



BELOW THE PIKE

September 2026

THE MAGAZINE OF THE HORWICH & RIVINGTON TEAM CHURCHES

Price 90p



YOU ARE INVITED TO ST ELIZABETH'S CHURCH to our Team Vicar's Licensing - Rev'd Stuart Samuels. This will take place on

*Sunday 6th September at 7.00pm
and will be conducted by the Bishop of Bolton. Please do pray for Stuart and his family as they settle into their new home and community and also for the churches he leaves behind.*

WELL—the waiting is over! You will have received your exam results now and we pray that all your hard work has been rewarded and you can plan for the future.

If somehow you have not got the results you were aiming for—don't despair. You may be able to resit or it might be an opportunity for you to rethink your plans and follow a different path. Never forget the verse from the book of Jeremiah "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Trust in the Lord and know that many famous people have been redirected and done amazing things, God will always be with you guiding and strengthening you.

Editor's apologies: July/August edition in the Welsh Religious Revival article the author's name, Cynthia Percy, was omitted. And the title of the same article was incorrectly spelt—totally down to the editor, who believe it or not, was brought up in Wales and should know better! Correct spelling is:

Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlillantysiliogogoch

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Next issue: OCTOBER 2026 DEADLINE: September 13th Publication date: September 27th
WANTED—YOUR PHOTOS, POEMS, ANECDOTES AND ARTICLES PLEASE!

OUR CHURCHES

If you have any concerns for yourself or anyone else please contact:

Holy Trinity and Rivington:

Revd Nicola Butterworth on 07706979393

St Catherine's:

Revd Nicola Butterworth on 07706979393

St Elizabeth's:

Revd Gill Smart on 01204 468271

Due to occasional necessary changes to our service format, please check our churches on the A CHURCH NEAR YOU website for up to date information.

To access our churches' Web pages please go to:

www.achurchnearyou.com/16052 for Holy Trinity; [16053](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/16053) for St Elizabeth's; [16054](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/16054) for St Catherine's and [16056](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/16056) for Rivington



BISHOP MATTHEW

NOTICES

Check out Bishop Matthew's column every other Saturday in the BOLTON NEWS

[https://
www.theboltonnews.co.uk
/news](https://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news)

BELOW THE PIKE

Below the Pike is published by the Team Council of the Anglican Churches of Horwich and Rivington. Its aim is to link the Team Churches with each other and the wider community of Horwich. The contents are not exclusively religious, but encompass any matters of Christian or local interest or concern. Anyone who would like to make a contribution—article, photo, review, anecdote or event through the Editorial Team is most welcome. **Please be aware that articles do not necessarily reflect the thoughts of the Editor or Editorial Team, who are:**

Editor: Margaret Broadfoot: 01204 690283 or email: mbroadfoot283@btinternet.com

Nicola Butterworth (Team Rector) 07706 979393; Cynthia Pearcy: 01204 695737; Caroline Wakefield: 07812 994516; Gill Smart 01204 468271; Carolyn Higson 01204 695450.

ED'S NOTE: You may remember in the June edition I 'handed in my notice' and that I'd be stepping down as editor in May 2027. Sadly no one has come forward (yet) to find out what's involved etc and the offer still stands to have a chat or demonstration—no obligation!



1st Sunday of the Month—6.30pm for 7pm, (refreshments from 6.30pm)

St Elizabeth's Church, Cedar Avenue, BL6 6EU

No A+F Sept 6th to allow for Team Vicar licensing

**MONTHLY MUSING
FOR
SEPTEMBER**

This month is about—CREATIONTIDE 2026

**By
ELISABETH GINNIFF**

CREATIONTIDE: Festival of Creation in Christ. What is it ??? A big question for all Christians –Young and Old. There are so many of us who will all have different ideas about creating in Christ. Like Eastertide and Christmastide, all around the world people do things differently around these festivals.



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Immersion in Living Water
EZEKIEL 47:9, 12

It is the same in Creationtide. Christians all around the world will be celebrating what they can do to repair, clean up, protect and nurture creation in Christ, the creation HE made. It is so easy for us to forget that what God made he charged us to be good stewards of —and haven't we failed—miserably. Climate change is upon us—people moan and complain but the blame is on us!

Creationtide starts every year on the **1st of September until the 4th of October and the theme for 2026 is Living Water.** Every living thing in this world needs water to live starting with the Earth and its produce, seas, oceans, rivers and their inhabitants and moving on until it gets to us. Maybe you could think of something you could do during this time to return your patch to the best of Christ's creation. In Horwich, Holy Trinity, Rivington, St. Elizabeth's and St. Catherine's will all be celebrating the festival of Creation in Christ on the 6th of September 2026. Be ready with something you could do. You might be asked what you could do to stop the havoc that is going on in Christ's Creation.

In July, a new teaching document was presented to General Synod. *Hope for All Creation: A Theological Response to the Environmental Crises* sets out a Christian understanding of the environmental crises facing the world, rooting care for creation in the biblical story of creation, redemption and renewal. It is structured into three parts: **See, Reflect, Respond.**

Explore *Hope for All Creation* during the Season of Creation -Read online [hope-for-all-creation-for-web-new.pdf](https://www.churchescount.org.uk/hope-for-all-creation-for-web-new.pdf)

or order online—£12.99 per copy -
[Hope for All Creation A theological response to the environmental crises by House of Bishops - Paperback - 9781781405642](https://www.churchescount.org.uk/hope-for-all-creation-a-theological-response-to-the-environmental-crises-by-house-of-bishops-paperback-9781781405642)





Morning Prayer

Dear God, Thank You for waking me up this morning and giving me another chance to live, grow, and keep moving forward. Some days are not easy, but Your grace continues to carry me through every moment. Lord, when my mind feels tired, remind me that I do not have to face this day alone. Give me strength for the things I cannot control, peace for the worries I keep inside, and wisdom for every decision I make today. Help me walk through this day with kindness, patience, and faith. Thank You for loving me even on the days I feel weak and overwhelmed. Today, I place my heart, my future, and all my worries into Your hands. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Alzheimer's Poem

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.

Owen Darneli

SIGN THE PARENT PACT: Smartphones have fundamentally reshaped childhood. Not because this is what any of us want for our children. Just because, until now, choosing another path has felt impossible. That's why this movement exists. Not to judge or divide, but to *stand together*. To say: maybe this isn't inevitable. Maybe we can pause. Maybe if we work together we can reset – and give children something better.

Smartphones weren't designed with children in mind – but they've reshaped childhood almost overnight. In the UK, 89% of 12-year-olds now own one, and so do a quarter of children aged 5 to 7. On average, they get their first smartphone aged nine. Instead of growing up slowly, children are being pulled into a digital world built to keep them hooked. The impact on their development, mental health and relationships runs deep – and we can't afford to look away any longer.

GO TO: <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/about-us>.



FORTATHON—A new fundraiser is inviting people to support a good cause by doing something they love. Fortathon, launched by Fortalice, gives participants the freedom to choose any challenge they wish, from reading, dancing, walking, or another activity they enjoy. Fortathon is all about making fundraising accessible and enjoyable for everyone. There is no single way to participate. Whether you read a book, complete a walk, swim laps, run a race, or dance at our Zumbathon, every effort helps make a positive impact. The event runs from October 12 to 16, and individuals, schools, community groups, and businesses are encouraged to get involved. Participants can set personal goals, invite friends and family to join in, and raise funds to help the charity continue its essential work. Registration details and more information are available at fortalice.org.uk and for sponsorship opportunities or to register, contact fundraising@fortalice.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY FOR ALL AGES



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, HORWICH

PRAY FOR PEACE

PRAYER VIGIL

WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2026
7PM

BABY BABBLE AND BOND



FREE fun and interactive
group session for families
with babies 0-12 months.



Songs, sensory play and topic chats with our Family Hub
Practitioners.

Horwich Health and Well Being Hub, Victoria Road,
Bolton, BL6 5PY

Fridays

9:30am-10:30am

&

1pm-2pm

No booking required, just turn up.

Term Time Only - Please see Family Hub Guide for details.

"BANJO AND BEYOND"

At HOLY TRINITY

6.30pm on

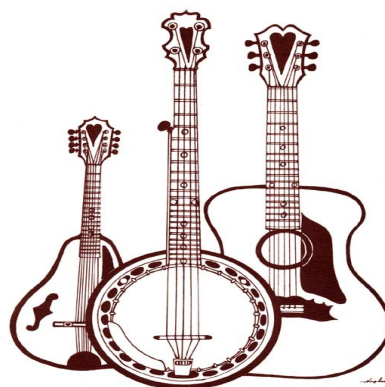
Saturday 26th September

Musical Entertainment with Pasty and
Peas supper (vegetarian and vegan
options available) and desserts!

Food served at 7.00pm followed by
the entertainment

Sign up to join us by adding your name
to the list at Holy Trinity, or contact a
member of the team.

Food and entertainment only £15



FREE DEMENTIA MUSIC CAFÉ

EVERY THURSDAY

1.30—3pm (term time)

AT THE BOLTON WANDERERS TOUGHSHEET

STADIUM,

BOLTON BL6 6JW

Free to attend

- Make new friends
- improve wellbeing and mood
- Helps people with dementia to communicate and express themselves

For more information, to book, phone

07704 594585 or visit boltondsg@gmail.com

Provided by Bolton Dementia Support Group and Music
in Mind

The Rotary Club of Horwich present the Youth Achievement Awards 2026

Applications open Sept 1st closing date November 1st. **Open to 19 years or under at 31st August 2027 who live, or attend school or college in the BL6 postcode area. Please note we also welcome applications from those with Special Needs.**

Enter through online form—<https://form.jotform.com/252443148496362>

The awards including significant financial sums to recognise achievement and support development of individual talent in sport, music, dance, drama and other fields of interest, to be used for provision of coaching, tuition or equipment in their chosen pursuit.

HORWICH SHOWCASE 2026

In its second year it looks as if Horwich Showcase is becoming an annual event. Held at RMI during July it gives businesses and organisations in Horwich the opportunity to demonstrate what they make, sell, take part in etc. It's ideal for the many new people moving into the many new houses being built to let them know what we have instead of them relying on Middlebrook, Manchester etc. Holy Trinity has had a table for the two years to show what goes on in church and the various groups attached to it. (see photo right)

Both years it has been extremely busy with lots to discover, there is food and drinks available and catching up with people you may not have seen for a while.



ONE LINERS: I just flew in from New York and boy are my arms tired.

I woke up this morning and forgot which side the sun rises from, then it dawned on me.

Don't you hate it when someone answers their own question? I do.

THE CENTRE OPENS MON—FRI 2—4pm and SAT 10am to 12.30pm off Beaumont Road, Horwich.

email: kathleen.arkwright@ntlworld.com or ring: **General Enquiries: 01204 847797**

Membership: 07789 367677 Family History: 07784 737660

MONTHLY MEETINGS AND GUEST SPEAKERS (free to members, £2 for visitors)

8th September: 7.30pm by Diane Duffy - Elizabeth Gaskell & Manchester Poor

EXHIBITION 5th September: 10am—1pm: 20 Years of Horwich Heritage

WE HAVE MOVED!! HORWICH REPAIR CAFÉ

HELD THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

NOW at Horwich Community Centre, Beaumont Road, Horwich

from 12—2pm

-Don't throw it away—Whatever is broken —take it along to be repaired, they love a challenge and you can enjoy a cup of tea while you wait. Repairs are free but donations towards overheads very welcome.



HORWICH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Horwich Community Centre, Beaumont Road, Horwich, BL6 7BG Tel: 01204 668157



www.horwich.gov.uk/community_centre.html **SOMETHING FOR ALL AGES! CRAFTS;**

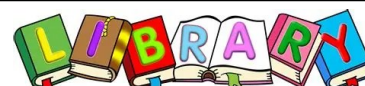
ARTS; UPHOLSTERY; EXERCISE; TODDLERS AND TINIES; YOUNG PEOPLE; LUNCHEON CLUB;

OVER 50s CLUB; WRITING AND LOADS MORE!

CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU ON 1ST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH 9.30am TO 12pm. NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

HORWICH LIBRARY, JONES STREET

(PHONE 01204 332347 FOR MORE INFORMATION)



NOT JUST BOOKS AND COMPUTERS—THERE'S CANASTA, KNITTING, COUNCILLOR'S SURGERY AND LOTS MORE— SO POP IN AND HAVE A LOOK AND WHILE YOU'RE THERE PICK A BOOK!

BOLTON SILVER SCREENINGS FREE CINEMA AT CENTRAL LIBRARY, LE MANS CRESCENT

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month

9th September: One Battle After Another

14th October: Conclave

AND FREE DEMENTIA FRIENDLY SCREENINGS 2pm NO NEED TO BOOK:

September 18th – Mamma Mia

October 16th—Angels with Dirty Faces

November 13th—Brassed Off

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS & THANKSGIVINGS

We welcome to the family of the Church:

5th July Ada Mary Manson

5th July Archer Basil Pemberton

12th July Thea Pearl Hughes

2nd August Jackson Jeffry Williams

9th August Freddie John Dilworth

9th August Madeline Sue Dilworth

16th August Thomas Crompton

16th August Harriet Crompton

16th August Sienna Patricia Foxcroft



WEDDINGS

We wish joy and happiness to:

1st August Nathan Mark Hunt and Amy Louise Parker

8th August Wayne Thomas Eastham and Nasyikat Abyshova



FUNERALS

We offer love and sympathy to the relatives and friends of:

23rd June Sharon Pearson

24th June Sheelin Kane

30th June Noah Johnson

28th July Alice Humphries

4th August Rosemary Amin



BAPTISM PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation usually takes place **2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm in Holy Trinity Church** – open to all those wanting their babies or children baptised, this is also open to adults who would like to be baptised.

The next one will be on **Tuesday 8th September**

Macmillan Coffee Morning
With lots of Cake
Plus, coffee and a raffle

Saturday 26 September
10.30-12.30
St Elizabeth's Church

GROUPS AND SESSIONS FOR ALL AGES



Horwich Parish Wiggle Tots: Mondays 9–11am (term time), Horwich Parish Hall, Church Street. Sessions include refreshments, free play, creative activities, Storytelling with Wiggle the Bible Bookworm. Free of charge. Email Sue for further information: suzeerayner@yahoo.co.uk



MESSY CHURCH is at St Catherine's Church, Richmond St, twice during the school term on a Sunday afternoon **at 3.30pm**. It's a fun time for Children of primary school age and their parents or grandparents. Younger children can join us as well. we finish the afternoon with our tea, everything is free! **Next session 4th October**



INSPIRE For those in school years 5 to 9 - now at St Catherine's Church, Richmond Street, on Wednesdays (term time) 7pm to 8.15pm. For more information contact Graham Smith (tel. 01204 699875).



OPEN DOOR Usually 2nd Thursday of the month.

All welcome in the **Narthex at Holy Trinity Church at 7.30pm**. £5.00 per evening including refreshments. A variety of speakers and outings throughout the year so please come along. Next meeting

Sept 10th "The History of Earrings" Speaker: Wendy Klinkenberg



**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
CHURCH STREET, HORWICH**

Will be open to visitors as part of this national scheme

on
**SATURDAY
12th SEPTEMBER 2026
10.00am to 1.00pm**

Exhibition by Horwich Heritage
Bell Tower open
Historic registers available to view
Light refreshments available





The Greater Manchester Fairtrade Group are holding an Eco-Fest at Manchester Cathedral on Saturday **3rd October from 10- 1pm** . There will be a variety of Fair Trade and Eco stalls with some talks and some singing by local school children. So come and enjoy learning about Fair Trade products and the difference they make to people's lives! There is even an opportunity to learn more about beekeeping as the Cathedral has hives!

ST CATHERINE'S SAYS thank you to everyone who supported our Summer Fair in any way whether through volunteering or attending. It was an incredibly hot day and I know that the heat prevented some people from attending but we still managed to raise approximately £900. Thank you especially to Revd. Caroline for all the work she did to prepare for the event. Thank you also to **Ukes Like Us** and The **Contemporary Chorus Choir** who provided fantastic entertainment without charging a fee. It was lovely to see so many people and welcome the community into church. Brenda Griffiths was presented with a gift from us by the Mayor of Horwich, Kevin McKeon, to wish her a happy birthday and thank her for all she has done for St Catherine's over the years.



THE FIRST CHRISTIAN COMMUNION ON THE MOON ON JULY 20, 1969

Buzz Aldrin, the astronaut, was an elder at Webster Presbyterian Church in Texas, and received special permission to bring bread and wine aboard Apollo 11 for a private communion service. The idea arose as Aldrin sought a meaningful way to mark the historic lunar landing, symbolizing gratitude and the spiritual significance of humanity reaching the Moon . The bread was carried in a plastic packet, and a small silver chalice from his church was used for the wine, which poured slowly in the Moon's one-sixth gravity. After the Eagle lunar module landed in the Sea of Tranquillity, Aldrin took a moment before the moonwalk to perform the sacrament. He requested a brief pause over the communication system, inviting anyone listening to reflect and give thanks in their own way. The ceremony was simple but profound: he says, " And so, just before I partook of the elements, I read the words which I had chosen to indicate our trust that as man probes into space we are in fact acting in Christ. I sensed especially strongly my unity with our church back home, and with the Church everywhere. I read: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me." (John 15:5)".

Aldrin consumed the bread and wine, marking the first Christian sacrament ever performed on another celestial body.



LOOKING FOR A FRIENDLY CHAT, WARM FOOD, COMPANIONSHIP?

COME ALONG TO ONE OF OUR WARM SPACES

DAY	VENUE
Mon	Horwich Evangelical Church, Wright Street 12pm – 1.45pm Waiting list 07835-749496
	Talking Tables, Chill at the Cowshed 10.30 – 11.30am Just turn up!
	KD Over 50s Mens Club, Community Centre, Beaumont Road 2– 4pm 1st session free thereafter £3 subs. Just turn up!
Tues	Horwich Community Centre, Beaumont Road 12 – 2pm Lunch and entertainment. Small charge. 01204 668157
	Talking Tables, Blanco Lounge, Middlebrook 10.30—11.30 am You purchase what you want while you sit and chat Just turn up!
	Horwich URC, New Chapel Lane 10.30am—12.30pm Brews, soup, roll, biscuits and games,
4th Tues	Rivington Church, Hall, Horrobin Lane 11am Faith and Fellowship
Wed	Food and Friendship, St Elizabeth's Church Hall ,Cedar Avenue 11am – 1pm 07967 585670
	The Bridge, Rock Street 9.30am – 11.30am Warm welcome and a cuppa 01204 361704
	St Mary's Church, Chorley New Road Luncheon Club—waiting list 01204 468209
	St John's Methodist Church, Victoria Road 10.30am – 12.30pm 07581 181862
	Lend-a-Hand, The Bridge Inn, Church Street 10am 07939 500591
Thurs	1st Thursday in month, light lunch from 11am—1.30pm Warm Welcome, Horwich Parish Church (Holy Trinity), Church St. 01204 690283 <u>Thursdays in between</u> —Coffee Morning 10.30am—12.30pm
	Talkin' Tables, Brewed Coffee, Lee Lane 11.00am to 12pm Just turn up!
2nd & 4th Thurs Over 50's Club, Horwich Community Centre, 12.30—2.30pm 0800 804 4343	

**DONATE
FOOD
HERE**



FOOD COLLECTION FOR URBAN OUTREACH

The day for the Food Collection is now on a **Wednesday** at
St Elizabeth's 11.00am-1.00pm

Next collections **2nd and 16th September**

Food can be left in the Grub Tubs in the churches if you are unable to bring the donations to St Elizabeth's.

NO fresh foods please—but all tinned and packet goods along with UHT milk are needed as are babies' items—nappies, soap, shampoo etc. Adult toiletries and sanitary goods always needed as well. Toilet rolls, tissues, Kitchen roll, washing up liquid, bleach are also on the list—there should be a list in each of our churches to help you. Thank you so much for your generosity and kindness. The weekly food deliveries to those in need are very much appreciated.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, Church Street, Horwich BL6 6AA:

SUNDAY SERVICES:

4th Sunday: 8am Holy Communion

Every Sunday: 9.15am Informal Worship (occasional United Services at 10am)

1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays: 11am Holy Communion

4th Sunday: 11am Morning Prayer

5th Sunday: Holy Communion with Healing

Weekdays: 1st Wednesday of the month at 9.30am a said service of Holy Communion

RIVINGTON PARISH CHURCH, Horrobin Lane, Rivington,

BL6 7SE:

SUNDAY SERVICES:

1st Sunday: 11am Family Service

2nd, 3rd and 4th Sunday: 11am Holy Communion BCP (with occasional service of Morning Prayer)

Weekdays: 4th Tuesday of each month 11am in Church Hall

ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH, Richmond Street, Horwich,

BL6 5QT:

SUNDAY SERVICES all at 11.00am

1st Sunday – Morning Prayer

2nd Sunday – Holy Communion

3rd Sunday – Informal Worship

4th Sunday – Holy Communion

ST. ELIZABETH'S CHURCH, Cedar Avenue, Horwich, BL6 6EU:

SUNDAY SERVICES:

1st Sunday: 8.30am BCP Holy Communion

9.30am All Age Worship

7pm Alive+Free

2nd and 4th Sundays: 9.30am Holy Communion (occasional service of Morning Worship)

3rd Sunday: All Age Worship

**FOR INFORMATION ABOUT GROUPS FOR: BABIES; TODDLERS;
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS PLEASE SEE THE RELEVANT
PAGES IN THE MAGAZINE.**

With many thanks to The Print Quarter for their excellent service & the quality and printing of this magazine

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01204 667162

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07769 037771

Dr Ron Knott

07719 274700

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693973

Secretary: Susan Kerr

Rivington

Church Wardens: Peter Holden 01257 433919

Treasurer: Sue Dilworth

07702 846084

Secretary: Caroline Wakefield

St. Catherine's

Church Wardens: Kath Jackson

770958

Treasurer: Joshua Dayavaran

Secretary: Pam Smith

699875

St. Elizabeth's

Church Wardens: Graham Smith

07505 760859

Karen Sims

07885 912721

Treasurer: Alison Philips

07722 527041

Secretary: Lynne Croston

BAPTISMS: Initial enquiries for baptisms to

Emma Shawcross:

horwichandrivingtonbaptisms@gmail.com

WEDDINGS: Initial enquiries for weddings to

Revd. Peter Harley at 01204 694611 or email:

revpdh@hotmail.com