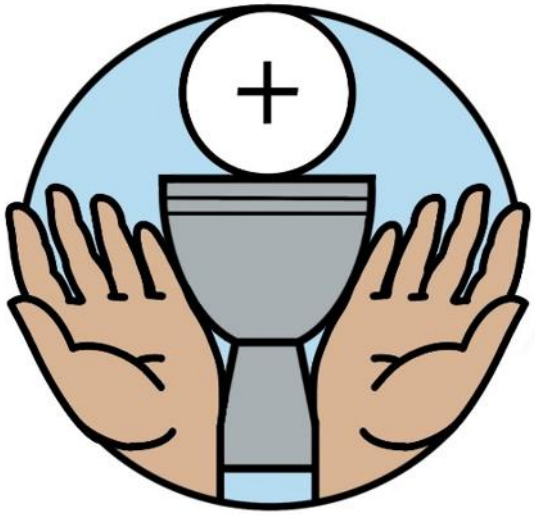
Keep in touch with

St Alban's Church

Revd. Marie Flint

Parish Office: 0161 477 0456

(Mon & Fri 9.30-12.30)



September 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



Holy Trinity Church, Stevenage

About a year ago I travelled down to Stevenage to the funeral of a family friend, who was the mother of my Godson and also the Godmother to my sister. The funeral was held at a little church in the 'Old Town' in Stevenage called Holy Trinity. It happens to be the church where I was baptised as a baby in August 1976. My grandparents' ashes are buried in the graveyard there and my parents were married there. The last time I visited Holy Trinity was for my grandmother's funeral more than 30 years ago. So, while it was a sad occasion to go back for a funeral, it did make me feel connected to my roots and to the place where my Christian journey began, with my baptism. It was a profound and moving experience.

For those of us who are baptised, baptism marks the beginning of all our journeys through life as Christians. In this sacrament, water is used as a symbol of the washing away the past and representing a new, clean start. Public declarations are made (in my case, by my parents and Godparents, on my behalf) to follow Jesus and to turn away from sin and the newly baptised person receives a candle as a symbol of receiving the light of Christ. There's also a welcome into God's family.

Now, as a priest, when I perform baptisms on babies and children, I often feel a sense of excitement and privilege at being present at this really special moment.

There's a sense of anticipation at how and where the Holy Spirit will move through and in the young person's life. I don't suppose my parents and Godparents would have thought, that in the beginning that was my baptism, I'd end up baptising others decades later! Baptisms are really special!



The font at Holy Trinity Church, Stevenage

We are going to be celebrating baptisms and looking back at some of the baptisms that have happened over the years at St. Alban's Church at our Heritage Open Day on Saturday 19th September. Church will be open for visitors to come and have a look around church from 10am-4pm, where we will have a display of baptism photos, baptism gowns (including the one worn by me at Holy Trinity in 1976!) and local schools and groups have been invited to display artwork with a watery feel. Refreshments will be available and there will be craft activities for children to get involved in along a baptism theme. The event is entirely free. Please come along and bring your friends and family

Rev'd Marie

Photos of Rev'd Debs Ordination on June 20th













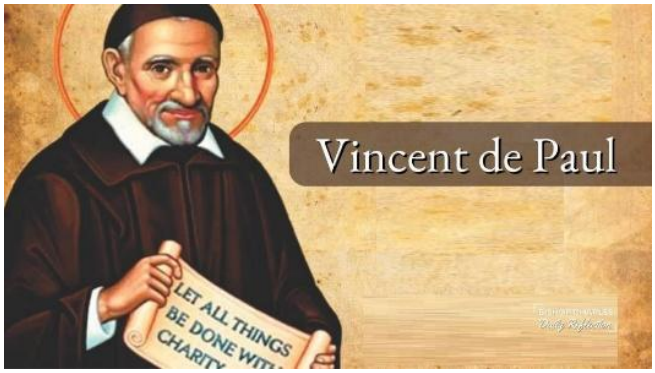








27th September – Vincent de Paul – patron of all charitable societies



Very few people stand out as being incredibly good, but Vincent de Paul was one of them. His life touched thousands of people, who were helped and inspired by his love and kindness.

Vincent de Paul was born in 1581 to a Gascon peasant family at Ranquine. Educated by the Franciscans and then at Toulouse University, he was ordained a priest very young, at only 19. He became a court chaplain, and then tutor to the children of the Gondi family. In 1617 he was made parish priest of Chatillon-les-Dombes.

From here, Vincent de Paul ministered both to the rich and fashionable, and also to the poor and oppressed. He helped prisoners in the galleys, and even convicts at Bordeaux.

In 1625 Vincent de Paul founded a congregation of priests who renounced all church preferment and instead devoted themselves to the faithful in smaller towns and villages. In 1633 they were given the Paris priory church of Saint-Lazare, and that same year Vincent founded the Sisters of Charity, the first congregation of 'unenclosed' women, whose lives were entirely devoted to the poor and sick, and even providing some hospital care. Rich women helped by raising funds for various projects, which were an immense success.

Even in his lifetime, Vincent became a legend. Clergy and laity, rich and poor, outcasts and convicts all were warmed and enriched by his charisma and selfless devotion. Vincent was simply consumed by the love of God and of his neighbour. His good works seemed innumerable – ranging from helping war-victims in Lorraine, and sending missionaries to Poland, Ireland and Scotland, to advising Anne of Austria at Court during the regency.

No wonder that after his death at nearly 80, the Pope named him as patron of all charitable societies. Even today, the Vincent de Paul Society is working with the poor and oppressed.





Activities in our Parish Hall

Monday – 7pm Badminton

Wednesday -6pm – Union Pilot Group

Wednesday - 8pm Fencing

Thursday – 6.30pm Yoga

Saturday – 10.30am Karate

Sunday – 11.00am Greater Manchester community group

Winter bowling from 2.30pm (practice Tuesday and Friday evenings)

24th September - St Gerard Sagredo, church planting in 11th Century



It's amazing how little some things change down the centuries. Take the life of Gerard Sagredo, for instance. He left his 'comfort zone' of home and church because he felt God's calling on his life. He travelled abroad and taught in order to earn his living in a non-Christian country. In his spare time he shared his faith with the people he met, and gradually some were converted. Soon he had 'planted' a little church.

Gerard's life sounds like that of a western missionary in parts of the developing world today. In fact, he was an 11th century monk from Venice. He was the prior of San Giorgio Maggiore, but gave up the security in order to attempt the pilgrimage to Jerusalem. But God stopped Gerard when he reached Hungary, for King Stephen not only welcomed him, but pressed him to become tutor to his son.

Gerard agreed, and soon he had converted a group of people around him. In those days monks didn't just plant churches – they planted entire 'sees' of the church, and so the see of Csanad was established, with Gerard as its first bishop.

But the problems of then and now seem surprisingly similar. Gerard Sagredo worked in the face of growing hostility from local people of other faiths, and half-hearted commitment from some of his own converts. Nearly 1,000 years later, Christian missionaries all over the world are still facing the same two struggles.
Sadly, the next bit of the story is also all too familiar: King Stephen died, and the new people in power hated Christians. In 1038 persecution began. In 1046 Gerard was attacked in the street, and stoned. A lance was thrust through him. His body was then hurled into the Danube. Gerard Sagredo had become a martyr of the Persecuted Church. The non-Christians killed Gerard that day, but they did not kill Christianity. In the years to come many more thousands of Christians would die, while the church grew, not shrank. Meanwhile, Venice paid homage to her first ever martyr by translating some of his relics back to the island of Murano in 1333.

Our Strawberry Tea fundraiser held on Saturday 8th August to help raise funds for our accessible toilet project. Thank you to all who contributed and came to our event which was very well attended.















Messy Church - July





Our theme in July was God's big family and included a lantern of hope, rocks of hope, scroll ice challenge, edible torch, edible candle and teddy bear



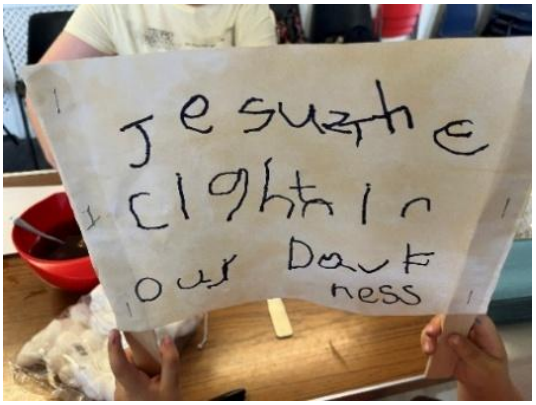




















Get Rid

A man bought a new fridge for his house. To get rid of his old fridge, he decided to put it outside in his front garden, along with a sign saying: 'Free to good home.' For three days the fridge sat there without even one person looking twice at it.



So eventually the man changed the sign to read: 'Fridge for sale: £30'. The next day someone stole it.

SEPTEMBER 2026

ECO CHURCH
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

SEASON OF CREATION
SEPTEMBER 1- OCTOBER 4

The theme for the Season of Creation 2026 is

LIVING WATER

The 2026 theme, **Living Water**, is inspired by the biblical vision found in the Book of Ezekiel (47:9, 12). The passage describes water flowing from God's sanctuary, bringing life and restoration to ecosystems and communities.

Key meaning of the Living Water theme:

- **Ecological renewal:** Water as a symbol of healing for degraded ecosystems
- **Spiritual renewal:** Connection between faith, baptism, and transformation
- **Human obligation:** Stewardship of natural resources, especially water
- **Climate justice:** Focus on communities most affected by water scarcity and pollution

The theme aligns with growing global concerns about freshwater access, biodiversity loss, and environmental sustainability.

Church leaders gave their voice to this year's Season of Creation. I particularly like the following from Rev. Dr. Reynaldo Ferreira Leão Neto (Léo), General Secretary of the World Methodist Council

"Let's clean up every river and finally the seas. Let's campaign to uncover every stream and river in our cities. Let's integrate the rivers back into the urban space and plant trees beside them. Let's enjoy the peace, healing and tranquillity they will bring. God made them all to be living waters." I think his statement rings true and could be used as a blueprint for our future relationship with water.

You can read all their statements at https://seasonofcreation.org/resources/ and download the celebration guide.

Why the Season of Creation Matters in 2026



The Season of Creation continues to grow as a key moment for faith-based climate engagement. The 2026 theme, **Living Water**, highlights urgent global issues such as:

- Water scarcity and access to clean water as a fundamental human right.
- intersection of poverty and environmental vulnerability
- Ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss



Biodiversity loss is associated with permanent ecological changes in ecosystems, landscapes, and the global biosphere. Natural ecological disturbances, such as wildfires, floods and volcanic eruptions, change ecosystems drastically by eliminating local populations of some species and transforming whole biological communities. Such disturbances are temporary, because natural disturbances are common and ecosystems have adapted to their challenges.

BUT…. In contrast, biodiversity losses from disturbances caused by humans tend to be more severe and longer lasting.

The two main drivers of biodiversity loss are;



- **Habitat loss or degradations** - forest clearing, wetland filling, stream channelling/ rerouting, plus road and building construction on green belts, will reduce or eliminate the food resources and living space for most species. The species that cannot migrate are often wiped out.
- **Invasive species** - these are not native and disrupt and modify the ecosystem. In sourcing food and habitat these invasive species trigger a decline in the native species. Invasive species can arrive by migration or human introduction.

The other are;

Overexploitation – is the harvesting of game animals, fish or other organisms beyond the capacity for surviving population to replace their losses. Leading to some species being depleted to low numbers or being driven to extinction.

Pollution - is the addition of any substance at a faster rate than the area can remove it or store it in a harmless form. Exposed organisms can develop health problems or die dependant on the intensity.

Climate Change/Global warming … caused by industry and other human activities. Both modify the earth's climate trapping the heat, influencing the temperature and rain patterns.

The Season of Creation 2026 With the theme **Living Water**, the 2026 observance emphasises restoration, renewal, and shared responsibility for the Earth. By embracing both faith and action, communities around the world are called to become sources of hope and renewal—allowing care for creation to flow into everyday life, shaping a more just, sustainable, and life-giving future for all.

Humans, animals and plants and all living things have different needs but every living creature on earth needs water! Water is our most important resource!

Ideas from www.wikihow.com, www.mindfulofthehome.com, www.waterwise.org, www.seasonofcreation.org, www.iere.org, www.britanicca.com, www.vecleezy.com

SEPTEMBER 2026

Eco Tips to help save water ….

You can save water at home through simple daily habits and efficient appliances reducing both your water bill and your environmental impact.

Daily Habits inside

- **Turn off taps when not in use**: Don't use running water while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing your hands. This can save up to 200 gallons per month.
- When **washing vegetables** do it in a bowl of water instead of running water, this can save up to 50% of the water used.



- **Having a cuppa**. Boil only what you need. Only boil as much water as you need in a kettle. Jug kettles tend to be more efficient. Cover pans when boiling water to speed up the process and reduce heat wastage
- **Take shorter showers**: Limit showers to 4 minutes or less; use a timer or even better play a 4 minutes song such as Hey Mickey (Toni Basil), The Final Countdown (Europe), My Way (Frank Sinatra), or I wanna dance with somebody (Whitney Houston) chose your own songs. Singing in the shower, having fun and saving water, start to a great day.



- **Have a bucket in the bathroom**. Whilst you're waiting for the shower to get to your desired temperature collect the water in the bucket and water your garden with it.
- **Take fewer baths**: it's an obvious one, but baths use far more water than an average length shower. If you need a bath to help soothe sore muscles, maybe don't fill it right to the top.
- **Dishwashing –** a dishwasher is usually more water saving than washing by hand especially if used on the Eco Setting.
- **Using a washing machine efficiently**: Only run full loads and use the shortest cycle settings; front-loading washers are generally more water-efficient than top-loading models
- **Fix leaks promptly**: Even small leaks in taps or toilets can waste hundreds of gallons per month
- **If it's yellow let it mellow, if it's brown flush it down**
  This one's not for everyone, but it isn't necessary to flush every time we have a pee. Always flush after a number 2 though!

- Don’t flush non-biodegradable items such as cotton buds, cotton balls, nappies and sanitary items down the toilet. Only flush the 3P’s – pee, paper and poo to prevent sewer blockages, pollution and water waste.

Outdoors



- **Install a water butt** – this provides a free water source. Rain water is good for house plants as well as outdoor plants as there is no chlorine in it.
- **Plants**: water early in the morning or late in the evening to reduce evaporation. Use a watering can rather than the hose, only water the root of the plant. Check the weather forecast – no need to water if it’s going to rain!
- **Resist the urge to water your lawn in dry spells**. Lawns are resilient and will bounce back when it rains.



- **Mulching**…apply a mulch around your plants and on your flowerbeds to retain water, reduce evaporation and keep weeds at bay. Use compost, leaf mulch, bark, or similar materials



- **Plants…..** if you are buying new plants try to buy those that are drought-tolerant or those that are native to the UK that need less water. Plant the drought-resistant plants in the sunniest spots in your garden - they’ll need less watering and stay healthier in dry spells. Gerbera, Dianthus, Buddleia and Salvia





- Use **ground cover plants** to protect bare soil, which dries out quickly in the heat
- **Lawns….** Raise the mower blades to 2-3 inches off the ground to retain the soil and the moisture.
- **Boost moisture retention** by mixing water-retaining granules or absorbent compost into the soil when potting your pots.
- **Potting tips:** Group pots together to create shade and reduce water loss. Light-coloured pots stay cooler, and glazed or plastic ones retain moisture better than terracotta. Move your pots away from hot surfaces like patios during heatwaves to prevent plant roots from overheating.

These simple changes can significantly reduce our water usage and by saving water you are helping to save our planet.

Ideas from www.greenecofriend.co.uk, www.wwf.org.uk, www.waterwise.org.uk, www.energysavingtrust.org.uk, www.arocha.org.uk, www.seasonofcreation.org, www.southwestwater.co.uk

Cycle of Prayer

This month we pray for our Ecumenical brothers and sisters in Offerton and we pray that the UK would use its global influence to turn climate pledge into action.



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!

The Commuter's Hymn

Nigel Beeton offers a light-hearted poem on going back to work…



Onward, weary travellers
Trudging through the rain,
Onward to the station,
To await your train.
There, the platform's crowded,
No trains to be seen,
And the message 'cancelled'
On the station screens….

Onward weary travellers
Off to catch your train
Why do you keep saying,
"Here we go again"?

Then, the speakers tell you,
News that won't inspire,
Seems some thieving vandals
Stole the signal wire.
Trains are going nowhere,
It's a day to dread,
It's not just the drivers
That are seeing red!

Onward weary travellers – etc.

At long last they fix it,
Signals turn to green.
Trains leave with commuters
Packed in like sardines,
'Onward, weary travellers',
We can hear them sing,
Wonder what calamities
Their next trip will bring?

Onward weary travellers
Off to catch your train,
We know why you're saying,
"Here we go again!"

The Scariest thing on a motorway



Someone driving TOWARDS you, at speed. You may think that is a next to impossible thing to have happen, but recent National Highways figures reveal that last year 947 drivers managed to drive the WRONG way down the motorway, straight into the path of oncoming vehicles.

That is an average of 18 a week. And overall, the numbers are increasing, up from 729 about five years ago.

Steve Gooding, director of the RAC Foundation, has called for motorway designers to do more to stop drivers making mistakes. “To think anyone could drive the wrong way on to a motorway heading into fast-moving traffic is truly the stuff of nightmares.

“The fact that nearly 1,000 drivers did just that in the last 12 months both chills the blood and makes the case for demanding our highway engineers up their game to prevent drivers mistaking the off-ramp for a slip road.

“Whether the answer lies in reconfiguring junctions or in technology – slip-road sensors that trigger roadside warnings or in-vehicle alerts – there’s clearly work to be done to establish what’s going wrong and to fix it.”

The AA also points the finger at driver impairment, usually caused by drink, drugs or fatigue.





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)