

Keep in touch with St Alban's Church

Revd. Marie Flint

Parish Office: 0161 477 0456

(Mon & Fri 9.30-12.30)



JUNE 2025

To Contact the Church.....

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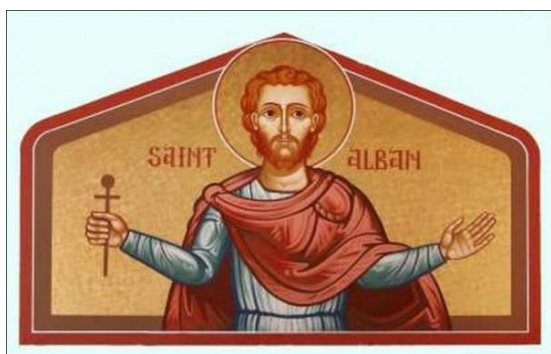
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You can find lots of information about the church and its activities on our Parish Website:
www.stalbanofferton.org.uk

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

Marie Writes-



St. Alban's feast day is celebrated on 22nd June and this year we will be marking the occasion by having a celebration of weddings that have happened at our St. Alban's church over the years. On Saturday 21st June, church will be open from 10am-4pm for people to come and have a look at photos and memorabilia from past St. Alban's weddings. Refreshments will be available and there will be craft activities for children. I do hope that you'll be able to come along and please do encourage friends, family and neighbours along as

well. On Sunday we will welcome the Bishop of Chester, Bishop Mark Tanner to our 10.30am service, where a number of individuals will be confirmed. Please pray for them as they prepare to make this important step.

St. Alban was the first British martyr. He was a pagan Roman soldier who converted to Christianity when he offered a Christian priest refuge. When the authorities caught up with the priest, Alban took the priest's cloak and pretended to be him. At his trial, Alban refused to deny his new found faith, famously declaring 'I am Alban and I worship and adore the one true and living God'. He was executed for his Christian faith.

The lives of the saints, the lives of the martyrs, are meant to be an example for us of what it means to be so devoted to Christ that they would be willing to give anything, to pay any price, for their faith. Particularly in the case of the martyrs, they paid the ultimate price – the loss of their lives, for the sake of Christ, for the sake of new and eternal life. And yet, they make it look so easy. Alban had a choice. He could either stand up for his faith or renounce Christ and be complacent to the persecution of Christians. Was it really an easy choice for Alban? I wonder what you or I would do, given that choice.

Thankfully we don't need to make such choices. But we do have choices and ours are perhaps a little trickier. The struggle to live the gospel in today's society can be subtle and choices can be difficult to make. For example, do we support a war on terror in a different country that also means putting the lives of innocent civilians at risk? Do we support government policies that protect the interest of British nationals, yet means that asylum seekers are not welcomed? Do we support government farm policies that raise taxes to boost the economy, while potentially harming family farms? Do we choose to buy products because they are cheaper, at the risk of exploitation of the environment, or unfair labour abroad or poor animal welfare?

Wherever we turn, we are faced with such choices. Working out what is best, while holding onto the gospel mandate for social justice and to love our neighbour is not an easy thing to do. We are not like Alban, who was martyred for living the gospel, but the choices we make do have consequences. Sometimes, we are not even aware of them. Living the gospel can be hard.

The good news is that, unlike Alban, we have a community of faith with whom we can share in the struggle of what it means to live the gospel. We have this community, a safe place, where we can openly discuss our dilemmas and support one another. We have the gift of prayer and the presence

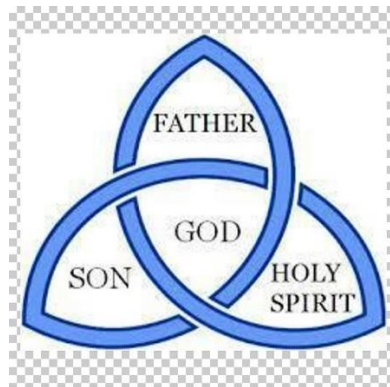
of the Holy Spirit to guide us. And it is because of the strength of this community of faith that when we are asked about our choices and loyalties, we are able to boldly say, along with Alban our patron, "I worship and adore the one true and living God".



Rev'd Marie

15th June -Trinity Sunday

.... celebrating our God who is Three Persons



Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space, and unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, which gives us life and illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are *of* the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

The Bible makes clear that God is One God, who is disclosed in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. For example:

Deuteronomy 6:4: 'Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'

Isaiah 45:22: 'Turn to me and be saved... for I am God, and there is no other.'

Genesis 1:1-2: 'In the beginning God created.... and the Spirit of God was hovering...'

Judges 14:6: 'The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power...'

John 1:1-3: 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all

things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.'

Luke 24:49 actually manages to squeeze the whole Trinity into one sentence. Jesus tells His disciples: 'I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power (the Holy Spirit) from on high.'

In other words, the sun eternally gives off light and heat, and whenever we turn to its brilliant light, we find that the warmth and life there as well.

6th June – Ini Kopuria – Founder of the Melanesian Brotherhood

An armed policeman gets injured while sorting out a village dispute. Nothing unusual in that.

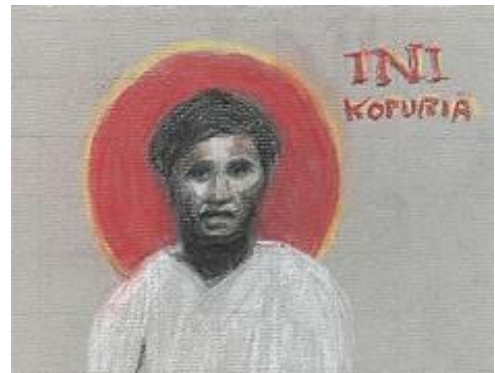
But then, while recovering in hospital in 1924, he has an intense spiritual experience. He becomes a Christian. Because he is energetic and fearless, he then decides to return to the villages where he had been a policeman, but now as an evangelist.

As he told his Bishop, “I have visited all the villages as a police sergeant, and they all know me. Why not go to them now as a missionary”?

Such was the early life of Ini Korpuria. He had been born about 1900 on Guadalcanal, in the Solomon Islands. Schooled at the Melanesian mission, he had rejected their plan to make him a teacher. Independent and adventurous, Ini had chosen instead a career in the Native Armed Constabulary of the Solomon Islands Protectorate.

But now, with the help of his bishop, Ini drew up a Rule, constituted his Brotherhood, and took vows in October 1925. The following year six other young men joined him, and off they went to the villages. Their aim was pure evangelism – “to declare the way of Jesus Christ among the heathen; not to minister to those who have already received the law.”

It was a very Melanesian institution, in that the brothers took vows of poverty, chastity and obedience not for life, but on an annual basis. Working in pairs, they aimed to follow Christ’s example of prayer, mission and service. Ini was head brother until he stepped down in 1940, married, and ministered as a village deacon until his death in 1945.



Notices in a church news sheet:

– The Low Self Esteem Support Group meets Thursday. Please use the back door.

– Weight Watchers to meet at 7pm in the church hall. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

– There will be a shared supper at church this Sunday – with prayer and medication to follow.



Brass Bakes and Brews



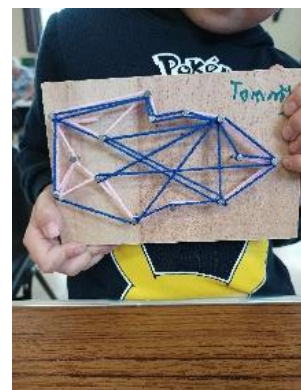
We were joined by the fabulous Stockport Silver Band on Saturday 10th May for a brilliant concert of classic and contemporary brass band music, which was thoroughly entertaining. Thanks to the band for sharing your talents with us and to all those who helped make the evening a great success.



May Messy church



Our activities included moving fish, edible flip flops, the road to Emmaus, Forget me not, map paperweight and nailed fish.



Like Father Like Son



'Dead Ringer' is the odd phrase we use when referring to someone who looks like somebody else. Sometimes, instead, we say 'spitting image' when we see a likeness or similarity between one person and another.

This month includes Fathers' Day (15th June) and is an occasion when dads are particularly remembered by their children. As far as the boys are concerned, how many have heard someone say 'Oh, you really look like your father'?

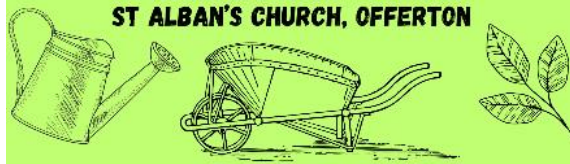
One day, Jesus was talking to His disciples and said, "Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father" (Jn 14:9) What an amazing statement! Jesus was saying that He was the dead ringer or spitting image of God! At another time Jesus said, "I am in the Father and the Father is in Me." (Jn 14:10) These words must have shocked His hearers, for He was saying that He was equal with God. No one had said anything like this before, but certainly His miracles were proof that He was different. No-one else could do what He was doing. Some people wondered—could He really be who He said He was?

So Jesus attempted to make His position clear and said, "If you knew Me you would know the Father also." (Jn 8:19) The people were being urged to know Jesus more. They had to look, listen and believe. Were His deeds of God or not? They had to decide!

Today, we all stand in a similar position. Who is Jesus? Do we look at Him and say 'Yes, this is God in the flesh' or 'No, He was just a good person — but also perhaps, deluded or crazy?'

Thomas, the disciple with the nickname 'doubter', exclaimed: "My Lord and *my God*" (Jn 20:28). Thomas was convinced that he was in the presence of God, in human form. And when the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Colossae he said clearly: 'It was by God's own decision that the Son has in Himself the full nature of God' (*Colossians 1:19*). Like Father, like Son!

ST ALBAN'S CHURCH, OFFERTON



GARDENING CLUB

**COME AND HELP OUR GARDEN BLOOM
1ST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
10AM-12PM**

**ALL ARE WELCOME – ANY AGE, ANY ABILITY. JUST DROP
IN TO LEND A HAND, HELP BUILD A BUG HOTEL, WEED,
PLANT, MEET NEW PEOPLE AND HAVE SOME FUN.**



A Celebration of
**ST ALBAN'S
WEDDINGS**



**SATURDAY 21 JUNE
10AM-4PM**

**CHURCH WILL BE OPEN ALL DAY FOR A DISPLAY OF
WEDDINGS AT ST ALBAN'S THROUGHOUT THE
YEARS. THE VICAR WILL BE AVAILABLE TO TALK
ABOUT YOUR WEDDING AT ST ALBAN'S. ALSO
CRAFTS FOR THE KIDS AND REFRESHMENTS.**

JUNE 2025 Newsletter

Tips for Nature-friendly Mowing



I do hope you joined in **NO MOW MAY**. Maybe you can **continue to not mow in June**.

Once you have a flowering lawn it can be high level mowed once every 4-8 weeks with the cut grass collected.

Making longer-term changes in mowing will do much more for nature, you will see biodiversity blossoming across the seasons. Over time, more and more plants will arrive, long-term participation in **NO MOW MAY** will

allow you to see the greatest benefits for nature.

I hope you enjoyed planning the areas you were leaving wild or even left your entire lawn or the whole of your garden to wildlife. Try to do as little as possible and see your garden flourish and wildlife return.

No Mow May is good for wild plants but what about other wildlife? Longer grass can make the perfect hiding place for hedgehogs and bugs to take shelter. This causes concerns about the risks that animals could face when it comes time to mow.

Plantlife's advice is to work gradually parallel to shelter (such as borders and hedges), which the wildlife can move towards. So, mow closer to the shelter one mower's width at a time. Work from paths and high footfall areas towards the boundaries to allow disturbed wildlife to move towards cover gradually. Never mow from the outside inwards. Make a first pass with a high blade setting on your mower will help to flush wildlife and leave low level cuts until the Autumn



Wildlife will thrive from the benefits of your mini meadows they will love the nectar, pollen, shelter and structure wildflowers provide.

Spring Clean! It's really tempting to tidy our gardens in Spring, the sun is shining, the days are longer and we're ready to get stuck into some gardening. Try not doing a Spring Clean..... if the Spring is a bit chilly and damp leave the untidy corners and wild areas – it might be tempting to start tidying up the garden before the growing season starts, but these areas of leaf litter, twigs and longer grass along fences or hedges are perfect spots for insects, reptiles and amphibians who have been sheltering over

winter. If you start to tidy it up too early you could be disturbing a slumbering creature that isn't ready to spring into action until the weather starts warming up.

Don't Feed Your Lawn

Often gardening tips include prepping your lawn. The main focus of this is usually to feed your lawn, but this will only promote the vigorous grasses to out compete everything else, the tiny speedwells, and other flowers get crowded out! So if you don't feed your lawn you'll get lovely little wild flowers growing in between the grass – how beautiful will that be.



Daisies, Dandelions and Buttercups.

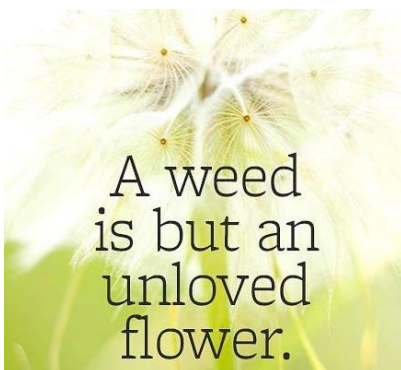


Who doesn't love a daisy, we all remember making daisy chains as children and playing on a daisy filled lawn. So why not leave your lawn full of the flowers that nature put there,

leave the daisies, dandelions and buttercups. If you don't want the dandelions seeding remove the heads before



they do. Dandelions are one of the first flowers to bloom and are great for early emerging bees. I know buttercups can have rooting runners and can be annoying, but you can cultivate them by removing unwanted roots. After all, we all want to know if 'we like butter or not' don't we.



A weed
is but an
unloved
flower.

Remember weeds are only
flowers in the wrong place

Love your weeds – the bees do





JUNE 2025

Brenda G kindly sent me an email with some useful tips on kitchen gardening from Helena Dove, who is the Kitchen Gardener at the Royal Botanical Garden at Kew. Here's a few of her tips.....



Using Comfrey as an organic mulch

Comfrey plants are rich in nutrients and can be used to feed your plants in an organic, eco-friendly way. Helena suggests that you just drop comfrey leaves directly into the soil.

She doesn't use liquid feed because once you start using liquid feeds, you often have to continue. For heavy feeder plants like potatoes she gets the comfrey leaves and put them in the bottom of the planting holes, and waters them in. The nutrients go straight where they're needed, and it retains moisture in the bottom of the holes.

Wild comfrees like common comfrey are fantastic for bees and pollinators, too. However, if you're using comfrey in a kitchen garden bed, you might want to choose the 'Bocking 14' variety, as it's the only sterile comfrey. 'Every other comfrey will self-seed, which is great in a wildflower area, but in a kitchen garden you might not want that.'

Feed the soil, not just the plants

Helena says the key to good soil is to use the no-dig cultivation method, and add good compost. Digging does a lot of damage to your soil. Instead, you can apply a layer of well-rotted compost to the soil surface, usually in autumn. 'Vegetable plants generally have quite shallow roots, so putting compost at the top makes more sense. The nutrients will be readily accessible and naturally work their way down to beneath the plant anyway.'

Plant to attract beneficial insects



Beneficial insects like bees, hoverflies, and wasps will help pollinate plants and control other garden pests. She says to plant flowers to attract the insects that prey on common pests like aphids. Hoverfly larvae are the biggest aphid eater, and they really like wild carrots. At Kew they grow patches of wild carrots - you can grow them like you would a patch of carrots.'

Helena says it's also a nice idea to incorporate edible flowers such as *Calendula* species into your vegetable beds, to attract pollinators and beneficial insects.

Thanks for the tips Helena and thanks to Brenda G for sending them to me

Open Farm Sunday – 17th June



Do you have any farms near to where you live? Then this month, they might just provide you with an interesting day out!

For June brings Open Farm Sunday, which can be a “fabulous opportunity for the public to discover the crucial work farmers do in producing food, nurturing nature, and protecting the environment for future generations.”

So says the website, www.farmsunday.org. And on the day, nearly 200 farms throughout the country will be welcoming the public to come and see their farms.

From Inverness to Cornwall, about 170 farms will be putting on guided tours, self-guided walking routes and static displays as part of the event. Visitors will be able to take part in a national pollinators survey. This will involve standing near a crop area for five minutes to count pollinating insects before doing a comparative count in a different habitat.

The day is organised by the group Linking Environment And Farming (LEAF).

Cycle of Prayer

This month we pray for the staff and residents at Bruce Lodge and we pray for 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!





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

Norbury Church Holiday Club



Norbury Church Holiday Club 2025



Games, activities, fun, songs and more

Monday 11th - Friday 15th August

10am - 2pm Monday - Thursday

10am - 12noon Friday

Plus Friday evening celebration at 6.30pm

For children starting reception at school in

September 2025 to those in year 6 this

school year

Cost £70 per child

Contact Cath for more info

childrensworker@norburychurch.com

Nigel Beeton writes: On Easter Sunday, St Mary's in Bury St Edmunds was, like a good many churches, full. Every pew was occupied. I didn't check the register but there must have been well over 200 people of all ages there, probably 300. I know they don't all come every Sunday but a fair proportion of them do!

I had to wash and put away the communion silverware, so the church was much emptier by the time I got into my car, but I drove around the corner and ran straight into a traffic jam!

A Sunday Traffic Jam

It causes me quite some dismay
To be held up in traffic this way
"I want to get home!" I grumble and moan,
"Don't they know it is Sunday today?"

With the cars inching forward this morn
And somebody blaring their horn,
At length I could see what the problem must be,
And then I was not so forlorn!

No more was I needing to search
For the cause of this traffic-flow lurch!
For what they'd been doing, these motorists queuing
Was attending a service in church!

The Merchants of Doom are confounded!
Their tales of decay are unfounded!
The story is graphic as told by this traffic –
Christ's Church is growing unbounded!

Praise God!

By Nigel Beeton



Ordination season is underway



Every summer the C of E ordains its new deacons and priests.

The services are traditionally held during Petertide (29th June), a feast day that remembers the martyrdom of Saint Peter. He was the fisherman who became a devoted disciple of Jesus, and who then went on to be an instrumental figure in the early Church in Jerusalem.

Although the ordinations this summer will be held in a variety of cathedrals across the country, those being ordained will have certain important things in common:

They will have felt called by God to serve as a deacon or priest.

They will have passed a rigorous selection process.

They will have completed a two-to-three-year training course (diploma or degree) at one of the theological education institutes (TEIs) based around the country.

And so here they are now – called, accepted, trained and soon to be set apart for this specialised ministry. If you know a deacon or a priest, pray for them and their families this month, as they begin a lifetime of public service to God.

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 and 4th Wed)
10.30am Healing Service- St Alban's (1st Wed of month)
1.00-3.00pm Bereavement Café (1st Wednesday only)

Thursday

2.00-4.00pm Craft Club
6.30-8.30pm Youth Music Group (term time)

Saturday

10.00am-12.00pm Gardening club (1st Saturday of month)
3.30pm-5.30pm Messy Church (1st Saturday of month)