

Parish Magazine October 2026



**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 Sunday Services:

All Saints 11am

St James 11am

St Stephens 9am

We share a single Vicar, Rev. Sam Eccleston, who can be contacted on brsecclestonop@gmail.com. Our Curate is Rev. Ellise O'Hara. 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 issue you will find news from St Stephen's school, two poems, an account of pilgrimage, retrospectives on recent events and adverts for forthcoming happenings, requests from the wider Bury church community 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 all those who turned out to Dust-busters and did such a good job of cleaning St Stephen's, Carol and Tony for their continuing work on faculties, Sue and Robin for their work on St Francis house, Mark and the team for their work on the MacMillan coffee morning, Jane and the craft group for their work on the fabulous mosaic, all those who have introduced their favourite hymns, and, as always, many others too numerous to mention.



The Labour of Rest

Resting is harder than it might appear. Superficially, the mere absence of activity and effort should be one of the easiest things in the world to organise, but for many people, it requires very precise circumstances to align in order for it to become briefly possible. As with many of the more intractable difficulties of life, there are lots of reasons for this— this is what makes the problem intractable. There is, to start with, just the sheer number of things that need to be done— the list is effectively limitless; there is always something else that, in principle, you could do. At some point, you will need to do all of them. Some of them are urgent, some less so, many have no absolute deadline but will need doing sometime soon, whenever there is space in the calendar. Thus, whenever there is space in the calendar, there is something to do.

However, the more intractable element of this problem is less practical and calendrical than it is emotional, social, and psychological. In genuinely free time, it is hard for the perennially busy to do nothing, precisely because so much of the rest of their time is taken up doing things that they may not want to do— when free time is available, they want to make sure they do the things they do want to do. Thus, free time becomes effortful, often disproportionately so, in order to make up for the time taken up by work, chores, and the commute. As we age, and become more cognisant that our time to do the things we want to do is not infinite, the felt pressure of this demand becomes ever more insistent.

Our time, furthermore, is not solely our own. We owe it to others; children, spouses, friends, parents. In the same way that they have invested time in us, or because they are dependent on us, we owe them that share of our life that we have discretion over.

Perhaps most perniciously, many of us find that even when we rest physically in the sense that we desist from our usual round of activities, mental rest is harder to come by. We find ourselves elsewhere; planning the project we know needs to be done before a looming deadline;

Vicar's Letter

re-running the debate with ourselves we have been trying to conclude for the last week; searching for the solution to the ongoing issue.

It is perhaps for these reasons that rest is such an insistent theme in the Bible. At the completion of creation, God rests. When creation is renewed in the flood story, a man is placed in a floating garden of Eden, surrounded by the diversity of creation. Not only does the Ark contain all that was created, and thus represent the cosmos, it is built along the same proportions of the Temple, which itself represents both Eden and the wider cosmos in its construction—this is why it has carved trees adorning the walls, a 'sea' made of precious metal, and why the candles are not just candles but 'lights' representing the heavenly bodies. That Noah is chiefly to rest is suggested by four things: the contrast with his work in building the ark, the fact that that is what we are told God did when he finished his work on creation, the fact that there is little else to do, and the fact that the name 'Noah' means rest. In other words, we are presented with an image of rest entering a purified creation once more. This rest in creation is being contrasted with the violence which has come to characterise the world, and on account of which the flood has occurred.

Later on, in the various battles between the Israelites and neighbouring tribes, God typically wants them to do less; bring fewer men, use deception and misdirection, win through fear rather than violence; trust him to do it for them.

Jesus himself structures his ministry around periods of withdrawal into the wilderness. We have no description of what he did there, but it is hard to imagine the point of withdrawing into a silent and empty place was to be more active. When he speaks of calling, he often speaks in terms of sacrifice, but he also speaks in terms of rest: *'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'* (Matt 11:28-30)

Given all of the above, there is clearly a fairly central mandate in the Biblical tradition for rest as a spiritual and ethical practice in its own right. It is ironic, then, that church life so consistently militates against this conclusion. This isn't just true of the furious business of the mega-church, or the fractal profusion of diocesan meetings and training seminars, but also of the parish itself; its life and liturgy. There is very little place for silence, quiet, reflection, or rest in our services or in the round of our activities. Nor is this only experienced by clergy, it is very familiar to churchwardens, lay-ministers, PCC members, sub-committee chairs, and anyone involved in the social life of churches, never mind anyone who is drawn, against their will, into the faculty process!



Vicar's Letter

Now, bearing in mind I would be the first to deny the Bishop of Rome jurisdiction in this realm, but perhaps, at this juncture, it would be wise to heed his advice: he has recently counselled his own priests to evaluate whether they really need to do more, or whether in fact, they need to do less better, and make more time and space for rest, reflection, and prayer.

The link to an article describing his recent intervention is here: <https://www.osvnews.com/priests-pastoral-leaders-have-permission-to-do-less-do-it-better-pope-says/>

I wonder how, without ceding any jurisdiction to His Holiness (!) we can heed his advice? The urgency of doing so, is, for me, underlined by my own experience of taking some time off over summer. Several things occurred to me as a result of having done so: that you often don't realise how tired you have been until you rest, that you often don't realise how much tiredness has eroded creativity and enthusiasm until you rest enough to get them back, that any vocation cannot feed solely on itself– it needs other sources of inspiration, joy, distraction, recreation, consolation, etc to be really fertile.

I wonder how much more effective we would be generally were rest seen not as the necessary break from activity, to be tolerated only so far as it is the precondition of further work, but rather as the fertile ground of doing things better.

Disappointingly, but perhaps inevitably, I have few suggestions as to how, practically to begin to do this. There are many things (faculties!) which simply have to be done. However, I wonder whether the place to start is simply by asking the questions, when we find ourselves beset by the insistent urge to do more, 'why? What for?'. Therein, perhaps, lies the germ of the solution.



APPLICATIONS
OPEN FOR

ALTO AND TENOR CHORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

**Bolton Parish Church is seeking to appoint
2 Alto and 2 Tenor Choral Scholars for the
26/27 year.**

- Be a part of an inclusive church with a strongly established choral tradition
- Weekly Sunday morning services and monthly Choral Evensong
- Television and Radio appearances
- Recital opportunities
- £1,000 remuneration, with extra fees available for funerals/weddings/special services

Deadline for applications: Sunday 4th October

Please email music@boltonparishchurch.co.uk
for information on how to apply.



@bpc.music



Music at Bolton Parish Church



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.

Shimson Temmo explores an ancient Christian community here: [link](#)

Neil Rhys talks us through the life and work of William Tyndale at the **Prayer Book Society's** annual conference here: [link](#)

Adam is About explores the possible origins of the U.S. flag here: [link](#)

The Thomistic Institute ask how AI interacts with free will here: [link](#)

Francis Stewart Explains Catholic Social Teaching here: [link](#)

Aleph Beta explores the garden of Eden here: [link](#)



Dr Wesley Huff explains the relative reliability of ancient documents here: [link](#)

Dr Mike Heiser explains the controversy around God's name here: [link](#)

Prof. John Lennox discusses Biblical interpretation here: [link](#)

Prof. Paula Fredriksen explores the cultural context of early Christianity here: [link](#)

The Rest Is History explain the Protestant Reformation here: [link](#)

.....and the historical St George here: [link](#)

Theos offer a retrospective on the life and faith of Dolly Parton here: [link](#)

'THEOS' Understanding faith.
Enriching society.

Rev Seth explains the evolution of the clerical collar here: [link](#)

WBC Welterweight Champion 'King' Ryan Garcia worshipping in his dressing room before his most recent title defence against Connor Benn here: [link](#)

Reformation Heritage Books offers a sympathetic portrait of Puritanism here: [link](#)

Alex O'Connor discusses problematic Old Testament passages with **Rabbi David Wolpe** here: [link](#)

The Diocese of Manchester explains archaeological work at **Eccles Parish Church** here: [link](#)

Westminster Abbey hosts a service of commemoration for the Battle of Britain here: [link](#)

Sermons and study groups are typically recorded– contact the Vicar if you want to catch up.

A Message from the Vacancy-In-See Committee

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Following Bishop David Walker's announcement that he intends to retire at the end of July 2027, we are beginning [the process](#) that will lead to the appointment of his successor.

One of the first stages in that process is the preparation of a Statement of Needs. This important document will help describe the life, mission, opportunities and challenges of our diocese and will inform the work of the Crown Nominations Commission as it considers who God may be calling to serve as our next bishop.

We are inviting clergy, licensed ministers, lay leaders and people across the diocese to complete a survey and share their views. Your insights will help us to identify the priorities, hopes and challenges that will shape both the Statement of Needs and the wider consultation process.

You may notice that some of the questions have been written with a broader audience in mind. This is intentional. Alongside those who are actively involved in church life, we will also be seeking the views of people who live and work across our towns, cities and neighbourhoods. The survey has therefore been designed to reflect both the life of the Church and our wider mission, helping us to understand how we can best serve the communities around us and the opportunities and challenges we face together.

This is an important moment in the life of our diocese, and we are committed to ensuring that a wide range of voices are heard. We hope you will take the time to contribute and encourage others to do the same. The survey is available here <http://melresearch.co.uk/manchester> and will close at **midnight on Monday, 5th October**. Paper copies are available on request, simply email vacancyinsee@manchester.anglican.org

Above all, we ask for your prayers as we begin this journey. Prayer will be at the heart of the Vacancy in See process as we seek God's guidance, discern where God is leading us, and reflect on the gifts and qualities needed in our next bishop. The Ven Dr Rachel Mann wrote a prayer for this Vacancy in See process before her retirement, and we encourage individuals, churches and groups across the diocese to pray it with us. [Read and download the prayer here](#).

Thank you for taking part in this important process.

With every blessing,

Keith Lewis and the Revd Canon
Grace Thomas

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Vacancy in See Committee



A Reflection on One Year of Junior Church

One of the greatest privileges of being involved with Junior Church is getting to know the children who come through our doors each week.

Of course, working with children is not always quiet or predictable! They have energy, questions and opinions, sometimes very strong ones! They make us laugh, surprise us and challenge us, and every week is a little bit different. But that is also what makes Junior Church such a joy.

It is very easy when we talk about children in church to describe them as “the future of the church”. And they are. When I look at the children in Junior Church, I sometimes wonder where life will take them. Among them may be future prime ministers, scientists, teachers, musicians, youth leaders, church leaders, and people who will serve God and their communities in ways that we cannot yet imagine.

But I think there is something even more important for us to remember. Our children are not only the future of the church. **They are an important part of our church today.** Their faith matters now. Their prayers matter now. Their questions matter now. Their friendships, their ideas, their enthusiasm and their presence among us all matter now.

We see something of this very clearly in the way Jesus responded to children. In the Gospels, people brought children to Jesus and the disciples tried to turn them away. Jesus’ response was wonderfully clear: “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them.”

Jesus made time and space for children. He welcomed them and showed those around Him that they mattered. I think that gives us a beautiful example of what the church can be. Junior Church gives our children an opportunity to explore the Bible and their faith in ways that are accessible to them. We have conversations, activities, questions, laughter and, admittedly, occasionally a little more noise than originally planned! But Junior Church isn’t something completely separate from the life of our church. It is one part of it. And I love seeing the children taking their place in the wider life of the church too.

Children learn that they belong not simply because we tell them that they do, but through their experiences of being here. Every conversation, every smile, every person who remembers their name or asks them what they have been doing in Junior Church that morning helps to build that sense of belonging. Those things may seem very small to us as adults, but to a child they can mean a great deal.

Of course, growing up as part of a church family also means learning. Children are still learning how to listen, how to share, how to be thoughtful towards other people and how to navigate the world around them. Sometimes they will get things wrong, as all of us do. But what better place than the church to do that growing.

They are surrounded by people of different ages, backgrounds and experiences. They have opportunities to learn not only from their parents and Junior Church leaders, but from a whole community of people living out their faith alongside them.

And perhaps we can learn something from them too. Children have a wonderful capacity for curiosity. They ask questions that adults sometimes wouldn't think to ask. They can be enthusiastic, wonderfully straightforward and surprisingly thoughtful. There have certainly been moments in Junior Church when a child's comment has made me stop and think about something in a completely new way. It is one of the reasons I feel so fortunate to spend my Sunday mornings with them.

I am incredibly proud of our Junior Church children. I love watching their confidence grow, seeing friendships develop and hearing their understanding of faith deepen as they ask huge questions that I don't feel qualified to answer! I love the laughter and enthusiasm they bring with them, even on the Sundays when keeping everyone focused requires a little more creativity!

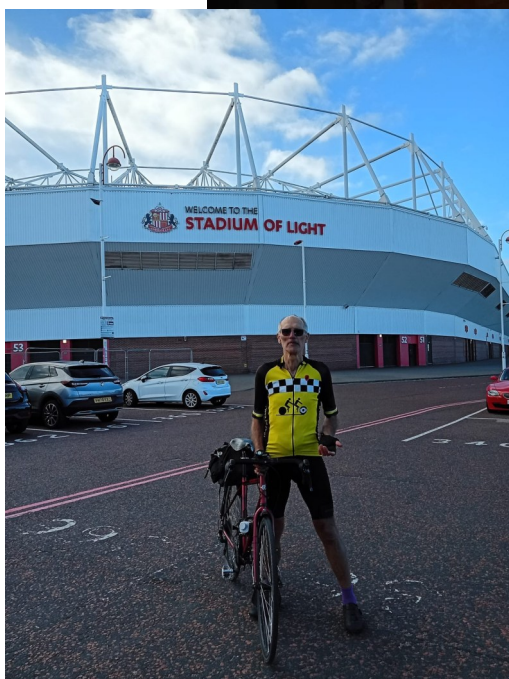
And yes, I hope that in years to come some of them will still be sitting in our pews. I hope some of them will become the people who teach, lead, welcome, serve and care for the generations that follow them. But before any of that, I hope they grow up knowing that this was always their church too. That they were known here. That they were welcomed here. That they were valued here. And, most importantly, that they encountered the love of Jesus here.

The children of Junior Church may well be the future of our church. But what a joy and a blessing it is to remember that they are also such an important part of its present.

-Leanne

September Fundraisers

September was a month of very successful fundraisers— Wayne Entwistle (bottom left) raised over £2000 for his chosen charities (detailed in earlier issues of this magazine) via his gruelling 700km + bike ride. More congenially, the Bury Mission Community raised £669 for the Christie with a quiz night (picture right) at which the Kirklees Valley team came third, and St Stephens annual bowling day at the Rose 'n' Bowl raised £140. Well done to all involved in organising and all taking part!





St Stephen's
CE Primary School



John 13:34 'Love one another, as I have loved you'

SCHOOL NEWS

Learning, loving and growing; together as God's children

Happy New School Year

September 2026

We have got off to a fabulous start and it has been wonderful to see our children return to school with such joy and excitement. We would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to our new children and families who have joined us in EYFS, Year 4 and Year 5 and our new staff. We have an exciting year ahead and I am so looking forward to all that we will achieve together as we continue learning, loving and growing as God's children.

Mrs Denny

USE
your
VOICE

Learning in Action

A key focus for us this year is our Voice 21 journey, where we are encouraging all children to develop their speaking and listening skills and have a voice. We want every child to feel confident sharing their ideas, asking questions and contributing to discussions.

Also this half term has been developing our leadership skills with the announcement of our new prefects and leaders across school.

You can read more about our Student Leaders [here](#)



Let's pray...

A prayer from Heavenly Joy, Mae, Talia, Daniel, Noah, Sonny, Paige, Harper and Melissa (Ethos Team)

Father God,
Thank You for the beautiful world You have made.
Thank You for our families, our friends and our school.
Please bless our learning this year.
Help us to grow in wisdom, kindness and character.
Bless everyone in our school family and help us to live out our values each and every day.
In Your name we pray. Amen.

Thank you for holding our children, staff and families in your prayers

Faith in Action

This half term, we are focusing on the Christian value of

Respect!

We are exploring what it means to respect ourselves as God's masterpiece, to show respect through our words and actions, and to care for God's creation and one another.

We have also been delighted to welcome our friends from the Bible Society to lead their Open the Book assemblies each Wednesday.

See them in action [here](#)



Thankfulness



At St. Stephen's, we are blessed with incredible children who make us smile every day, supportive families who work alongside us, and a dedicated staff team and governors who go above and beyond for our school family.

We are also so thankful for the many people who give their time so generously to support us. Thank you to our volunteers who come into school each week to listen to children read, our Church family who continue to encourage and pray for us, and our families who help in so many ways.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good: His love endures forever." Psalm 107:1



Please click here to see our wonderful school in action.



YOU'RE INVITED!

Family breakfast
Monday 12th October at 8:15am

🏆 Fantastic news!

We are absolutely delighted that St Stephen's has been awarded the Bury SACRE AWARE Award for Widening Achievement in RE! 🎉

This is a fantastic recognition of the rich, meaningful RE experiences our children enjoy across school. We are incredibly proud that St Stephen's is now just the eighth primary school in Bury to receive this award.

A huge thank you to our wonderful staff and children for making RE such a special part of life at St Stephen's 🏆 Fantastic news!

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The Bury Times covered the award here: <https://www.burytimes.co.uk/news/26560895.bury-primary-school-receiving-award-religious-education/>



John 13:34 'Love one another, as I have loved you'

OPEN DAYS

SEPTEMBER 2027



Emotionally Friendly Settings
2025-2027
PCTT
Bronze Accredited

"St Stephen's **welcomes, nurtures** and **supports** all children enabling them to **flourish**."
SIAMS Inspection, November 2023

WE CAN'T WAIT TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR NURSERY OR RECEPTION CLASS 2027

Our school vision is about **celebrating the uniqueness of every individual**, inspiring a life long love of learning and experiencing life in all its fullness. If you would like to visit our wonderful school to see our school vision in action, please contact the school office on 0161 764 1132 to book a tour with Mrs Denney, our Headteacher.

Please also visit us at Facebook or at www.ststephensceprimary.co.uk



Monday 5th October at 9:30am
Monday 5th October at 4:00pm
Monday 19th October at 1:30pm
Tuesday 20th October at 4:00pm



Friday 20th November at 9:30am
Monday 23rd November at 1:30pm
Deadline for application: 15th January 2027



... a supportive learning community that prepares pupils not only **academically**, but also **emotionally** and **socially** for the challenges and opportunities they will encounter in the wider world."

Inclusion Quality Mark Accreditation, July 2024

A Message from Bolton Road Methodist Church

At Bolton Road Methodist Church for the past 3 years we have run the Night Shelter during cold nights over the winter months. It is expected that this will again take place this year and we are in need of volunteers to help cover these nights. This work is so rewarding to everyone concerned and very much needed by the people who otherwise would be sleeping out in the cold. We need volunteers mainly for the overnight stays which is from 8 pm until 8 am. There are 2 volunteers each night + a security guard, after those who have come in to sleep in a warm safe environment have had something to eat and drinks and settled down for the night, the volunteers sleep too, in a separate area, until the morning when breakfast and drinks are served before they all go on their way. This is such vital work and I ask if you would prayerfully consider if it is something you would like to be involved in. If you would like any more information you can ring me on 07870773184 or email pwillcox10@gmail.com. The shelter for the past 2 years has only been open on the nights when the temperature falls below 0 degrees and funded by the council.

Every blessing

Pauline

Reparations— Are They Needed?

We'd love to invite you to join us for an evening of conversation and reflection at Manchester Cathedral on Tuesday 20 October 6.30pm, exploring the question:

Are reparations needed to end global poverty?

Across the Caribbean and Africa, demands for reparations from countries that benefited from the transatlantic slave trade are growing. At the same time, countries across the Global South continue to face the impacts of climate change, debt injustice and an unequal global economic system. So, what role could reparations play in addressing these injustices – and could they be part of the answer to ending global poverty?

Join Professor Michael Taylor, Emeritus Professor of Social Theology at the University of Birmingham, in conversation with Richard Reddie, Director of Justice and Inclusion at Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, as they explore these questions and more.

The conversation will be chaired by Osai Ojigho, Head of Policy & Influencing at Christian Aid, followed by a panel discussion and Q&A with Michael, Richard and Revd Grace Thomas, Canon Missioner at Manchester Cathedral.

Tuesday 20 October 2026, Manchester Cathedral, Victoria Street, Manchester, M3 1SX

6.30pm – Doors open and welcome drinks

7.00pm – Conversation, panel discussion and Q&A

8.30pm – Conclusion

9.00pm – Close

Trinity High School Manchester Saturday, November 14 • 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH FOR A DIFFERENT WORLD

Intercultural Kingdom Conference '26

"From every nation, tribe, people and language... a great multitude that no one could count."

Revelation 7:9



Join us for this years **Intercultural Kingdom Conference** as we explore the theme of '**Intercultural Discipleship**.'

This inspiring gathering will bring people from diverse cultures, churches, and communities together to learn, worship, share stories, and discover how following Jesus across cultures can deepen our faith, strengthen unity, and equip us for God's mission in today's world.

Explore what Intercultural Discipleship means for the Church today—Be inspired by stories of faith, culture, mission and transformation—Learn how to build deeper relationships across cultural backgrounds—Discover practical ways to grow diverse and welcoming worshipping communities—Engage in prayer, worship, teaching and shared reflection—Connect with church leaders, disciples and communities from different cultures—Be equipped to follow Jesus and join in God's mission across cultures. Book your place today and be part of a movement growing intercultural discipleship for the Kingdom of God

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/intercultural-kingdom-conference-2026-tickets-1993530657862?aff=oddtcreator>

EQUIP
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER



BURY & ROSSENDALE

Growing Younger **HUB MEETING**

Thursday 22nd October 2026



Everyone who works with children & young people welcome!



7.30 - 9PM



EMMANUEL CHURCH CENTRE
Longsight Road, Holcombe Brook, Ramsbottom, Bury.
BL8 4DB

CONNECT ENCOURAGE RESOURCE

Working together to help children and young people flourish with God across Bury and Rossendale.

MacMillan Coffee Morning Success

Monday 28 September saw All Saints Community Cafe hold its annual coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Once again it was very well supported with a mix of local residents together with our own and the local Methodist congregation. It was wonderful to see so many people come together to enjoy the fellowship while at the same time raising a brilliant £500 for such a wonderful cause.

We were fortunate also to receive support from many local businesses who provided some excellent raffle prizes.

Thanks go to all who attended, donated or provided raffle prizes. Special thanks to the many people who took along home made cakes and to the cafe volunteers who worked so hard to make this another successful event.

Finally, a date for your diaries. Monday 21 December the Community Cafe will be having a special Christmas Celebration. As ever, all are welcome!

Love Bury Toy Appeal 2026

The **Love Bury Toy Appeal 2026**, led by Bury Churches Together in partnership with the Salvation Army, is now live! Initially we are now open to referrals. This will be followed by public collections beginning in November at **The Rock and Mill Gate**, helping provide Christmas gifts for local children whose families are struggling. Information and referral forms are available at waymarker.org.uk.

Please support the appeal by sharing it through your church notices, newsletters and social media, encouraging donations of new toys and gifts, and directing organisations supporting families to the referral form. We would also value your prayers for the children and families receiving gifts, the agencies referring them, and everyone collecting, sorting and distributing donations. Referrals close on **Friday, 4 December**, with gifts collected by referring organisations **9-11 December** from **Seedfield Methodist Church, Linton Avenue entrance, Bury BL9 6NL**.

Thank you for your prayers and practical support. Please get in touch if your church would like to help.

-Daniel Harris, URC Minister



Congratulations Sue!

On Sunday 27th September a new crop of readers were licensed in Manchester Cathedral by Bishop Matthew, amongst whom was Sue Stonestreet, who will serve in the parish of Kirklees



Valley– congratulations Sue, and thanks to all who came along for what was a lovely service featuring a string quartet! If you missed the service you can watch it online here: https://www.youtube.com/live/v4_FhVdmh-8?feature=shared

Well Done Jane!

Very well done to Jane Parsons who recently abseiled down Peel Tower in order to raise funds for Bury Hospice. Peel Tower itself is 128 feet tall, but it sits on top of a sizeable hill, which surely makes abseiling down it even more scary!



Exploring Ministry?

Whether you're exploring ordained ministry or one of the many lay ministry pathways, our upcoming Vocations Day is a chance to meet people serving in a variety of roles, hear inspiring stories and discover where God may be leading you.

 St John's House, Bury

 Saturday 3rd October

 10am–1pm

Book here: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/vocations-day-tickets-1997454344715?utm_id=97758_v0_s00_e0_tv2_a1demo0e5qmqow&fbclid=IwY2xjawUnA7xleHRuA2FlbQlzMABwZG9mBWJyaWQRMWh0dEFPa3haSE9nTmF1NktzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzkxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEel48YHd6hTSgGUBNqxBL3UkX90vuEJEKodEZqf_pcNPezxwZSkkveBRElpIg_aem_4tDmSanYozgSQTLLSasOqw

Bury Parish Church

The Rock, Bury, BL9 0AH



Comedy Night Church with Paul Kerensa



Stand-up comedy like you've probably not seen it before....
A show suitable for all ages (ice, bronze, saus, etc)
British comedy award-winning writer (Miranda, Top Gear, Not Going out)

Friday, 6th November 2026

7.30pm

Blackburne Hall at Bury Parish Church

Tickets £10.00 or Family ticket for £25.00

Available via the QR Code or at

www.buryparishchurch.com/paul-kerensastileantico.co.uk/tickets

Tickets available in Church on Wednesday, Fridays & Sundays



Pilgrimage

There has been a lot in the Diocesan and national church communications over the summer about pilgrimage, about the Pilgrim Places, Holy Lives campaign. Plus one of the things encouraged during my Reader training has been looking at our “Rule of Life”, how we interact with God on a daily, weekly or monthly basis. Prayer and Bible reading, worship, and also making time for retreat and for reflection. With these ideas in my head, I decided to take a trip in July to Iona, a place I visited with my parents aged eight or nine and a site of pilgrimage for many centuries. Robin was working in Glasgow, so driving him up there got me part of the way. So on a sunny Monday morning I left him heading off to work and was on my way. The drive to Oban is magnificent, up the bonny banks of Loch Lomond, lunch at Tyndrum and across to Loch Awe, then Tynanault and finally Oban. My pilgrimage took in some fabulous scenery and in beautiful weather. If engaging with God was the object of the trip then this was the perfect start, surrounded by His creation.

A walk down to the harbour (I’d forgotten how hilly Oban is) for a bite to eat and to see what I remembered of the place, some things were very familiar, but some have changed. Then a climb back to my guest house and an early night. Up at six, breakfast on the quayside and then on the first ferry of the day, an hours sail to Craignure on Mull. There are only three buses a day across the island to Fionnphort and the first was waiting for the ferry to dock. There are two ways to pay, a single or return ticket, the single is £2.70 but the return is £27.50! If you ask for a return it is counted as a “coach trip” but a single is a “bus ride” - how to confuse twenty or so tourists but no one bought a return. More amazing scenery as we travelled across Mull, including a slightly scary and very narrow stone bridge. An hour and a half later Iona was in sight and the next ferry was heading towards the dock. To the right was a bay with highland cattle cooling off, standing knee deep in the sea. Very different weather to my last visit which had been wet and windy, this day was sunny and cloudless and required factor 50 sun cream!

All the way across to Iona there is a view of the Abbey, founded in 563 by St. Columba and a place of pilgrimage, monastic life and worship until the Reformation. Starting in 1938 it was rebuilt by the Iona Community and is a centre for worship, with a worldwide community working for justice and peace inspired by their faith. Its members have produced material for worship, hymns and much more published by its own publisher, Wild Goose, and it encourages co-operation and mutual respect across its communities. The Prayer Group meeting at All Saints at 13:30 on Thursday 22nd October led by Fr. Derek will be using material from the Iona Community. Even though the Abbey has been rebuilt there is a sense of continuing history across the site, the path where monks walked up to the Abbey is marked and there are tall, stone Celtic crosses



at which they would pause and pray. This sense of worship and belief stretching back centuries gave me the feeling that although we all live our short, individual lives there is something so much greater and that is the continuing presence of God, the Creator of all who loves and cares for each of us. Even though there were quite a few people about and a couple of tours underway, when I went into the Abbey it emptied and I was left alone and in relative silence for 20 minutes or so. There are Bibles, hymn books and worship books on each chair and I was able to spend that time reflecting on God's creation, His love for the world and all that is in it. With the distant sounds of gulls and waves, having an empty church around me gave me time to pray and open myself to listen too.



Sometimes having the space and time to be still in our busy world is just what I need and these few minutes provided that. It was only a short time and soon the next tour group came in, and I was back in the world of bustle and humanity. Out into the bright sun and heat, a walk round the rest of the site and a tub of ice cream from the gift shop. Back to the dock for the ferry back to Mull, the cows were now sleeping on the beach and the tide was out but I managed to fit in a quick paddle before getting the last bus back to Craignure. Once in Oban, food on the quayside and the climb up the hill for a night's sleep before the long drive back to Bury the next day. In all 600 miles of driving, four ferry rides, two bus rides and four miles of walking, worth every mile. Where to next?

Sue Stonestreet

Great Wall of China Trek 2026

Shirley Ward (daughter of the late and much missed Peter Coupe) is undertaking an epic trip on behalf of Bury Hospice. She says:

From November 8th to 16th 2026, I'll be taking on the adventure of a lifetime — trekking along the Great Wall of China! This won't be an easy journey — it's going to be physically demanding, mentally tough but I'm not doing it just for the experience. I'm taking on this challenge to raise vital funds and awareness for Bury Hospice, a charity that provides exceptional care, comfort, and support to patients and families during the most difficult times of their lives.

Every step I take will be to support the incredible work Bury Hospice does every single day. Your support means everything — whether it's a small donation, sharing my page, or sending a message of encouragement. Every contribution makes a difference, helping the hospice continue its compassionate care.

Thank you!

To donate visit: [https://www.justgiving.com/page/shirley-ward-1?](https://www.justgiving.com/page/shirley-ward-1?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL)
[utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/shirley-ward-1?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL)





Sign up here if
you would like
to know more:



**1st – 14th
February 2027**

Save the date!

**We are inviting churches to
join us for a “Love Your
School” fortnight in 2027
across the deaneries of
Bolton, Bury and Rossendale.**

Living God's Future Now

A day of inspiration, worship and practical ideas for church renewal

Saturday 24 October, 10.00am - 4.00pm

St Helen's Minster, Church Square, St Helens



Featuring Revd Dr Sam Wells (joining by Zoom). Founder of HeartEdge and Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Explore:

- Practical workshops
- Worship and music
- Fresh ideas for mission and ministry
- HeartEdge's Course of Discovery
- Networking with clergy and lay leaders

**BOOK
NOW**



£20 per person (Bring a friend for just £10 extra)

Refreshments and Registration from 9.30am

Ticket includes: Lunch, refreshments and a complimentary copy of the Course of Discovery book

St
Martin
in the
Fields
300

heartedge
Congregational Commission Culture Centre

**Diocese of
Liverpool**

Hymn of the Week

Choose Your Favourite Hymn
and Let's Sing it Together!

Hymns
Ancient
& Modern

The
English
Hymnal

Pass your requests on to the Vicar.



ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

OCTOBER 14TH 6.30PM-9.00PM

THE QUIET REVIVAL

A PRESENTATION BY THE BIBLE SOCIETY WITH Q&A

Sessions on
Engaging with Young People
Engaging with Children

SALFORD CATHEDRAL CENTRE
3 FORD STREET M3 6DP
Parking on site

Fr. Derek's 80th Birthday Celebrations

My 80th birthday celebration certainly turned out to be something special. The week of my birthday and Sunday was one enjoyable experience after another.

I was left feeling lost for words, an unusual situation but silence has its place, perhaps you can savour deep feelings best in silence. The silence however, is not without sounds, sounds that can inform the silence.

I was asked do I feel any different now I am 80 years plus one day. No was my answer but I was wrong but did not realise it. I had to let the silence speak. There were cards and gifts, the hugs and smiles and sound of laughter. There was also the humbling words of a son to his Dad but I needed some silence in order to absorb the events.

My life has been one of many rich and varied experiences and within that life trying to find grace in the every day events of life and not always succeeding.

I will take to heart these words given before we shared food, drink and storytelling:

'As you celebrate 80 years, may your journey continue with peace, joy and gentle adventure'.

So do I feel different now I am 80 years+. Yes, because I have a renewed gratitude for love of family and friends. A big thank you to you all.

Mystics of England Pilgrimage

Join the Rev. Dr. Kevin Goodrich OP on a pilgrimage around England exploring the spirituality of the English mystics— scan the QR code for more info.





A Pilgrimage with the Mystics of
England
May 18 – 27, 2027
Pilgrimage Hosts
**Rev. Dr. Kevin Goodrich, OP &
Rev. Dr. Susan Forshey SCP**



*"All shall be well, and
all manner of thing
shall be well"*
— Julian of Norwich

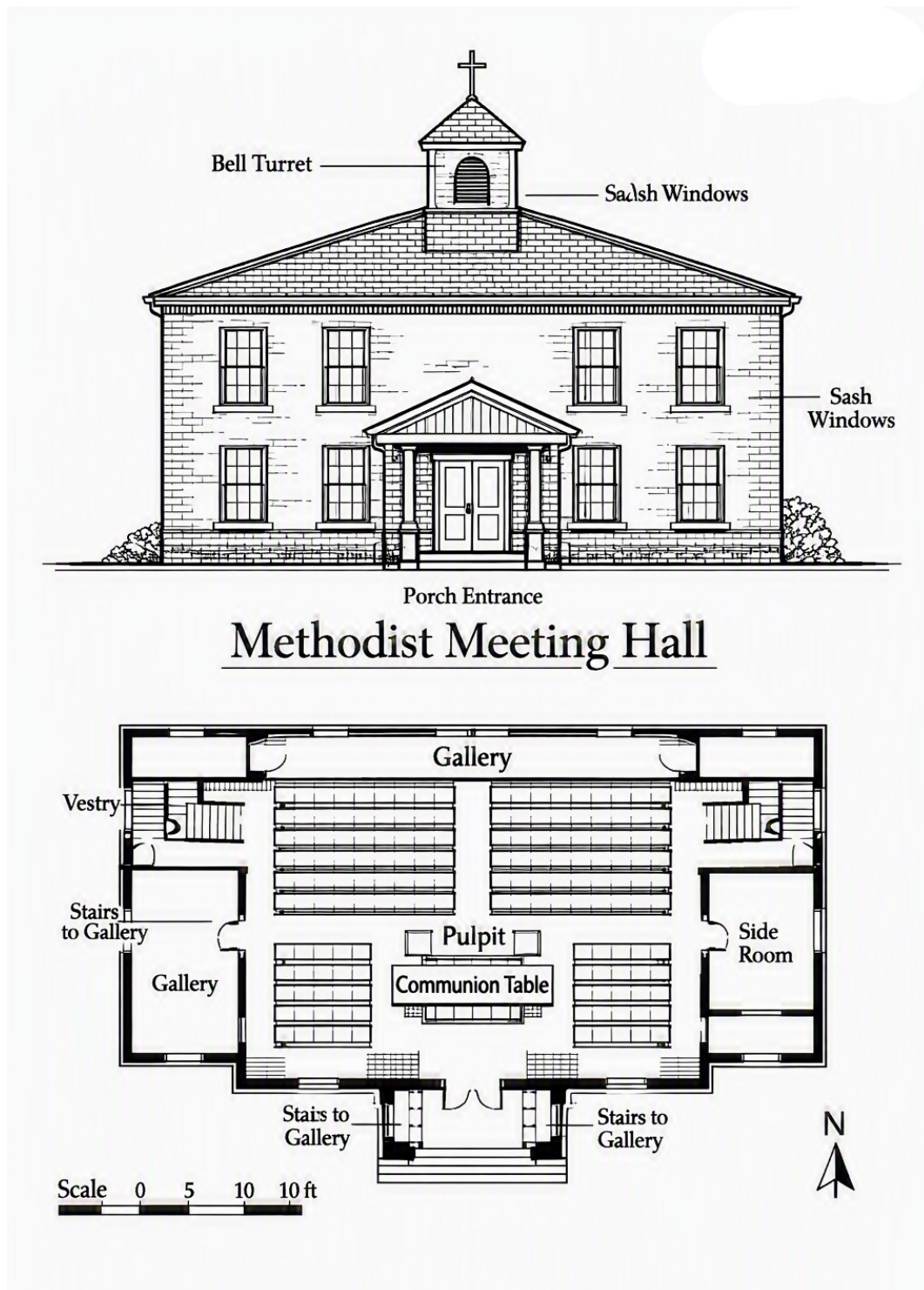


Space is limited. Register Today!

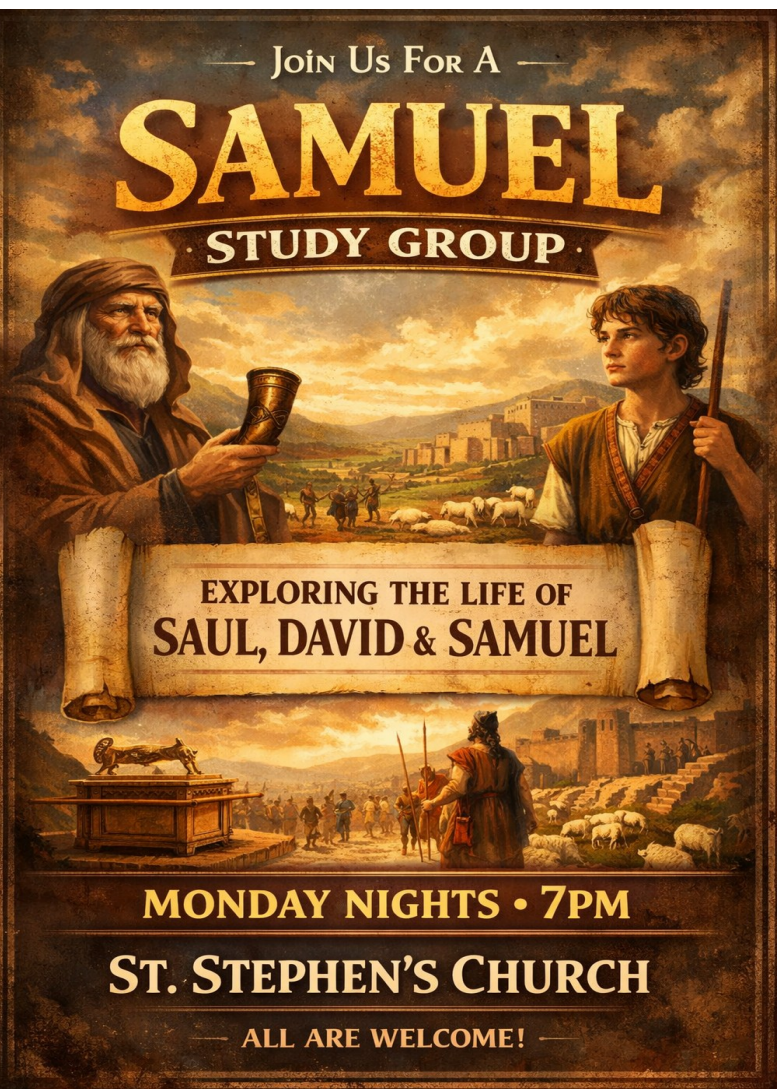
Download a brochure at portal.myfaithjourneys.com
Group Number 27008



Exploring Church Architecture



Methodist meeting halls, reflecting the growth of the movement through itinerant preaching, often resemble public assembly halls more than traditional churches. Reflecting a reformation emphasis on simplicity, they are often smart and dignified but not overly ornate. They are often designed in the architectural style fashionable during and after Wesley's life—the Neoclassical style—however, Neogothic Methodist Chapels can also be found. Wesley himself preferred an octagonal space due to their auditory qualities, but this is rarely duplicated in later chapels—there are only 15 Octagonal Wesleyan chapels known to have been built.



Ethics Study Group

Wednesdays • 1.30pm
At the Vicarage



See Vicar for details



Manchester Cathedral

FAIRTRADE ECOFEST

Saturday 3rd October 2026
10:30am – 1:30pm | Manchester Cathedral

FREE ENTRY!

Celebrate sustainability with music, stalls, crafts and refreshments

Iona Afternoon

All are welcome to join Fr. Derek and the All Saints prayer group for an afternoon inspired by the Celtic spirituality of the Iona community. Those for whom this is an unfamiliar idea may want to come along to find out more, and those who know the Iona tradition may wish to join in with this much-loved style of prayer.

The Power of Story with Bob Hartman

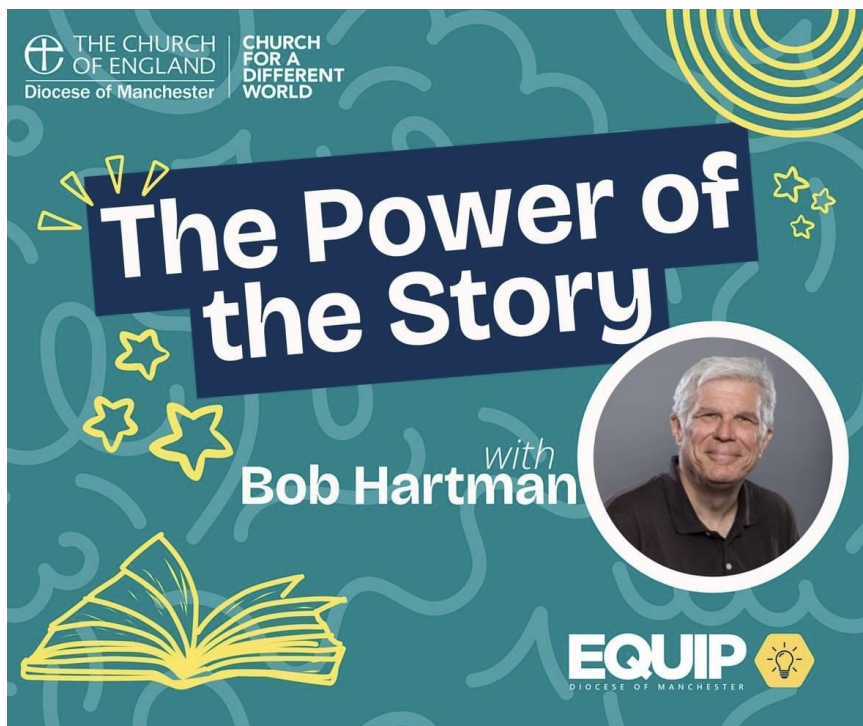
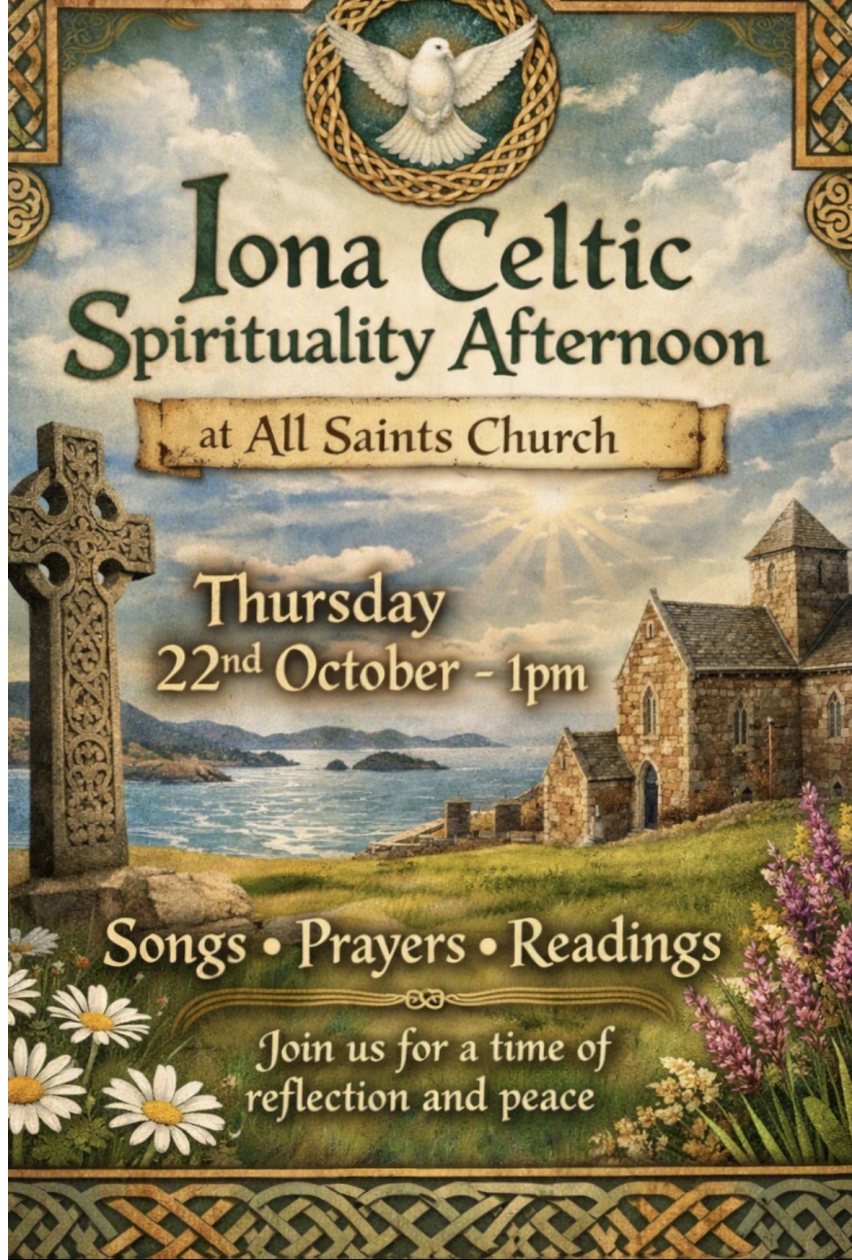
We're delighted to welcome Bob Hartman to the Diocese of Manchester for an inspiring evening exploring The Power of the Story. Bob is an ordained minister, professional storyteller, and award-winning author of more than 100 books. For over 30 years, he has helped people of all ages engage with the Bible and discover the God who inspires its story. During these evening sessions, Bob will share stories, offer practical insights into communicating God's story across the generations, and answer your questions.

You can choose to attend either of the following events:

Wednesday 14 October 2026 St Andrew's Hillock 7:00pm to 9:00pm (Doors open at 6:30pm) **or** Thursday 15 October 2026

St Werburgh's, Chorlton 7:00pm to 9:00pm (Doors open at 6:30pm)

Open to clergy, children's and youth workers, and anyone passionate about sharing God's story and helping others engage with faith across the generations. A selection of Bob Hartman's books will be available to purchase on the evening, giving you the chance to take home some of his inspiring storytelling resources. Book here and select your preferred venue: [link](#)



An Unexpected Visitor at All Saints!

We recently made the acquaintance of a local bat (pictured) who was discovered, somewhat weak and disorientated, in the entrance hall of All Saints after the baby and toddler group. I have to say I was rather relieved that the bat did not decide to fly around the church during said event!

It appears to be some kind of pipistrelle bat, but it is impossible to be more specific than that as the various species look very similar, particularly to a non-expert.

Despite receiving several offers from members of the congregation to adopt him (.....) he (?) was duly whisked off to the vets by Sue, who was later informed that he had gone to stay with a veterinary nurse who was a member of the Conservation Trust.

Harvest Services

Kirklees Valley – 4th Oct Joint service followed by harvest meal

St Stephens – 11th Oct parade service

Dustbusters

Thanks to all who came to help out at our first meeting of Dustbusters last month. Between the six of us we managed to make quite an impression with about an hours work. All welcome when we meet again this month– **third Friday, 9am.**





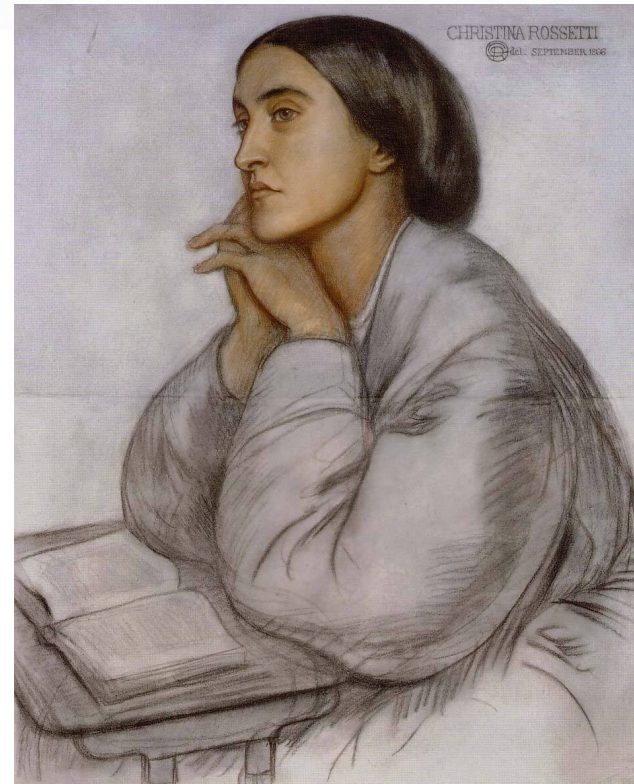
Anglicanism has a rich heritage of poetry to draw on; one that is arguably much neglected. This month we look at a poem by Christina Rossetti: (1830-1894) pre-Raphaelite luminary, author of 'In The Bleak Midwinter' and sister of Dante Gabriel Rossetti. For much of her life she suffered from physical and mental ill-health, and this is expressed in her poetry.

A Better Resurrection

I have no wit, no words, no tears;
 My heart within me like a stone
 Is numb'd too much for hopes or fears;
 Look right, look left, I dwell alone;
 I lift mine eyes, but dimm'd with grief
 No everlasting hills I see;
 My life is in the falling leaf:
 O Jesus, quicken me.

My life is like a faded leaf,
 My harvest dwindled to a husk:
 Truly my life is void and brief
 And tedious in the barren dusk;
 My life is like a frozen thing,
 No bud nor greenness can I see:
 Yet rise it shall—the sap of Spring;
 O Jesus, rise in me.

My life is like a broken bowl,
 A broken bowl that cannot hold
 One drop of water for my soul
 Or cordial in the searching cold;
 Cast in the fire the perish'd thing;
 Melt and remould it, till it be
 A royal cup for Him, my King:
 O Jesus, drink of me.



We have a second poem of the month this month, submitted by Christine McKenna

Tea and Coffee Welcome All

The gentle clatter of the cups
The hum of Sunday chat,
The busy room where friendly souls
In familiar circles sat.

A steaming pot, a plate of biscuits,
Laughter by the door,
The comfortable warmth of catching up
On all that went before.

Yet just beyond the lively ring,
A chair pulled slightly back—
A quiet watcher sitting there,
Where quiet shadows track.

A hesitant cup held in two hands,
An eye that turns away,
Hoping to join the fellowship,
Unsure of what to say.

It takes so little effort—
A step across the floor,
A single seat pulled up to join,
An open, welcome door.

"May I sit here?" or "How's your week?"
Can break a wall in two,
And turn a stranger's awkward hour
To warmth and something new.

For grace is rarely found in words
Preached only from the stage;
It's lived between the coffee cups,
Upon the weekly page.

So as we pass the tea today
And scan the bustling hall,
Let's look beyond our usual friends
To make a space for all.

Made with AI

Loving your Muslim Neighbour



A Conference

St Peter's Church, Bury BL9 9QZ

Saturday 17th October 2026 • 10.00 AM – 3.30 PM

**With Phil Rawlings, former Mcr Diocese Interfaith Officer,
Katy Knight, PhD Student, and Friends.**

Doors open at 9:30 AM with refreshments

Tea, coffee & pastries provided | Please bring your own lunch

Tickets: £10 • Concessions £6 • www.stpetersbury.church/conference

Any questions: hello@stpetersbury.church

Carolyn and Keith's Recipe of the Month

Gardener's Pie

serves 4—ready in 1 hour

Ingredients

1 kg potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks low calorie cooking spray

1 large onion, roughly chopped 4 celery sticks, roughly chopped

4 large carrots, peeled and diced 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped 4 large parsnips, peeled and diced large bag of spinach, roughly chopped

400ml boiling vegetable stock

150g frozen peas

2 tsp mustard powder salt and freshly ground black pepper

1 tbsp finely chopped fresh parsley, to garnish

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 220°C/Fan 200°C/Gas 7.

Cook the potatoes in a saucepan of lightly salted boiling water for 12-15 minutes or until tender.

Meanwhile, spray a large non-stick frying pan with low calorie cooking spray and place over a medium heat. Add the onion, celery, carrots, garlic, parsnips and spinach and stir-fry for 10 minutes, until the vegetables are starting to colour but are still crunchy. Add 350ml of the stock, the peas and the mustard powder and stir well. Season to taste and spoon into a medium-sized pie dish.

Drain the potatoes and return them to the saucepan along with the remaining stock. Mash until smooth then spoon on top of the vegetables, smooth with a fork and bake for 25-30 minutes or until golden. Scatter over the parsley and serve hot.



Free Community Café



At Brandleshome Community Centre
375b Brandlesholme Road
Bury

Everyone
welcome!
♡



We are open every
Monday from 11.00 to 1.30pm

Join us for free...



Tea



Coffee



Hot Chocolate



Cakes & Biscuits



Hot Soup



and a chat!

Good company, warm drinks and a friendly welcome. ♡

0-5 Baby and Toddler Group

EVERY WEDNESDAY

9:30AM-11:30AM

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

HEBBURN DRIVE, BURY, BL8 1ED

ALL WELCOME
FREE TO ATTEND



CHORAL EVENSONG

According to the Book of Common Prayer



Second Sunday of the Month

6pm

— O Lord, open thou our lips... —

FAITH, FRIENDS, FUN

St Stephen's Sunday School

All Welcome

Weekly during the main service

Speak to Leanne or the Vicar

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

Rev. Ellise O'Hara

Study Group



Regular Events/Groups

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

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

St Stephen's Junior Church: every Sunday **Toddler Group:** Wednesdays 9.30 All Saints

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 Church

October Rota

04.10.26		Pres	Preach	Deacon	Colour	Green	KV Harvest-Alternate readings
	AS	11 S. Eccleston			Readings	Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20 Matt 21:33-end	
	SS	9 E. O'Hara	S. Eccleston				
	SJ	11 E. O'Hara					
11.10.26	AS	11 E. O'Hara	J. Patridge		Colour	Green	SS Harvest Parade- alternate readings
	SS	9 E. O'Hara	S. Eccleston		Readings	Exodus 32:1-14 Matt 22:1-14	
		6 E. O'Hara			Evensong		
	SJ	11 S. Eccleston					
18.10.26	AS	11 D. Akker	S. Eccleston		Colour	Green	
					Readings	Exodus 33:12-end	
	SS	S. Eccleston	E. O'Hara			Matt 22:15-22	
	SJ	11 E. O'Hara	F. Nuttall				
25.10.26	AS	11 E. O'Hara	G. Joyce		Colour	Green	
					Readings	Deut 34:1-12	
	SS	S. Eccleston	P. Sanderson			Matt 22:34-end	
	SJ	P. Sanderson	S. Eccleston				

November Rota

01.11.26		Pres	Preach	Deacon	Colour	Gold/White	All Saints Day
	AS	11 S. Eccleston			Readings	Rev 7:9-end Matt 5:1-12	
	SS	9 E. O'Hara	S. Eccleston				
		6 S. Eccleston			All Souls		
	SJ	11 E. O'Hara					
08.11.26	AS	J. Par- 11 tridge	E. O'Hara		Colour	Red	Remembrance Sun- day
	SS	9 E. O'Hara	S. Eccleston		Readings	Amos 5:18-24 Matt 25:1-13	
		6 S. Eccleston			Evensong		
	SJ	11 S. Eccleston					
15.11.26	AS	S. Ec- 11 cleston	D. Akker		Colour	Red	
					Readings	Zephaniah 1.7, 12-end	
	SS	S. Ec- 9 cleston	E. O'Hara			Matt 25:14-30	
	SJ	11 E. O'Hara	F. Nuttall				
22.11.26	AS	11 G. Joyce	E. O'Hara		Colour	Red	
					Readings	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	
	SS	S. Ec- 9 cleston	P. Sanderson			Matthew 25:31-end	
	SJ	P. Sander- 11 son	S. Eccleston				
29.11.26	AS	S. Ec- 11 cleston	S. Stonestreet		Colour	Purple	Advent 1
					Readings	Isaiah 64:1-9	
	SS	S. Ec- 9 cleston	E. O'Hara			Mark 13:24-end	
	SJ	11 E. O'Hara					

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

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

St Francis' Ladies Club: Lynne Williamson 07722 624847

Room Hire at All Saints/St Francis: allsaints.kirkleesvalley@gmail.com 07368 460378

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16034/

www.allsaintsandstjames.com

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsbury>

St James' Contacts:

Mothers' Union Ann Redding 0781 112 9355

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

Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/16046/

www.allsaintsandstjames.com

St Stephen's Contacts:

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Email: ststephenelton@gmail.com

Pastoral visiting: Revd. Ellise O'Hara 07749 195664

News sheet/rotas: Tony Parsons tony.parsons67@gmail.com

Room Hire: Keith Hughes hughes_k4@sky.com

Website www.ststephenelton.com

<https://www.facebook.com/people/St-Stephens-Church-Elton/61575109828589/>