

Keep in touch with St Alban's Church

Revd. Marie Flint

Parish Office: 0161 477 0456

(Mon & Fri 9.30-12.30)



February 2025

To Contact the Church.....

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	David Griffiths	07505122531
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 and X and
www.achurchnearyou.com

Marie writes –

LOVE EACH
OTHER AS
I HAVE
LOVED
YOU
JOHN 15:12

Dear Friends,

I wonder if you made a New Year's resolution at the start of 2025, and if you did whether you have managed to keep it. I tend not to make new year's resolutions, partly because I'm really rubbish at keeping them, but also because for me the start of a New Year is more about anticipation and expectation. What new things God do in our lives this year, both individually and as a Church?

By the time you read this we will be well into the New year, with Valentines Day approaching, when traditionally we give to our loved ones gifts or cards as a token of our affection for them. Whilst many people may not like the commercialisation attached to St Valentine's Day, it is surely a good thing for us, at the start of the New Year, to remember those that we love in some way, and to tell them that we love them, whether by our words or our actions.

Christmas may be a bit of a distant memory for us now and Easter a little way off yet, but we do now sit in a time between Christmas and Easter. At Christmas we remember how God showed his love for us by sending his Son into the world and at Easter we celebrated the greatest act of love; that Jesus died on the cross for us. Love is God's gift to us and as we receive this gift, so we must share it. 'Love one another, as I have loved you' Jesus commands us.

So, as we think this Valentines Day of those we love, may we remember God's love for each of us and resolve to respond to that love in some way, perhaps by passing on that message of God's love to someone who needs to hear it, or by telling those closest to us that we love them, or by carrying out random acts of kindness or by caring for God's creation, or by showing our love for others in our charitable giving. Whichever way you choose to respond to God's call on our lives to show His love to the world, my prayer is that we may all know God's love and peace during the coming year and share that gift of love with those around us.

*With my love and prayers,
Rev'd Marie*



Cow and choir

From a Cambridgeshire local newspaper in January 1900:

'WANTED – a steady respectable man who is able to look after a garden, milk a cow, and sing in the church choir.'



February 2025 Newsletter

Let's talk compost

Recycling your garden and kitchen food waste into home-made compost is both easy and environmentally friendly.



Quick facts

- Use 'green' waste and 'brown' waste
- Compost bins can be small or large, to suit your space and amount of waste
- Choose a sheltered, shady spot for your compost bin, ideally directly on the soil

There are two main types of composting material:

- **Green** 25-50% – this is usually soft, leafy material, including grass clippings, sappy green plants (such as annual weeds), crop waste, leaves, old fruit and vegetables and kitchen peelings.



- **Brown** 75-50%) – mainly dry woody waste, such as prunings and hedge-trimmings (shredded, chipped or chopped up), and other dried materials such as dead stems and straw, as well as torn-up or shredded paper and cardboard.

Have a balanced mix grass clippings with brown material when you add them to the bin. Chop up or shred any long stems or pruning's before adding them, as well as any paper or cardboard, to help them break down better.

Keep your compost materials well balanced and try to turn over or mix your compost about 2 times a year. This is so it does not become too compacted. Also, you don't want it too wet or too dry.

For more information go to www.rhs.org.uk/soil-composts-mulches/composting

Join our **CHURCH GARDENING CLUB**

Come along and have some gardening fun.

Meet new people, make new friends.

If you are unable to join us perhaps you can help us by donating some of your unwanted gardening items.

We would like your help to make our grounds more insect and animal friendly so if you could donate any of the following, we will be very grateful.

Just bring your donation along on 1st Saturday of every month between 10am -12pm, or contact us to arrange a pickup (see below)

Items wanted to help our gardens to flourish.

Please donate your unwanted **Seeds, Plants or Bulbs**

We would love your unwanted **large plant pots** so we can put them around the grounds – please let us know if we need to collect them from you.

Leftover or unwanted bags of planting compost

Your unwanted garden tools and garden canes would come in very handy.

If you have an unused water butt, we can use it.

Do you have any unwanted planks of treated wood we can use to mend our raised planters and/or do you have the time and know how to help us fix them and/or make new ones.

Thank you in advance for your donations and we hope to see you at our Gardening Club very soon.



Please get in touch with the Parish Office via email stalbanofferton@gmail.com or telephone 0161 477 0456 – the parish office is open Monday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm.



February 2025

Actionable Climate Tips

What can one person do about global warming I hear you say?

A lot, actually! There are small but almighty ways to reduce your carbon footprint.

For example,

MEAT FREE MONDAYS

Try to eat a plant-based meal once a week.

GREEN TRAVEL

Maybe try using public transport or cycle for one journey a week instead of using the car. Or maybe walk – if you are able.

LITTER PICK

Once a week pick up the litter from your street or some of your street, make sure you wear gloves, be careful of broken glass (use a dustpan and brush) and do not pick up needles or syringes (contact your local council so they can collect them correctly)



Recycling soft plastics

If it has this logo bag you can take it to your local larger supermarket examples are Bread Bags, Fruit and vegetable bags, Crisp packets, Salad bags.

They usually have a battery bin for your used batteries as well.

Tablet Packets

You can also take your used tablet packets to Superdrug in Stockport (the one near the PLAZA).



These tips aren't just good on paper; they can be real-life game changers!

What you can and can't recycle in your bins in Stockport

BLUE BIN

YES TO Newspapers, magazines, junk mail, catalogues, envelopes, shredded paper, wrapping paper, all types of cardboard, telephone directories including yellow pages, greeting cards, cardboard milk, juice and drink cartons, books

NO TO *plastic or foil wrapping paper, cards or wrapping paper with glitter*

BROWN BIN

YES TO glass bottles, glass jars, food tins, drinks cans, empty aerosols, plastic bottles, plastic milk containers, aluminium foil and foil trays, plastic pots (such as yoghurt, soup and hair gel containers), plastic tubs (such as margarine, chocolate and laundry powder containers), plastic trays (such as containers for cooked or raw meat, and fruit and veg punnets)

Please make sure all recyclable containers are empty and have been cleaned.

NO TO *lids from bottles and jars: remove them and put them in your **black bin** as they cannot be recycled.*

*Plastic film, plastic bags and crisp packets: put them in your **black bin** as they cannot be recycled Or if you can take them to your large supermarket.*

GREEN BIN

Yes to fruit or vegetable peelings, bread and cakes, tea bags and coffee grounds, scrapings from your plate, eggs and dairy products for example cheese, meat including bones, fish, cut flowers, garden waste, twigs and sticks that aren't thicker than your wrist

NO TO *branches larger than 10cm/4 inches in diameter or thicker than your wrist, soil.*

Hope this helps. Taken from www.stockport.gov.uk/what-you-can-put-in-your-bins/

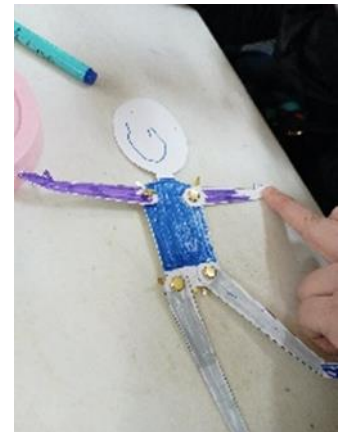
Messy Church- December



Decembers activities included a gemstone dig, paper star, baby Jesus in blanket, kitchen roll sheep, frankincense potion, treasure chest and a gingerbread Christmas tree.

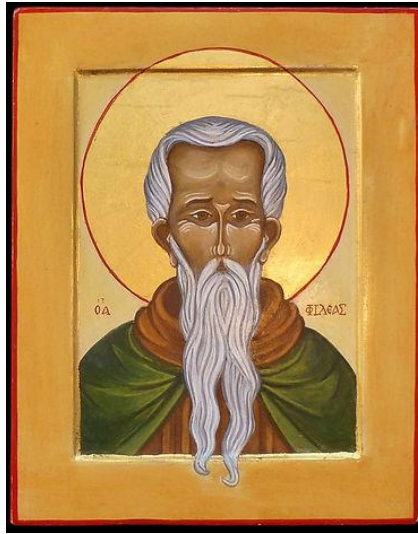


Messy church January



January activities included a bubble wrap beehive, bubble painting, super hero face masks, water bottle wind spiral, a boba pearls milkshake, making a portico, a Stetson hat and a moving man.

Phileas – 4th February



A brave bishop and martyr of Egypt

When did you first encounter Christianity? If it was as an adult, then Phileas is a saint for you. His life shows that Truth matters, whenever you encounter it, but is also a warning that you need to count the cost of becoming a Christian.

Phileas was a rich man living in Egypt at the end of the third century, when he first met Christians. Highly educated, he did not convert quickly, but instead studied their Gospels, and also at least part of the New Testament. Only then did he conclude that Jesus was indeed the Son of God.

It was good that Phileas had done his research and was firm in his faith, because after his conversion, events came thick and fast. In those pressured times, the Church hadn't the luxury of long training programmes for leaders, and so Phileas was chosen to be bishop of his city in the Thebaid, a desert region of ancient Egypt.

Sadly, the new bishop hardly ever had a chance to pastor his flock. Soon after his consecration at Alexandria in 303, Phileas was arrested under the edicts of the Roman emperor Diocletian. He spent the next three years in prison, deeply moved by the willing martyrdoms of other Christians around him. Finally, in 306, it was Phileas' turn. He faced the questioning of the prefect, Culcianus, who could not fathom why such a previously wealthy man had thrown his life away to follow some (long dead?) carpenter from Galilee.

Phileas' strength now was that he really knew what the Bible said. And so when questioned about Jesus's divinity, he replied that "... He performed the works of

God in power and actuality... He cleansed lepers, made the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the dumb speak, He drove demons from His creatures at a command; He cured paralytics, raised the dead to life, and performed many other signs and wonders.”

Still Culcianus urged him to save his life, by sacrificing to the gods. Phileas again had a biblical answer ready. Paraphrasing St Paul, he said that the sacrifices which God requires are “a pure heart, a spotless soul and spiritual perceptions which lead to deeds of piety and justice...” Pressed one final time, he replied “I have reflected many times, and this is my decision.” And so, he was led out and beheaded.



With Valentines Day in mind

Chocolate A lovely heart-shaped box of chocolates was received on Valentine’s Day by a young student from her new boyfriend. On the enclosed card was the inscription: ‘To Helen, with all my allowance.’

Hearing



A tiny lady was the guest preacher. A few minutes into her sermon, she paused and said: “Can you all hear me at the back?” A kind voice replied: “We can hear you fine. But sadly, we can’t quite see you.”



THANK YOU for your donations to the parish Christmas card.
We raised £250 for our charity FRESH
(Food Ready Every School Holiday)



Congratulations and many thanks to members from our congregation who attend Offerton knit and natter at Woodbank community centre who have been busy knitting blankets and woolly hats for distribution amongst the homeless community in Stockport.

Lost and found

(A simple poem about a dog, but so often this can apply to us as well!)



Lost and found, what a wonderful sound
To a little dog like me,
I slipped my lead, I gave no heed
It felt so good to be free.

It's getting dark, I'm lost in the park
It's cold and starting to rain,
I should have stayed and never strayed
I'll never do this again.

Footsteps I hear, 'please do come near',
On my collar they see my name,
I'm put in a car, we're travelling so far,
Will life be ever the same?

A knock on the door, kisses galore,
Cuddles and pats on the head,
No more will I roam, I'm now safely home
And warmly curled up in my bed.

By Megan Carter

Our Christmas at St Alban's



Cycle of Prayer



This month we pray for the staff and pupils at Banks Lane infants and for the people of Chad, considered the most vulnerable country from flooding and famine.



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!

NHS App drop-in support session



Need some help getting on or using the NHS App? Come see us!

Tuesday 11th February
1pm – 4pm
Stopford House
Reception, Piccadilly,
SK1 3UR

Tuesday 25th February
1pm – 4pm
St Albans Church,
Offerton Lane, SK2 5AF

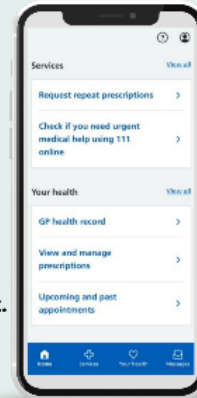
Please bring photo ID if you have it.



stockport.gov.uk/digiknow

Did you know about DigiKnow?

We can help you access free data, loaned devices or digital skills sessions in your community. Call or text the DigiKnow helpline for more info: 07724 217888



The Church of England is glad to play its part in the rural economy

So says the Bishop of St Albans, Dr Alan Smith. He was speaking in a recent House of Lords debate. He said that local churches are “at the heart of many of our rural communities across the country, wanting to contribute to their flourishing and thriving.”

Dr Smith, declaring his interest “as president of the Rural Coalition and as a vice-president of the Local Government Association”, went on to say: “Nearly 20 per cent of the population of this country live in the countryside, and over half a million businesses are registered in rural areas, employing 3.8 million people. “The rural economy contributes over £315 billion a year to England alone. It is vital, then, that the Government’s missions not only deliver for rural communities but enable the rural economy to play its part in helping to deliver them.”

Our Christmas Fair



Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas fair in November.

We raised around £1,000 for the church.

Our Advent course



It was a joy to be with our sisters and brothers from Dialstone Lane Methodist Church, St Philip's and St Peter's Catholic churches for our Advent course. We met at The Strawberry Gardens pub, who offered great hospitality to study Paula Gooder's book 'Women of the Nativity'.

We are already looking forward to meeting up again during Lent.



Congratulations to Harriett from cubs who was awarded the commissioners commendation for earning all 38 cub activity badges. She is the first cub in Stockport ever to have achieved this and was presented with her special award during our December church parade.



1st Offerton Guides and 4th Offerton Rainbows Christmas tree at
St George's Christmas tree festival

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 & St. John'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)

Wednesday

10.30am Holy Communion – St John's (2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Wed)

10.30am Healing Service- St Alban's (1st Wed of month)

1.00 – 3.00pm Bereavement Café (1st Wed of month)

Thursday

2-4pm Craft Club

6.30 – 8.30pm Youth Music Group (term time)

Saturday

10.00 – 12.00pm Gardening club (1st Saturday of month)

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