

Keep in touch with

St Alban's Church

Revd. Marie Flint

Parish Office: 0161 477 0456

(Mon & Fri 9.30-12.30)



October 2024

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 and X and

www.achurchnearyou.com

Marie writes-



Living Generously

October is the month when we celebrate Harvest Festival at St. Alban's. We are looking forward to our Harvest Festival Service, which will be an All Age Parade service, led by Saturn Beavers. The Harvest Festival Service is our yearly reminder that all good gifts come from God. We'll thank God for God's generous provision and for all the people who help bring food to our tables. We'll offer gifts of food to be used to feed homeless people at The Wellspring. We'll pray for people in the world who are hungry and after the service we will share a meal together in the Albany.

This year, we'll be offering an extra challenge to think about how we live generously every day of our lives, by taking part in Generosity Week, which runs from 29th September to 6th October, so that as we thank God for his generosity to us, we also have the opportunity to think about how we might respond to that generosity.

One of the things we'll be asking people to consider is their regular church giving. Our church income is made up from roughly 50% income from letting our buildings and 50% from donations and giving. The lettings are not guaranteed and so we do need a regular amount of giving in order to keep the

church running – and our monthly bills amount to around £5,000 a month. Our finances aren't very good. We have very little in savings and we often fail to meet our financial commitment to Chester Diocese. The average weekly giving from our congregation is about £10. Please do prayerfully consider whether you are able to increase your weekly giving amount. If everyone gave even an extra £2 per week it would make a significant difference to our ability to be a more

missional, serving Church, to maintain our buildings well and to maintain our heritage as Offerton's Parish Church for future generations.

There will also be a challenge to invite people to consider how generous they are with their time and talents. We have some brilliant opportunities to engage with the community in service and evangelism and the potential to really make Jesus known in the heart of our community is immense. But, it all relies on lovely people offering their time and gifts to make that happen. Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to live generously in this way.

There are plenty of other opportunities to engage with Generosity week. Visiting churchofengland.org/resources/building-generous-church/generosity-resources/generosity-week to find out more. Keep an eye out on the Church of England's YouTube channel for their Generosity Week's service, which comes from Holy Trinity, Roehampton and is led by Rev'd Joshua Rey. If you've not discovered the 'Everyday Faith' app yet, I'd urge you to download it and give it a go. Its free and offers a short bible-based reflection each day. Starting from 23rd September generosity-based reflections from Jonathan de Berhardt will be available, and harvest based reflections the week after.

And a further invitation to live generously, tying in with Harvest and the Season of Creation, is to help us twin our garden at St. Alban's with a garden in Africa to help support the work of a charity called **Ripple Effect**. We are trying to raise £120 to twin our garden. This will help a family living in rural Africa, with three years training in sustainable organic farming. Starting with small kitchen gardens, families can grow enough to eat, set up small businesses, send their children to school and go after their dreams. More information is at rippleeffect.org. If you'd like to donate towards our £120 target, please mark your donation 'Garden Twinning'.



I'll leave you with the words of Archbishop Stephen Cottrell:

"Our faith starts with the most generous gift of all – God's gift to us of life itself and new life and new hope in Jesus Christ. What we call 'generosity' is just our response to these great gifts. Just like in the parable of the sower, where the seed that falls on good soil grows a crop a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown, we see that every generous act grows further generosity."

Every blessing to you,

Rev'd Marie

Signs of our times? Pew-sheet notices that didn't come out quite right...



Would the person who took the church step ladder last week please bring it back, or further steps will be taken.

After Sunday morning coffee, please empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board.

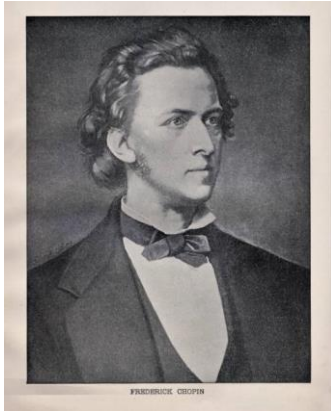


Our visiting monster today is the Revd Jack Bains.

Church toilet out of order. Please use floor below.



Remembering the music of Chopin



It was 175 years ago, on 17th October 1849, that Frederic Chopin, Polish composer and piano virtuoso, died. His final words – “Swear to make them cut me open, so that I won’t be buried alive” – revealed his taphephobia, a fairly common nineteenth-century fear shared by Alfred Nobel. Chopin had been quite seriously ill for several years with respiratory problems and was concerned that exhaustion after a coughing fit might be mistaken for death. The actual cause of his death was uncertain; though it is usually ascribed to tuberculosis, other factors were possible, such as cystic fibrosis. Chopin was born near Warsaw of a Polish mother and a French father who was devoted to his adopted country. Frederic was a child prodigy on the piano – all his compositions featured the instrument – but he always disliked giving public performances, preferring the intimacy of the salon. He had left Poland at the age of 20, a month before the 1830 Uprising, and eventually settled in Paris, where his genius was recognised and he formed friendships with those at the top of the musical and artistic tree, such as Liszt and Berlioz. Towards the end of his life, he formed a non-marital relationship with the novelist George Sand (Amantine Dupin), which went against the Catholic faith which he had inherited from his strongly Christian mother, Justyna Krzyżanowska, but which he rarely practised.

He took the sacrament as he was dying, but said it was out of respect for his mother: he regarded it simply as a blessing. His funeral took place on 30th October at the Church of the Madeleine in Paris and was restricted to invited ticketholders. Nevertheless, more than 3,000 people arrived without invitations from as far afield as London, Vienna and Berlin.



Retirement

The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off.

St Alban's going for Bronze in 2024



**Look out for Hedgehogs and hoglets
Please leave log piles, stick piles alone and leave that pile of leaves. Hedgehogs can have babies in June/July and September. The mother hedgehog stays with her babies in the nest for 4-6 weeks so there may be hedgehog families still nesting in your gardens please look out for them.**



Late summer means that heather is in full bloom!



The moorlands are glowing with gorgeous purple hues, especially in spots like Macclesfield Forest. It's the perfect time for a relaxing walk to enjoy the beautiful colours.

Heathland is characterised by its wide, open landscapes peppered with the yellow of gorse and purple of heathers. Most of Cheshire's heathland has now been lost with only a few hundred hectares remaining. Even rarer than rainforest, it is one of our most threatened habitats.

Heather is crucial for maintaining the biodiversity of heathlands and moorlands, providing food, shelter, and nesting sites for many species.

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust have set themselves a target of creating 400ha of new habitat in Cheshire by 2030, including new areas of heathland.

They have a number of nature reserves where they also care for the heathland – why not go and visit them.



Cleaver Heath – a heathland with views over the Dee Estuary towards North Wales – great for reptiles and butterflies.

You can find this on Oldfield Road, Heswell, Cheshire. CH60 6SG

Kerridge Hill – species rich grassland cling to the side of the ridge – overlooking the Cheshire Plain.

Found at Kerridge, Cheshire SK10 5TL (near Bollington)



Danes Moss is the largest and highest lowland raised bog in Cheshire and can be found at Gawsworth, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 9QS

Check out the Wildlife Trusts website at www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk click on Explore local wild places, then Places to visit – then scroll down to view all reserves.

There are 35 reserves for you to visit – have fun and enjoy.



October 2024

OCTOBER ECO TIPS



Encourage the Mantra

'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'

These three well-known principles of waste management will make your home more ecofriendly.....

Stockport Council recycles as follows:

Blue Bin - all paper and cardboard (no foiled or glittered paper)

Brown Bin - glass bottles & jars, food tins, drinks cans, empty aerosols, plastic bottles, aluminium foil and foil trays.

Green Bin - fruit/vegetable peelings, bread, cakes, tea bags, coffee grounds, plate scrapings, eggs, cheese, meat including bones, fish, cut flowers, garden waste, twigs and sticks that aren't thicker than your wrist.

LITTER LOUITS

It's really annoying when people who walk or drive down your street just throw their litter away isn't it – it is believed that **litter begets litter**.

Individuals are much more likely to litter in a littered environment. And once there, it attracts more litter. By contrast, a clean community discourages littering. Help to improve your local

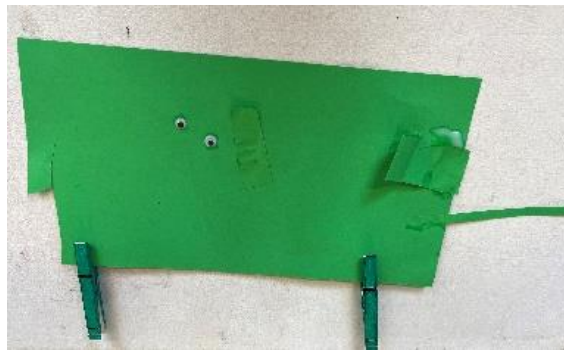
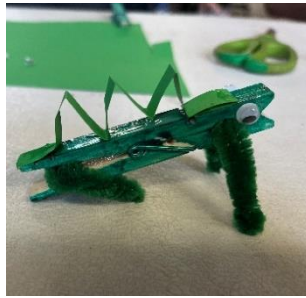
environment by collecting the litter from your street a few times a week. I have been doing this for the past few years and I must admit things have improved but it does take time and perseverance. I only live in a small street (12 houses) but it is a cut through so lots of people and cars.

Alas when I went on holiday this August I came back and collected two bags of litter, all my hard work felt as if it was for nothing. So next time I am away I will ask my neighbour to litter pick. Please be careful and use a litter picker and gloves.

Believe me it's worth it to see the street where you live litter free.



September Messy Church



This month we celebrated God and our activities included God is spirit, with a pompom popper, God is light with an edible torch marshmallow, God is good with an edible lady bug, God is love with heart spirals, God is eternal with an eternity circle, God is truth with a card magnifying glass, God our creator with a caterpillar and God is all powerful with a crocodile peg





MEET THE CONGREGATION



Angela has been part of our church family at St. Alban's for about a year. She describes St. Alban's as her 'warm, friendly, beautiful extended family'. She loves baking, doing DIY and is a keen novice gardener. She volunteers at Rainbows at the Albany where her guiding name is 'Butterfly'. Angela works as a Health Care Assistant in the community and spends the rest of her spare time looking after her children and grandchildren.

George- Having lived all his life in Offerton, George has been part of our church community at St. Alban's for the past year. Always smiling, George is happy to lend a hand with most things at Church. He is a musician, singer songwriter and can often be found playing gigs at local music venues. George is also the music lead teacher for our new Youth Music Project which runs on Thursday evenings in church in conjunction with Stockport Music Project. George's other passion is going to the gym and he thinks he has the biggest biceps in church! Would anyone like to contend this claim?



Elaine has been coming to St. Alban's since she was 8 years old and has a long history of being involved in Guiding at the Albany for more than 50 years as a Brownie and Rainbow leader. She was even a Brownie herself at St. Alban's. Elaine volunteers at Praise and Play and Messy Church and likes coming to the Thursday afternoon craft club. Elaine loves to travel and enjoys going to the theatre.

St Alban's Church, Offerton

Monthly Healing Service

Holy Communion with prayers for healing and laying on of hands



1st Wednesday of the month at 10.30am

Coming up Soon.

Harvest Festival

6th October with donations of non-perishable food or toiletries for the Wellspring, followed by a bring and share Harvest lunch in the Galilee. Please bring something to share if you are able.

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Soul's)

service on Monday 4th November at 10.30am at St. Alban's

Stockport Mayor's breakfast

6th November 7.30am-9.00am. Venue TBC

Parish Pray Day

9th November 10.00am – 3.00pm

Deanery Synod

14th November 7.30pm at St. Matthew's

Christmas Fair

30th November. We are welcoming donations of handcrafted gifts for sale and bottles of items for the bottle tombola

He is Always There



It is funny that when we're in trouble
We immediately kneel down and pray,
And expect that the good Lord in heaven
Will all of our fears allay.

It's amazing that when we're in crisis
We turn to the Lord straight away,
But we barely spare Him a moment
When everything's going our way.

We seem to seek God when it suits us
And we fail to keep in touch each day,
Yet regardless how badly we treat Him
His love means He's not far away.

So perhaps we should stop for a moment
And give thanks to the Lord in a prayer,
For no matter how neglectful of Him we may be
For us, He will always be there.

By Colin Hammacott

14th October - Donation – North 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.



27th October

Felix of Thibiuca- the man who would not give up his bible



painting by Carlo Maratta in the Cathedral of St Andrew, Venosa, Italy

Do you value your Bible? If so, Felix of Thibiuca (247 – 303) is a good patron saint for you. The year was 303, and Diocletian was emperor in Rome. In February of that year, he decided that Christians were NOT a good thing. So, he issued an edict: all copies of the Christian Scriptures and all liturgical books were to be surrendered and burnt. Diocletian had decided to ‘wind up’ this upstart religion.

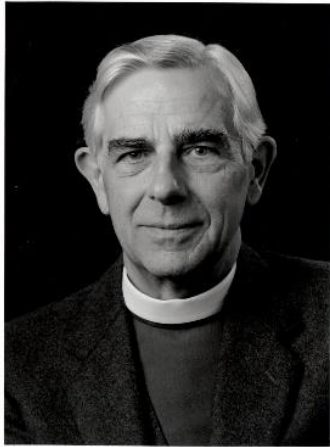
The persecution began in Rome. By June of that year, the edict had reached North Africa, and Thibiuca, where Felix was bishop. Felix was arrested and interrogated. Yes, he said, he did have a copy of the Scriptures. No, he said, he would not hand them over.

Felix was a highly respected bishop, and even the authorities were loath to take immediate action against him. So, they gave him three days grace to see sense, and back down. But Felix prayed and became only more certain that this was a conflict between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. At the end of the three days Felix was referred to the proconsul. He still refused to hand over his Scriptures. His last words in public were memorable “God, I thank you. I have passed 56 years in this world. I have preserved my chastity”.

I have observed the Gospels; I have preached the faith and the truth. Lord God of heaven and earth, Jesus Christ, I bend my neck as a sacrifice for you, who abides for ever.” He was condemned to be beheaded at Carthage and became one of the first martyrs to die under Diocletian.

Needless to say, Diocletian did not succeed in destroying the Scriptures. Today there are hundreds of millions of copies around the world, and this month, Sunday, 27th October, Christians will thank God for the Scriptures when they celebrate Bible Sunday.

Timothy Dudley-Smith



Nigel Beeton writes: Some of you may be aware of the death on 12th August of Timothy Dudley-Smith at the age of 97. Those who are not will recognise the name as appearing at the bottom of many wonderful hymns, including such treasures as 'Lord for the Years' and 'Tell Out, My Soul'. He left us better than he found us! What would church be like without the many Christians such as him who, inspired, have set pen to paper.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Savior shall my heart rejoice

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age to same;
His holy Name--the Lord, the Mighty One

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore!



Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Hackney
on their wedding at St Alban's on 7th September.

Welcome

We welcome into our church family -

Tommy and Elijah who were baptised on 8th September 2024
and Freddy and Jorgie Smith who were baptised on 28th September 2024

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 (1 st Sunday only)
10.30am	Holy Communion

Tuesday

10.30am	Praise & Play (term time)
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Wednesday

10.30am	Holy Communion – St John's (not on 1 st Wed)
10.30am	Healing Service – St Albans (1 st Wed only)
1.00 – 3.00pm	Support Group - Bereavement (1 st Wed only)

Thursday

2-4pm	Craft Club
6.30 – 8.30pm	Youth Music Group (term time)

Friday

10.00 - 11.00am	Clothing bank
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Saturday

10.00 – 12.00pm	Gardening club (1 st Saturday of month)
2.00 – 3.00pm	Clothing Bank (1 st Saturday of month)
3.30pm-5.30pm	Messy Church (1 st Saturday of month)