

Kirklees Valley and St Stephens Parish Magazine November 2025



All Saints Church,
Hebburn Dr,

Bury
BL8 1ED

St James Church Woolfold,
Walshaw Road

Bury
BL8 1PY



Suggested

Donation: 50p

www.allsaintsandstjames.com

We are the Anglican Parishes of St Stephen's Elton and Kirklees Valley, which is comprised of All Saints Brandlesholme and St James Woolfold. We exist to worship God in the Anglican tradition, to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to serve our neighbour in thought, word, and deed. We are warm, welcoming, and friendly communities in the Liberal Catholic to central tradition of the Church of England. We are proud to be the spiritual home of people of a variety of backgrounds and ages, and we love to welcome newcomers to our services and community events. We also host a variety of non Church-based activities in our buildings, and are always keen to support and welcome new community initiatives and activities.

Our Main **Sunday Services:**

All Saints 9.30am (11am from 30.11.25)

St Stephens 10am (9am from 30.11.25)

St James 11am

We share a single Vicar, Rev. Sam Eccleston, who can be contacted on brseclestonop@gmail.com. We are also served by a team of very generous and able clergy, readers, and ALMs, to whom we are greatly indebted.

www.ststephenelton.com

Vicar's Letter

In this month's magazine you will find; an outline of recent discussions about service times, a consultation about a new church logo, info about forthcoming events, Stuart's recipe corner, and much more.

Every month there are thanks due to those who work so hard to contribute to the life of our churches. Of particular note are Celia Dutton, who last month celebrated 25 years of reader ministry and all those involved in arranging the bowls outing at St Stephens, Tony Parsons who has managed to secure a significant grant towards building work at St Stephen's, Mark and the team for their fantastic Macmillan Coffee morning, and others mentioned in this issue!



A Year in Review

I've been in post a year already, so I wanted to write a review of the year to look back on all that has happened and express my thanks to all those who have worked so hard for our churches during that time. I was licensed at the beginning of December 2024, which, I think it is fair to say, is not the best time of year to start at a new church! While still not knowing quite how the sound system works or what keys open what door, you find yourself responsible for a parade of services, all of which are, to many people, the most important services of the year! Despite this, it all went more or less according to plan, apart from the St Stephen's school Christingle service, the date of which Mrs Denney and I managed to confuse between us somehow! The upshot of which was that I ended up doing one very short-notice Christingle service, and another Christingle service the next day. The Christingles were something of a highlight of the season, attended, between St Stephens and All Saints, by around 160 people. Another highlight were the Angel festival at All Saints, which featured a magnificent display of home made angels, and the St Stephen's Christmas fair, which raised over £1000 for church funds.

January was, thankfully, a quieter month, but one highlight was meeting our future curate Elise, unbeknownst to the unsuspecting congregations, to discuss the possibility of her coming to join us. At this time, I also began meeting with Sanaz and Hamoun to prepare for their baptisms, the occasion of which was definitely the highlight of February. By this point, I had begun to get the hang of the job a little, and it became obvious that All Saints church was paying way too much Parish Share. We acted quickly to assess the situation and approach the Diocese to explain the problem; they were very responsive and helpful and a new Parish Share amount was calculated which helps keep All Saints on a more sustainable financial footing.

I had also become aware around this time of the dissatisfaction of local residents about the state of the old All Saints graveyard. While no longer occupying the original church building,

Vicar's Letter

the Church is still responsible for the maintenance of about half of the graveyard- which is a large area. Graveyards are also governed by arcane and detailed legislation, which makes looking after them extra onerous. Over the time that has elapsed since the congregation moved to their new church in Brandlesholme, the graveyard has cost the church over £100k. This is a particularly difficult problem, as when the graveyard was first developed the church would have actually benefitted from the fees for funerals, which would help maintain the graveyard. As most of this money now goes to the Diocese, we effectively have very little financial support for the cost of maintaining the graveyard. I initially approached residents to explain this and allay some of the anger, and I found the residents very understanding and supportive. The plan was to try to develop a residents group to help maintain the graveyard, but in the end a meeting with Kristian Allen, the local property manager, was part of the solution; he offered to cut the grass in our half of the graveyard for cost, and also maintain access to any graves in his half of the graveyard on request of the family.



February also saw the publication of the first issue of the new parish magazine. This has been going strong ever since, with regular contributions from members of the congregations of the three churches. A further new venture was the establishment of Study Group at St Stephen's; Bible study was something that a few members of the congregation had highlighted to me as a priority. We began by looking at the Book of Jonah, which is a surprisingly entertaining and profound read. Since then, the study groups at All Saints and St Stephens have looked at a variety of topics including Genesis, Exodus, Nahum, Samuel, Acts, Science and Religion, the Bible and Contemplation, and 'Anglican Saints'. Well over 80 hours' worth of recordings of these sessions are available for anyone who is interested (and has several days free to catch up!). February was also somewhat interrupted by the birth of our third child Adeline: again, from a work perspective, perhaps not ideal in the first year in post but a very joyous occasion, nonetheless.

In March, we held our first Parish Quiet Day organised by Methodist Chaplain and ALM Fiona Nuttall, which was a great success and received much positive feedback from those who attended. March also saw the Messy Church Mardi Gras, organised by the Messy Church leaders ably assisted by Rev Paul and Diane Sanderson, which was the usual messy church mixture of games, crafts, and songs- a great time was had by all!

April featured the St Stephen's craft fair, Easter Egg bingo, and the yearly round of Easter services. It was also the month in which we launched Christine's eBay shop, which has proven a great success, and which makes around £100 per month for church funds. This was followed in May by our first parish talk/lecture, given by Lev Eakins, focussing on his research into the

Vicar's Letter

Gospel of Mark. Also in May was the St Stephens VE Day 80th anniversary celebrations, which for me were particularly memorable due to how much I learned about WWII radios- thanks Keith! In the same month we also launched the new website for Kirklees Valley parish, which seems to have led to a spike in enquiries, particularly about St James' church.

In June and July we held our Elton Neighbourhood clean-up, at which we were ably assisted by the folks from Bury Parish Church. We also had our second parish quiet day, and two croquet days, one for each parish respectively! Perhaps most importantly, our new Curate Ellise was ordained to the Diaconate and joined us in parish thereafter. I think it is fair to say she has been a popular addition to the team, and from my perspective an invaluable colleague.

Over the summer months we had a series of conversations about the future of service times across our three churches, and a broader, and very productive conversation about the shape of mission and ministry in the future. In August, an otherwise quiet month, All Saints held a special service to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VJ day- ably organised by Sue- featuring photographs and biographical details of the local men who served.

In September we joined three confirmation candidates from St Stephen's at their confirmation service with + Matthew, Celia celebrated 25 years of Reader ministry, and Sue was licensed as an ALM at the cathedral, and began Reader training herself. Thanks to Leanne, we launched our new weekly Sunday School. All Saints community café raised over £400 for Mac-Millan. In October we began planning for a new year Mosaic project at St Stephen's led by Fr Derek, we enjoyed our harvest meal complete with live entertainment, and welcomed nearly 100 people into church for church parade. All Saints welcomed Lev Eakins for his second public talk.

The above is necessarily a list of unusual, seasonal, or new events- these are the things that stand out in the calendar. It is not an exhaustive list of what has happened- that would take all year to relate! But what happens in the background week in, week out is as, if not more important. Church spring cleans, prayer groups, ladies groups, Bible study, PCC meetings, Standing Committees, community groups, games groups, craft groups, burials of ashes, funerals, home communions, school assemblies, pastoral visits, concerts, Deanery Synod, Deanery Chapter meetings, Ecumenical and Interfaith meetings, online and in person training, risk assessments (!), safeguarding meetings, school events, and any number of other, ordinary, everyday occasions are what make up the life of a parish and its contribution to society. All of these services and events require a huge amount of work to plan, promote, and deliver, to make them safe and enjoyable and to arrange food, entertainment, equipment etc so that all that has happened and does happen continues to do so! It is a testament to the hard work of the people of these parishes that so much has happened this year- thanks to all who have worked so hard to make this year what it has been.



Reflections on a Year in Church Life

I have only been with the Church at St Stephens for a few years and met many people whom I can call my friends. Church life to me is a foundation to build community inside and outside the church, it is a place people are welcome to come in and join us even if they are not regular church goers. The wonderful part of the church is you can join in the activities and not come to Church on a Sunday, but you become part of the church community. I only came in to see a friend at the Angel festival, and I was made welcome and felt a warm embrace as if God was calling me back home. This maybe an old church but for me I receive a warm welcoming feeling every time I step through those doors.—*Christine McKenna*

On 14th December 2004, we held a 'Music of the Christmas Angels' festival at All Saints, which was an activity bringing together many church members, children from our Messy Church and local primary schools. Many happy hours were spent making the angels, which took many different forms – knitted, paper, collages, and the whole church was just covered in angels. Children from some of our local primary schools made their own angels, which we used to decorate the church Christmas tree.

Each of the main displays was themed around a specific Christmas Carol, and we had a musical session at lunchtime, when Barry came and played for us the music from all the carols on the displays.

It was a wonderful experience for all involved, with coffee and mince pies and was well supported, despite it being on a Saturday when there were so many other different Christmas events taking place that day.—*Lynne Williamson*

CHRISTMAS DINNER - Saturday 6th December

Once again the dinner will be held at Brightmet Golf Club. The cost will remain as last year, at £30. This will include a three course meal with three choices for each of the courses, plus tea or coffee. Please sign the list in the Centenary Room if you wish to come asap. You do not need to pay at this stage, but the final payment should be made by Sunday 26th November. Speak to Church wardens for further details.

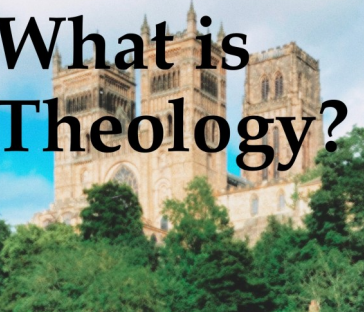


Faith Online

There is a lot of fantastic Christian content online; it comes from Christians of different denominations, traditions, and languages, and encompasses everything from Bible Study and Theology to Christian music, architecture, and art. Every month I will aim to share some of it with you.

World Without End

What is Theology?



Dylan Brooks, who attends Bury Parish Church, publishes an online blog entitled '**What Is Theology?**' in which he interviews people about theology. Access his tenth article with Katherine Apostolacus here: [What is Theology? 1.10 - Katherine Apostolacus](#)

Prof. John Lennox discusses his thoughts on living and dying well here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EW7-4Ogmrl0>

Alain de Boton and **Alex O'Connor** discuss what atheism got wrong here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OUhzjtUXxE>

The Bible Project explain the concept of redemption here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uib2G8GkG60>

Bear Grylls discusses his faith here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gsZtlN3JtGI>

Hollywood star **Shia LaBeouf** discusses his experience of meeting Capuchin Friars here: https://www.youtube.com/shorts/ZrG_U-nr6gs

BritMapped explores **St Mary's Lastingham** here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4L7YsPJU-I>

Prof. John Millbank on healing the church of its self-inflicted wounds here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2qYdLaOHFr4>

St Mary's Shrewsbury host a **medieval musical** performance available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_LGsgAI0kU&list=RDI_LGsgAI0kU&start_radio=1

Church Searcher offers a visual tour of one of the most complete Anglo Saxon churches in Britain; Escombe in County Durham available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9qs6ToLDsY>

The Catholic Music Initiative perform '**O God Beyond All Praising**' here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaIDkoFXdUk&list=RDkaIDkoFXdUk&index=1>

Bible Study/Study Group is typically recorded in an audio file as are sermons from the 10am service at **St Stephens**— if you have missed a session/service and wish to listen please contact the Vicar.



News from All Saints Groups

Monday Walking Group- Our last walk of the year on 6th October was from church along the lines to the Hub at Greenmount for coffee. It was fortunately an unexpectedly dry day and we were able to sit outside for our refreshments. Many thanks to Karen, our walk organiser for sorting us out this year, and we will be arranging a coffee morning/lunch to plan the walks for 2026.

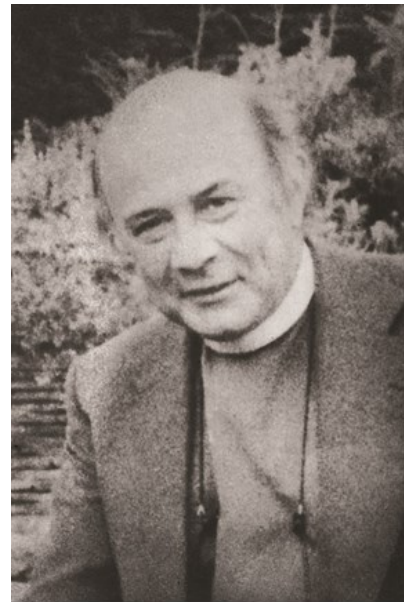
St Francis Ladies Club- Our speakers in October came from the charity 'Mary's Meals', a charity set up by Magnus Macfarlane-Barrow. This is a global charity with a mission to feed the world's poorest children every day at school. They currently help over 2 million children with meals, and is linked to their attendance at school. It was an amazing talk from the two ladies Viv and Margaret, who are volunteers with the charity from the Rochdale area. The evening raised almost £100 for the charity. On 10th November we will be going for a meal at Owens in Ramsbottom and on 8th December we will be having our annual Christmas event with games, quizzes and a Secret Santa present exchange.

Prayer Group- The October prayer group meeting was based around 'Friendship'. We looked at friendships in the Bible and thought about and prayed for our own friendships and our friends and families whose names are on our prayer board. The November meeting will be the last one of the year, and will be on Thursday 27th November, the Thursday before Advent Sunday, when we will be having a look at the hymns and prayers relevant to the Advent Season.

Arts and Crafts- Our Arts and Crafts group continues to meet on a Thursday afternoon 2 – 4 in St Francis House. All welcome to join in with your own crafts – painting, knitting, crocheting, etc.

Where is the New Niche?

I was recently reading a book very kindly given to me by Father Derek; it is something of a classic of 20th century Anglicanism—W.H.Vanstone's (pictured right) '*Love's Endeavour, Love's Expense*'. It immediately caught my interest as it is a product of the reflections of a clergyman, serving in parishes in the North West of England some seventy years ago. This interest was only reinforced when I discovered he was born in Mossley—which is right over the hill from where I grew up, and is a place I lived in at one time. The circumstances he reflects on are in some ways completely alien to those of today— he distinctly remembers the squalor of the 1930s, before the establishment of the welfare state, and the role his parents (his father was ordained) played in organising various forms of social support in the working class community they ministered to. He describes the rapid decline of this work after the Second World War, as piecemeal local solutions engineered by churches were replaced by professionalised services overseen by paid bureaucracies. Vanstone is honest enough to acknowledge that for him, this produced something of a crisis, not of faith as such, but of a sense of relevance— what is the church for in a world in which its help is no longer needed in quite the same way?



Where is the New Niche?

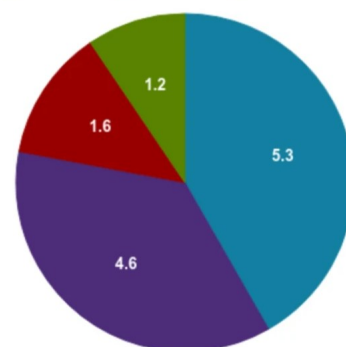
Vanstone's book continues with an exploration of something he realised in light of this crisis—that despite this loss of role, he was still convinced that the church was and is of paramount importance, so the question he set out to answer is 'why? What is the church for in itself?'. As might be expected from a clergyman, the answer, for Vanstone, is basically theological, and the rest of the book is a fairly concept-heavy exploration of theological ideas which contrasts somewhat with the much more practical and autobiographical tone of the early chapters. His conclusion is that the church is about recognising and celebrating the love of God; in other words, the church is not about welfare, it is about worship. So far as it goes, I agree with this entirely—in some ways, it is a bit of a disappointing conclusion to the book. One can find oneself asking 'is that it? Didn't we know that?', and in a sense we did, but the purpose of the work, aside from the great value of the exposition provided in the middle, is to remind us of things we ought to know but don't act like we know, as it were.

Be that as it may, I felt there was actually much more to be said on a sociological level about the parallels between the early part of the book and our present situation as a church. Just as Vanstone found in the 1950s, there is a sense today of the Church lacking a role, a niche, or a place to create value that people recognise as something they want; an arena in which the love of God is made visible. This situation, I would argue, is not a product of the advent of the welfare state (if anything the welfare state is diminished since Vanstone's time) but rather a result of a process of change which began in the mid-20th century—the hollowing out of the British economy. For Vanstone, the niche the church discovered after it lost its role as welfare provider was in the provision and organisation of community and leisure. This, in a sense, was an obvious corollary of better healthcare, welfare, income, employment law, and increased leisure time. We find ourselves, effectively, in a recession of those things – working age people now have less disposable income and less leisure time; as a population, they work more hours for wages that buy less in an economy where basic goods cost a lot more— they have fewer (if any) savings, minimal pensions, and they no longer need to find things to fill their time with, rather, they need to find time for a break, and they need to find ways to safeguard their future. As you can see in the graphs to the right, most of the wealth in the UK is held by older people, in forms that are disproportionately associated with later life

What makes up Britain's £12.8tn wealth?

Type of wealth, in trillions

■ Private pension ■ Property ■ Financial ■ Physical



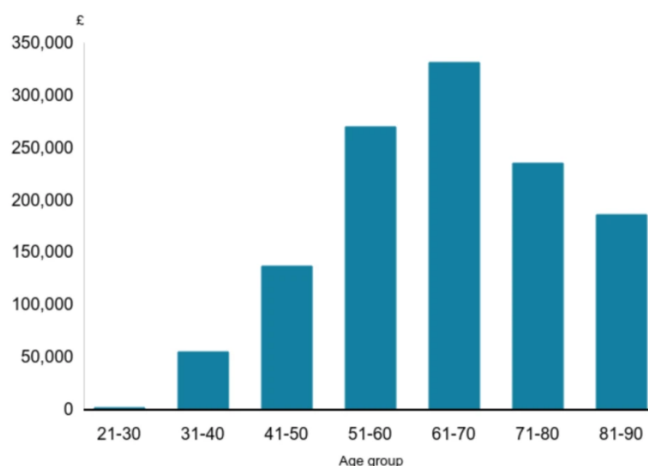
2014-2016

Source: Resolution Foundation/ONS Wealth and Assets survey

BBC

People in their 60s have the highest average wealth

Net family wealth per adult, 2014-16



Median figure used. Adjusted for inflation.

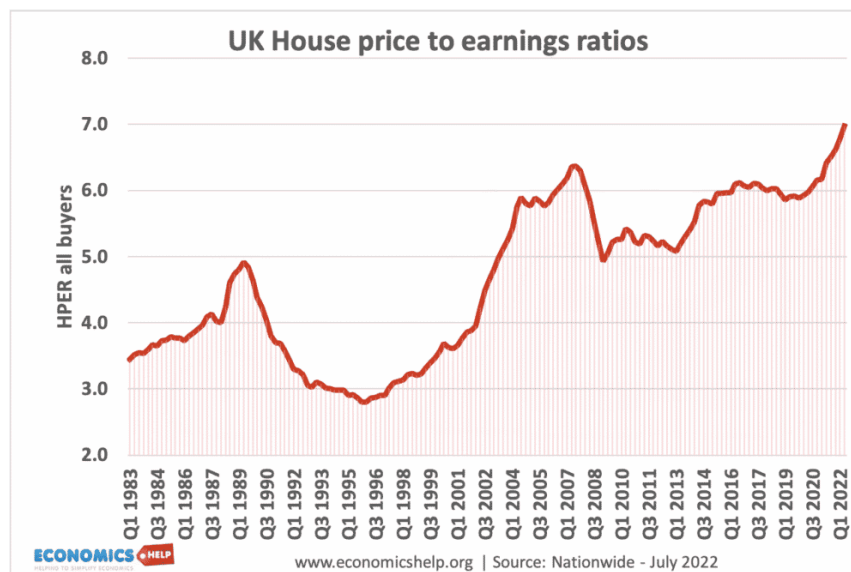
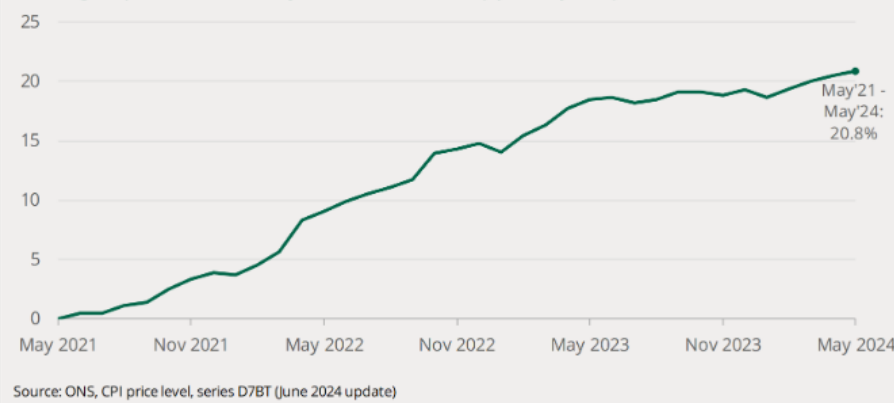
Source: Resolution Foundation/ONS Wealth and Assets Survey

BBC

Where is the New Niche?

— pensions and real estate. Much of the apparent material wealth around us is a misleading index of prosperity, based as it so often is in debt. Interestingly, Millennials have greater wealth inequality *within* their generation than Baby Boomers did, so rich millennials are much richer *compared to other millennials* than rich Boomers were. This means that the average wealth of the Millennial generation is skewed by the presence of a small number of very wealthy people, and masks the overall lack of financial assets/disposable income/high debt; which is actually even worse than it appears. One of the things that has contributed to the wealth of older generations— rising house prices, is precisely the thing that is contributing to the fall in disposable income among younger generations. Because of this, during the pandemic the growth in house values further benefitted the older generations at the expense of younger people. It is worth noting that for younger adults, this real-terms decrease in spending power is associated with a greater percentage of the population being in full time work (i.e. women), a far higher level of debt incurred as a result of pursuing higher education, and far greater necessary expenditure on childcare (often £50 per day per child) food, etc, the costs of which have all risen considerably in recent decades (even in the last few years prices have risen by on average 20%- this hits families much harder than couples). It also means that those younger people who do have a significant share of the national wealth have it because they have inherited it from their parents, not because they have earned it on the market— those whose parents do not own property are significantly less likely to own their homes. In a sense, we are witnessing the rise of a new landed aristocracy. It is an interesting index of the state of both church life and the national conversation more generally that so little time and attention is given to the rapidly deteriorating incomes, financial security, and living standards of younger adults. Perhaps part of the reason younger people are no longer responsive to the offer Vanstone identifies— of community and leisure— is that they actually find themselves in circumstances which are in some ways more similar to those Vanstone remembers leaving behind. Not grinding and immediate poverty, but a financial straightjacket which takes up time and energy in the present (working two jobs is common), and a sense of nagging anxiety about the future. Perhaps the church as an organisation would have more credibility with younger people if it was discussing or addressing these issues; if a senior cleric

UK consumer prices increased by over 20% in three years to May 2024
% change in price level since May 2021 on CPI measure (up to May 2024)



was known to be a champion of the needs of struggling younger parents, or women who find themselves taking on the role of wife, mother, and provider; of graduates who have multiple degrees but find themselves less employable as a result of their hard work, or if some of the money the church spends on social issues was spent on affordable housing or childcare. I wonder then, whether we are offering community to people who need investment; pastimes to people who don't have any time to pass. This is all really quite remarkable in a church culture obsessed with 'relevance', but which conceptualises that relevance largely as a matter of presentation rather than social change. What was it Jesus said about a child asking for bread and receiving a stone?

Church Shop

Chris McKenna, who runs the very successful shop at St Stephen's church (the 'Community Daily Marketplace'), has offered to extend her work to All Saints and St James. This is a great way to get rid of unwanted items— books, ornaments, clothing etc— anything that could sell on eBay, and make money for church in the process. The shop at St Stephen's makes around £100-125 a month, and there is no reason to think a similar figure is unrealistic for All Saints and St James. Bring any donations to church to be distributed to Christine. Packaging is also needed, so if anyone who places a lot of orders online could donate their packaging it would be very gratefully received!



St Martin in the Fields Lecture Series

Spaces are still available for our remaining lectures, which you can attend live at **St Martin-in-the-Fields** or **stream online**. Plus, you can still

catch up on all past lectures online until Sunday 30 November. Tickets are £10 to cover the series costs, but we offer free places to ensure the programme remains open to all. Book your place today.

Atonement in Mark's Gospel

On the 22nd of Oct Lev Eakins returned to All Saints to talk us through some more of his thoughts on the Gospel of Mark, which is his principal research area. Last time, he outlined his argument for an early dating of Mark's Gospel, putting it within a decade or two of Jesus own lifetime, rather than after AD 70, which is a more typical date. This time, his subject was Atonement Theory, or arguments answering the question of why and how Jesus' death and resurrection atone for sin and reconnect humanity with God. I won't summarise Lev's entire theory, partly because it involves quite a lengthy and detailed analysis of the text of Mark's Gospel, and partly because the theory will presumably be published at some point, and it therefore constitutes intellectual copyright. What I will say is that the emphasis of Lev's theory, in contrast to many of the dominant theoretical approaches, emphasises the resurrection as the act of forgiveness reconciliation with God, as opposed to just the cross as an act of condemnation of sin. The talk was very well received, and I think we as an audience did yourselves proud in terms of the quality of our questions and responses— we managed to hit on many of the wider questions Lev himself has been exploring as part of his academic work, and suggest new and interesting avenues for exploration. What struck me most forcefully, aside from the substantive content of the presentation itself, were three more general observations. Firstly, what was clear was the sheer sophistication and depth of the Biblical text. As was the case last time, Lev called our attention to features that are hidden in plain sight— obvious but never remarked upon; there waiting to be discovered by those willing to pay sufficient attention. As someone who reads the Bible every day and with a professional interest, as it were, it never ceases to amaze me how much more depth there is to be discovered. The Bible displays similar properties to a fractal pattern—no matter how much you zoom in, there is more detail to be found, another layer of the pattern to be discovered.

Secondly, and on a related note, it is amazing that after 2000 years we are still discovering things about the text, but this is indeed the case; arguably we are living in something of a theological and Biblical golden age; texts that were opaque or misleading to our ancestors are now subject to scholarly clarification which reveals them to be far more vivid and interesting than they were ever imagined to be. It is particularly ironic, then, that interest in these subjects is perhaps at a historic low.

Thirdly, what struck me was how wrong the church has so often got its approach to theological education. The emphasis at Theological College is very much on 'accessibility' which is, all too often, not understood as the imperative to explain things clearly and find good illustrative examples, but rather as a warning not to intimidate the laity with complexity. However, at Lev's talk as has so often been the case in my own ministry, I found that 'ordinary lay people' (notice the quotation marks) were well able to understand, interpret, respond to, and indeed anticipate the next steps of a highly complex and detailed theory, in a way that I think proved valuable to the academic presenting them. Thanks all for your contributions!





More Autumn Images St Stephen's Renovation Work

Please do send in any interesting pictures you happen to take locally!

Contractors have been in church this week doing very necessary repairs on our building— thanks to all who have worked so hard to make this happen!





St Stephen's Renovation Work Cont.

While they were up in the rafters, Timberwise discovered that several of the roof timbers were badly rotten. This required an immediate fix, mainly because doing it later would have meant re-erecting the scaffolding at another time, which would have more than doubled the cost. Thus, Tony, Carol, and the team had to leap into action at short notice to ensure this could happen. Above and right are pictures of the repaired timbers. Those that were brought down were soft enough to crumble in the hand, so it is lucky we did something about it now! It is only because of the tireless fundraising work undertaken by the congregation year-round that we were able to afford these repairs, so thanks to all who contribute so much to those efforts!





St Stephen's Sunday School

All Welcome

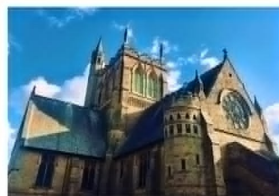
Weekly during the main service

Speak to Leanne or the Vicar



FRIENDS
OF ST
EDMUND'S

THE PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY



'COME AND SING' CHORAL EVENSONG

Join the Friends of St Edmund's and the Manchester Branch of the Prayer Book Society for a Patronal Choral Evensong for St Edmund's Day at the amazing, Grade 1 listed, St Edmund's, Falinge.

Now owned by the Churches Conservation Trust and operated by the Friends of St Edmund's, the building is now a community hub for concerts, events and outreach work, as well as still hosting occasional Anglican worship.

This is an opportunity for anyone with a love for church music to join a special choir for this Choral Evensong.

President: Revd Anne Gilbert (Area Dean of Rochdale)

Guest Preacher: Revd Sam Eccleston (Vicar of Elton, Bury)

Saturday 22nd November, 2025

12 noon Choir Practice
(all welcome - choir members please try to wear something black if you can)
1.30pm Lunch
3pm Evensong

St Edmund's Church, Edmund Street,
Falinge, Rochdale, OL12 6QF

Accessible by bus from Rochdale Town Centre (5 minute ride on the 447, 461 or 467). Limited on-street parking in vicinity.

PLEASE RSVP:
manchesterpbs@gmail.com

STUDY GROUP

The Book of Samuel

POWER,
AUTHORITY, AND
LEADERSHIP IN
THE HEBREW
BIBLE

Weds 1.30pm All
Saints

Exodus

Study Group Monday 7pm St
Stephen's Church

The Adventures of Wayne

Wayne is continuing to clock up the miles on his bike, recently completing 110 miles across the north of the country— well done Wayne!

St Stephen's Harvest Meal

Thanks to all who came along to St Stephen's Harvest meal, and particularly to all those who performed or who were involved in organising the food— we raised over £400 for church funds— amazing work!



Reminder— from Sunday 30th Nov our service times will change to:

St Stephen's— 9am

Kirklees Vally- 11am

Stuart's Recipe Corner

Parkin

Ingredients

220g butter plus extra for greasing, 1 large egg, 4TBSP milk, 200g golden syrup, 85g treacle, 85g light brown sugar, 100g medium oatmeal, 250g self-raising flour, 1TBSP ground ginger.

Method

1. Heat oven to 160c/ 140c fan/gas mark 3 butter a deep 22cm square cake tin and line with baking parchment. Beat egg and milk together with fork.
2. Gently melt syrup, treacle, sugar, and butter together in a large pan until the sugar has dissolved. Remove from heat. Mix together the oatmeal flour, and ginger and stir into syrup mixture, followed by the milk.
3. Pour the mixture into the tin and bake for 50 mins-1hr until cake feels firm with crust on top. Cool in tin and store in parchment/foil.



Parish Information

Pastoral Teams

Visiting those who are infirm and providing home communion. If you would like to receive home communion, or join the team please contact the Vicar or:

All Saints

Mark Cresswell

Lynne Williamson

St James

Ann Redding

St Stephens

Celia Dutton

Study Group



Regular Events/Groups

Mon: Community Café Brandlesholme Community Ctr. 11am-1pm, **Ladies Club** 2nd Mon of Month 2.00pm St Francis House

Tues: First of month **Christian Meditation** St Stephen's Church 2-3:15pm

Wed: St Stephen's (Centenary Room) **Midweekers** 1.30pm weekly, **Mothers' Union** 1st Weds of the Month 7.00pm, **Games evening** 7.30 pm 2nd Weds of the month, **Prayer meeting** 7pm 4th Weds of the month.

Thurs: Prayer Group 4th Thurs of month All Saints Church 10am **Arts and Crafts** Group weekly 2pm St Francis House

Children's Activities and Uniformed Organisations

Messy Church: 1st Sunday of the month 10am St Francis House **Junior Church:** Third Sunday of the month St Stephen's Church 10am

Beavers: Mon 5.45 **Cubs/Scouts:** Mon 6:45 St Stephen's School **Rainbows:** Wednesdays 5.45pm St Stephen's School

Thursdays 4.30 St James' Centre **Brownies:** Wednesdays 6.45pm St Stephen's School

Drama Group: Thursdays 7pm at St Stephen's School



November Rota

02.11.				Dea-					
25	AS	Pres S. Eccleston	Preach E. O'Hara	con	Colour Read- ings	Red Isaiah 1:10-18			
		2 D. Watson				Luke 19:1-10	All Souls 6pm		Daniel 7:1-3,15-18
	SS	8 S. Eccleston		E. O'Hara					Luke 6:20-31
		C. Dut- 10 ton	T. Parsons						
		6 S. Eccleston							
	SJ	11 S. Eccleston		E. O'Hara					
09.11.2									
5	AS				Colour Read- ings	Red Job 19:23-27 Luke 20:27-38			
		9.3 J. Partridge		E. O'Hara					
	SS	8 S. Eccleston							
		10 S. Eccleston							
		E. 6 O'Hara	J Walk				Even- song		
		A. Red- 11 ding	E. O'Hara						
	SJ								
16.11.									
25	AS				Colour Read- ings	Red Malachi 4:1-2			
		D. Ak- 9.3 ker							
		S. Ecc- 8 cleston	E. O' Hara						
	SS					Luke 21:5-19			
		10 S. Eccleston		E. O'Hara					
	SJ	11 S. Stonestreet							
23.11.									
25	AS	8.15 S. Eccleston		E. O'Hara	Colour Read- ings	Red Jeremiah 23:1-6			
		G. 9.3 Joyce							
		C. Dut- 8 ton	T. Parsons						
	SS					Luke 23:33-43			
		10 S. Eccleston		Bap- tism					
	SJ	11 S. Stonestreet							
30.11.									
25	SS	9 S Eccleston		E. O'Hara	Colour Read- ings	Purple Isaiah 2:1-5 Matthew 24:36-44			
		11 S Eccleston							
	AS	E. 11 O'Hara							
	SJ								

December Rota

		Pres S. Ec-	Preach E.	Deacon				
7.12.25	AS	11 cleston	O'Hara		Colour	Purple		
					Read-ings	Isaiah 11:1-10		
	SS	9 S. Eccleston	E. O'Hara			Matt 3:1-12		
	SJ	11 S. Stonestreet						
14.12.25	AS	11 J Partridge			Colour	Purple		
					Read-ings	Isaiah 35:1-10		
	SS	S. Ec- 9 cleston	E. O'Hara			Matt 11:2-11		
		6 S. Eccleston	Carol service					
	SJ	11 S. Eccleston	E. O'Hara					
17.12.25	SS	E. 6 O'Hara			Christingle			
21.12.25	AS	D. Ak- 11 ker			Colour	Purple		
					Read-ings	Isaiah 7:10-16		
	SS	9 S. Eccleston	E. O'Hara			Matt 1:18-25		
	SJ	11 S. Eccleston	E. O'Hara					
24.12.25	AS	16 S. Eccleston	E. O'Hara		Colour	Gold or white (for midnight mass)		Christingle
					Read-ings	Isaiah 52:7-10		
	SS	16 P. Sanderson				John 1:1-14		
		23.3 S. Eccleston	E. O'Hara					Midnight mass
	SJ	N/A						
25.12.25	AS	11 S. Eccleston	E. O'Hara		Colour	Gold or white		
					Read-ings	Isaiah 9:2-7		
	SS	S. Ec- 9 cleston	E. O'Hara			Luke 2:1-20		
	SJ	N/A						
28.12.25	AS	G. 11 Joyce			Colour	White		
					Read-ings	Isaiah 63:7-9		
	SS	S. Ec- 9 cleston	E. O'Hara			Matt 2:13-23		
			E.					

Contact Details

Vicar: Fr. S. Eccleston O.P. brsecclestonop@gmail.com 07851121800

All Saints' Contacts:

Warden: Sue Stonestreet 07763 147598

Art and Craft Group: Joyce Abraham 0161 764 2247

Bible Study: The Vicar

Pastoral Visiting: Mark Cresswell 07521087791 Lynne Williamson 07722 624847

Choir: Stuart McArthur 07821 287018

Messy Church: Deirdre Watson 07733 008078

Prayer Group: Joyce Abraham 0161 764 2247 Lynne Williamson 07722 624847

St Francis' Ladies Club: Lynne Williamson 07722 624847

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St James' Contacts:

Mothers' Union Ann Redding 0781 112 9355

Room hire at St James' Centre Ann Redding 0781 112 9355

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St Stephen's Contacts:

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