Keep in touch with

St Alban's Church

Revd. Marie Flint

Parish Office: 0161 477 0456

(Mon & Fri 9.30-12.30)



October 2025

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	

safeguard@stalbans@gmail.com

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-



In our house we have a number of pets – an aged white rabbit called Snowy, 2 guinea pigs called Potato and Chewbacca as well as 4 rats called Toast, Marmalade, Porridge and Egg. We are lucky enough to have lots of wildlife visiting the vicarage garden too – birds, squirrels, foxes, badgers, butterflies and spiders. The foxes are cheeky because they steal dog toys from other people's gardens and play with them on the vicarage lawn! They dig a lot of holes too! But we always get excited when we spot them and enjoy watching them, especially in the early Summer when there are cubs about.

We are a nation of animal lovers. During the COVID pandemic and in lockdown many people decided to add a pet to their household, for the extra company at a time of social isolation, and perhaps to take on a lockdown walk. And when our pets die, we can feel grief as if we had lost a person because they really do become part of the family.

This year, to commemorate Animal Welfare Sunday we'll be holding our first Pet Blessing Service at St. Alban's. You are invited to come to the service at 4pm on Sunday 5th October with your pet, a photo of your pet or something to remind you of a past pet and we'll celebrate the special relationship we have with animals. We'll ask God to bless them and thank God for the blessing our pets are to us.

The service is the day after the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, which falls on 4th October. St Francis, who founded the Catholic Church's Franciscan order, lived in Italy during the late 12th and 13th centuries. He is remembered for his generosity to the poor and his willingness to minister to the lepers. He is particularly remembered for his love for animals and nature. St Francis died at Portiuncula, Italy on October 4, 1226, and is often depicted in art with birds.

The Bible mentions all sorts of birds – ravens, doves, swifts, thrushes, storks, eagles to name but a few. In fact, we can read about lots of different animals in the Bible. Off the top of my head I can think of fish, lions, lambs, donkeys, wolves, ants, snakes, cows, bears, goats, pigs, bats, bees, frogs, foxes, hens and a whale. Can you think of anymore?

From the beginning of creation in the book of Genesis when God creates all creatures that live on the earth to the book of Revelation where animals take on an apocalyptic symbolism, the Bible is packed with animals – much like Noah's Ark which contained 2 of every kind. Animals must be very important to God.

The way we treat animals is important to God too. Proverbs 12:10 states that "*The righteous care for the needs of their animals*". Treating animals with care and respect, as part of God's wonderful creation to which we belong, is part of humankind's commission to be good stewards of the earth. Sometimes, we can harm animals by harming the environment. For example, by polluting the seas with plastic or by contributing to climate change. Harming the planet inevitably means that we harm animals too.

I'll leave you with the prayer of St. Francis for animals:

God our Heavenly Father, you created the world to serve humanity's needs and to lead them to you. By our own fault we have lost the beautiful relationship which we once had with all your creation. Help us to see that by restoring our relationship with you we will also restore it with all your creation. Give us the grace to see all animals as gifts from you and to treat them with respect for they are your creation. We pray for all animals who are suffering as a result of our neglect. May the order you originally established be once again restored to the whole world through the merits and mediation of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you now and forever. Amen.

Rev'd Marie





Stockport Deanery Synod - 19th September 2025



We welcomed Rev Margaret Lowe at her induction by the suffragan Bishop of Stockport Rev Sam Corley at St Thomas' Norbury, presented by Patron Lord Richard Newton and also welcomed by Deputy mayor Gary Lawson, Rev Tena Upton chair' house of clergy, Liz Gadess, Hr Director Rev Jess Piper, Rural Dean and Rev Heidi Munn, curate at St Thomas Norbury, and a list of over 12 additional dignitaries.

Bishop Sam conducted proceedings with vigour, humour, and conviction, and in combination with Norbury's great hospitality and enthusiasm, a wonderful event was unfurled.
Special thanks to Norbury church for hosting a great event so well.

Dear Rev Margaret, we wish every blessing on your ministry.

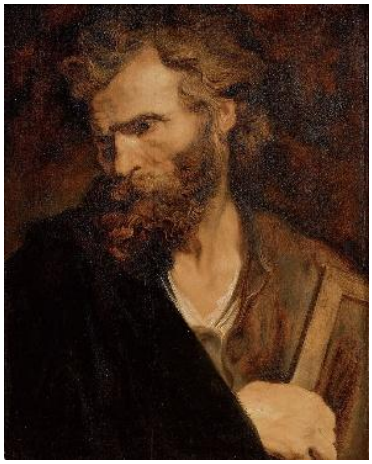
David Griffiths



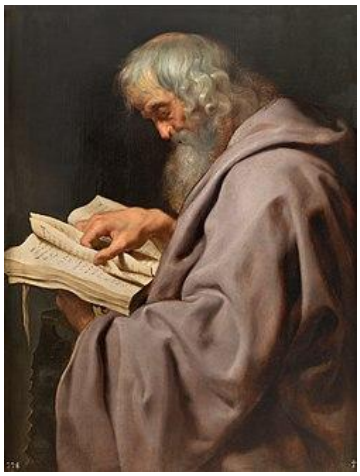




28th October-
Simon and Jude – warning against moral infections



Jude the apostle and martyr (1st century) warns us in his epistle that not all 'evil' comes in the form of obvious ghosties and ghoulies. He writes instead to warn the Christians of the greater danger of people who infect others with heresy and moral failure. He writes that they are nothing more than …. "blemishes on your love-feasts…feeding themselves. They are waterless clouds carried along by the winds; autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame, wandering stars, for whom the deepest darkness has been reserved forever."



Such dangerous people can be frightening, but Jude also encourages his readers to remember "…him who is able to keep you from falling and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing…the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power and authority, before all time, now and forever…"

According to Western tradition, Jude and Simon went to preach the gospel in Persia, where both were martyred.



Scarecrow Festival – Saturday 13th September

Thank you to all those who made scarecrows or donated materials to celebrate our Heritage Open Day and 'The Scarecrow's wedding' scarecrow.







































Messy Church September







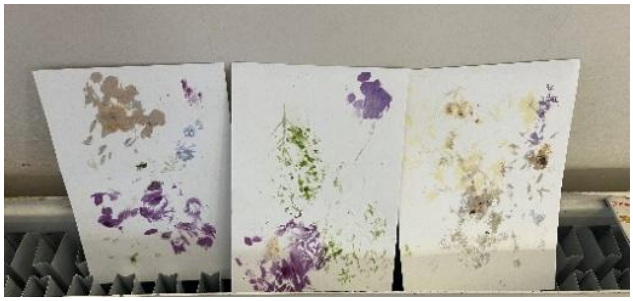


























OCTOBER 2025 Newsletter



Let's bring some beautiful Chaos to our gardens

Do you want a low maintenance garden? Have you seeds lying around? Chaos gardening may be just what you're looking for. Chaos gardening is a laid-back approach to gardening. Why not rebel against tidy gardens.

Whilst Chaos gardening thrives on spontaneity, you'll still need to loosen the soil with a rake or hoe to help seeds settle in. You don't need to go overboard — just clear away heavy weeds or debris and rough up the top few inches.



Gather any leftover seeds you have lying around, mix them up and scatter them in one area or throughout the garden. This should result in a more natural and wild-looking garden, which is also good for biodiversity, attracting beneficial pollinators and other insects. You still need to read the seed packet for each plant's needs, and plant accordingly. So, if you want you can gather up your seeds, group them together in planting order, height, shade or sunny spot etc and see what happens. Sprinkle seeds everywhere. Mix your seeds in a bucket and scatter them freely across your prepared soil. Lightly rake them in or water gently to help them settle. Or you may choose to plant large seeds first, then sprinkle on the small ones, it's up to you after all it's your Chaos so anything goes!

You'll need to provide some TLC, water regularly to help the seeds sprout, and if seedlings are growing too close to each other, thin them so that they have a little space to spread

out. Once the garden is established and the plants start to naturally self-seed, you might notice that your workload decreases even more,

The results should create an effortlessly breath-taking natural garden space, brimming with colour, texture and smells that will attract bees and attract butterflies to your garden.

Some chaos gardeners also consider companion planting: plants that support one another through their proximity, either through pest deterrence or other means, like tomatoes and basil. This doesn't mean sowing deliberately next to each other, but maybe you toss companion seeds in the same area

Whatever you choose, you can leave the seeds on the surface of the soil, or use a rake to turn them under, which will prevent birds etc from taking them.

Not everything will take - maybe the marigolds are colourful and abundant, but the daisies don't make it. In the end, it's all about letting go and watching nature work its magic.

Weeds will still pop up around the garden: spend some time weeding throughout the season, especially in the early summer to keep things from spreading. But a weed is only a flower in the wrong place – it's up to you to decide

What's the advantage of chaos gardening?



Chaos gardening can be surprisingly good for the environment. Mixing various plants and letting them grow freely supports pollinators, birds and beneficial insects, creating a mini ecosystem right in your backyard. This diverse planting style can lead to not needing pesticides so making it a greener way to grow. It's also low-maintenance and stress-free, perfect for gardeners who'd rather enjoy nature than fight it.

Ideas from Eco News, Homes & Gardens, Good Housekeeping, and House Beautiful

OCTOBER 2025

ACTIVITIES TO ENJOY SUSTAINABLY IN AUTUMN

We can be eco-friendly in a variety of ways in the Autumn.

As well as doing the same Eco-friendly things we do all year round to minimise and reduce our environmental footprint. We can take action to save water and energy at home and avoid impulse buying and overconsumption. We can also choose to be more conscious with our choices and only buy sustainable products. We can also have fun in nature. Here are some ideas…..



Go leaf watching in your local park - Take a walk to your local park, and just stay there, admiring the trees. You could even take a picnic, sit on a bench and enjoy being outside in nature's colours.

Make a pile of leaves to jump into - Who doesn't love the sound dry leaves make when you step or jump on them, it's one of the most beautiful sounds in this life. The world would be a better place if everyone jumped into a pile of dry and colourful leaves before starting their day; it's just as cathartic as walking on them.

Where comfy clothes - Try to turn the heating on as late as possible to save energy (and money), wear warm comfy socks, and a cozy sweater - sort out your wardrobe now before its too late. Whilst you doing this why not thrift your unwanted items to The Wellspring or your local charity shop. Make sure you bundle up in a cozy throw blanket during the colder days and nights, toasty.

Light a candle or two What is cosier than lighting a candle on an Autumn evening to make the room warmer and cosier. But make sure you snuff it out when you leave the room.



Decorate your home with elements from nature - Autumn is the perfect season make our homes cosy and welcoming. Have a more sustainable Autumn by using last year's decorations, make some new ones or buy some at the Charity shop. Whilst you're at the charity shop you might find some Autumn clothes for yourself and your family, cheaper and more environmentally friendly



Bake some treats and make some soup – baking yummy treats will leave a heartwarming smell in your home. Making soups will warm both your body and soul.

Take up knitting – jumper season is back. Whilst we can buy sweaters in an eco-friendly way by getting them from the charity shop or from a sustainable clothing brand, we can also learn to knit them ourselves. Knitting is a mindful activity that will help you slow down and enjoy the present moment.

14th October

Donation – Nth Africa Christian Martyr



Some Christians today have the curious idea that being a Christian guarantees a prosperous life in this world. St Paul was more realistic – throughout his epistles he urges Christians to pray for patience and endurance in this world. Donation (martyred c 484) is a timely reminder that we are called to be witnesses, and that that may not be easy.

When Hunneric, the King of the Vandals, closed all the churches in North Africa in the late fifth century, Donation and his friends were tortured, driven into the desert, and left to die of exposure. Many Christians in Muslim Africa today face similar dangers for Christ. Pray for them, that they find the courage and endurance they need.



19th October

Henry Martyn - translator and missionary in India and Persia



If you love languages, then Henry Martyn is the saint for you.
Born in 1781, and schooled in Truro, he went on to St John's College in Cambridge, where he proved a brilliant student. He planned on becoming a lawyer, but at Cambridge he met Charles Simeon, the Vicar of Holy Trinity Cambridge, and a leading evangelical of his day. Through him,
Henry was converted to Christianity and offered himself for ordination. In 1803 he was appointed a curate under Charles Simeon at the village of Lolworth. At Lolworth, Henry taught himself Oriental languages as a way of relaxing, and read the biography of William Carey, who had been a missionary to India. Henry was inspired by his example and soon felt God's call to go to India as well.
And so, with Simeon's help, Henry Martyn was appointed an East India Company chaplain. He arrived in India in April 1806, and served near Serampore, and then in Danapur. Three years later,
in 1809, Henry was transferred to Cawnpore. Henry Martyn ministered faithfully as a chaplain, but his genius was in his gift for languages. In his six short years in India, he not only became fluent in Urdu and Persian, but translated the entire New Testament into both Urdu and Persian. He also revised an Arabic translation of the NT, translated the Psalter into Persian, and the book of Common Prayer into Urdu.

By 1810 his health was breaking down, and he nearly died of tuberculosis at Cawnpore. He left India in 1811, to return home via Persia. But he fell ill on route, and on 16th October 1812, he died at Tokat, where he was given an honoured burial by the Armenian Christians.

Henry Martyn had been heard to say, "Let me burn out for God", and his prayer was answered. His life's work won him much admiration in Great Britain. Thomas Macaulay composed an epitaph for him which says it all:

'Here Martyn lies. In Manhood's early bloom
The Christian Hero finds a Pagan tomb.
Religion, sorrowing o'er her favourite son,
Points to the glorious trophies that he won.
Eternal trophies! not with carnage red,
Not stained with tears by hapless captives shed,
But trophies of the Cross! for that dear name,
Through every form of danger, death, and shame,
Onward he journeyed to a happier shore,
Where danger, death, and shame assault no more.'

Cycle of Prayer

This month we pray for anyone who meets at the Albany and we pray for China, the USA and other big carbon emitting countries, that they would meet their climate targets.

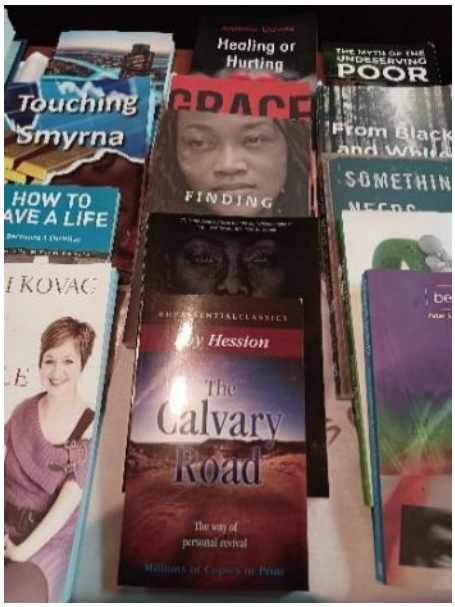


Thursdays 6.30pm - 8.30pm

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!

Bye bye

Our lay preacher is from France and occasionally amuses us with using words slightly out of context. One morning, coming to the end of a long sermon, he solemnly assured us: "Just a few more words, and then I will definitely decease."



Autumn Glades – Nigel Beeton



We stroll through leafy autumn glades,
An amber carpet ‘neath our shoes;
As Nature’s summer beauty fades
She clothes herself in golden hues.

The stillness of October days,
The chillness of a frosty dawn,
Yet autumn sunshine’s slanting rays
Caress us with their glowing warmth.

They also warm the southern breeze,
Which comes upon us, as it may,
Releasing crispy, ochre leaves
To gently patter on our way.

Soon, soon comes winter’s icy grip,
Of freezing wind and driving snow,
But, just for now, we’ll gladly slip
Through gentle autumn’s golden glow.

Mindful Yoga

Thursdays at 6.30pm with Judy

Would you like to attend Yoga classes on a Thursday night. Judy has an age range from

19-75yr attending currently so everyone are warmly welcomed



Welcome



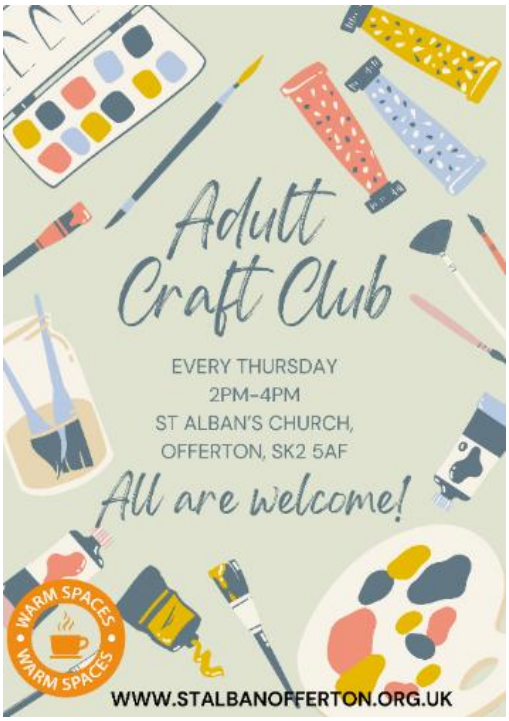
We welcome into our church family -

Jocelyn Nico Hague, Bernard Blake Hague and Taylor Andrew Crompton-Paul who were baptised on Sunday 14th September 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	Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer (1st Sunday only)
10.30am	Holy Communion (children's club 3rd Sunday)

Tuesday

10.30am	Praise & Play (term time)

Thursday

2-4pm	Adult Craft Club
5.30pm	Evening Prayer
6.30-8.30pm	Youth Music Group (term time)

Saturday

10am-12pm	Gardening club (1st Saturday of month)
3.30pm-5.30pm	Messy Church (1st Saturday of month)