

Epiphany: 12th Night

Epiphany is also known as 'Twelfth Night' or the last night of the Christmas festival. According to the song it is also the day when that over-enthusiastic 'true love' of yours dumps no less than 78 presents on your doorstep, among them a dozen leaping lords of the realm and a final partridge - to go with the 11 you have already been given.

In many parts of the world January 6 is celebrated as Christmas Day. As we are packing away our tree the Greek Orthodox world and Catholic Spain are giving presents and celebrating the magi.

The wise men brought gold for kingship, proclaiming a royal child. Frankincense was used in Jewish worship and indicated access to the presence of God.

Myrrh finds its place at Calvary. After the crucifixion, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea prepared Jesus's body for burial, using myrrh as an embalming fluid.

The shadow of the cross had already fallen across the crib but myrrh is also symbolic of love, so you could say that the third gift is also about adoration. And Christ's death on the cross is for love of the church.

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HOLLYFARE

St HELEN

January 2026



*A happy new year
to all our readers!*

Inside: your essential guide to 2026

St Helen Hollinfare

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Priest in charge

Rev Canon Bob Lewis

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Churchwardens: Alan Domville Tel 0161 775 9360 and Veronia Prowting Tel 01925 763353
Warden Emeritus: Ray Shaw

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

Day School: Headteacher Catherine McDonald
Bulletin Editor: Alan Domville

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Thanks to Sharon who prints our magazine

50 years ago this month

Rev Tony Corble, our vicar, remarked in his parish magazine piece to a strike by junior doctors and the situation in the Middle East where the Israelis were refusing to sit at the same table as the Palestine Liberation organisation.

He had joined us after looking after two parishes in Oxfordshire.

The churches, he said, were only one and half miles apart and he wrote of the difficulties of finding enough parishioners to share the various duties of the lay congregation.

But there was absolutely no enthusiasm for unity.

Tony also appealed to parishioners to join the covenant scheme for which Stan Head was acting as secretary and also for them to come forward and become school governors, or managers, as they were in those days.

Fifty years on it sometime seems that little changes in our world!

Our Mothers' Union held their 26th birthday party, a special cake having been baked by Mrs Wadsworth. Whist and dominoes were played after the meal.

Sunday School restarted after the Christmas break and more than 40 children enjoyed their annual visit to a pantomime. The show this year was *Dick Whittington* presented by the Manchester Library Theatre company at Wythenshawe Forum. The picture opposite was taken on the coach which was driven by Ray Tonge.



Doreen Herridge BEM

One of our most faithful parishioners, Doreen Herridge, is sadly missed.

Her funeral service took place here last month with Bob and Rev Pat Gray sharing memories of her with a packed congregation.

Fittingly, for someone who loved dancing and shared that love with so many, the processional music was Glenn Miller's classic *Moonlight Serenade* and we heard "*On the street where you live*" from the musical *My Fair Lady* as we reflected quietly on her long and joyful life.

At the end of the service we heard "*I could have danced all night*" also from *My Fair Lady*.

And there were the hymns *Praise My Soul, The Lord is my shepherd* and *Now thank we all our God* played by Janet. For her work in our parish and for church Doreen was deservedly rewarded with the British Empire Medal and she and her late husband Cliff were invited to one of the royal garden parties at Buckingham Palace. She and Cliff are reunited once again in God's heavenly kingdom.

Our deepest condolences are expressed to her sons Colin and Stephen and daughter Shirley and their families.



Diary dates for January

As we enter our 529th year of worship here at Hollinfare

- 4 Holy Communion 9.30 Epiphany
- 11 Holy Communion 9.30 Baptism of Christ
- 18 Holy Communion 9.30
- 25 Holy Communion 9.30 Conversion of Paul

Readers

- 4 ALAN: Ephesians 3 1-12, Matthew 2 1-12
- 11 ROY: Acts 10 34-43, Matthew 3 13-end
- 18 RAINFORDS: 1 Corinthians 1 1-9, John 1 29-42
- 25 MIKE: : Acts 9 1-22, Matthew 19 27- end

Cleaning rota

- 4 SHEILA, VIRGINIA AND IRENE C
- 11/18/25 VACANT

Coffee morning

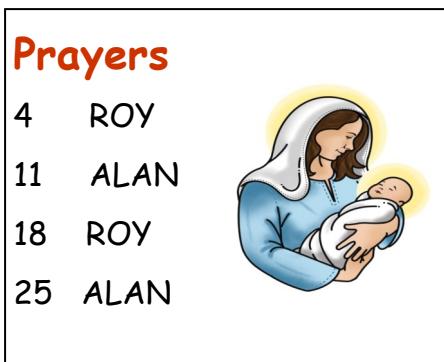
January 24 10.0

Chill and Chat

Resumes January 6

VILLAGE GREEN BARBERS

Jayne wishes all her customers a happy new year



A big thank you...

One big thank you to all of you who very generously donated toys to our stall at the Christmas Fair in the Community Hall. A total of £91 was raised for church funds.

Also, thanks to all the helpers and people who supported us. Well done everyone!

The Social Committee



...and also for our Christmas flowers

Irene expresses her special thanks to all who kindly made donations for our flowers which enhanced our worship at Christmas.



We wish all our clientele a happy new year

OCTOBER

- 1 Thursday service and lunch Noon
- School Buddy service
- 18 Morning service marks the feast of St Luke
- 23 School Harvest service 9.30
- 23 School closes for half term
- 24 Coffee morning 10-12
- 25 Harvest Festival service

NOVEMBER

- 1 All Saints Shared Communion at All Saints 10.30
- All Souls service
- 3 School reopens
- 5 Thursday service and lunch Noon
- 7 Church open for Remembrance display
- 8 Remembrance Sunday service and at War Memorial 10.52
- 9 Parochial Church Council meeting 2.0
- 22 Morning service celebrates Christ the King
- 28 Coffee morning 10-12
- 29 Advent Sunday

DECEMBER

- 3 Thursday service and lunch Noon
- School Christmas shows
- 13 Carol service
- 18 School Christmas carol service 9.30
- 18 School closes for Christmas
- 19 Church cleaning for Christmas
- 24 Carols round the Crib 3.0
- 24 Gift Day
- 24 First Communion of Christmas
- 27 Morning service marks Holy Innocents and John the Apostle

This calendar was created in November 2025 and there may be changes, unknown at the time, made during the course of 2026

Christmas at St Helen's

This January edition of our parish magazine went to press ahead of Christmas but we began our celebrations with a candlelight carol service on December 14.

The nativity story readers were Roy and Sue, Mike, Virginia, Alan and Irene and our choir, augmented by Virginia, Sue and Les, sang several items including *Santa Lucia* whose martyrdom was related by Virginia.

There was a good attendance and it included one of the little girls from our day school who had worked on the altar tableau, six-years-old Jessie. Earlier that day, at our morning service, we lit the third candle on our Advent wreath. Next up was our day school Christmas service later in the week and we were then looking forward to the always popular crib service on the afternoon of Christmas Eve and our holy communion service that evening. Between those services there would also be carol singing around the Christmas tree in our grounds.



Church calendar 2026

JANUARY

- 1 Thursday service and lunch will not be held
- 5 School reopens
- 18 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 19 Parochial Church Council meeting 2.0
- 24 Coffee morning 10-12
- 25 Morning service celebrates the Conversion of Paul

FEBRUARY

- 1 Candlemas Shared Communion at St Helen's 10.30
- 5 Thursday service and lunch Noon
- 13 School closes
- 18 Ash Wednesday service
- 23 School reopens
- 28 Coffee morning 10-12

MARCH

- 5 Thursday service and lunch Noon
- 7 Church archives display Community Hall 11-4
- 9 Parochial Church Council meeting 2.0
- 15 Mothering Sunday
- 22 Passion Sunday
- 28 Coffee morning 10-12
- 29 Palm Sunday

APRIL

- 2 School Easter service 9.30
- 2 Maundy Thursday service and lunch Noon
- 2 School closes
- 3 Good Friday service
- 4 Church cleaning for Easter
- 5 Easter Day
- 19 Shared Communion at All Saints 10.30
- 20 School reopens
- 25 Coffee morning 10-12
- Annual meeting

MAY

- 7 Thursday service and lunch Noon
- 11 Parochial Church Council meeting 2.0
- 14 Ascension Day service Matthias the Apostle
- 22 School closes
- 23 Coffee morning 10-12
- 24 Pentecost Sunday
- 31 Trinity Sunday Celebration of visit of Mary to Elizabeth

JUNE

- Archdeacon's Visitation
- 2 School reopens
- 4 Thursday service and lunch Noon Corpus Christi
- 14 Shared Communion at St Helen's 10.30
- 21 Father's Day
- 27 Parish Carnival if it is to be held
- 27 Coffee morning 10-12 if no carnival

JULY

- 2 Thursday service and lunch Noon Thomas the apostle
- 12 Sea Sunday
- 13 Parochial Church Council meeting 2.0
- 17 School leavers' service 9.30
- 17 School closes for summer
- 25 Coffee morning 10-12

AUGUST

- 6 Thursday service and lunch Noon Transfiguration
- 22 Coffee morning 10-12

SEPTEMBER

- 3 School re-opens
- 3 Thursday service and lunch Noon
- 13 Shared service at All Saints 10.30
- 14 Parochial Church Council meeting 2.0 Holy Crosss day
- 26 Coffee morning 10-12