

Parish

Magazine

August 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 double issue you will find my usual reflection, some thoughts from Fr Derek, accounts of recent events in church in the diocese, invitations to forthcoming events, news from the Archdeacon, the Area Dean, and lots 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 Mark Cresswell for his work on promoting activities at All Saints, Derek and Luke for cutting back some very thick vegetation in All Saints graveyard, Jane for stepping in to run Junior Church, Blane for committing to undertake training for reader ministry, and the visiting teams for their pastoral work.



Liturgy Part II

Last month, we tried to explain what liturgy is by reference to its origins and its function- where it comes from and what it does. We said that liturgy is not just about *symbolising* things, but rather about creating an experience which produces or shapes people with a certain kind of identity; with certain kinds of habits, values, and reflexes. Let's look in a bit more detail about how this works with specific examples of features of our liturgy.

Kneeling

Kneeling is a gesture of humility. As mentioned above, it doesn't just symbolise humility, it helps us to feel it. What is less obvious is why that might be- we are used, nowadays, to thinking that symbols and signs are merely conventional; that they only represent what they do because we have collectively decided that they do so, and therefore treat them as such.

This, however, is simply untrue- it ignores the fact that there is such a thing as a *natural sign*; a sound, colour, event, posture, shape (or whatever) that is likely to make us think and feel certain things simply because of the way it interacts with our inherited embodied nature and our shared common experience. Loud, abrupt noises, for example are unlikely to be soothing, given that they are so often associated with dangerous changes in the local environment- collisions, explosions, collapses etc. Given this, loud, unexpected noises do not just symbolise danger, they help us to experience how danger feels in a small way.

Similarly, experiments have found that certain human-made sounds have inherent associations which people across cultures understand without having to have them explained. Take for example the words '*bouba*' and '*kiki*'- they don't mean anything in English, or, to my knowledge, in any language. Ask yourself which one would represent a spiky shape and which one a rounded shape. Most people pick '*bouba*' for the rounded shape and '*kiki*' for the spiky shape. They do this across cultures and language groups. This is because when we make the sound '*kiki*' our mouths mimic the explosive motion that a spiky shape might represent, or at least, there are sharp discontinuities of motion which spikes are a better visual representation of than curves.

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sharp discontinuities of motion which spikes are a better visual representation of than curves. Similarly, when we say '*bouba*' we curve our lips over in a way we can physically feel, so there is a natural association between the sound and curvature. This is an example of natural signification; in this case an action which has a set of associations simply because of how our bodies work and how we interact with the world around us, not because of any cultural consensus about meaning.

This is partly what is being tapped into by liturgy. When we kneel, we are doing several things which associate the posture with humility. First, we are moving downward, towards the ground, and adopting a lower position than we are normally accustomed to. Not only does this reference the etymology of the word '*humility*' (humus= soil), it is generally the case that we associate lowliness with youth, inexperience, weakness, incapacity etc, and height with authority, competence, and status. There are a series of obvious reasons for this- adults are taller than children, men (who for most of history held most power and authority) are typically taller than women etc. This is not to do with cultural consensus, it is a fact about our experience.

We also associate kneeling with vulnerability, for the obvious reason that it is hard to either defend oneself or run away from a kneeling position. Those who are defeated in battle would typically kneel before their conquerors to sue for mercy or apologise for their prior actions; subjects tend to kneel towards a King. Thus, when we kneel, what we are doing doesn't just represent humility, it actually helps us to experience humility using the deep grammar of human life, because part of what it is to be humble is to be lowly, penitent, defenceless, dependent, and vulnerable.

Silence

Human beings are verbal creatures. It is as yet unclear whether we are alone in having true language; there are highly complex debates about this issue, which partly revolve around the question '*what counts as a language?*', but it is nevertheless the case that human beings clearly communicate a far greater volume of far more sophisticated information by linguistic means than any other species that we know of. The information we communicate is massively varied, from simple facts about locations or descriptions to emotions, ambitions, criticisms, and complex abstract ideas that describe no physical reality at all. Speech, then, is not just definitively human, but it is perhaps the main tool individual human beings use to stake a place for themselves in society – how they communicate their needs, desires, and values; how they identify as members of specific subgroups within society, how they make friends and build relationships. In other words, it is a very effective method of voluntarily expressing one's inner world,



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and using that expression to shape reality. It is not the only method of so doing (body language is also communicative) but it is a uniquely powerful one.

Because speech is so important it is ubiquitous- it happens everywhere there are people, much of the time they are awake. Eschewing speech, therefore, is equally powerful; precisely because it departs from normality, it is significant. It is to step back, for a moment, from the task of controlling, influencing, and defining, in order to simply *be*. It is, one might say, a retreat into the inner world we usually express verbally; instead of taking up social space and occupying the mental space of others, we merely occupy physical space alongside them without extruding our inner world outward and forcing people to participate in it. If we choose to collectively not speak together, it is as if society itself, ordinary social life, has paused, changed, retreated, or been otherwise transformed. What this implies is that whatever happens in this shared time of silence is different, special, important, or in some way 'other' to normal life. This is one of the reasons that silence typically precedes and follows church services, and indeed other significant and solemn occasions.

Shared silence has several other important features; firstly, it allows those around us to concentrate on whatever it is they wish to focus on, rather being distracted by speech. Secondly, shared silence underlines both equality (everyone is doing the same thing, and no one making a special claim on attention, or if they are, it is not as a private person but as a representative of the whole group), and open-ness to reality beyond human conversation. When we want to encounter wild animals, for example, we often have to adopt silence. One could link this posture to faith- stepping back, sitting down, refusing for a moment to express and assert ourselves and becoming open to something bigger- the natural world, our own subconscious mind, or God. (Interestingly, of course, in Genesis it is the case that our verbal capacity both helps us to share in God's work of creation- Adam names the animals- but is also instrumental in our alienation from God- the primordial couple seek knowledge when they eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Part of the surprise is that they gain no propositional knowledge at all, but rather awake into a new and different perspective).

When we combine lots of natural symbols together; collective actions and postures, how we use or eschew speech, scents such as incense or the perfume of flowers, the use of instruments, (etc) we can create a repertoire of thoughts, emotions, and values which we repeatedly access via these repeated actions, which together we can call 'liturgy'. Over time, these actions change not just us as individuals, but our community. When we get used to silence, for example, to making room for other people, to considering whether or not we are disturbing them, and we become the kind of person who considers other people in a deep and sensitive way.



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Consider the characteristically British habit of queuing, for example. I can't prove this (how would you?) but I have a feeling it may have its origin in the liturgy— in our familiarity with queuing to receive the sacrament.

Liturgy, then, is about creating and using a kind of physical language to teach ourselves to be different people— it is not an outdated thing, or even necessarily a religious thing, but rather a universal human trait that speaks to the depths of our shared nature. Next month, we ask what any of this has to do with God.



Evensong

A reminder that Evensong resumes this month— all welcome!

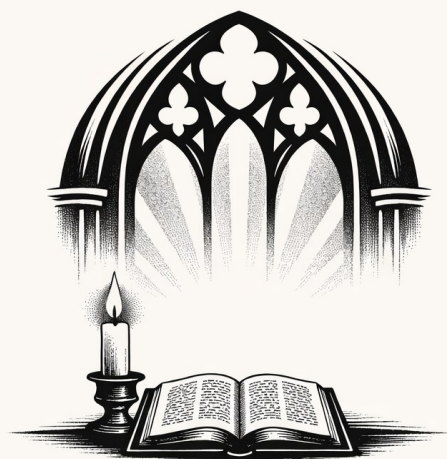
All Saints Baby and Toddler Group

We will be having a break over August and will return the first week of September— enjoy summer and see you in the autumn!



CHORAL EVENSONG

According to the Book of Common Prayer



Second Sunday of the Month

6pm

— O Lord, open thou our lips... —

Harvest

This year All Saints and St James will celebrate a joint harvest festival followed by a fellowship meal on the 4th Oct, and St Stephen's Harvest Parade service will be on the 11th Oct.

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.

Giles Fraser examines churchgoing in England here: [link](#)

The Lancashire Telegraph reports on a church saved from closure by a miraculous find here: [link](#)

Hiking and History explores an ancient Cheshire church here: [link](#)

Imperidox reveals the oldest timber ceiling in the country here: [link](#)

What's On Hull explore St Augustine's church here: [link](#)

Old London Finds take us round the ancient Archbishop's Palace in Charing, Kent here: [link](#)

St Sisto discusses a painting of Christ crucified on a Lily here: [link](#)

Enjoy an hour of soothing **Anglican hymns** here: [link](#)

Experience **Arvo Part's** sublime **Te Deum** here: [link](#)

Enjoy the view from the top of **Liverpool Cathedral** here: [link](#)

**Lancashire
Telegraph**



Overton Jane Austen Trails visit the church where she was baptised here: [link](#)

Listen to **Tchaikovsky's 'Liturgy of St John Chrysostom'** here: [link](#)

Floriani Sacred Chant perform '**Asperges Me**' here: [link](#)

Have a sneak-peak into the silent life of a **Carthusian monastery** here: [link](#)

Listen to **Abbot Christopher Jamieson** offer a **Benedictine Guide to the Future** at Westminster Abbey here: [link](#)

Tara Howley performs '**Nearer My God to Thee**' on the Uilleann pipes here: [link](#)

Organist **Wesley Hall** performs '**All Creatures of Our God and King**' here: [link](#)



Faith Online

Theologian **William Lane Craig**, Bishop **Rowan Williams**, Physicist **Sabine Hofstadter**, and Philosopher **Slavoj Zizek** debate the nature of ultimate reality here: [link](#)

The **BBC** covers a remarkable wedding in Liverpool here: [link](#)

The Bury Times pays tribute to a much-loved St Stephen's teacher here: [link](#)

N.T. Wright discusses the Greek Orthodox church here: [link](#)

Two friends go on a road trip looking for the **Lost Christian Soul of Britain** here: [link](#)



Catholic Theologian Scott Hahn discusses growing interest in the Catholic church here: [link](#)

Explore the life and music of the 'fifth evangelist' **Johann Sebastian Bach** here: [link](#)

Dr Wesley Huff discusses the historical reliability of the Bible here: [link](#)

Religion for Breakfast discusses the influence of **Plato** on Christianity here: [link](#)

Rowan Williams discusses Jesus cursing a fig tree here: [link](#)

Nils Glenn describes daily life in the time of Jesus here: [link](#)

Aghapy Studios offer a 4k cinematic experience of **Isaiah's vision** here: [link](#)

Esther de Waal explains the way of St Benedict here: [link](#)



Malcolm Guite discusses the Christian symbolism of the Lord of the Rings here: [link](#)

Tom Holland explains why Hitler hated Christianity here: [link](#)

The Quiet Revival Podcast explore how people can encounter God through creation here: [link](#)

CHURCH TIMES

The Church Times explores the work of Archdeacons here: [link](#)

Clinton Lofthouse showcases 3 must-visit UK gothic Churches here: [link](#)

English Pilgrim shows us round the coronation Cathedral French Kings 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.

Ven. Dr. Rachel Mann Retires

Thanks to all who came to the special even-song held at Manchester Cathedral last month to mark the retirement of our Archdeacon, Rachel Mann. In what was a moving sermon, Rachel spoke a bit about the how ill-health had made early retirement necessary, said farewell to colleagues and friends across the Diocese and beyond, and offered some comments on the current state of the Church of England. Upon being thanked by Bishop David for her service, she received a standing ovation from the congregation. We wish her well in her retirement, and share in the confidence expressed by many that this will not be the last we will hear from her!



Reader Licensing Service– 27th Sept

Next month Sue Stonestreet 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!

St Stephen's Centenary Room Hire and Cleaning

While Keith recovers from his recent operation, we need an interim person/team to clean the centenary room and manage hall bookings. This isn't a hugely onerous

job but is crucial to our income as a church. Could anyone interested speak to Carol.

Congratulations Dr Lev!

Lev Eakins (right) who has delivered some fantastic talks for us up at All Saints, has been awarded his PhD for his work on Marrk's Gospel– congratulations Dr Lev! Apparently in some European countries it is a tradition to receive a sword alongside your PhD– and Lev has decided to join in!



Congratulations Blane!

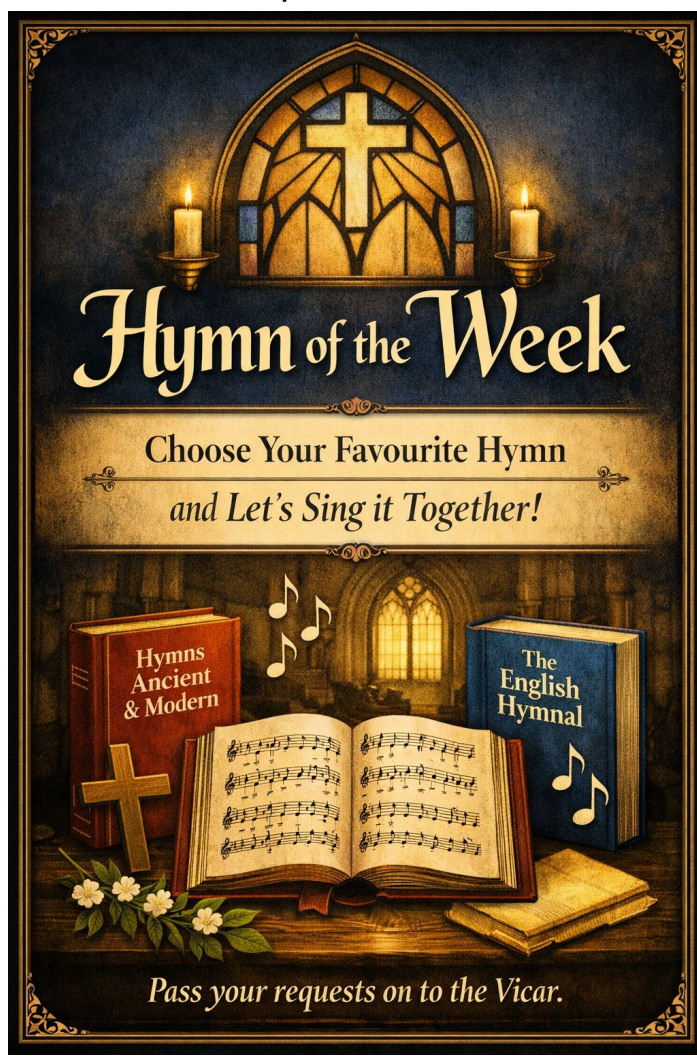
Sometimes. Its lovely to be able to be a support to those who are exploring faith and wanting to get closer with God. On arriving to the church I was greeted by a wonderful welcome committee and much to my happiness a banquet of cakes, because we all know that here there is cake i am also! The pews of the church were full of family friends and candidates. There were also a whole range of clergy who belong to Bury, Radcliffe and surrounding areas. Bishop Matthew was the supporting Bishop who welcomed and prayed thoughtfully for each candidate, sharing in their testimonies of how they came to follow God and why they were choosing to follow this next step, from young children to a greater age all candidates were there to reaffirm their faith and claim it for themselves, there was even one little girl who got baptised and confirmed at the service, how amazing that she can decide for herself to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

I had the pleasure of handing a lit candle to our wonderful member Blane who has begun an even extra faith leap with Jesus to begin training in September, its spirit led that journey that we embark on when we choose to follow Christ, and to be able to be a small part of someone's journey fills me with hope that many others will also take up the cross and follow. It's not a light or easy choice when taking up the cross and yet many more people are beginning to see the truth of his teachings and I pray every day that many more will also feel the goodness that we feel as a family of Christs footsteps.

So here I share a lovely photo of Blane. the Bishop and I after what can only be described as a warm and welcoming service to those choosing to follow and serve as children of God and to be a welcome part of his creation and sacrifice on the cross.— *Elise*

Do You Have a Favourite Hymn?

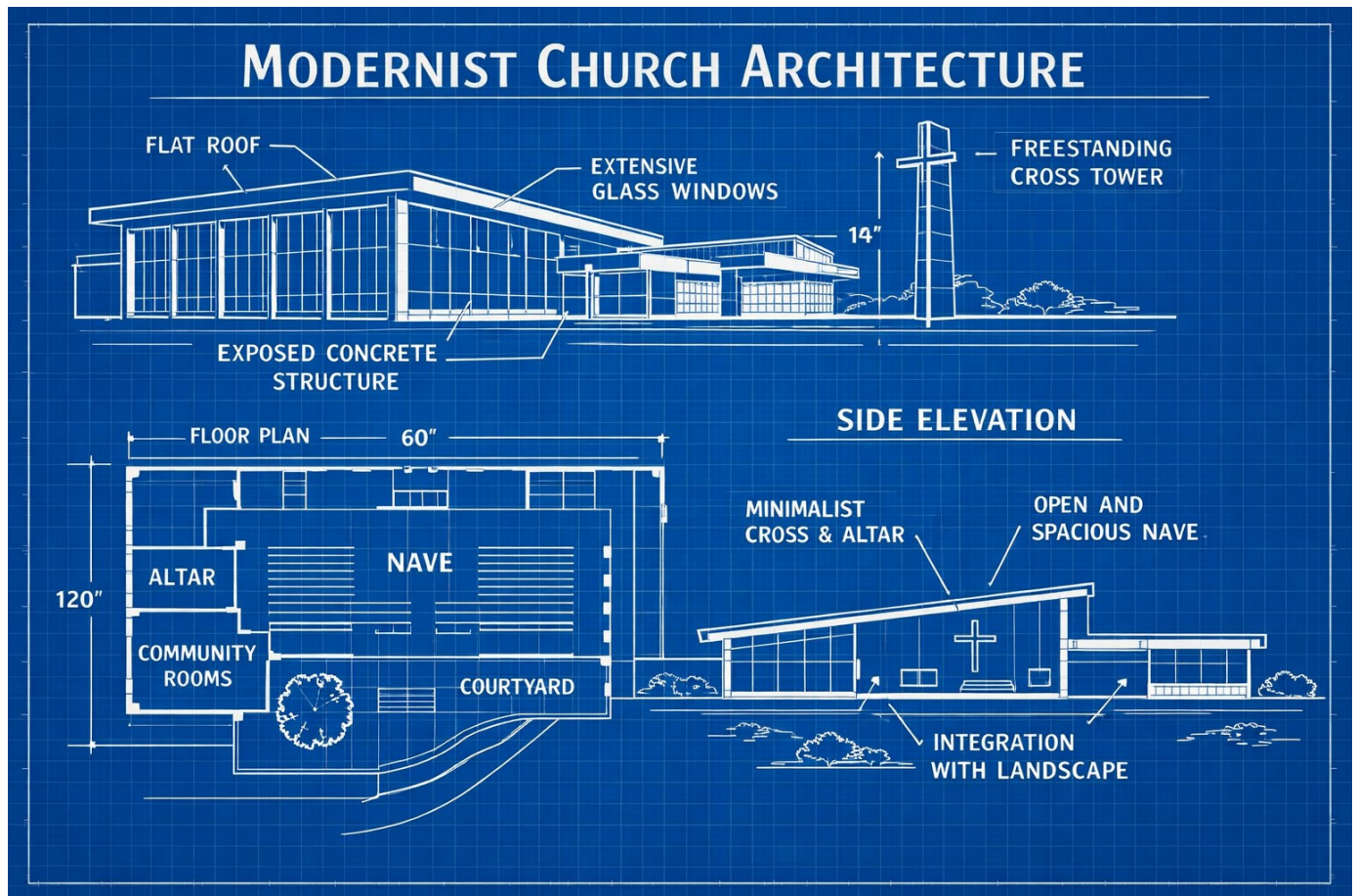
Every week at St Stephen's we are going to sing someone's favourite hymn— if you have a request please contact the vicar.



Pass your requests on to the Vicar.

Exploring Church Architecture

Modernist church architecture is defined by its pursuit of clarity, simplicity, and spiritual openness. Emerging in the mid-20th century, it rejects ornate historical styles in favour of geometric purity and honest materials such as concrete, steel, and glass. The emphasis shifts from decorative symbolism to light and space - vast glazing and skylights create luminous interiors that evoke transcendence through atmosphere rather than ornament. Structures are often rectilinear and functional, with open naves adaptable for community use, and freestanding towers or crosses providing vertical focus. This style embodies a theology of accessibility and modernity, expressing faith through proportion, light, and material integrity rather than grandeur



A Message from Ima Lomax

Dear Lay Leader,

We are writing to invite you to the second Bury and Rossendale Lay Leadership Conference. Following the success of our first conference in March 2025, the next conference will take place on **Saturday 12th September**, from 9:45am-12:30pm, at St John's House, Bury. Open to all laity across the deanery, the theme of the conference is '**Wellbeing in Leadership**' and our speaker is Mark Davies, Bishop of Middleton.

The aims of the conference are:

- To ensure that lay leaders feel valued, thanked and supported in their various roles.

To explore the theme of wellbeing, understand its importance in everyone's ministry and consider practical steps to improve our approach to this.

- To introduce the theme of succession planning and how to encourage and develop others in their calling.

To register your place, sign up on Eventbrite here: <https://BRConf2026.eventbrite.co.uk>

Study Groups

Our study groups have taken a pause over summer, but will resume the first week of September— usual time and place



Bury and Rossendale Lay Leadership Conference 2026

Saturday, 12th September 2026
Speaker: Bishop Mark Davies

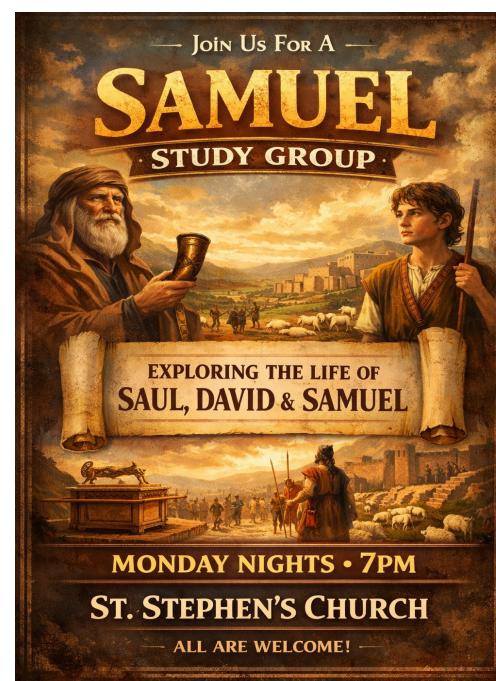


Time: 9:45am - 12:30pm

Venue: St John's House,
Bury

Theme: Wellbeing

To book, scan the
QR code or visit:
[https://brconf2026.
eventbrite.co.uk/](https://brconf2026.eventbrite.co.uk/)



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

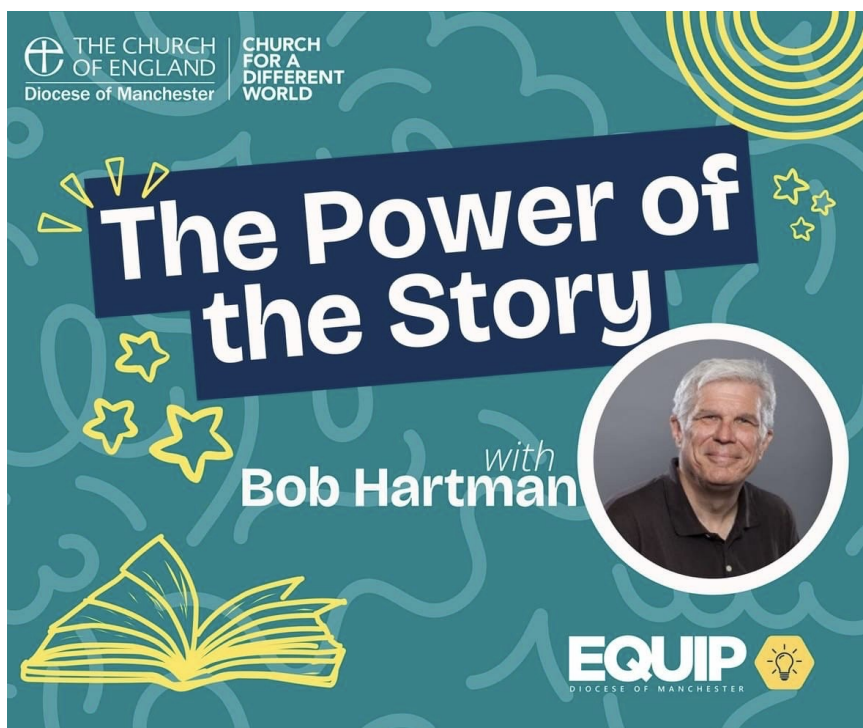
We're delighted to welcome Bob Hartman to the Diocese of Manchester for an inspiring evening exploring The Power of the Story. Bob is an ordained minister, professional storyteller, and award-winning author of more than 100 books. For over 30 years, he has helped people of all ages engage with the Bible 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](#)



**St James' Yoga
Class Schedule
Autumn 2026**

SCHEDULE

SEPT/OCT 2026

MON

10:30 - 12:00 -
MUM AND BABY
12:20 - 13:10 -
POSTNATAL YOGA
(BABIES WELCOME)
18:15: PREGNANCY
20:00:
SLOW FLOW

TUES

09:50 - CHAIR
BASED
11:10: CHAIR BASED
18:45: SLOW FLOW
20:00- BEGINNERS

SAT

07:00: VINYASA FLOW
08:10: FREEDOM FLOW
09:20: YOGA HIIT

SUN

YIN (MONTHLY)
RESTORATIVE (EVERY 6
WEEKS)



Manchester
Cathedral



FAIRTRADE ECOFEST

Saturday 3rd October 2026

10:30am – 1:30pm | Manchester Cathedral

FREE ENTRY!

Celebrate sustainability with music, stalls, crafts and refreshments



Ladies Club Afternoon Tea July 2026

A decision to hold an in-house afternoon tea, rather than an annual visit to the local garden centre proved a good decision! 27 ladies enjoyed a splendid afternoon tea prepared by the committee, and had a fun afternoon with games and a quiz. We welcomed two new members to our meeting and also our two guests, Rev Josie and Rev Ellise, both of whom have supported us at our monthly meetings.

There will be no meeting in August, and we resume our programme on Monday 7th September (one week earlier than originally planned) with our service with Rev. Josie. We do however, have our **annual croquet afternoon** planned for Wednesday 12th August at the Whitehead Park off Ainsworth Road. Starting at 1.30 pm all welcome but please contact Lynne to book in so we can give approximate numbers to the croquet club.



A Curate at Ladies Club

I had the very lovely privilege to be invited to the lady's afternoon tea at All Saints church, it was a fabulous afternoon organised by the most amazing ladies. We started with pass the parcel game and it was awesome every single person who took part was a winner, and the prize I opened was a little hand fan which is perfect in this heatwave, then we played a quiz and my team actually won which is certainly a first for me!

Then out came the most beautiful set up of afternoon tea, we were very spoilt in our choices the first section was full of lovely sandwiches ham, cheese and tuna very neatly placed with no crust which just made my day.

The second layer was handmade scones by Lynne who I have to say did an incredible job that even the leftovers I took home were fought for by my children because they were just so scrummy!! add the butter jam and clotted cream they were just so beautiful and tasty.

The third layer had a selection of cakes and my absolute favs fondant fancies, wasn't we all very spoilt this day, yes and was I thankful for wearing a stretchy dress that would be a double yes, I'm fairly sure I gained a stone after trying to squeeze in just one more scone and my table was even luckier than the others as each table was set for 4 we had only 3 people but still had the same food for 4 people!! Super amazing!!

All of this was washed down with some tea in cute little pots but not only was the food a success and the games but the pure fellowship of each lady that attended was so heartwarming. It's lovely to see the church being used for a great celebration and to see ladies of faith and non-faith come together and share in a fabulous event.

Every single volunteer should be proud of themselves especially the lovely Lynne who I know worked extremely hard from a very early start to the very last cup of tea. A massive thank you and well done to everyone.

-Ellise

A Prayer by Jane Austen

Shared by Carol Heyes, taken from Chawton house, Jane's brother's residence.

Study Group

Study group at both parishes will pause over August while the Vicar has some time off, and will resume in September. Over the last year or so, between the two parishes, we have covered Genesis, Exodus, Samuel, Jonah, Nahum, Ecclesiastes, The Gospel According to Mark, the Gospel According to Luke, The Acts of the Apostles, The Letter to the Hebrews, Anglicanism, and the Bible and Contemplation. Well done everyone!

A Prayer by Jane Austen

Give us grace almighty Father, so to pray, as to deserve to be heard, to address thee with our hearts, as with our lips. Thou art everywhere present, from thee no secret can be hid. May the knowledge of this, teach us to fix our thoughts on thee, with reverence and devotion that we pray not in vain. ~

May we now, and on each return of night, consider how the past day has been spent by us, what have been our prevailing thoughts, words and actions during it, and how far we can acquit ourselves of evil. ~

Have we thought irreverently of thee, have we disobeyed thy commandments, have we neglected any known duty, or willingly given pain to any human being? Incline us to ask our hearts these questions Oh! God, to save us from deceiving ourselves by pride or vanity ~

Give us a thankful sense of the blessings in which we live, of the many comforts of our lot; that we may not deserve to lose them by discontent or indifference ~ Hear us almighty God, for his sake who has redeemed us, and taught us, thus to pray ~ Amen.



St Stephen's Dust-Busters

From September we will be meeting on the third Friday morning of the month to clean church and help make it more welcoming for everyone. Come along and lend a hand!

Backpack Service

On Sunday the 6th of September St Stephen's will be hosting a backpack service to bless the new backpacks of all those children heading up to Yr7 this year— please encourage your new Yr7 to join us!

Surrounded by Voices

We often find ourselves surrounded by voices some familiar and welcoming while others are disturbing.

I regularly go off to Iona for Daily Prayer, an on-line service from the Iona Community. I click on the YouTube icon and am greeted by voices coming through the ether and leading me to prayer. I am often greeted and invited by what sounds like a fresh youthful voice, a bright start to the day as I venture through the daily prayer I hear voices singing, not always in English, the richness and variety of the sound draw me to join in and follow the words on the screen. For a moment I'm bi-lingual. There are also familiar songs where I can lift my voice and make a joyful if not tuneful sound to the Lord. For the remainder of daily prayer, I hear a rich variety of sounds from those who are from a Scottish, Celtic heritage, but also voices that reflect a variety of English dialects and from those for whom English is not their first language. It is a pleasant cacophony of sounds, a community of voices, and through the internet I become part of that community of voices. Daily Prayer ends with these closing responses often with a strong authoritative voice urging me to:

Go in peace to love and serve;

We will seek peace and pursue it.

In the name of the Trinity of Love

God in community, holy and one.

My day continues after prayer but the voices I hear are not always peaceful. Last Easter Day was one such day because it was the day when the President of the USA issued an expletive filled Easter message full of hatred and threats to bombing Iran's civilian infrastructure and wipe out the whole Iranian civilisation. The war did come and at what cost. 'Go in peace to love and serve' becomes harder to hold onto with the rantings of such a mentally deranged bully ringing in your ears.

I was part way through writing this piece when I recalled some of the words from morning prayer. They had a different ring to them. We had prayed for those living in poverty, for those who had been touched by the Iona Community, for all creation including plants and several countries including Greenland, a country also threatened by this President..

With all that has been going on, the war, the destruction and the hatred I was brought down to earth, literally down to earth in the prayers for plants, it is sometimes the





forests. A different focus than one of hatred, I could focus on the wonder of creation, the way the plants spring into life. The refreshing greens, the bright yellows and the purple pansies rocking in the breeze.

Yes, they provided a different focus, a short but nonetheless a welcome one. It is a prayerful distraction, a worthy distraction before we return to a troubled world and a man and his band of sycophants and minions and continue to pray for peace until it happens.

It is important to have a break, to refocus our thoughtful prayers, not escape from the harshness of life but to refocus, the plant became a distraction for me but sometimes it is words from the psalms or a hymn. I could be just sitting with a coffee and letting the world pass me by, call it daydreaming if you like or listening to music.

These times can be good spiritually, but it can also be good for our mental wellbeing.

If you have access to YouTube Click the link below to listen to John Rutters 'The Lord Bless you and Keep You' together with the voices of The Cambridge Singers.

 **YouTube** <https://youtu.be/QcYzO8Y4PH0?si=vaePt53z8rHZHMIx>

-Fr Derek



**Organised by
Bury Mission Community**

**Friday, 18 September
7pm**

Tickets £12, Concessions £6
includes supper

**St John with St Mark Hall
Parkinson Street, BL9 6NY**

Proceeds to The Christie with opportunities to make a donation at the event

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.

Kids Eat Free During the Summer Holidays

Helpful UK chain offers

★ COMPLETELY FREE ★

- **Morrisons Café** – 1 free children's meal when an adult buys a qualifying main meal costing £5 or more. From 29 June to 6 September, children and adults can also get a free bowl of cereal and fruit, with no purchase required.
- **Tesco Café** – 1 free children's meal, breakfast or Pick 'n' Mix meal with any adult purchase until 1 September. Clubcard needed. No minimum spend.
- **ASK Italian** – From 17 July to 6 September, up to 2 children aged 10 or under eat free with 1 adult main meal. ASK Italian app needed.
- **Bill's** – Up to 2 children aged 10 or under eat free with 1 adult main, Monday to Friday, until 1 September.
- **Bella Italia** – 1 child eats free with every adult main, Sunday to Thursday.
- **Las Iguanas** – 1 free children's meal with every adult main, 7 days a week. My Iguanas app needed.
- **Zizzi** – Free 3-course Bambini meal with every adult main from 17 July to 6 September. Zillionaires' Club membership needed.
- **YO! Sushi** – 1 free Kiddo Bento Box for children aged 12 or under when an adult spends £10, Monday to Friday during local school holidays.
- **Dunelm Pausa Café** – Free children's main, drink and 2 snacks with every £5 spent at participating cafés.
- **Beefeater / Premier Inn / Table Table** – Up to 2 children under 16 eat breakfast free with each paying adult breakfast.



★ £1 OR LESS ★



- **Asda Café** – Children aged 16 or under eat for £1, all day, every day, with no adult purchase required.
- **Harvester** – Children eat for £1 with every adult main until 4 September. App or online account needed.
- **Dobbies** – Children eat for 88p at participating restaurants until 1 September.
- **Sizzling Pubs** – Children eat for £1 with an adult main, Monday to Friday from noon during the school holidays.

Offers can vary by branch and dates can change –
check with the venue before visiting.

Manchester
Cathedral

Cathedral Summer Conversation

David Bowie
and
Christian Existentialism

Professor Alex Sharpe, University of
Warwick

Thursday 13th Aug 7- 8.30pm



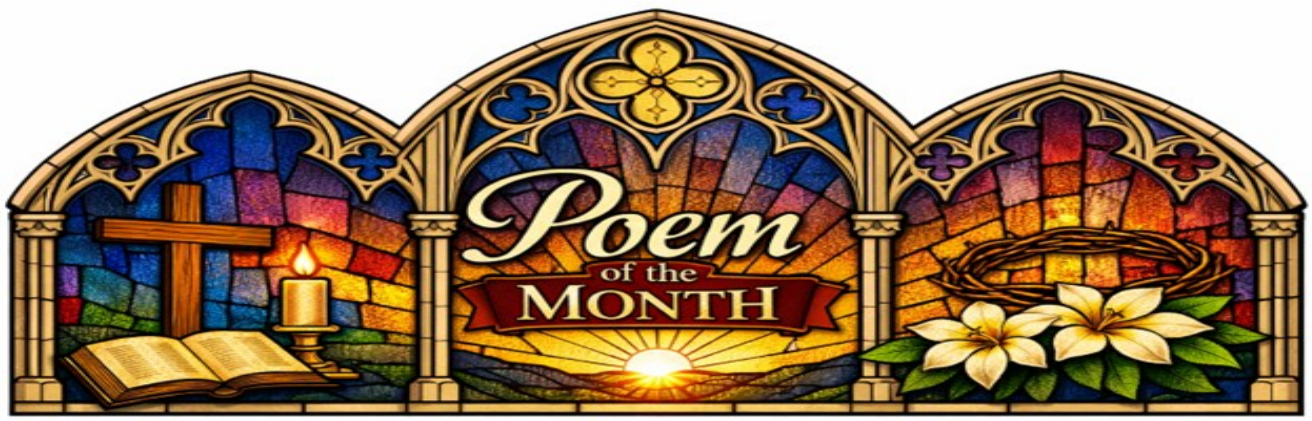
FAITH, FRIENDS, FUN

St Stephen's
Sunday
School

All Welcome

Weekly during the main service

Speak to Leanne or the Vicar



Anglicanism has a rich heritage of poetry to draw on; one that is arguably much neglected. This month we look at a poem by John Donne (1571-1631), MP, priest, poet, and scholar. This poem is entitled 'Holy Sonnet 17' and was written in reflection on the death of Donne's wife Anne, who died after giving birth to their 12th child.

Holy Sonnet 17

*Since she whom I loved hath paid her last debt
To Nature, and to hers, and my good is dead,
And her soul early into heaven ravishèd,
Wholly on heavenly things my mind is set.
Here the admiring her my mind did whet
To seek thee, God; so streams do show the
head;
But though I have found thee, and thou
my thirst hast fed,
A holy thirsty dropsy melts me yet.
But why should I beg more love, whenas
thou
Dost woo my soul, for hers offering all
thine:
And dost not only fear lest I allow
My love to saints and angels, things divine,
But in thy tender jealousy dost doubt
Lest the world, flesh, yea, devil put thee
out.*



ROUND THE RES

AN ART ADVENTURE

FREE FAMILY WALKING TRAIL

📍 Elton Reservoir

Every Thursday & Friday in August

🕒 9:30am – 3:00pm

(Last check-in 2:00pm)

📍 Start & Finish

The Art of Coffee

Elton Reservoir Car Park (next to Elton Sailing Club)



Your Adventure Includes:

📖 Welcome Pack & Trail Map

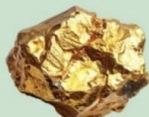
🪨 Hidden Painted Rocks

🏆 Golden Rocks with Weekly Prizes

🎨 Local Artwork

📷 Photography Challenge

🌿 Family Nature Trail



🌟 Turn your moment into a masterpiece 🌟



@theartofcoffeelife



@The_art_of_coffee_



WATERCOLOUR PAINTING
NEW COURSES COMMENCING

IN SEPTEMBER ON THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS

St. James' Church - Walshaw



CHINESE BRUSH PAINTING CLASSES
COMMENCING FRIDAY MORNINGS

St. James' Church - Walshaw

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

JUDY BELL: 0161 764 8890 mob: 07885841285

St Stephen's Gift Day

On Sunday 20th September we will be having our annual gift day— please take the time to prayerfully discern your own support for church.

Area Dean Stands Down

Our Area Dean, Donna Williams, is standing down from her role to take up a half time post at St Peter's Bury. We thank her for all she has done as Area Dean and wish her well in her new role!



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

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 6 E. O'Hara	T. Parsons		Readings	Genesis 37:1-4,12-28 Matt 14:22-33
	SJ	11 E. O'Hara	S. Stonestreet		Evensong	
16.08.26	AS	11 D. Akker			Colour	Green
	SS	9 P. Sanderson			Readings	Genesis 45:1-15 Matt 15: 10-28
	SJ	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
	SJ	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
	SJ	11 P. Sanderson				

September Rota

06.09.26		Pres	Preach	Deacon	Colour	Green	
	AS	11 S. Eccleston			Readings	Exodus 12:1-14 Matthew 18:15-20	Backpack service
	SS	9 E. O'Hara	S. Eccleston				
	SJ	11 E. O'Hara					
13.07.26	AS	J. Par- 11 tridge	E. O'Hara		Colour	Green	
	SS	9 E. O'Hara	S. Eccleston		Readings	Exodus 14:19-end Matt 18:21-35	
		6 E. O'Hara			Evensong		
	SJ	11 S. Eccleston					
20.09.26	AS	S. Ec- 11 cleston	D. Akker		Colour	Green	Gift day SS
					Readings	Exodus 16:2-15	
	SS	S. Ec- 9 cleston	E. O'Hara			Matt 20:1-16	
	SJ	11 E. O'Hara					
27.09.26	AS	11 G. Joyce	E. O'Hara		Colour	Green	
					Readings	Exodus 17:1-7	
	SS	9 E. O'Hara	S. Eccleston			Matt 21:23-32	
	SJ	11 S. Eccleston					

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:

Warden: Carol Heyes 07354902873

Email: ststephenelton@gmail.com

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/>