

Parish Magazine July 2026



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 brseclestonop@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.

Suggested

Donation: 50p

Vicar's Letter

In this month's magazine you will find my usual reflection, an account of a royal event, news of forthcoming events and Diocesan appointments, messages of farewell, a new recipe of the month, 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 involved in the St Stephen's litter-pick, particularly the caterers, Ellise and Val for their work on social events, Josie for covering an extra service, Joe Walk for his many years of service at evensong,



What Is Liturgy For?

Recently I was asked to write something to explain what liturgy is and why we do it— I thought this was a helpful suggestion, because it is one of many things that Church folk in general, and Anglicans in particular, tend to assume rather than explain. Part of the reason for this is that liturgy comes from a culture in which it seemed commonsensical, but we have gradually evolved into a culture in which it no longer is without adapting to the change.

It is usually useful, when explaining something, to start with its origins— and liturgy is no exception. The word *leitourgia* (λειτουργία) is Greek, and means 'the work of/for the people'. It originally applied to games, plays, processions, acts of communal worship, and other events sponsored by the richer members of the Ancient Greek and Roman public for the benefit of their compatriots. It wasn't restricted to worship, but usually involved elements of worship and ritual, as more or less everything in the ancient world did. This conception of work of and for the people is rooted in a sense of identity which is perhaps somewhat alien to us in our individualistic culture. For us, who we are is a matter of individuality— we are chiefly defined by how our tastes, choices, and values differ from those of people around us, by how we have made our own way in life. Of course, this is somewhat illusory, as all our choices and values derive from and respond to the acts, words, and thoughts of others, but nevertheless, that is how we tend to think. We tend to think we have a pristine inner nature that it is our life's work to discover and express through our words and choices. Ancient people would have found this attitude if not incomprehensible then at least immoral; they had to band together in order to survive, so their sense of personal identity was always defined by being part of a group. They were, first and foremost, inhabitants of roles and positions within a society; they might be a Roman, a mother, a member of a certain clan or tribe, or a practitioner of a certain cult or trade, and their identity was expressed chiefly through conformity to the values and expectations of these groups. Thus, some of their identity (nation and family principally) were inherited in a fairly direct way. Others were to do with what they did on a daily basis (which itself might be a product of inheritance, but was also to do with living a certain kind

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of life— being a blacksmith or a priest or a legionary was not just a role it was an identity. In other words, they were defined, at least in part, by the work they did together. Hence the importance of liturgy— it was work for all the people to do and benefit from together. Part of the purpose of liturgy, therefore, was that it both expressed and maintained/constituted the corporate identities that people subscribed to. Part of the reason modern people are uncomfortable with liturgy is that they no longer see themselves as constituted by group activities— they seem themselves, more often than not, as defined by distinction from, rather than membership within, a group.



However, this is not to say there are not modern secular liturgies— there are; liturgy is seemingly a natural and spontaneous part of human culture. For example, rock concerts are arguably liturgical. The people who attend typically wear special clothes, jewellery, and hair styles; they will tend to refer to themselves by some group name ('rockers', 'goths', 'emos' etc), they will value the approval and friendship of other members of the group. A lot of the performance is far more ritualised than might be apparent at first— the jumping up and down on stage, for example, is supposed to produce an image of wild abandon, but of course, it is not uncontrolled at all— it is a stereotyped gesture which represents an emotional state but still allows the musicians to perform. Similarly, the seemingly chaotic jumping and running in the 'mosh pit' has an ethical character— if someone falls over, people are expected to pick them up, bigger people are expected to try to avoid smaller people, and to help them to 'crowd-surf' by giving them a leg up etc.

Like ancient liturgy, modern liturgies structure identity— rock fans tend to think of themselves principally as fans of certain types of music or certain specific bands, and they dress and behave in ways consistent with that group identity. There is an irony here, because stereotypically rock fans will say they value individuality, while exhibiting extreme conformity of behaviour.

Christian liturgy defines individuals by their membership of the church, and the relationship between the Church and God; one of worship. This is why questions of enjoyment, of 'what I got out of it' never arose historically— it was not conceived of as being entertainment, even if there were elements of interest and beauty involved. The individual attended to contribute, witness, and be included, not to pass the time. Thinking of the Eucharist, then, in these terms, is revealing— weekly attendance was, amongst other things, about renewing a form of identity; affirming and recreating oneself as a person. This is entirely consistent with the ritual gestures involved, as in a fairly literal way the Eucharist is a meal, those who receive are being fed— being provided with the stuff that goes on to constitute their being. What they are being fed by is Christ himself— thus Christians are those who become like Christ by imbibing him in word and sacrament.

Vicar's Letter

The notion of liturgy as the work of the people also helps us to understand the ritual nature of what is done. Liturgy involves gestures, costumes, bodily movements, ritualised speech, the construction/delineation of sacred spaces with attached codes of conduct that differ from ordinary life, the use of ritual objects, incense, candles, chant etc. We tend to think of this nowadays in effectively pedagogical terms— that these are things which ‘symbolise’ certain ideas. In a sense this is true, but we should not understand it in an intellectualist way— it is not that the gestures are supposed to be ‘read’ by the intellect, and the meanings understood as if reading a book. If it were, what would be the point of repeating the process? Once we have understood, surely there would be no further need for the symbol?



Rather, the function of the ritual is based in the ancient idea that your identity was partly constituted by your work— you became who you were through learning a craft or living a particular way of life. The repeated practice of shaping metal, waging war, cooking, or whatever, slowly affected ones preferences, values, and abilities; it created a worldview, a set of instincts and behaviours which came to seem natural and obvious. In other words, practice structures subjectivity; it creates our inner experience of both ourselves and the world and thereby determines how we behave in a general way. A soldier was a different kind of person from a farmer. Thus, bowing, kneeling and other ritual expressions of humility were not meant to merely symbolise humility; they were meant to actually make people humble; forms of physical veneration like kissing the Bible were not meant to merely symbolise the importance of the book, they were meant to actually inculcate reverence for it.

We tend to perhaps forget this when we discuss liturgy— we are often somewhat impatient of the details of liturgy, as if it doesn't matter. We have perhaps unconsciously imbibed the naïve rationalism of the European enlightenment which has a tendency to reduce the human person to the intellect, and therefore see anything not addressing the intellect as in some sense primitive. Ironically, this is now seen, particularly in anthropological, psychological, and philosophical circles, as a naïve and unscientific view. What can start, for example, as a concern to prevent those with mobility issues from coming to harm by over-exerting themselves can gradually mutate into the notion that kneeling or other forms of posture don't matter, but all of the psychological and historical evidence indicates that they do. By the same logic, changes in liturgy are not just changes in appearance, they are changes in both the whole experience that we are trying to cultivate and the meaning we are communicating. I once worked in a church that was very committed to the Prayer Book tradition. They had, more or less under duress, brought in Common Worship services, but this was resented decades after the fact. One of the complaints that people had was about the peace— there is no peace in a Prayer

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Book Eucharist, and the congregation largely didn't like it. You might ask what is so objectionable about making peace with our fellows as Christ commanded us to, and in principle, the rejection of the practice wasn't rejection of the principle. Rather, what most people articulated was that it broke the spell of the service; the traditional liturgy— the use of the familiar and ancient language, the readings, the sermon etc— had allowed them to enter into a state that I would describe as contemplative; ordinary life and its distractions were forgotten and focus and peace was achieved. The peace, ironically, broke into this state of mind, and returned people, mentally, to normal social life— to rivalries, resentments, Similarly, for many people, the language of Common Worship simply wasn't as resonant— partly because of its inherent lexical and grammatical modernity, but also because, on a personal level, it wasn't the language they had grown up using, it wasn't the language that had shaped them.

So, that's broadly what liturgy is about, the picture of the human person it assumes, and how it works. Over the coming months we will look more specifically at what Christian, principally Anglican, liturgy does, at the specific gestures and attitudes that are involved, and at how this is supposed to shape us.

Evensong

A reminder that Evensong is held every second Sunday of the month at St Stephen's— with the exception of this month, 12th July, as our organist is having a well-deserved break. Services resume in August- All welcome.

Facebook

A reminder that all three of our churches have Facebook pages, please do like, follow and share.



CHORAL EVENSONG

According to the Book of Common Prayer



Second Sunday of the Month

6pm

— O Lord, open thou our lips... —

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.

Bishop Guli Frances Dehqani discusses her upbringing in Iran here: [link](#)

Evan B Normal interviews a former monk here: [link](#)

Tom Holland discusses how his cancer diagnosis affected his faith here: [link](#)

Great British Architecture explores the oldest Church in England here: [link](#)

Archbishop Sarah talks about prayer here: [link](#)

Flames Collective perform 'Only God' here: [link](#)

Refuge perform 'Come Unto Me' here: [link](#)



CHURCH TIMES

The **Church Times** explore our changing religious landscape here: [link](#)

And offer further commentary on the **ongoing 'Quiet Revival' debate** here: [link](#)

A Curious Way explores the oldest surviving **Doom Painting** in the country here: [link](#)

By Jacklynn offers a unique perspective on **Westminster Abbey** here: [link](#)

Professor Pierce explores **Sedlec Ossuary** in Czechia here: [link](#)

The Ginger Mason answers questions about her work restoring Cathedral stonework here: [link](#)

Premier Unbelievable? Discuss core Christian doctrines with + N.T. Wright here: [link](#)

Prof John Collins discusses Judaism at the time of Jesus here: [link](#)

Bijan Omrani explores how Christianity has affected the English Language here: [link](#)

+Rowan Williams talks about whether God wants you to be happy here: [link](#)

Richie Wilkerson explores the neuroscience of the Lord's Prayer here: [link](#)

The History Husband explores a remarkable small church here: [link](#)

Manchester's Last Bricks offers a video tour of the remarkable **St Anne's Denton** here: [link](#)

Study Group is typically recorded in an audio file as are sermons -if you have missed a session/service and wish to listen please contact the Vicar.



Coach Outing to Chester Cathedral

St Francis Ladies Club at All Saints organised a coach outing to Chester Cathedral on 8th June to see an exhibition by Jacqui Parkinson on **'Threads through the Bible'**. We welcomed non-members from all our three churches All Saints, St James and St Stephen's on what turned out to be an absolutely brilliant day. Rain was forecast for the day, but once we got to Chester the sun was out, the coach dropped us right by the Cathedral and we were welcomed and everyone had four hours free time to go and look at the displays, have lunch, walk round the City or just sit in the Cathedral central garden. Fifteen of our group attended the 12.30 Holy Communion at the service, which was held in the Lady Chapel. Featuring three separate sets – 'Threads through Creation', 'Threads through the Cross' and 'Threads through Revelation', it took ten years in the making. There are more than 25 million stitches across the 44 panels stretching over 80 metres this display and is one of the largest textile artworks ever created by a single artist. Initially commissioned by the Deo Gloria Trust, and supported by the New Creations Charity, the displays take you through an inspiring journey, guiding you from the first pages in the Bible, through Jesus' life and death and resurrection and the extraordinary visions from the book of Revelation.

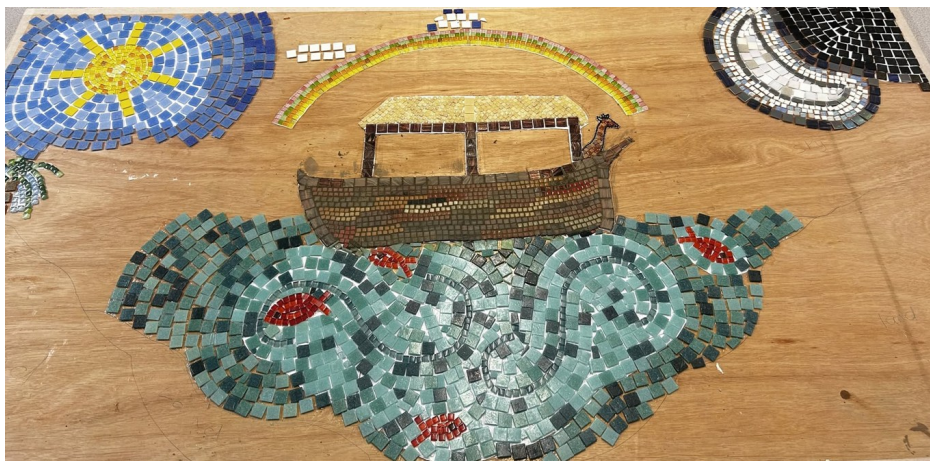


The first set she created in was **'Threads through Revelation'** where there were fourteen huge textile panels interpreting the last book in the Bible. This exhibition went on display around the cathedrals in 2016. The second set **'Threads through Creation'** has twelve panels, from the book of Genesis, from the start of creation and finishing when Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden. This set went on display in 2021. The third and final section was **'Threads through the Cross'**, including the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. All three of the sets are now combined into one central display of the 44 panels in **'Threads through the Bible'**. If you have been to any of the earlier exhibitions and think you may have seen it all before, you probably haven't! and if you haven't yet seen any of the exhibitions, try and get to Chester before it moves on towards the end of June. it would be well worth a visit to see the completed exhibition in the magnificent Chester Cathedral.

-Lynne

Mosaic Altar Frontal

St Stephen's Monday afternoon Craft Group are mid-way through a momentous undertaking – the design and construction of a mosaic altar frontal depicting the flood story from Genesis 6-9. This is a tremendously important story which raises questions about divine justice and agency in a fallen world, and is unjustly neglected in Church art. It will be wonderful to see the completed article – thanks to all who have worked so hard on it and Fr. Derek for help and inspiration.



Ordination Retreat

So we were to arrive at 12 on Monday 15th June to enjoy a clergy retreat at the lovely Swanick! But would my travels be anything else but chaotic so here goes.... I pick up my friend and we load the car and start our journey towards the Heyes and at first all is well we stop off and get a lovely Costa because Costa on a journey is a must, right?! Then we set back off on the road towards the Heyes, we set off a little late as it was for various reasons, so we knew already we were certainly not arriving on time— it is now around 6pm: we are very very late ...

Ok so we are around 20 mins from the centre and a warning light flashes on the car -oh heck this is not good! It's the little light that says something is wrong with the tyre pressure hmm.... ok so pull over on the hard shoulder and sure enough there is a nail inside. I phone RAC and they suggest I keep driving to the Heyes and they will come and fix it -ok deal! We set back off on the road very carefully as I feel the car dragging on the slowly deflating tyre.

Ok so we get to the centre around 8pm we have missed all of that day's lectures but its ok we still have a few days of prayer, reflection and lectures we can catch up, so I call back the RAC "ok I've reached my destination when will the guy come and fix my tyre? I need to go to ASDA for snacks to make sure I survive the next few days!", "oh erm we can't send anyone till morning", "wait I've gotta stay here with no snacks?" "yes madam no snacks for you!"

So I wake up Tuesday grumpy and still no snacks, call RAC and actually complained they left me with no snacks trying to get some sympathy, but she wasn't really bothered and said the man was on his way and to be at my car meaning more lectures missed!

I see the little van arrive that is hopefully carrying the fix-it stuff for my poor car, out pops a cheerful man holding a snickers, you got it- he handed it to me and said "you're not you when ya hangry- have a snickers!", turns out the lady on the phone had put in my notes I'm grumpy from no snacks and so he came to fix not only my poorly car but also me!!

Happy with snacks and now to fix my car, I can't find the nail, but it was there I saw it! "Yeah, but you drove on it and now I cannot see it!" oh the joys ok so what now? I will escort you to the nearest Kwik Fit -oh yay means more lost lectures! Off to Kwik Fit and 2 hours later a fully driveable car and also means I can go Asda for the original snackage!

Right first job back to the centre to actually listen to a lecture but checking the program it was free time, a vestry fair, and then more free time- right ok, let's browse the vestry fair messages husband for spend limit not that I listen its just polite lol ! Woops! slightly over budget! Lets celebrate and go get the snacks!

This has been a journey but stay with me we are almost there, I did manage to attend a

Ordination Retreat

lecture on prayer and the importance of a prayerful life I do have a strict rule of life that includes a lot of structured prayer, however I do find spontaneous prayer so much more connected and rewarding, we leave the Heyes on Wednesday and to only make 1 session and some worship was disappointing- things just do not pan out as they should, but what I did learn was things are not in our time but in Gods. The time spent trying to fix the car and search for snacks were so fun and fruitful; I got to pray with my repair guy who brought me a snickers when he didn't need to but he just felt like it was something he had to do. Seeing things we do and other peoples actions effect our day and because of his kindness he brought a smile to mine and my grumbly belly, he also allowed me to pray for him even though he had no faith ... or did he? Something told him to stop at a shop and buy me chocolate! The guys at Kwick Fit also let me pray for them, so I may not have been at the lectures but the one I did attend was about prayer and its power, just after my long day of praying for strangers who were also just doing a kindness!

How is your prayer life? If you're struggling maybe we can come up with your rule of life and explore your time and space with God.

Prayer is important- structured, unstructured it doesn't matter: God wants to hear from us, he already knows what's on our hearts and he just wants us to reach out and connect. Do we pray for strangers? For family? For ourselves in only times of trouble or do we take that time to thank God for all the greatness we have? Let's explore your prayer life and make that time in silence, in the chaos of life in the midst of trouble and sadness and bring ourselves to be thankful of the beauty and greatness of this great creation.

Ordination

Well after the clergy retreat i was hoping for a quiet few days before ordination, we head-ed to the treat and was shown to a lovely cottage that i was to stay in , my own little room beautiful and silent this was going to be such a great few days of prayer and relaxing!

I remembered my snacks just in case! Which was great becuase the cottage had a kitchen with cooker and oven a fridge and even a washing machine, this is important to know for later because would this be a smooth few days oh heck no!

Ok the retreat starts amazingly we have some lectures which i attended and they were amazing they spoke about being a servant and keeping ourselves grounded and staying true to who we have been called to be ... easy not sure i could change this quirky person i am and why would i want to I'm awesome lol she fully states completely humbly!

On a serious note, the lectures spoke to me i felt a peace inside that i am who God as called and i want to serve just as i am so others can see that no matter who you are, where you come from and your history you are loved and cherished by the God of crea-tion and what a wonderful thought that is.

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So here is where it gets slightly more me, a trip with me is never straight forward and this one is no different, Thursday morning my friend becomes poorly and so I take some time to look after her, but late Thursday she takes a turn for the worst so I made an executive choice to call an ambulance but they call back that's right a call back saying it will be 4 hours for an emergency ambulance! Welsh ambulance service needs to sort this out, but anyway I then decide at 11:30pm I will just drive her and hopefully get her better in time for ordination Saturday.

We get to the hospital, and 30 people are in the waiting room! Not the worst but also not great, by 3am in blazing temps we are still sat waiting, shocking system! Well anyway we decided to get a little fresh air or so I thought we sat on some steps and I immediately start to feel itchy what the heck look down I'm covered in ants! So I'm stood doing some dodgy looking dance trying to shake and brush ants off! Then no sooner did I fix this issue a mouse ran at me from behind a bin! Oh heck! 'm not saying I ran fast but I'm fairly sure I pulled a muscle at the speed I was going because I'm sure we are all quite clear i do not run ... unless someone pulls out the cake! Back to my crazy night: the local rats of the sky, the scavengers that are seagulls, decided this mouse looked mighty tasty and so I'm running from a mouse seagulls are surrounding me and diving at the floor for this poor mouse who I am sure didn't actually want any of this while on its search for food, it was a like a cartoon scene from Tom and Jerry, now by this time a few people who were waiting for treatment had come outside to see what the commotion was and were hit with this insane scene!

Ordination

Great I've made everyone's morning with my crazy antics, I was chased by ants, a mouse, and seagulls and I'm exhausted! By 6am we were fed up of waiting so she called her husband who said he would come get here and take her to their local hospital who know her and can treat her better: awesome! I had been awake from 6am Thursday morning to 6am Friday morning and I had to be back at the retreat in time for the Bishop's Charge, what a day ... so we make it back, I freshen up just in time for the Bishop's Charge and



straight after go sleep till Saturday morning!



Saturday arrives- I'm full of nerves, excitement and unknown expectations but for those who attended Saturday it was an emotional and beautiful service. I had a mentor who helped me in the discernment process and he travelled from Bournemouth to attend the service and finally meet! It was amazing to have so many people who have supported and guided and encouraged all to be sat in the cathedral to see this next stage of ministry! I want to also thank everyone who has helped in

this, attending the ordination, attending my first mass on Sunday and just being the amazing congregations and friends you are so thank you everyone. and also, for anyone who baked I'm still very much full of cake ... well until Sunday anyway!

Finally, first mass on Sunday was the most precious day of my life: to be able to share and give communion to all who attended to bless the children of the congregation is such an honour, I have never felt more loved than I did on Sunday: the kindness and welcome from 3 wonderful congregations to come together as one celebrating family is heart-warming and beautiful— I will never forget that day. To serve as a deacon and now a priest is beyond anything I could have imagined for myself, but being a curate and serving you guys is a true honour and I hope to do you all proud, thank you everyone for a welcome and celebration to priesthood, God has brought us all together and I know I will learn so much more from you all, knowledge and experience comes with practice and a listening ear, we never stop learning we never stop praying, we never stop loving and growing, and I cannot wait to see what the next few years bring.—Ellise



Ordination Anniversaries

Congratulations to Rev. Josie who celebrated her 20th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on the same day Ellise was ordained, and to Rev. Canon Anne Edwards, former curate at All Saints Church, who celebrated her 25th anniversary of ordination on the 30th of June with a special evening Eucharist at All Saints church. Bishop

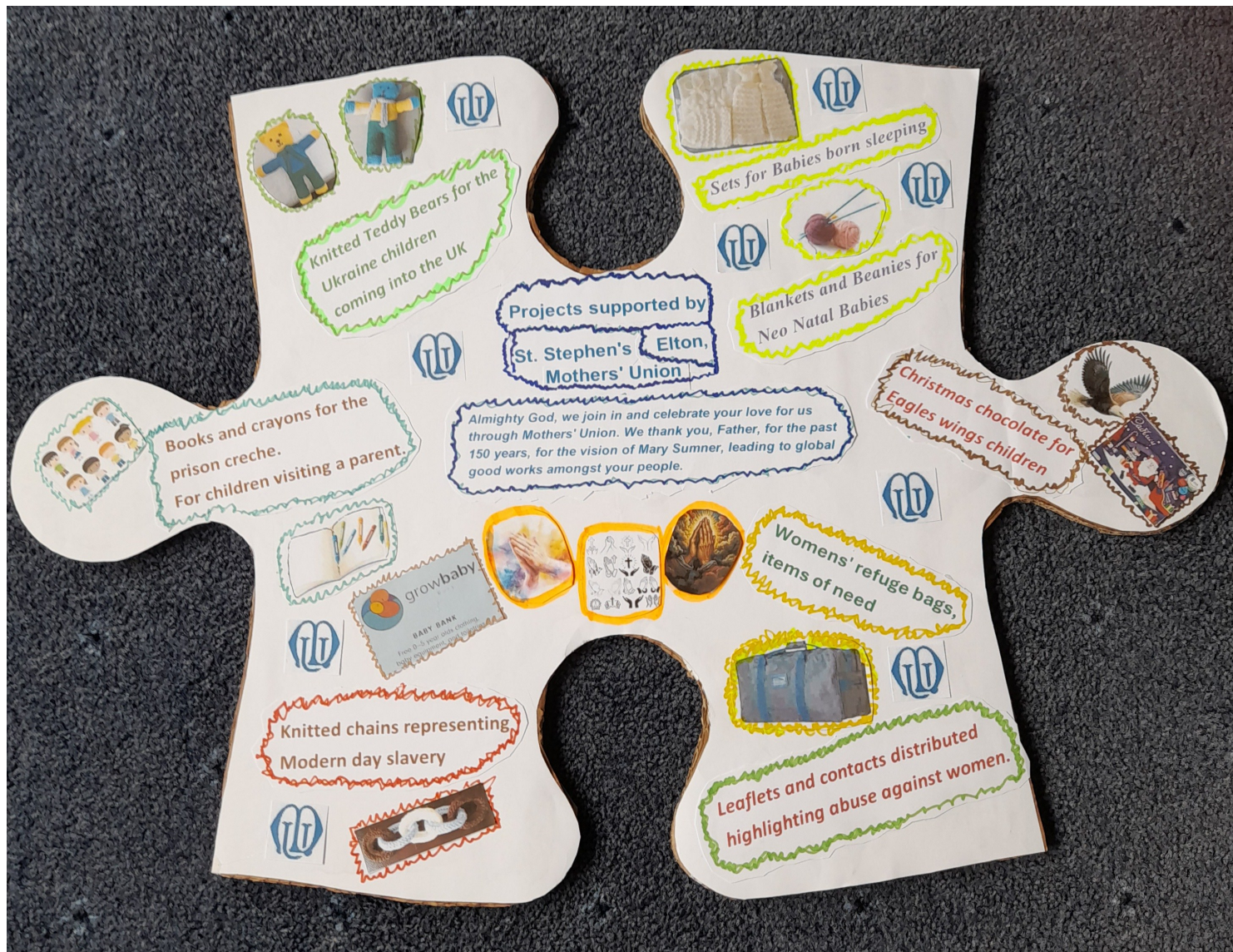
Mark was the preacher, and Ven. John Applegate also said a few words in tribute to Anne's years of service in Chaplaincy and elsewhere. Church was packed with familiar faces from Manchester Diocese past and present as well as guests from further afield— a lovely occasion. Our congratulations to Anne and Josie.



Reader Licensing Service— 27th Sept

Another addition to the ministry team will be Sue Stonestreet, long-serving/suffering churchwarden of Kirklees Valley, who will be licensed as a reader in a service at Manchester Cathedral on the 27th of September. Please do come along and join with us on this joyful occasion. There is no booking process (at the time of writing!) so just turn up!





Mother's Union Jigsaw Piece

To the right is an image of a jigsaw piece made for an exhibition at Manchester Cathedral detailing all of the charitable projects supported by St Stephen's Mother's Union. I think we can all agree that's a huge amount of good work being done locally, national, and internationally. If you would like to get involved or support the work of the MU please see a member in church, or speak to the Vicar.

Mothers' UNION
 Christian care for families

St Stephen's Junior Church Update

It's hard to believe that Junior Church has now been running every week since September - around nine months already! Looking back, I'm incredibly proud of what has grown during that time. Like most things, attendance can be a little unpredictable from week to week, but we now have a wonderful core group of children who come regularly. These days, we'd probably call it a quiet week if only 5 children turned up, while our busiest week so far has seen 12 children join us (and yes, that was a wild one!). When I recently counted our regular children, there were 17 on the list. Some come every week, others once a month, and some pop in whenever they can, but whichever way you look at it, that's a fantastic number for our church. And that total doesn't even include our babies, the extra children who appear when grandchildren are visiting, or the occasional friend who arrives after a Saturday night sleepover. Junior Church seems to have developed a 'bring a friend' policy without anybody introducing one! There's no two ways about it, we have lots to be thankful for! Now, I won't pretend it's always easy. Fitting Junior Church prep into the week alongside a full-time job can be a challenge, and there are Sundays when I leave wondering if my hearing will ever fully recover from the noise, energy, and fairly regular outbreaks of enthusiastic chaos. But despite those moments, I genuinely believe we have created something special together. The children clearly love being part of our church, and that tells me we must be doing something right. They particularly enjoy the crafts and are always eager to show off their latest masterpieces afterwards. They also ask some wonderfully thoughtful questions. Sometimes these are questions so deep, profound, and unexpected that I find myself wishing I had a theology degree and a week's notice before answering! We have some incredibly curious and reflective young minds in our midst, and it is a real privilege to play even a small part in helping shape their journey of faith. Every Sunday, we have the privilege of helping create a space where children can learn about God, ask questions, build friendships, and discover that they are a valued part of our church family.



I certainly couldn't do this alone. I'm incredibly grateful for the unwavering support of my sidekick, Carolyn, who is there week after week. As much as she enjoys glitter, glue sticks, and answering difficult theological questions before 9:30am on a Sunday, she definitely deserves a break occasionally! So, if anyone would like to pop in one Sunday to see what we do, or perhaps even volunteer to help, please do let me know. Extra helpers are always very welcome.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and encouragement for our children. I'm excited to see what is in store for Junior Church in the months ahead, and judging by the last nine months, it'll involve plenty more noise, laughter, questions, and blessings along the way.

Leanne

Archdeacon's Visitation 2026

Visitation services take place each summer following the election of churchwardens at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Held at various locations across the diocese, these services formally admit elected parish churchwardens to their office, with sidespersons and PCC members also making declarations of support.

These services are an important part of the Church calendar, carrying special legal significance. A churchwarden is not considered to be in office until they have been officially admitted by an archdeacon. Historically, when churchwardens were admitted, they would report on the moral standing of the clergy, the condition of the parish and church buildings, and the administration of divine service. Today, visitation services focus on prayer, encouragement, and support, providing an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the vital ministry of churchwardens. Visitation services also offer a chance to meet fellow churchwardens, Area Deans, and your Archdeacon.

Our local visitation is at 7:30pm on Wednesday 8th July at Christ Church Walshaw.



Farewell Evensong for Archdeacon Rachel

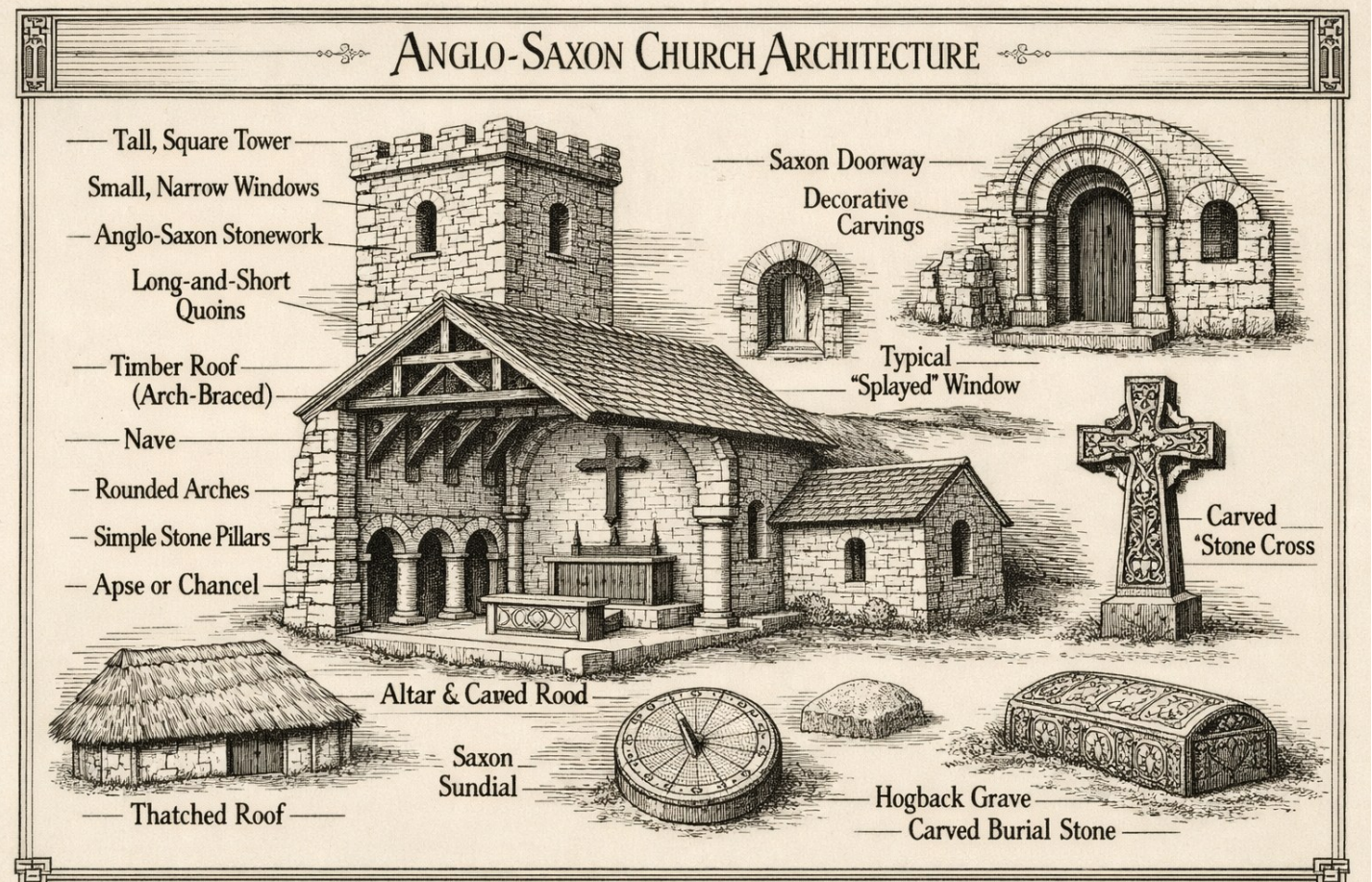


As Rachel prepares to retire from her role as Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton, all are invited to a special service of Evensong. We look forward to gathering together to celebrate her ministry and bid her a fond farewell.

5:30pm on Sunday 5th July
Manchester Cathedral

Exploring Church Architecture

The most ancient Churches in the British Isles are of Celtic and Anglo-Saxon origin; these are some of their features.



— Join Us For A —

SAMUEL

STUDY GROUP

EXPLORING THE LIFE OF
SAUL, DAVID & SAMUEL

MONDAY NIGHTS • 7PM

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

— ALL ARE 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

Manchester Cathedral

Cathedral Summer Conversation

David Bowie
and
Christian Existentialism

Professor Alex Sharpe, University of Warwick

Thursday 13th Aug 7- 8.30pm



Atkinsons
Amateur Dramatics

My Favourite Things

SUMMER Cabaret

2026

AN EVENING OF SONGS FROM EXCELLENT FILMS

CHILDREN PERFORMING
A VARIETY OF FUN PERFORMANCES

11TH JULY 2026

7:15PM CURTAIN UP

ST. STEPHEN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
ELTON, BURY
BL8 2DX

£5 ADULT
£2 KIDS

TICKETS ON DOOR

Poem of the Month

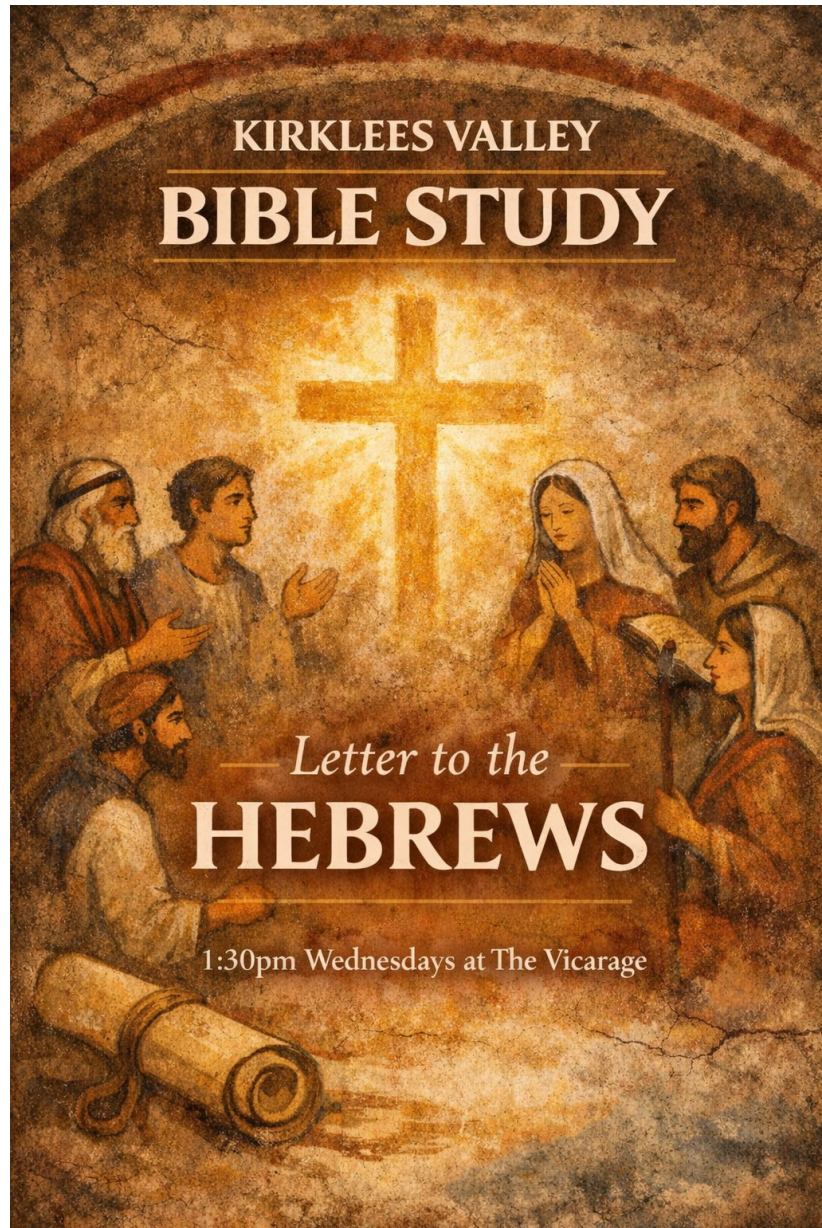
Anglicanism has a rich heritage of poetry to draw on; one that is arguably much neglected. In this month's poem William Wordsworth (1770-1850) reflects in the aesthetic and religious impact of Ecclesiastical architecture.

Inside of King's College Chapel, Cambridge

*Tax not the royal Saint with vain expense,
With ill-matched aims the Architect who planned—
Albeit labouring for a scanty band
Of white-robed Scholars only—this immense
And glorious Work of fine intelligence!
Give all thou canst; high Heaven rejects the lore
Of nicely-calculated less or more;
So deemed the man who fashioned for the sense
These lofty pillars, spread that branching roof
Self-poised, and scooped into ten thousand cells,
Where light and shade repose, where music dwells
Lingering—and wandering on as loth to die;
Like thoughts whose very sweetness yieldeth
proof
That they were born for immortality.*

Kirklees Valley Bible Study and PCC

Just a polite notice that, due to ongoing medical/childcare issues I have suggested that for the next few months we hold Bible study at the Vicarage and PCC meetings at St Stephen's church rather than All Saints. My apologies for any inconvenience— Sam



'Listen Like You Might Be Wrong' - Noah Eckstein

I am a regular user of YouTube, and sometimes a headline catches my eye. 'Listen Like You Might Be Wrong' was one such occasion. Noah Eckstein, a graduate of Harvard University, was addressing the audience at his graduation. He stood without a lectern or notes and spoke from the experience of his own life and family, while also looking to the present and beyond.



Noah began, 'My life begins with something that could be the start of a joke. And it goes like this. A Christian, a Muslim, and a Jew walk into a bar.' But it was not a joke. We heard of his grandparents and parents: a 'Christian married the Muslim and they had a daughter. That daughter grew up Christian until she met the Jew, converted to Judaism, married the Jew, and had a son.' Noah offers a brief account of his family's life, marked by stubbornness and a 'vast disparity in life experience, viewpoints, ideology, faith, and beliefs.' He acknowledges that there were points of contention, but not division. Noah says of his family, 'They were all very stubborn and they held on to their own ideals and traditions until the very end. But still they respected each other. They chose each other and at the end of the day they were proud to be of one family.'

Noah then looks out to his country and to the wider world, where debates grow louder and many people seem to have stopped listening. He makes the important point that 'peace through understanding can survive conflict, while peace through agreement lasts only as long as everyone keeps agreeing.'

The YouTube link is below, and it is well worth listening to:

[https://youtu.be/HzlGNWDWBSk?
si=wmZ0uP0y-YMjEmpa](https://youtu.be/HzlGNWDWBSk?si=wmZ0uP0y-YMjEmpa)

Fr Derek

A colorful poster for 'The Big Bury Balsam Bash'. The background is light blue with white clouds and several colorful butterflies (red, yellow, blue). The text is in various shades of blue and black. At the bottom, there are logos for 'The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire Manchester & North Merseyside', 'Bury Council', 'Friends of Burrs', 'Balsam Bashing Ramsbottom', and 'Friends of Burrs'. There is also a QR code on the right side.

**THE
Big
BURY BALSAM
BASH!**

**IS RETURNING TO BURRS
COUNTRY PARK WEEKLY!**

HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE HIMALAYAN BALSAM IN
OUR PARKS AND GREEN SPACES!

EVERY FRIDAY @ 6:30PM

MEET BY THE CHIMNEY
ALL YOU NEED IS A DRINK, GLOVES
AND STURDY SHOES.
ALL AGES AND ABILITIES WELCOME!

PULL IT - SNAP IT - STAMP IT

The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire Manchester & North Merseyside
Bury Council
Friends of Burrs
BALSAM BASHING RAMSBOTTOM
FRIENDS OF BURRS

News of the death of The Rev'd Canon Ian Walter on May 18th 2026.

(mostly borrowed from the website of St John's Cathedral, Oban)

Many at All Saints will remember Ian, he was the Incumbent faced, along with the Churchwardens and PCC, with the difficult decisions around the closing of the old All Saints Church and all the emotions stirred by that.

Ian was ordained deacon in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway in 1973. He served curacies in St John the Evangelist, Greenock and at St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, before being appointed Rector to St Barnabus, Paisley. With May, his wife, their next steps took them to serve in the Church of England in the Manchester Diocese at St Philip, Bolton le Moors. Ian then spent seven years in All Saints Elton during that very difficult time for the parish. He was appointed to St George Stalybridge and then returned in 2001 to the Scottish Episcopal Church to serve his final appointment in St Cuthbert's, Hawick in the Diocese of Edinburgh.

Ian retired in 2008 and with May, moved to Oban, where his next 18 years were in faithful and stalwart service at St John's Cathedral, latterly also maintaining regular services in St Columba's, Gruline on the Isle of Mull. In retirement he assisted in the Cathedral through 2 vacancies and still delighted in celebrating at midweek services even until a few months before his death. He was installed as an Honorary Canon of St John's Cathedral on July 2nd 2023, the 50th anniversary of his Ordination.

Theological learning and debate was immensely important to him, alongside duty to the community and his stories of experiences in ministry, and hills and mountains walked, filled many a coffee morning. He was deeply pleased that his final act before being taken ill was to cast his vote.

May died on May 20th 2022, and in realising that he would not be able to visit her grave on the anniversary this year, he asked for white carnations to be placed by the paschal candle in the Cathedral. This was done, in the end, marking also his final step into the Kingdom he had faithfully proclaimed for nearly 53 years of ordained life.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.



Keith and Carolyn's Recipe of the Month-

Beef in Red Wine Sauce

Comfort food doesn't get any tastier than this deliciously simple stew, featuring glorious slow-cooked beef and celeriac mash. Serves 4- ready in 2½ hours.

Ingredients

750g lean casserole/ braising steak, visible fat removed, cut into chunks

2 large red onions, halved and thinly sliced

125ml red wine

250g passata with basil

2 celeriac heads, peeled and diced

Spray a large non-stick saucepan with low-calorie cooking spray and place over a high heat. Add half of the beef and fry for 3-4 minutes or until nicely browned all over, turning now and then. Spoon on to a plate and repeat with the rest of the beef.

Add the onions and 3 tbsp water to the pan.

Reduce the heat to medium-low, cover and cook for 10 minutes or until soft. Stir in the beef, wine, passata and a little salt and pepper. Cover again and simmer gently for 2 hours or until the beef is meltingly tender.

About 20 minutes before the end of the cooking time, put the celeriac in a saucepan of boiling water over a high heat. Bring to the boil then reduce the heat to low and simmer for 15-20 minutes or until tender. Drain, re-

turn to the pan and mash until smooth.

Season to taste.

Divide the beef and celeriac mash between plates and serve hot



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

July Rota

05.07.26		Pres	Preach	Deacon	Colour	Green
	AS	11 S. Eccleston			Readings	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-end Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-end
	SS	9 S. Eccleston		E. O'Hara		
	SJ	11 E. O'Hara	E. O'Hara		Baptism	
12.07.26	AS	11 J. Partridge			Colour	Green
					Readings	Genesis 25:19-end
	SS	S. Ec- 9 cleston 6 E. O'Hara	E. O'Hara			Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
					Evensong	
	SJ	11 S. Eccleston		E. O'Hara		
19.07.26	AS	11 D. Akker			Colour	Green
					Readings	Genesis 28:10-19a
	SS	S. Ec- 9 cleston	E. O'Hara	E. O'Hara		Matt 13:24-30, 36-43
	SJ	11 S. Eccleston		E. O'Hara		
26.07.26	AS	11 G. Joyce			Colour	Green
					Readings	Genesis 29:15-28
	SS	9 S. Eccleston				Matt 13:31-33, 44-52
	SJ	11 S. Stonestreet				

August Rota

02.08.26		Pres	Preach	Deacon	Colour	Green
	AS	11 S. Eccleston		Baptism	Readings	Genesis 32:22-31 Matt 14:13-21
	SS	9 E'O'Hara	S. Eccleston			
	SJ	11 E. O'Hara	E. O'Hara			
09.08.26	AS	11 J. Partridge			Colour	Green
	SS	9 E. O'Hara	T. Parsons		Readings	Genesis 37:1-4,12-28 Matt 14:22-33
		6 E. O'Hara			Evensong	
	SJ	11 E. O'Hara	S. Stonestreet			
16.08.26	AS	11 D. Akker			Colour	Green
	SS	9 P. Sanderson			Readings	Genesis 45:1-15 Matt 15: 10-28
		11 E. O'Hara				
23.08.26	AS	11 G. Joyce			Colour	Green
	SS	9 S. Eccleston			Readings	Exodus 1:8-2:10 Matt 16:13-20
		11 S. Stonestreet				
30.08.26	AS	11 E. O'Hara			Colour	Green
	SS	9 P.Sanderson			Readings	Exodus 3:1-15 Matt 16:21-end
		11 P. Sanderson				

Contact Details

Vicar: Fr. S. Eccleston O.P. brseclestonop@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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Room Hire: Keith Hughes hughes_k4@sky.com

Website www.ststephenelton.com

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