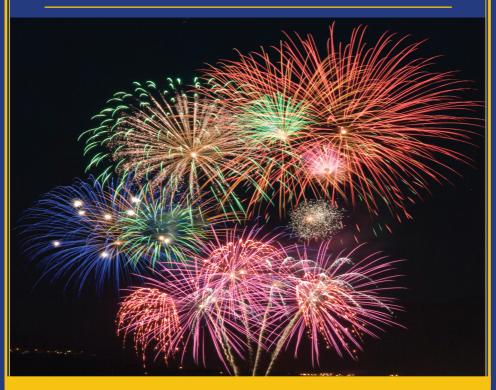
St James the Great Wrightington with Heskin



# **PARISH MAGAZINE**



OCTOBER 2025 - NOVEMBER 2025

## **Useful Numbers**



## https://www.stjamesthegreat.net



ttps://www.facebook.com/StJamesWrightington

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by the 16th of the month to ensure inclusion in the next issue.

COVER SHOT: St James Bonfire on 1st November 2025.

# Churchwarden's Message

## Finding Light in Darker Days

Dear Friends.

As I sit down to write, autumn is beginning to wrap itself around our parish. The leaves are falling, the evenings are pulling in, and before long the clocks will shuffle back, taking the daylight with them. It's the time of year when the kettle seems to be on more than usual, and the idea of putting your feet up with a decent biscuit becomes almost a spiritual practice. But in the middle of all this seasonal winding-down, there's something rather beautiful happening, a quiet lesson in where to look for light.

Walking through the churchyard recently, I noticed how the autumn sun catches the old stone differently. It's gentler, lower, and somehow more deliberate, like it's doing its best to make every last ray count. It made me think: perhaps it's in the darker seasons that light becomes most meaningful. Not just physical light, but the inner kind, the sort that helps us find hope, connection, and comfort when life feels a little heavier.

These past few months and years haven't been easy for many of us. We've had our share of loss, change, and uncertainty. And yet, again and again, I've seen how our church family has held fast. Not with fanfare or fuss, but with kindness, prayer, and cups of tea brewed at just the right time. The light that shines through St James isn't always loud or showy, it's in the steady rhythm of Sunday worship, the thoughtful act of checking in on someone, and the quiet strength of being there for one another.

Our building reflects that spirit too. At this time of year, there's a quiet beauty in how the stained glass glows against grey skies, or how the altar candles flicker in the growing dusk. Even the simple glow of the porch light on a cold evening says something, that this is a place where warmth waits, where you're welcome, and where you are not alone. Gathering in this space, especially as the nights draw in, feels like answering an ancient call, to huddle together, to share what we have, and to hold on to the hope that light is still with us.

And what's even more moving is that this light doesn't just stay within these four walls. It spills out. It reaches the homes up and down Mossy Lea Road, the farms and houses scattered across Wrightington and Heskin, and even finds its way into school halls, care homes, coffee mornings, and conversations in the Spar queue. St James is more than a church building; it's a living presence, carried in the hearts of all who choose to serve, love, and lift others. That's the kind of light our world needs more of.

## Churchwarden's Message continued...

I'm reminded of those familiar words from John's Gospel: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." That's not just something carved into stone or read from the lectern—it's a lived truth. It's what happens each time we show up, open our hearts, and let even a little flicker of faith guide the way.

So as November rolls in with its poppies and candles and quiet preparations, let's keep looking for the light around us. You'll find it in the children giggling during family services, in the patient dedication of our volunteers, in the silence of prayer, and even, dare I say, in the shared grumbles about heating the church! These may seem like small things, but together they create a glow that no shadow can dim.

The darker months ahead need not be dreary. They can be sacred. They can be full of grace. They can be lit by the steady flame of a community that chooses love, every time.

With every blessing,

Jonathan

## A VERY BIG THANK YOU

We have lots of thank you's to say in this issue of the magazine.

Firstly to that small but willing band of workers who have toiled in the vicarage garden to make it look wonderful for an incoming (hopefully very soon) vicar. An especial thank you to Jonathan, who week by week during this summer has mown the lawns and to Elaine who keeps her eye on the vicarage on a daily basis - thank you everyone.

Secondly to Sue Wild who with her team of helpers, organised an Attic Sale in her garden over the Bank Holiday weekend and raised over £1000 for the Graveyard Fund – thank you everyone.

Thirdly to Cathy Pass whose ideas have generated a welcome strand of income for the Church, whether by organising the filling of Smartie Tubes, collating a Quiz Night or catering for our young people during the summer break with Bikes and Brews - thank you to all who helped in any way.

And lastly, thank you to YOU, our wonderful congregation who during this difficult summer when stand-in vicars have been scarce, have supported and. I think, enjoyed, our Family Services.

# Mothers' Union



Well, here we are at the start of another Mothers Union year – how time flies!

I hope you all had a good holiday.

We were, of course, unable to start our year with our usual communion service in Church but we did have our own service at the start of the meeting. Afterwards, Muriel gave us a talk and demonstration of beauty and make up tips going through skin cleansing, ex-foliation, moisturising and masking, and I thank Margaret for being a willing volunteer to be the model for this. I also thank Dorothy for volunteering the have the hand and arm massage. Many thanks to Muriel for the very interesting demonstrations.

We are having our Committee Meeting at the beginning of October and we would welcome any ideas members have for speakers, activities or outings for next year.

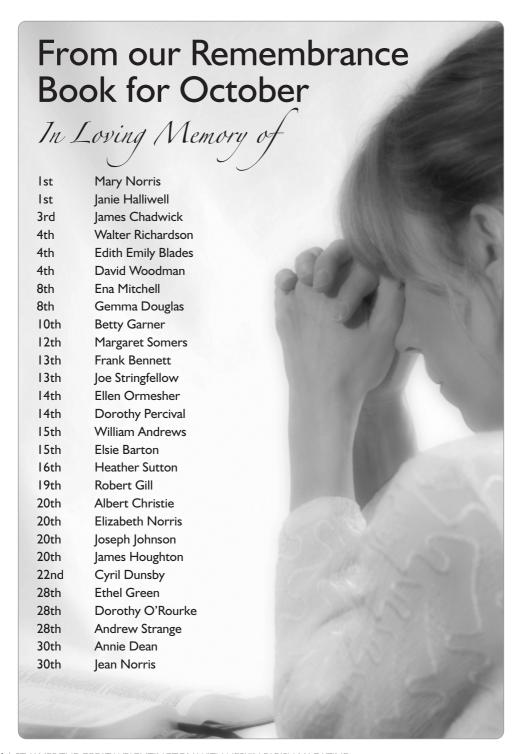
Our October meeting will start with our annual Wave of Prayer Service and our speaker that evening will be Jean Jameson about Travels with Jean.

Mark Dowding is our "speaker" in November with his Songs of Lancashire.

Just a reminder that our meeting in December will be our Christmas Party with Jacobs Join Supper and our secret Santa presents (£5/£6 max).

**GOD BLESS** 

Marie



# From our Remembrance Book for November

In Loving Memory of

Thomas Macdonald

5th	Michael John Wellby		
6th	Mary Ann Jackson		
8th	Marion Abram		
12th	Bill Nuttall		
14th	Doreen Jackson		
14th	Bill Grundy		
16th	Derek Herterich		
17th	Susanna Halsall		
17th	Brenda Manchester		
18th	Eric Ingham		
18th	Harry Abram		
19th	James Walsh		
20th	Marion Abram		
21st	Michael Hunter		

2nd

22nd

23rd

24th Jack Tate Margaret Kershaw 25th 25th Claire Hodgson 26th James Gaskell 27th Tom Chapman Abigail Sharrock 28th Helen McCrone 28th 28th William Dean

Clifford Cook

Bill Rofe

29th	Elizabeth Ashurs
29th	Michael Wilding
29th	Joseph Mather
30th	Margaret Lowe
30th	Ann Watson

If you would like a name added to the Remembrance Book, please contact the Vicar or Churchwarden

## Family Purse

DATE	STEWARDSHIP	<b>GIFT AID</b>	S.ORDERS	LOOSE PLATE
20 Jul	611.50	86.00	1112.78	30.82
27 Jul	169.00	117.10		35.15
3 Aug	36.00	47.00		20.00
10 Aug	152.65	222.00		112.80
17 Aug	49.00	79.00	1040.28	28.00
24 Aug	39.00	50.50		14.92
31 Aug	136.00	174.00		25.00
7 Sep		129.00		39.50
14 Sep	118.00	54.00		34.85

# Acknowledgements

The PCC would like to thank all those who have kindly made donations to St James' Church

### Apology

Many apologies but the donation from Heskin Pemberton PTFA should read £30 not £130

17 Jul Donation from the 36 Club – £2096.00 – many thanks Sue

for organising this wonderful fund raising activity

### **Graveyard Donations**

10 Aug In loving memory of Allan Carr from Sid and Mavis Johnson – 50.00

24 Aug In memory of Fred Tait and family – 20.00

25 Aug Attic Sale - 1202.00

Donation from Connor - 10.00 I Sep

36 Club prize donated by C Richardson in loving memory of parents I Sep

Marion and Bert Swan - 40.00

## 36 Club Draw July 2025

<b>PRIZE</b>	TICKET NO	NAME
£50	86	Joan Crompton
£40	85	Cathy Pass
£30	116	Muriel Fox
£20	7	Gerry Mottershead
£20	60	Jonathan Ormesher

## 36 Club Draw August 2025

£50	85	Cathy Pass
£40	133	Christine Richardson
£30	47	Marion Green
£20	19	Brenda Carr
£20	96	Ruth Bimson

Please see Sue Wild if you wish to join the scheme.

Thank you to all our members, you have enabled us to make a donation to church funds in the following sum:

Income for year 2024/25 - £4656 (130 members)

Prizes for the year - £2560

Balance left over to give to St James - £2096

Thank you again and we look forward to your continued support in 2025/26

Subs are now due.

# From the Registers

#### **HOLY BAPTISM**

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

14 Sep Jasmine Savage

### **HOLY MATRIMONY**

"Those whom God hath joined together"

27 Aug David and Ruth Laraway

#### **CHRISTIAN BURIAL**

"May the Souls of the Faithful Departed Rest in Peace"

Edna Fairclough 5 Aug Lisa Anne Clarke 2 Sep

Here is the next thrilling episode of the History of our area by Jonathan Ormesher

## FAITH AND VALOR: A CIVIL WAR SAGA OF WRIGHTINGTON, HESKIN & TUNLEY

Episode 4: Blood and Faith

Heskin Hall - Winter 1645. Outside the manor, a bitter wind rattled the skeletal trees. James Molyneux stood watch at the gate of Heskin Hall, musket in hand. The once-grand house now felt like a prison as the war dragged into its fourth year. Royalist fortunes had waned - Naseby was lost, and Parliament's forces now prowled freely across Lancashire. For months, James and his father John had lived in uneasy quiet, praying the storm would pass them by But rumour carried dread: Colonel Alexander Rigby had sworn revenge for Bolton, leading brutal raids on any Catholic or Royalist sympathisers.

Dusk settled early. Inside the hall's dim lantern-light, John Molyneux gathered his family in prayer. Father Brennan - their loyal priest - led a quiet Rosary in Latin. Little Mary Molyneux, only nine, clasped her hands and prayed for an end to the fighting. John gently stroked his daughter's hair, anguish in his eyes. That very day, John had resolved to surrender to Parliament and beg mercy, for the King's cause seemed lost. He would sacrifice his pride to protect his loved ones.

A sudden shout from outside shattered the fragile calm. James burst into the hall, face taut. "Father, riders are coming - dozens of them. Roundheads!" Before he could say more, the front door crashed open. Cold wind and armed soldiers flooded the entryway. By the flicker of torches, James recognised the red-orange sashes of Parliament's men. At their head stood Colonel Rigby himself, eyes blazing.

John stepped forward with as much composure as he could muster. "Colonel Rigby," he said steadily, shielding Mary and his wife behind him. "We are loyal now - I have declared for Parliament-"

Rigby cut him off with a sharp gesture. "Spare me your breath, Molyneux. Loyal? A nest of traitorous Papists, more like." His gaze swept the hall and fixed on Father Brennan, who hovered near the chapel door. "Hiding a priest, are we?" Rigby sneered. "Boys, search the house! Find any contraband - arms, Catholic trinkets, letters to the Royalist Earl perhaps.

"James felt two musketeers seize him by the arms. He struggled, but the steel barrels of pistols pressed to his ribs forced him still. Rigby's soldiers ransacked cabinets, overturning chests and scattering prayer books and rosaries across the floor. Father Brennan tried to slip away into a side passage, but a trooper vanked him forward, dragging the elderly priest to Rigby's feet.

John Molyneux's voice broke with desperation. "He is my chaplain - he means no harm. I beg you, have mercy—"

"As Christians?" Rigby's face contorted with rage. "Did the Cavaliers show Christian mercy at Bolton?" he spat. "I lost kin in that massacre. Your faith is bloodier than any sin." Rigby stepped closer to Father Brennan, who trembled but met his glare calmly.

The old priest raised a hand in appeal. "Please... no more blood, in God's name".

Rigby's lip curled. "Recant your Popish idolatry, priest. Swear loyalty to the true Church of England and to Parliament, and perhaps you'll live."

Father Brennan closed his eyes a moment. When he opened them, he spoke softly, "I serve God and my flock. I cannot forswear my God and my faith by false oaths."

Rigby's jaw clenched. "So be it. We'll see how deep your loyalty runs." He scanned the room like a wolf hunting prey. His gaze landed on Mary, peeking out from behind her mother's skirt, eyes wide with fear.

In an instant, Rigby lunged forward and snatched the child by the arm. Mary cried out as he dragged her to the centre of the hall. John shouted in panic and tried to reach her, but two soldiers restrained him. James lunged at Rigby, but a soldier struck him across the face with a musket butt, knocking him to the floor.

"Papa!" Mary screamed, struggling in Rigby's grip. The Colonel pulled a length of rope from his saddlebag and tossed one end over a stout ceiling beam. Horror dawned on everyone present. Father Brennan stepped forward shakily. "Lord, have mercy..." he gasped.

Rigby shoved the noose into the priest's trembling hands. "If you are truly reborn as a good Protestant, prove it," he hissed. "Hang the girl. Show us you denounce your old superstitions."

For a heartbeat, time froze. The only sound was Mary's soft sobbing. Father Brennan looked at the little girl he had baptised and taught to read the catechism. Tears streamed down his lined face. "Merciful Jesus... forgive me," he choked out.

With shaking hands, the priest slipped the rough noose around Mary's slender neck. The child whimpered, tears on her cheeks. John Molyneux lunged forward to stop them, but two soldiers held him back. His wife collapsed to the floor with a heartbroken wail.

At Rigby's nod, Father Brennan grasped the free end of the rope. His lips moved in desperate prayer as he pulled. Mary's small feet lifted off the ground. A strangled cry escaped her lips, then her little body went limp.

A keening scream burst from Lady Molyneux. James, still sprawled on the floor, felt his soul tear in two. His vision blurred with rage and tears. Before he could even process the horror, Rigby barked, "And now the Papist!" With a cold sneer, he motioned to his men.

Father Brennan, sobbing and murmuring the Act of Contrition, scarcely resisted as the soldiers looped the same rope around his neck. Within seconds, the faithful priest's frail body dangled from the beam beside Mary's. Two innocent souls silenced in the space of a single prayer.

Rigby turned on his heel. "Torch the recusant's chapel," he ordered tersely. His lieutenants hesitated, eyeing the devastated family, but Rigby silenced them with an icy glare. In minutes, Rigby and his raiders were gone into the winter night. Acrid smoke hung in the hall as his men torched the small household chapel.

James crawled to Mary's still form and struggled with the noose. He lifted his sister's limp body down, cradling her as he sobbed. Nearby, John lowered Father Brennan's corpse to the floor and folded the priest's arms over his chest.

Silence fell, broken only by Lady Molyneux's quiet moans of grief. John knelt beside his daughter and closed her staring eyes. By the flicker of the burning chapel, he looked decades older. Reaching shaking hands to the rafters, John cried out, "My God, why have You forsaken us?"

James had no words, only a seething emptiness where his heart had been. He bowed his head over Mary and wept until his tears ran dry. In that dark hour, something hardened in the young man's soul. The world had been upended - faith perverted into an instrument of terror. If God still watched, James could not feel His presence through the hatred consuming him.

By midnight, Mary was laid to rest in the frozen family plot. John whispered a broken prayer over the grave, then gripped James's arm. "My son, do not let this evil turn your heart to darkness. Vengeance is the Lord's," he pleaded. But James could not even say "Amen." He felt only bitter fury.

All the faith that had once guided him seemed shattered. As dawn loomed grey and cold, James felt only a cold clarity in his heart: the time for vengeance would come, and he would be ready.

# Diary for October 2025

I	Wed	10.30am	Play & Praise Toddler Group
5		9.00am 10.30am 12.00 5.00pm	H SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY - HARVEST Holy Communion – Alex Baker Holy Communion - David Gaskell Harvest Lunch in the church hall The Church will be open during the afternoon for anyone to visit. 30@5
8	Wed	10.30am	Play & Praise Toddler Group
12		9.00am 10.30am 5.00pm	No Holy Communion – Family Service 30@5
13	Mon	7.00pm	Vineyard at 398 Mossy Lea Road
14	Tues	7.30pm	Mothers Union – Wave of Prayer Jean Jameson – Travels with Jean
15	Wed	10.30am	Play & Praise Toddler Group
19		9.00am 10.30am 12.00 5.00pm	HTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Holy Communion – Alex Baker Holy Communion - Alex Baker 36 Club Draw 30@5
21	Tues	6.00pm 7.00pm	Prayer Group in the Hall PCC Meeting in the Hall
22	Wed	10.30am 3.30pm	Play & Praise Toddler Group Heskin School breaks up for Half Term
26		9.00am 10.30am 5.00pm	HOAY OF TRINITY Holy Communion – to advised Holy Communion - David Gaskell No 30@5
29	Wed	10.30am	No Play & Praise Toddler Group

# November 2025

1	Sat	2.30pm	Wedding – Steven Henty and Kelly Hambleton
1	Sat	5.00pm	Bonfire & Firework Display
2		9.00am 10.30am 5.00pm	UNDAY BEFORE ADVENT Holy Communion – Alex Baker Holy Communion - Alex Baker No 30@5
3	Mon	9.00am	Heskin School opens after half term
5	Wed	10.30am	Play & Praise Toddler Group
9		THIRD SUN 9.00am 10.30am 5.00pm	HOLY BEFORE ADVENT - REMEMBRANCE Holy Communion – to be advised Holy Communion - David Ward 30@5
П	Tues	7.30pm	Mothers Union – Mark Dowding – Songs of Lancashire
12	Wed	10.30am	Play & Praise Toddler Group
16		9.00am 10.30am 12.00 5.00pm	UNDAY BEFORE ADVENT  Holy Communion – Alex Baker  Holy Communion - Alex Baker  36 Club Draw  30@5
18	Tues	6.00pm 7.00pm	Prayer Group Meeting in the Hall PCC Meeting in the Hall
19	Wed	10.30am	Play & Praise Toddler Group
22	Sat	12 – 2pm	St James Christmas Fair
23		9.00am 10.30am 5.00pm	No Holy Communion Family Service with David Gaskell 30@5
24	Mon	7.00pm	Vineyard at 398 Mossy Lea Road
26	Wed	10.30am	Play & Praise Toddler Group
30		9.00am 10.30am 5.00pm	DAY OF ADVENT Holy Communion – to be advised Holy Communion - to be advised 30@5

### **SMARTIES FOR SEPTEMBER**

Many thanks to those who have supported the Smarties challenge and returned your full tube of 20p's to church. We have had a good response at the time of writing and are waiting with hope for tubes from school families to be returned once the new school term begins.

### **BREWS, BIKES AND PLENTY OF BISCUITS**

Thank you to those families who came along each fortnight to enjoy time playing on bikes and scooters on the church car park. It was a special time of fellowship and friendship enjoyed by everyone there, in sunny peaceful surroundings, with a brew and plenty biscuits to keep the energy levels up!

### **QUIZ NIGHT**

By the time you read this we will have held our quiz night on Fri 12th Sept which I hope will have been an enjoyable and successful evening. To lead us towards the end of the year there will be a seasonal paper guiz available for £1 each which can be collected from the back of church from mid November (and at the Christmas Fair). Answers will be published in the Dec/Jan magazine.

> With grateful thanks for your support with our new fundraising challenges Cathy (Vision Champion)

## Dates for Fundraising Events 2025 at St James the Great. Wrightington with Heskin

October 5th

Harvest Sunday service – followed by lunch and open church

Saturday November 1st Bonfire and Firework Display Start at 5pm

November 9th Remembrance Sunday – Art Exhibition weekend

> Saturday November 22nd Christmas Fair from 12noon to 2pm (Collect grave pots - 30th November)

> > Saturday November 29th Tunley Christmas Fair



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Hello from everyone at Heskin Pemberton's.

I hope you've all had a peaceful, enjoyable and relaxing summer. Back in July, we said an emotional goodbye to Alma, Sofia, George, Ben, Eloise, George, Logan, Olivia, Summer, Honor, Christopher, Matthew and Lilia who moved on to their new high schools. We're going to miss these amazing children but we know that they are going to make a positive impact in their new schools.



As our older children have moved on, we have gained a lot of new faces at school. Our newly opened Nursery provision has seen lots of new three-year-olds join Heskin. The four-year-olds in our Reception Class have settled in extremely well to their new school and Annabelle and Jared are making lots of new friends in the Juniors. I'd like to welcome all of our new pupils, parents and friends to our Heskin family. I'm sure they'll have a wonderful time at this very special school.

The children have come back to school with their batteries fully recharged and are working their socks off. The Autumn Term is always a busy time, but we are particularly looking forward to our special Harvest Service, which will take place at 9:15am on Tuesday 30th September at St. James the Great Church. The children will be collecting food in order to help people in our local community, and they will be singing songs and leading prayers so please join us if you are able. Class 2 will also be delivering their own worship towards the end of this term. They will be planning, practising and then delivering this special worship at 3:00pm on Friday 10th October and everyone is welcome to join us for this.

I hope you've enjoyed reading about the fun and enjoyment we all share at Heskin Pemberton's. Please feel free to visit our website if you would like to know more about our school. www.heskinpembertons.co.uk

Love, prayers & best Wishes.

Alan Brindle, Head Teacher

# ST JAMES' THE GREAT

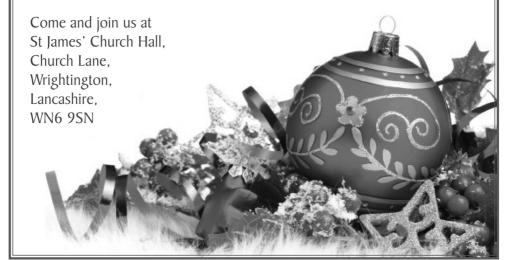
# SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 12.00am - 2.00pm

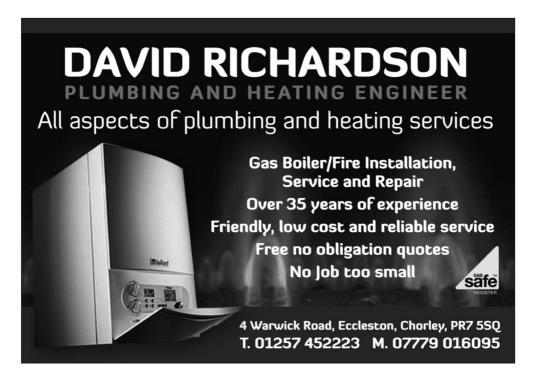
\* Lots of Gifts, Cakes, Cards, Plants, Jewellery etc

ℜ Bring the children to see Santa!

\* Refreshments

☆ Order your Christmas Grave Pots and The Super Grand Christmas Raffle will be drawn!



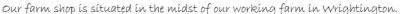




### Rowley's

## Toogood Farm Shop

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### Health foods

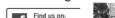
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- Why Trust Independent Living with your care?
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## FUNERAL DIRECTORS T & M E WALSH

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In your time of need we will take care of all the funeral arrangements. Call us 24 hours a day. Memorial work undertaken. Pre-paid funeral plans available.

### OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2025 ROTAS

DATE	SIDESPERSON	READER	STEWARDSHIP	TEA/COFFEE
5 <sup>th</sup> October	G Speakman	C Pass	A Sharples	D Hoddinott
Harvest Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	P Rowley M Barlow	A Sharples	P Wellby	C Hayden
12 <sup>th</sup> October	M Morris	M Morris	M Taylor	J Robinson
17 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity	A Sharples J Fowler	S Crawford	D Hoddinott	S Wild
19 <sup>th</sup> October	M Rowley	M Mason	A Sharples	M Walsh
18 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity	P Britton J Crompton	E Gerrard	E Gerrard	S Crawford
26 <sup>th</sup> October	G Speakman	C Pass	P Wellby	P Waring
Last Sunday after Trinity	P Rowley M Barlow	E Nelson	P Rowley	J Crompton
2 <sup>nd</sup> November	M Morris	M Morris	J Crompton	M Green
4 <sup>th</sup> before Advent	A Sharples	M Fiddler	M Taylor	C Pass
9 <sup>th</sup> November	M Rowley	M Mason	D Hoddinott	
Remembrance Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> before Advent	P Britton J Crompton	J Fowler	E Gerrard	Art Exhibition
16 <sup>th</sup> November	M Morris	M Morris	P Rowley	J Dearden
2 <sup>nd</sup> before Advent	P Rowley M Barlow	A Sharples	A Sharples	M Barlow
23 <sup>rd</sup> November	G Speakman	C Pass	M Taylor	J Robinson
Sunday before Advent	J Fowler A Sharples	S Crawford	J Crompton	S Wild
30 <sup>th</sup> November	M Rowley	M Mason	P Wellby	D Hoddinott
1 <sup>St</sup> Sunday of Advent	P Britton J Crompton	E Gerrard	E Gerrard	C Hayden
7 <sup>th</sup> December	M Morris	M Morris	A Sharples	M Walsh
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	P Rowley M Barlow	E Nelson	D Hoddinott	S Crawford

If you are unable to undertake your task on the rota, please either exchange with someone else or contact Anne 01257 424105/07900 633905.

If you wish your name to be added to the list please see Anne.

