Keep in touch with

St Alban's Church

Revd. Marie Flint

Parish Office: 0161 477 0456

(Mon & Fri 9.30-12.30)



November 2025

To Contact the Church……

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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 –



As we enter November and the season of Remembrance, we have services with opportunities to remember Christians who have gone before us, loved ones who have died and to remember people who lost their lives in war and conflict.

It won't surprise you to learn that I spend much of my time praying with and for the dying, as well as speaking to people who are recently bereaved. Every time I do I feel such a sense of privilege to be invited into people's lives in an intimate and personal way. At funeral planning visits it is a joy to be able to encourage people to talk about their loved ones, to hear their stories and share their memories. Such encounters are not a time to say those things that people often say: that time is a great healer, that tomorrow is another day, that things will get better. Instead, there is a chance to acknowledge that in the death of those we have loved we have lost someone who was such a significant part of our lives, that platitudes don't take away anything of that loss. In our loss we must be allowed to feel its depths and pain. The sorrow of losing a loved one is nothing to be shied away from. Sometimes we must inhabit a Holy Saturday space.

It is one of life's greatest tributes to be remembered well – to be talked about – to be loved just as much in death as in life. And that is why our services of All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance Sunday are so important. That is why we read lists of names of people who have died.

But, there is also hope in our remembering. We remember that Jesus came to bring life in all its fullness. In our remembering, we are reminded that our lives are fuller because we have been touched and affected by our loved ones. So, we thank God – for the time they gave us, for what they inspired in us, and the love they shared with us, and we recognise the space each one of them has left within us because of all of that.

In our remembering and grief, we all share all sorts of emotions: sorrow, regret, despair, emptiness, anger. Nevertheless, we are reassured by Jesus' words '*Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.*' (John 5:24-25). So, we have hope for a future spent with Jesus in his love and peace.

The season of remembrance enables us to remember with great thanksgiving. Knowing that there is no more pain or suffering for the deceased, but a place in glory with all the saints.

Our service to mark All Saints Day will be on Sunday 2nd November at 10.30am. It will be an all-age parade service, and we will be welcoming Kipling cubs to help us lead the service. Later that day, at 4pm you are invited to a service to commemorate the faithful departed

and our service for Remembrance Sunday is on 9th November at 10.30am. You are warmly invited to come to all of these services.

May Christ being born anew in our hearts, bring light, healing and wholeness to you and all those you love in this world and in heaven. Amen.

Rev'd Marie





6th November

William Temple – Archbishop of Canterbury



During the Second World War, Winston Churchill was Britain's Prime Minister. At the same time, William Temple was Archbishop of Canterbury. While Churchill led the country against Germany, Temple encouraged the British people to trust the Lord for their deliverance and strength. Like Churchill, Temple was a great leader, a gifted orator and a prolific writer. He was also a theologian and social activist.

Temple was born on 15th October 1881 in Exeter, Devon. He was educated at Rugby School and Balliol College, Oxford, from 1900 to1904. He loved the music of Bach, the poetry of Browning and Shelley, and Shakespeare. He was an avid reader and possessed a near-photographic memory. He became president of the Oxford Union and after graduation, was a lecturer in philosophy at Queen's College, Oxford. He was a member of the debating society and was a skilled and balanced debater. Following his ordination in 1909, and priesting in 1910, Temple was headmaster of Repton School for four years. He married Frances Anson in 1916. They were childless.

From 1921-29 Temple was Bishop of Manchester. During this time, he was seen as a pioneer of the Ecumenical Movement and gradually became a national figure. In 1926 he urged the British government to seek a negotiated agreement to the General Strike.

Temple excelled as a moderator; a teacher and a preacher and his appointment as Archbishop of York (1929-40) was a popular one. His influence also led to the formation of the British Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. During the 2nd World War, he jointly founded the Council of Christians and Jews to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of prejudice in Britain.

As Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-44) Temple became an outspoken advocate of social reform and became involved in the campaign against unemployment, poverty and poor housing. He believed in the rights of all people, whether rich or poor, and was a leading force for social justice. He was grounded in the problems of the working man and in his book Christianity and Social Order (1942) he shared his vision for all to have access to healthcare, education and decent housing. His radical thinking and activism played a foundational role in the formation of the British Welfare State.

Temple died aged 63 at Westgate-on-Sea, Kent on 26th October 1944. He was the first Primate of All England to be cremated, and his ashes were buried in the cloister garden of Canterbury Cathedral. He is the last Archbishop of Canterbury to have died while in office.

9th November – Margery Kempe



Here is a saint for any out-spoken, emotional person who also struggles with depression and human failings in the quest to live their best life.

Margery Kempe was born in 1373, the daughter of a wealthy businessman in King's Lynn. She married John Kempe and had 14 children. She described herself as "not lettrid", for she could not read or write.

Margery Kempe was far from the usual 'saint' of the Late Medieval Ages. She was not a recluse. She had not defended her virginity. She was not a submissive wife. Instead, she must have been stormy to live with, as she was known to be very emotional, and at times, very rude. In fact, her emotion engagement with the liturgy deeply unsettled the established local clergy, who distrusted her flare-ups.

Margery began her spiritual pilgrimage with depression – probably brought on by the birth of her first child. She was so ill that she had been forcibly locked away in a room by her spiritual director, when she saw a vision of Jesus. He said to her: "Daughter why have you forsaken Me? I never forsook you." Margery was then reassured that her depressive guilt and fear were misplaced, and that Jesus was actually welcoming her into a personal relationship with Himself.

In 1436 Margery dictated her famous book, 'The Book of Margery Kempe'. It was a sort of spiritual autobiography, and for centuries only edited bits of it were published for people to read. Then in 1934 a complete manuscript was found, and it led to a re-evaluation of Margery herself.

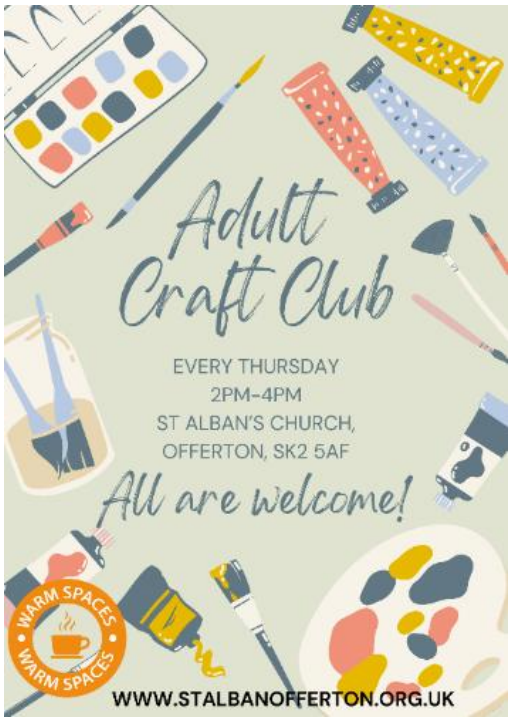
After years of being remembered as a devout mystic, Margery emerged as a more complete, more human woman from these pages. She loved clothes. She envied other people. She sometimes had fantasies, and sometimes few scruples. But she was also honest in her growing relationship with Christ and finally found in Him a fulfilment she could find nowhere else. That fulfilment helped her on her journey to gradual transformation.

She has been called 'the embodiment of an honest soul on a quest for God.' She died in 1440, aged 67, a good age in those days.

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING
MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Many thanks to all who came to our MacMillan Coffee Morning and to everyone who kindly donated. We raised £313 for the charity.





Starting on November 5th – Knit & Natter



Messy Church - October







Our activities in October included a ribbon wheatsheaf, mini caramel apples, garden carrot snack, scarecrow faces, autumn suncatchers, bird's nest, friendship bracelet, a cardboard box tree and corn dollies.

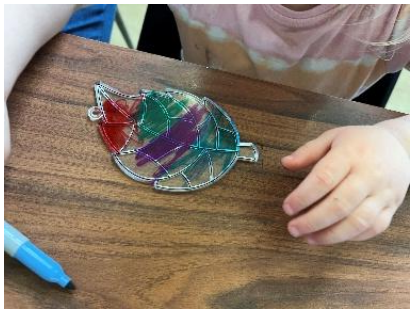
















Careful!

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing the old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. “Is there anything breakable in here?” asked the postal clerk.

The lady thought for a moment. “Only the Ten Commandments.”

NOVEMBER 2025

There is beauty to be found in every season, Autumn is no different, a harvest be can picked even when the blooms have gone, a single sunflower even when fading produces numerous seeds for planting in the spring, still providing purpose and value. Glorious leaves turn golden, red and bronze only to drop on the floor, but the tree is preparing for the new growth in spring. Do not despair in time life will grow again. Autumn is a wonderful season go out and enjoy the changes within it.



Prayer – Creator God you have a purpose for every season, even when it feels like there is no hope. Help us to see the beauty in the broken, your hand at work in every season and what you are revealing. Amen

(Adapted from Reflections by Claire Daniel)

Autumn Gardening Tips

As the seasons change and we welcome the colourful leaves of autumn it's a great time to work on your own garden or help out in your church garden.



Now is a good time to divide your perennial plants such as Peonies, Ornamental grasses, geranium, especially if they are taking over a little.

Plants can be divided successfully at almost any time of the year if they are kept well-watered afterwards. However, division is most successful when the plants are not in active growth. Divide **summer-flowering plants** in spring (Mar-May) or autumn (Sep-Nov) when the soil is dry enough to work. In wet autumns, delay until spring. Spring is also better suited to plants that are a touch tender. Many **spring-flowering plants**, such as irises, are best divided in summer (Jun-Aug) after flowering when they produce new roots

Why not share with others in parish or have a plant swap?



If you are raking up leaves why not leave a pile to decompose into leaf mulch which is beneficial to the soil. Leaf piles left in situ especially in a sheltered spot in the grounds can also provide overwintering places for hedgehogs and other small mammals.



Alternatively, you can collect the leaves to make leaf mould to put on the garden when it has decomposed. You can make a square or round frame from chicken wire or similar, supported at the corners or at intervals around the circle with stakes or bamboo canes. Ideally this should be in a sheltered part of the garden to ensure that the leaves are not blown away. Make your leaf heap as large as possible to hasten decay and moisten it periodically if it becomes dry. Most leaves take about two years to break down. You can also put the leaves into a bin liner, moisten them if they are dry, then pierce holes in the bag with a knife or garden fork, tie the top loosely and stack the bags out of sight for up to two years. You need to watch out for weeds and keep the leaves moist.



If you are tidying up bushes and trees and have cut off dead branches place some in a pile for insects to thrive on and mammals to live in. It doesn't have to be neat and tidy.



When the temperatures get colder and we need to make sure there is a water source for birds. A strong plastic tray can make a good bird bath and drinking place our feathered friends. If you place it on a large, upturned plant pot, hopefully the birds will be safe from predators. Just remember to break the ice in the depths of winter.



You can hang a bird feeder on virtually any vertical surface using brackets, you can also use this method for hanging bird baths and even some nesting boxes. If you can, please feed the birds throughout the winter months when the bugs are hard to come by. You can also buy insect houses that provide homes for solitary bees and other insects during these colder months.



Please look after our wildlife this Autumn and Winter



NOVEMBER 2025

You will already be aware that we collect food for **the Stockport Food Bank** and we thank you for all your donations. Please keep your donations coming they will be vital in the coming months. Here's another way you can help.

Have a cupboard amnesty – go through your pantry and if you've anything in there that you know you're not going to use and it has a good shelf life on it, pop it in the food bank box in the Narthex at church. Canned Food and dried goods are always welcome. Better to be used by someone in need rather than never.

Ways you can stop wasting food and save money

Shop Local for veg/fruit – buy loose food from your local shop or market it has no packaging so is great for the environment and your stomach as its more likely to be fresher. Don't forget your long-life bag though. Oh, and don't be afraid to buy dirty potatoes or misshapen veg – they'll still taste delicious once washed. Frozen veg is usually better for you than canned as they usually contain no preservatives, so if you'd rather have that than fresh then go for it. Only buy what you need.

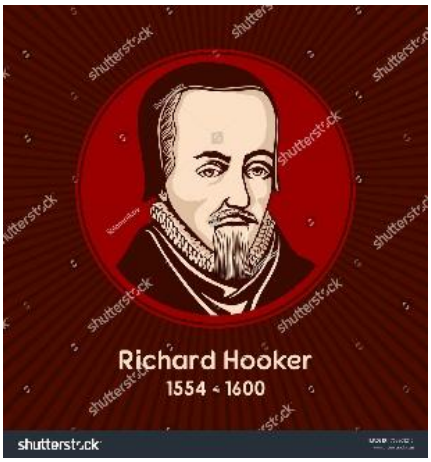
Keep your pantry stocked – when you're tired and hungry a well-stocked pantry will allow you to make a quick and easy meal rather than opting for the less nutritious Take -Away with is packaging waste, possible food waste, and empty calories as well. A speedy meal can be made with ingredients such as pasta, rice, lentils, tinned tomatoes, tinned fish, tinned beans, chickpeas etc plus all your favourite herbs and spices.



Tuna Pasta Bake – serves 4 takes 30 minutes.
Ingredients - 400g pasta, 100g frozen peas(optional), 50g butter, 50g plain flour, 600ml milk, 1 tsp Dijon mustard (optional), 2 x 195g cans drained tuna, 4 sliced spring onions or a sliced onion or diced frozen onions, 198g can sweetcorn drained, 100g grated cheddar.
Method **step 1** - Bring a pan of water to the boil. Add the pasta and cook, following pack instructions, until tender. Add the peas for the final 3 mins cooking time.
step 2 - Meanwhile, melt the butter in a pan over a medium heat. Stir in the flour and cook for 2 mins. Add the milk, whisking constantly, then slowly bring to the boil, stirring often, until sauce thickens. Remove from the heat, add the mustard and season well.
step 3 - Heat the grill to medium. Drain the pasta and peas, then return to the pan and stir in the tuna, spring onions, sweetcorn, and sauce. Tip into a shallow baking dish, top with the cheddar, and cook under the grill for 5 mins or until golden and bubbling.
Step 4 – EAT AND ENJOY

That's it for November remember don't stuff your home with food that's meant to be eaten over the course of months – keep your staples – but don't overdo the buying. It's healthier for your body, your spirit and your pocket to invest in fresh whole foods that are meant to be eaten soon after buying.

Richard Hooker
Priest, apologist, teacher



Richard Hooker lived at a critical time for the Church of England. He became one of the most important English theologians of the 16th century. He provided the Church of England with a theological method which combined the claims of revelation, reason, and tradition. Traditionally, he has been credited as the originator of the Anglican *via media* – the middle way between Protestantism and Catholicism.

Hooker was born near Exeter around 1554, educated at Corpus Christi College Oxford, and was then made fellow there in 1577, and deputy professor of Hebrew in 1579. In 1581 he was ordained and later appointed as Rector of Drayton Beauchamp. In 1585 Hooker was appointed Master of the Temple Church in London, but returned to rural ministry six years later, first at Boscombe in Wiltshire, and then at Bishopsbourne in Kent, where he died in 1600

The 1580s and 1590s were a time of bitter theological disputes between the Church of England, after the 1559 Elizabethan Settlement of the C of E, and the growing Puritan party within the Church. Hooker was implacably against Puritanism, and set about refuting it, and defending the Church of England in his magisterial eight-volume book *On the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity.*

The book has been called “probably the first great work of philosophy and theology to be written in English.” In it Hooker set out to demonstrate the superiority of episcopacy in the C of E, as opposed to bringing in the presbyterian system that the Puritans wanted. Anglicanism, he said, was rooted in both Scripture and tradition, as suited a Church both Catholic and Reformed. And as human reason is a gift from God, he argued that this, too, was a vital element in interpreting both Scripture and tradition.

So, Richard Hooker was the first real apologist for Anglicanism. His contribution to Anglican thought was so huge that down the centuries he has won the backing of all wings of the Church: the evangelicals, Anglo-Catholics, and central churchmen.



Parish Christmas Card

If you would like to be included in this years Parish christmas card please speak to Eileen

Cycle of Prayer

This month we pray for the staff and pupils at The Fairway and we pray for more local renewable energy projects in our community



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



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!

As Remembrance Day approaches, below is an extract from

For the Fallen by Laurence Binyon



They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables at home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end they remain.

Laurence Binyon was born in Lancaster, England, in 1869. Best known for his poem "For the Fallen," written at the onset of World War I, Binyon also wrote and translated verse drama and worked as an art historian. He died in 1943.

Welcome

We welcome into our church family -



Ruben James Moscardini Hutchinson

&



Arthur Jacob Coulthard

baptised on 12th October 2025

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 (term time)

Thursday

2-4pm Adult Craft Club

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)