135 but Helen finally located what she believed to be the sites of the crucifixion and of the burial of Jesus and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct. The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on September 14 335.

The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. We mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to Jesus. In Revelation we read that servants of God are 'sealed' or 'marked' on their foreheads as a sign that they are His.

**Conexus**  
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Thank you to Sharon at Conexus for  
printing our Bulletin

## A busy month ahead

Welcome to the September edition of our parish magazine which contains much of the information you need to remain informed about all that is happening at St Helen's.

Church life in August is usually quiet though last month, in addition to our Sunday worship, we held services for a wedding, a baptism and two funerals.

This coming month will be much busier and will include a visit from our new deanery curate, Rev Martin Fuller, on September 21. He introduces himself to us on pages six and seven.

We will enjoy welcoming our friends from All Saints on the 14th for another of our shared services.

We will resume our Thursday service and lunch on the 4th, our PCC will meet on Monday the 8th and we will hold our monthly coffee morning on the 27th. In addition we will be visited by charity-raising cyclists on the 18th. They are visiting churches along the A57 and looking especially at stained glass windows.

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## Diary dates for September

### Services

- 4 Monthly service and lunch 12.0
- 7 Holy Communion 9.30 T12
- 14 Holy Communion 9.30 T13  
Shared with All Saints here at Hollinfare. Holy Cross day.
- 21 Holy Communion 9.30 T14  
Rev Martin Fuller to preach.
- 28 Holy Communion 9.30 T15  
St Michael and All Angels.



### Readers

- : 7 ROY : Philemon 1-21, Luke 14 25-33
- 14 SHARED: Philippians 2 6-11, John 3 13-17
- : 21 RAINFORDS: 2 Corinthians 4 1-6, Matthew 9 9-13
- 28 TBA: Revelation 12 7-12, John 1 47-end

### Cleaning rota

#### Prayers

- 7 ROY
- 14 ROY
- 21 ROY
- 28 ROY

7 SHEILA, VIRGINIA, IRENE C  
14/21/28 TEMPORARILY VACANT

### Coffee morning

Saturday September 27 10.0

### PCC meeting

Monday, September 8 2.0

## Just for fun

A tired minister was at home resting, and through the window he saw a woman from his church approaching his door. She was one of those too-talkative people, and he was not anxious to talk with her. He said to his wife, "I'll just duck upstairs and wait until she goes away."

An hour passed, then he tiptoed to the stair landing and listened ... not a sound. He was very pleased, so he started down calling loudly to his wife, "Well, my dear, did you get rid of that old bore at last?"

The next moment he heard the voice of the same woman caller, and she couldn't possibly have missed hearing him. Two steps down, he saw them both staring up at him. It seemed truly a crisis moment.

The quick-thinking minister's wife answered, "Yes, dear, she went away over an hour ago. But such good news - Mrs Jones has come to call in the meantime!"



## VILLAGE GREEN BARBERS



Church House, Manchester Road

Open Monday and Tuesday 9 to 5.30

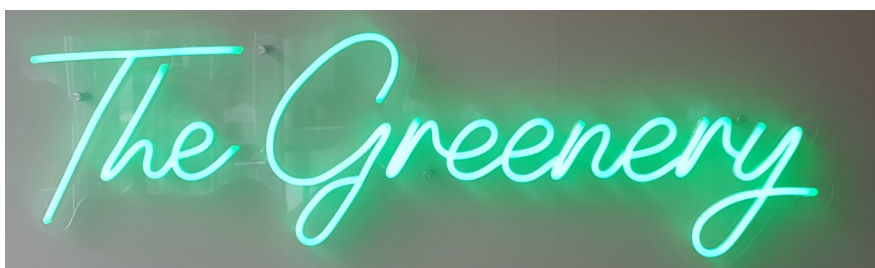
Thursday 9 to 7.0

Friday 9 to 5.30

Saturday 8.30 to noon

## Our part in the railway revolution

Two hundred years ago, in September 1825, the world's first public railway opened. It was the Stockton and Darlington Railway in north-east England. Inspired and supported by a prominent Quaker, Edward Pease, and backed financially by many Quakers nationally, it sparked the explosion of railways across the world and boosted the industrial revolution. Five years later, on September 15, the world's first passenger carrying railway was opened, running across Chat Moss north of our parish, connecting Liverpool and Manchester. Eight trains including Robert Stephenson's Rocket were employed initially. Because the land was so boggy engineers had to dig down 25 feet before placing a floating road to accommodate the track; it provided a smoother ride than anywhere else along the line.



96 Glazebrook Lane

Open

Tuesday to Friday	8am-5pm.
Saturday & Sunday	9am-4pm

## Fit for Mission

Our Parochial Church Council, along with their counterparts in each of the churches in our deanery, will be asked next month to vote whether they wish to join the next stage in the Fit for Mission programme initiated by our diocese.

Following a host of meetings held throughout the deanery in recent months including two here at Hollinfare, the purpose of Fit for Mission has been discussed at length.

It is a journey that the leaders of our diocese believe will strengthen our churches, enabling us to grow stronger, carry lighter burdens and focus on what God is calling us to do. It will involve the creation of more centralised governance and other changes but we are promised significant financial help from the Church Commissioners.

Joining what's called the "engage stage" will not be a final commitment but our PCC members will be offered a choice of four options: yes we are fully engaged, yes but we have concerns, yes but there are major problems to be addressed, or a declaration that we are not ready to commit.

As our PCC members consider these options please keep them in your prayers at this important juncture in our church's long history.

# Introducing Rev Martin Fuller

Hiya everyone!

I'm Rev Martin Fuller and I am the new Assistant Curate working across the churches in Winwick, Croft and Culcheth and also looking forward to working alongside you at St Helen.

Married to Jess and dog dad to our boy Harvey.

Brought up in Huyton, down the other end of the M62, I am scouser and have lived in the Liverpool area for most of my life. I have attended church there since I was Christened back in.....(You'll have to find that one out!)

I have been involved in the life of the church growing up, from playing in the musical worship group, helping with the different children's groups, setting up for communion on Sundays before the service, helping with seasonal events such as Christmas and summer fairs, to leading and preaching.

My life in my home church growing up was full of things that helped shape me on my journey with God.

I have been involved in youth and children's work at church in different capacities, from volunteering to being a paid church youth and children's worker in different parts of the country.

It was back in 2011 when I first felt called to ordained ministry feeling that God wanted me to look after all people in the church not just the youth and children.

The next few years were full of discernment with the odd setback here and there but God's plan came to fruition when I began training in 2022 and ordained on June 21 2025.

It has been an exciting, sometimes hard, rewarding, but God has got me to where I am now and know that he will continue to lead me so faithfully I follow him.

I am really looking forward to getting to know you all and I will be making my first appearance to you on Sunday September 21. Please do come up and say hello.

I don't bite, and would love to get to know you more and see where God is leading you as individuals and as a church in Hollinfare. God Bless and speak soon!

