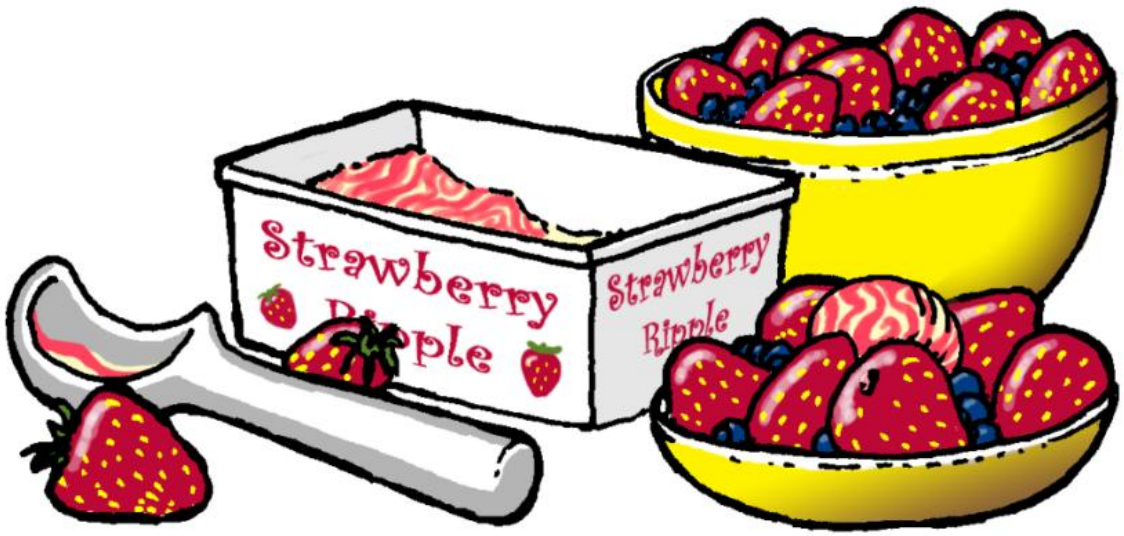
Keep in touch with

St Alban's Church

Revd. Marie Flint

Parish Office: 0161 477 0456

(Mon & Fri 9.30-12.30)



July - August 2026

To Contact the Church……

Parish Office:	0161 477 0456
Email:	stalbanofferton@gmail.com
Priest:	Revd. Marie Flint 0161 480 3773 revmarieflint@gmail..com

Churchwardens	Eileen Comerford	0161 480 4235
	Tony Renshaw	
Treasurer	David Haslam	
Secretary	Janet Renshaw	
Reader	Brenda Baxendale	
Safeguarding	Jen Sadler	
	safeguarding@stalbanofferton.org.uk	

You can find lots of information about the church and its activities on our Parish Website:
www.stalbanofferton.org.uk

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, X and
www.achurchnearyou.com

Marie Writes -





Have you noticed the new planters at the front of church filled with beautiful flowers, herbs and strawberries? They are looking splendid and very cheery! We need to thank Stockport MBC for funding the new wooden planters, Tony Renshaw for building them and Janet Renshaw and the gardening club team, as well as the children and staff from the Conscious Classrooms for planting them up and looking after them. Not forgetting the lovely planters at the base of our steps which were donated by the Rainbows and planted so lovingly by Denise.





Gardens feature in the Bible, of course. Perhaps the most famous Biblical garden is the Garden of Eden. The Garden of Eden was a beautiful paradise that God planted for humankind to enjoy. It is the place where humankind chose to disobey God and were kicked out of the garden by God. The setting of the most beautiful garden of all is the place where we can find answers about who we are as people in relationship with God; where we learn about sin and are connected to God through God's creation.

Eddie Askew and Jenny Hawke, in their book 'There was a Garden' write this reflection:

It's so easy
to miss the joy of Creation,
in the grey of an ordinary day.
We have 'things to do',
and lists to complete.
There seems no space
to look up and see
with the eyes of a child
and revel in the mystery
of the 'why?'.



The reflection is a reminder to us to wonder as we enjoy the beauty of a garden or nature; to take some time to connect with God through God's creation and to marvel at the spectacle of colour, growth and wildlife that might find their home in a garden. So, however you might be spending the Summer months, why don't you do that?





Look out of the window, or take a stroll in the park. Perhaps you have plans to visit a stately home garden or National Trust place (my favourite garden to visit is Trentham Gardens with the fairy sculptures and abundance of Damselflies).

If you'd like to help maintain our church gardens, our garden club is on the first Saturday of every month from 10am-12pm. Please do pop along to offer a little of your time. We might even get to use some of our strawberries at our upcoming Strawberry tea, which will be on Saturday 8th August from 1pm-3pm to help raise funds for our new accessible toilet project. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Have a blessed Summer,

Rev'd Marie





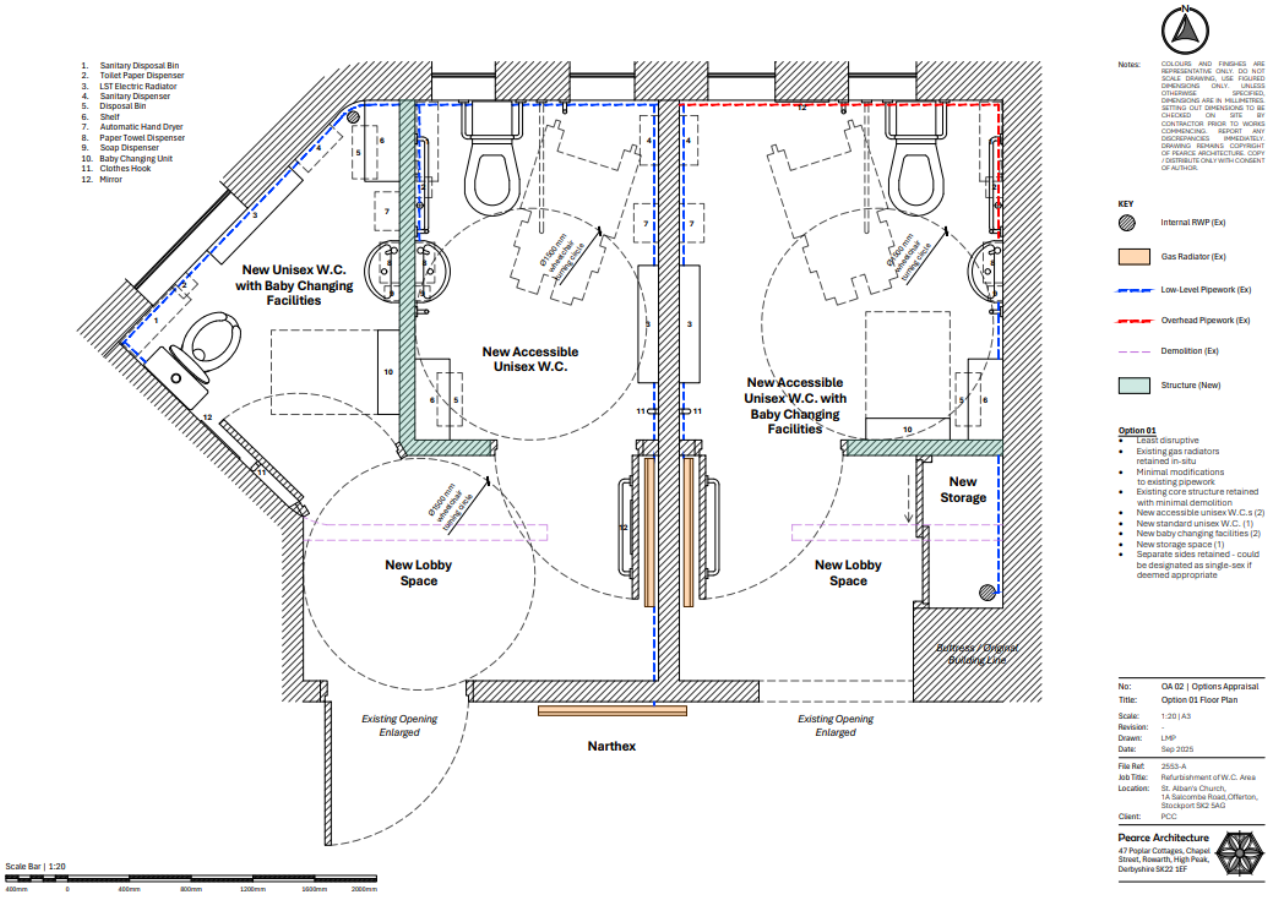
Give a pound to spend a penny

St. Alban's PCC are committed to making sure our buildings and our services are accessible to all people and that our church is an asset to the whole community, reflecting the inclusive nature of God's love.

That is why we are working towards upgrading our current toilet facilities to make them more inclusive. We have agreed on a plan to use the current toilet footprint and to transform them into 2 large accessible loos and one smaller loo. People in wheelchairs, people with mobility difficulties and neurodivergent people will be much more able and comfortable to use the new planned toilets. So, we hope to be able to provide a much nicer experience not only for our worshipping community but for the numerous other community groups who use the church building.

We are very excited and are praying for the project to be able to be completed. Our challenge is to raise a little bit more that a pound to spend a penny! The project is likely to cost tens of thousands of pounds. We are busy fundraising, of course, so do please support the cause as you are able. If anyone has a gift for fundraising or would like to be involved, please do get in touch. Thank you!

The plans are on display in church, but you can also see them here.



Celebrating the Gift of Music



Many thanks to everyone who came and supported our Gift of Music concert on 13th June. We had a fantastic evening and were thoroughly entertained by a number of piano students who learn through our organist Steve Hall at Semitone studios in Marple as well as Great Moor Singers, Voces Polchrae choir, Offerton Recorder Group, Harry from Stockport Music Project, local musicians Darren and Trish (who help run our Youth Music Project) as well as Steve who played the piano and church organ. Church was packed, and there was a brilliant joyful and supportive atmosphere.



The whole evening really was a celebration of the Gift of Music! We raised some much-needed funds which will go towards our accessible toilet project. A big thank you to all of the wonderful performers and musicians, the brilliant volunteers who helped run the event and to everyone who donated items for Refreshments and the raffle.

Our next fundraising event will be a Strawberry tea afternoon on Saturday 8th August from 1pm-3pm – do come along!

Rev'd Marie







Congratulations to Rev'd Debs!



In a joyful and spirit-filled service, our wonderful Curate Rev'd Debs was ordained into the Priesthood at St. Alban's on 20th June by the Bishop of Chester Bishop Mark. The church looked spectacular and was packed with guests from across the Diocese, the Deanery and Deb's friends and family. Deb's daughter Alice read the bible reading and Brenda our reader read the gospel. The prayers were led by Jeanne and the group Scout leader Simon. Neil Hamilton played the organ. This year marks the first year where Priest ordinations happen in local churches, rather than in the Cathedral, so it was a really special service, which felt very 'St. Alban's' as well as tailored to Debs. We have been so blessed to have Rev'd Debs with us over the past year as our curate and we look forward to ministering alongside her in the next 2 years of her curacy. She celebrated her first Holy Communion the following day on our Patronal Festival, which was also extra special. Here are some photos of Rev'd Debs and Rev'd Marie taken just before Debs went on her ordination retreat. At time of printing, we don't have the photos of the actual ordination – we'll include them in the next magazine.

The Diocesan staff, visitors and Deanery friends commented on what a wonderful warm and friendly welcome they received at St. Alban's and what a 'great spread' was put on for refreshments afterwards. A massive thank you to you all for being so amazing!

Rev'd Marie



Church Bulletin Notices

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practise.



Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Mary Sumner – 9th August – Founder of the Mothers Union



The Mothers' Union is now more than 140 years old. It has accomplished a staggering amount in that time, and nowadays numbers more than four million members, doing good work in 83 countries. That is a far cry from the modest circle of prayer for mothers who cared about family life, which is how it all began with a rector's wife, Mary Sumner.

Mary was born in late 1828 in Swinton, near Manchester. When she was four, her family moved to Herefordshire. Mary's father, Thomas Heywood, was a banker and historian. Her mother has been described as a woman of "faith, charm and sympathy" – qualities which Mary certainly inherited. Mrs Heywood also held informal 'mothers' meetings' at her home, to encourage local women. Those meetings may well have inspired Mary's later work.

Mary was educated at home, spoke three foreign languages, and sang well. While in her late teens, on a visit to Rome she met George Sumner, a son of the Bishop of Winchester. It was a well-connected family: George's uncle became Archbishop of Canterbury, and his second cousin was William Wilberforce. Mary and George married in July 1848, soon after his ordination. They moved to Old Alresford in 1851 and had three children: Margaret, Louise and George. Mary dedicated herself to raising her children and supporting her husband's ministry by providing music and Bible classes.

When in 1876 Mary's eldest daughter Margaret, gave birth, Mary was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood. Soon she decided to hold a meeting to which she invited the local women not only of her own class, but also all the village mothers. Her aim was to find out if women could be brought together to offer each other prayer and mutual support in their roles as wives and mothers. That meeting at Old Alresford Rectory was the inaugural meeting of the Mothers' Union.

For 11 years, the Mothers' Union was limited to Old Alresford. Then in 1885 the Bishop of Newcastle invited Mary to address the women churchgoers of the Portsmouth Church Congress, some 20 miles away. Mary gave a passionate speech about the poor state of national morality, and the vital need for women to use their vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better. A number of the women present went back to their parishes to found mothers' meetings on Sumner's pattern. Soon, the Mothers' Union spread to the dioceses of Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Lichfield and Newcastle. By 1892, there were already 60,000 members in 28 dioceses, and by 1900 there were 169,000 members. By the time

Mary died in 1921, she had seen MU cross the seas and become an international organisation of prayer and good purpose.



St Alban's original Mother's Union Banner

John Mason Neale – 7th August – Hymn writer and re-writer



If you are the sort of person who looks at the small print beside hymns in the hymnal, then you may recognise the name J. M. Neale. For not only did he write some of our most beloved hymns, but he also translated many dozens more from the Latin, old German, or old French. J. M. Neale was so prolific, in fact, that fully one-tenth of the hymns in our *English Hymnal* are his.

So, who was he? Born in London in 1818, educated Trinity College Cambridge, and ordained in 1841, he was aiming for the parish of Crawley. But chronic ill health left him too weak for parish life, and so he was appointed warden of an alms-house in East Grinstead, where he lived and worked for the rest of his life.

Neale used the peace and quiet of his job to good effect: producing *All glory laud and honour, Jerusalem the golden, O happy band of pilgrims, The Day of Resurrection, O come, O come Emmanuel,* and *Christ is made the sure foundation,* among many many others.

But Neale's writing of hymns was only part of his wider passion for the worship and liturgical practices of the Early Church. At a time when Anglo-Catholics were 'in fashion', Neale provided an important balance by reminding the Church of its largely forgotten Eastern heritage.



Messy June

Our activities in June included marshmallow sheep, edible burning bush, painting the burning bush, walking feet, a stained-glass window, bath bombs, and an apple seed hanger for birds.

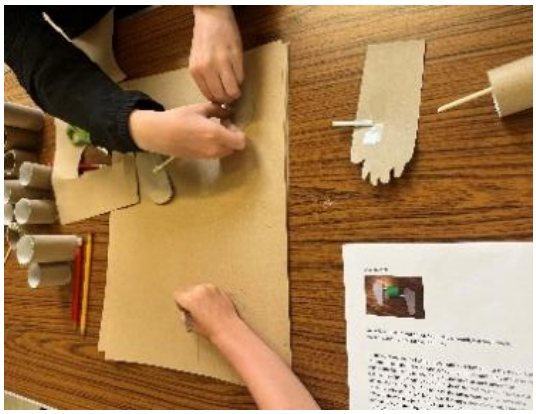






























Offerton Youth Music Club

St. Alban's Church Offerton

www.musicproject.uk

STOMP Stockport Music Project

Thursdays 6.30pm - 8.30pm

St. Alban's Church
1A Salcombe Rd, Offerton SK2 5AG

All abilities music activities & learning, age 11-16

All enquiries please e-mail
stockportmusicproject@gmail.com

JULY/AUGUST 2026

National Marine Week from 26th July-10th August 2026. This is an annual celebration dedicated to the UK's wonderful marine habitats and species. Organised by The Wildlife Trusts and supported by numerous local organisations, the week aims to raise awareness about the beauty and importance of our seas. Through educational activities, beach events, and conservation campaigns, National Marine Week inspires everyone to learn more about marine life and the vital role oceans play in our everyday lives.

As tide times vary around our coasts, National Marine Week is 15 days long to make sure everyone can take advantage of the best tides and experience marine life at Wildlife Trust events.

Here are a few for a day out in the North West.

Marvellous Minibeasts & Incredible Insects (on the coast)

Location: North Promenade car park, South Promenade, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire, FY8 2LZ

29 July 2026 - 10:30am - 12:00pm FREE EVENT – BUT YOU NEED TO BOOK
www.lancswt.org.uk/events/2026-07-29-marvellous-minibeasts-incredible-insects-coast Go here to book for this event.

Coastal explorer - Knott End

Location: Knott End Car Park , Wayside Knott End on Sea Poulton-Le-Fylde Fy6 0EA, Knott End , Lancashire , Fy6 0EA

5 August 2026 - 10:00am - 12:00Pm FREE EVENT – BUT YOU NEED TO BOOK
Phone 07542 028 241 or Email rglascott@lancswt.org.uk

Coastal explorer - Rossall Tower

Location: Rossall Point Observation Tower, The Esplanade, Fleetwood, Lancashire, FY7 8PG

7 August 2026 - 1:00pm - 3:00pm FREE EVENT – BUT YOU NEED TO BOOK
Phone 07542 028 241 or Email rglascott@lancswt.org.uk

If you are going on holiday why not join in a beach clean or just pick up any litter you find on the beach and put it in the nearest bin or look for mini beasts in the rock pools. Here are some animals you might find around the UK – look out for them on your holiday travels



GREY SEALS are the largest resident seal species in the UK, they have a distinctive sloping "hook-nosed" profile, parallel nostrils, and a coat patterned with darker blotches on a grey background, which can be used to identify individuals



DOLPHINS– if you are sailing across a stretch of water on a ferry or a boat look out for Dolphins, they might follow the boat leaping and swimming along side it.



It may be harder to see a PUFFIN, they live in burrows in the ground, they have only one chick called a puffling. It's best to see puffins on an arranged excursion, the National Trust have these.



OTTERS - Whether you a glimpse of water-webbed whiskers, a lithe body playing, or the tip of a ruddering tail, the sight of a shy otter is one of the most rewarding wildlife experiences in the UK.



STARFISH help maintain a delicate balance in coastal ecosystems through eating mussels and barnacles. The Common starfish are easy to spot in UK seas. They can be found in rockpools. They have five arms, usually orange in colour, and have many small pale spines. They are often found washed up on the shore after rough seas.



GREEN SEA URCHIN This small, round sea urchin is green in colour and can be found on rocky shores around the UK.

Whatever you are doing this summer have a safe and wonderful time. Why not share your holiday wildlife photos with us – send them to stalbanofferton@gmail.com and I'll put them in the October Eco News.

Info from www.wildlifetrust.org , www.awarenessdays.com , www.mcsuk.org

JULY/AUGUST 2026

Summer Sustainability – why not give it a try



Try to use Less Plastic

Summer is a great time for picnics or family barbecues. Please don't use plastic utensils and disposable plates. They end up in landfills, breaking down slowly and releasing greenhouse gasses that pollute the air. They can also end up in the oceans. Use metal water bottles, melamine plates, and your own fork, knives and spoons. Ok you'll have to wash up but it's better for the planet.

Visit local exhibitions and parks.

Travelling to far-off places uses tons of fuel. You can have lots of adventures nearer home. Take the bus, train or tram – a great start to an exciting adventure.

- In **Stockport** you can visit the Hatworks Museum, Air Raid Shelters, Bramhall Hall, Staircase House, Vernon Park, Woodbank Park, Bruntwood Park, Etherow Country Park, Marple Locks, Lyme Park, Cinema, or a show at the Plaza
- In **Manchester** visit the Science and Industry Museum, Lowry 360 exhibition at Salford Quays, Heads -Shoulders -Knees and Goals at the National Football Museum, Wild Things at the Lowry, Manchester Day (26.7.2026)

Just some of the things you can check out online that are running over the summer.

Paddleboarding, sailing or kayaking

These activities can help you beat the summer heat in a more sustainable way. They're also a perfect excuse to get outside and off your phone or computer. It's an excellent sport you can do solo or bring along some friends.
Try Debdale Outdoor Centre – you'll find them online. It's only a bus ride away. For age 6+





Get gardening - Plant Some Flowers for the Bees.

Flowers are great for pollinators, like bees. One third of the Worlds crops rely on bees for pollination.
Here's some flower ideas - Sunflowers, lavender, buddleia, honeysuckle, snapdragons, cornflower, Heather, Scabious, Aster and Dahlia.
Plant a section of your garden with wildflowers as these will attract Bees and other insects as well



You could build a bee house to provide a safe place for them to rest, or a small bug hotel for your garden. Try https://homegrail.com/diy-bee-house-plans or check out the internet for ideas.

Gardening is also an activity that's good for your health. Consider planting some vegetables and fruits to save you a trip to the grocery store, later in year.

Do Your Chores During Off-Peak Hours

Any energy-hungry chores, like laundry or vacuuming, could be completed during off-peak hours. This means in the evening instead of the middle of the day. Just be mindful of your neighbours.
Doing chores at off peak times reduces your energy bills, which in turn lowers your carbon emissions. Win, win all round.

For Fun Make a marble run using items from your recycling.





Gather up empty cereal boxes, cardboard tubes, water bottles and other recyclable packaging and give them a new lease of life by creating a marble run. Get creative and see how long a run you can build, then put a marble at the start and watch it roll! Once you're done, just put the items into your recycling bin.

Ideas from www.unsustainablemagazine.com, https://awesomejelly.com, www.livewest.co.uk/my-community/sustainable-summer-holiday-activities, Gardeners World.

***Nigel Beeton writes**: Beatrix Potter was born in Kensington on 28th July 1866, so that date this year marks 160 years since her birth. Born into the restrictive middle-class Victorian society, her world was one of rules and limits, but she had the courage to shake off those limits and her legacy to us of the unspoilt beauty of the lake district and her vivid imaginings of what the animals there got up to are almost timeless:*

MISS POTTER

A rabbit in a coat of blue,
A hedgehog laundress, a badger, too;
A kitten – now, his name was 'Tom'
Whose clothes were off much more than on!

Jemima was a 'puddle duck'
Who thought a fox would bring her luck
Till Kep, the farmer's collie dog
Saw through the fox's scheming fog!

Although she dwelt in London's dusts
Brought up with can'ts and don'ts and musts;
Her eyes just twinkled with the light
Of scenes beyond the smoky night!

Miss Potter saw the trees and woods
Which turned her 'couldn'ts' into 'coulds'.
And she could – with ink and paint
Show us a world both rich and quaint.

So many summers since her birth
Her vivid creatures bring us mirth!
Her rabbits bring us timeless joy,
Her ducks that fox nor time destroy,

She brings us from the city's smells
To brooks that weave through soaring fells!
So many summers since her birth –
Yet still she brings such joy to Earth!



Cycle of Prayer

This month we pray for the staff and residents at Bruce Lodge and we pray for the people of Ethiopia and Kenya, where people are experiencing the driest conditions and hottest temperatures since records began



Did you know that there is a good selection of Christian books to borrow at the back of church? Please help yourself and just return it when you've finished with it. We'd love to hear what you think of them too, so we'd welcome any short reviews of any of the books for inclusion in this magazine. Please email stalbanofferton@gmail.com with your reviews. Happy reading!

Chester Diocese News

If you have access to a computer you may want to catch up on the latest news by logging on to –

www.chesteranglican.org





St Albans Church is a vibrant and active Church of England Parish Church in Stockport

We welcome visitors of all faiths and of no faith.

Our services are as inclusive as possible, and all are welcome to join the church family for services and events.

Regular Services and Events at St Alban's

Sunday

9.00am Said Holy Communion with traditional language (1st Sunday only)

10.30am Sung Holy Communion for all the family (children's club 3rd Sunday)

Tuesday

10.30am Praise & Play (term time)

Wednesday

1-3pm Knit & Natter

Thursday

2-4pm Adult Craft Club (1st Thursday of month)

5.30pm Evening Prayer at St Alban's

6.30-8.30pm Youth Music Group (term time)

Saturday

10am-12pm Gardening club (1st Saturday of month)

3.30-5.30pm Messy Church (1st Saturday of month)