

St Alban's Monthly News

The **FREE** monthly magazine of St Alban's Parish, Macclesfield
Online at www.stalbanmacc.org.uk

Issue No. 255



November/December 2025

We are a loving Catholic community in Macclesfield, assisted by prayer and the sacraments, living God's Word, proclaiming it to others, and serving those in need.

500 years of separation healed with a prayer



On Thursday, 23 October, marking a historic moment in Anglican-Catholic relations, Pope Leo XIV welcomed King Charles III and Queen Camilla to pray an ecumenical prayer in the Sistine Chapel.

The historic day included a private meeting between the two leaders in the Apostolic Palace and an ecumenical service in the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, where King Charles was conferred the title of Royal Confrater of Saint Paul.

An English monarch has not actually prayed in the same place as a Pope since King Edward I prayed with Pope Gregory X in 1272, but then there was all that unpleasantness with the Reformation in 1517. The act of separation from the Church of Rome by Henry VIII in 1537 had all manner of unintended consequences through the subsequent centuries, but it is heartening that we got to witness a warming of relations in our time.

The day had many ecumenical aspects, however, the

unifying theme of our care for creation proved that we have more in common than that which divides us.

King Charles became a Royal Confrater, which meant he was welcomed formally to the Basilica and seated in a special chair, that has been created for the occasion, which bears his coat of arms and the verse in Latin from the Gospel of John, "Ut unum sint" ("That they may be one").

St. John Henry Newman, a witness of faith for both Churches, featured heavily throughout all the day's services in hymns, poems and prayers. King Charles, then Prince of Wales, attended Newman's canonisation in 2019 so clearly there is a personal connection to this unifying figure. Perhaps this was the mission which St. John Henry Newman wrote about in his prayer *'He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission, I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next'*. Well, he knows now!



First Saturday Devotion Sat 1 Nov & 6 Dec 2025

Join our Holy Rosary at 10:30am, Consecration Prayer and Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, followed by Adoration of the blessed Sacrament and Confessions at 11am with Holy Mass at 12 noon.

HEALING
SERVICE



SUNDAY 2 November 2025

Our monthly healing service is usually first Sunday of the month after the 6:30pm Mass



St Alban's Parish Rosary for Peace

Every Wednesday
at 5:30pm in Church

Need Bereavement Support?

It takes every person in the Parish family to support those who have lost a loved one. At St Alban's we have a small but dedicated group of people offering the hand (and ear) of an unconditional friend.

Call anytime: 07395 420436

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)

Help us to help those in need.
Donate. Volunteer. Pray.

**DO YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW,
NEED OUR HELP?**

Then contact Jean on 07881 895540

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention



November 2025

For the prevention of suicide
Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

November's Book Review



Socrates Children
by Peter Kreeft

Published by Word on Fire (2023)

**Box set of 4 volumes
available from Amazon
for £48**

At some stage in our religious journey it is normal to wonder what exactly philosophy has to say about the great truths of religion. Prof Peter Kreeft has been teaching and writing about philosophy for over 60 years and because he was asked "Could you recommend just one book that covers the whole history of philosophy that beginners can understand and even get excited about?" so often, he wrote *Socrates Children*. He gives us a potted account of the 100 philosophers from the ancients (Solomon Confucius Zoroaster through the Greeks and Romans - Vol 1, pp183) the medievals (Augustine through Aquinas to William of Ockham -Vol 2, pp128) the moderns (from Descartes and Pascal to Hobbes and Rousseau - Vol 3, pp255) and the Contemporaries (from Kierkegaard and Nietzsche through J S Mill and Wittgenstein to Hildebrand & Chesterton -Vol 4, pp344).

Beautifully presented as paperbacks this box set of 4 volumes comes from the Catholic Evangelical 'Word on Fire' publishers; Prof Kreeft, a Catholic writer, gives the facts about each philosopher; their life, and for most, their works, their metaphysics (theory of everything), cosmology (theory of the universe and how we relate to it), logic, ethics etc in a few very readable paragraphs/pages. But it is not too dry – Kreeft lets you know what he thinks about the individuals he describes, what he thinks of their behaviour and of their thoughts. He is direct and expresses his likes (e.g. Aquinas & Chesterton) and dislikes (Satré & Foucault). While some of the descriptions about e.g. epistemology are a bit dense, on an average of 8 pages for each philosopher the narrative is never bogged down for long and the chapters are, for the most part easily understood and digested. By the end, the truths of Christianity make their own argument and shine through these pages along with Peter Kreeft's clear exposition of these philosophers' struggles to understand the world, our place in it, and the meaning of life.

Reviewed by *Michael Sherry*

Parish Meeting

Saturday 15 November 2025

after midday Mass

The Parish Council looks forward to welcoming you to the parish meeting on Saturday 15th November.

It will be a wonderful opportunity to chat with parish friends, meet new friends and find out what the Parish Council has been up to and their plans for the future.

We will also be discussing the topic of Pilgrims of Hope, the theme of this Jubilee Year. We will hear from parish pilgrims about what they have gained

from their experience, as well as those who have made a particular faith journey: a pilgrimage of the heart.

So please come along and be active in the strong family that is your parish.

The meeting will start immediately after midday Mass and finish at approximately 3.30pm. Bring your own sandwich for lunch and enjoy tea, coffee and homemade cakes throughout the afternoon.



**Saturday/Sunday
 22/23 November
 in the Parish Centre**

Can you make Jams and/or Chutneys? If so, please give them to either Candy in the Parish Office or Anne at the Parish Centre.

Call into the Parish Centre after Sunday Masses for more information

SITUATION VACANT

St Alban's Monthly News Editor

The current Editor is stepping down with effect from this issue of the Monthly News, leaving a vacancy for a parishioner or group of parishioners with some IT skills in Microsoft Word or similar to take our beloved publication to the next level.

If you are interested and/or want to find out more, email Karyn karynmjohnston@gmail.com or Tel: 01625 501172

St Alban's Home Groups Advent 2025

This year the Home Groups will explore the book
The Life of Mary of Nazareth by
acclaimed author and former
Exorcist of the Diocese of Rome,
Fr Gabriele Amorth



Home Groups are running again this Advent...!

Many parishioners have enjoyed Home Groups before, during Advent and Lent. In small groups we will meet once a week for 4 or 5 weeks during Advent, for discussion on a seasonal theme – using some excellent materials. Discussion, prayer, and social time, for about 1 ½ to 2 hours. Sharing our Faith journey together, in a safe, friendly and supportive group.

Please, find the schedule below and note that we have three options for Tuesdays as well as Monday and Friday. Simply choose which group/day/time/ format (ZOOM or in person) suits you. Please, email eventstalban@gmail.com to obtain contact details for the host of the group you wish to join. Happy Advent!

	Monday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Friday
Host / Lead	Rachel Kingsley/ Sara Caldwell	Charles and Krysia Golabek/Tony Costello	Cecilia /Tony Davison	Catherine Horsley David Middlemiss	Carla Read-Shaw
Start	24th November	25th November	18th November	25th November	28th November
Time	19:30-21:00	19:30-21:30	10:15-12:15	19:30- 21:00	19:00-20:30
Meeting form	In person and ZOOM	In person	In person	ZOOM only	In person

**Eternal rest grant onto them, O Lord;
and let light perpetual shine upon them
May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace**

Here are listed the names of the faithful who have departed this life in the past year for whom we pray have gone to rest in the peace of God's glorious presence.

- ✕ Guisepppe Ambrosino
- ✕ Sheila Mary Rose Bailey
- ✕ Jean Barker
- ✕ Peter Barron
- ✕ Carmela Baume
- ✕ Mary Braddock
- ✕ Dr David John Brickwood
- ✕ Elizabeth Helen Georgina Carson
- ✕ Vee Tung Chue
- ✕ Norman Clayton
- ✕ Kyran Connelly
- ✕ Colin Coward
- ✕ Autilia Fiore Dennerley
- ✕ Elizabeth Mary (Liz) Dutton
- ✕ Mary Dorothy Fawcett
- ✕ Michael Anthony Fleming
- ✕ Giorgio Ghidotti
- ✕ Valerie Mary (Val) Godlieb
- ✕ Baby Goodchild
- ✕ Maureen Grimwood
- ✕ Nicola Bridget Joyce Holden
- ✕ Linda Hooley
- ✕ Joan Catherine Hughes
- ✕ Monica Jessop
- ✕ Frank Jones
- ✕ Diana King
- ✕ Kairi Lahiste
- ✕ Gregory Jonathan Lane
- ✕ Murial Eva Lindars
- ✕ Frida Maddalena
- ✕ Elizabeth Mason
- ✕ Sean McNulty

A Mass will be offered for these souls and those who loved them and who must now endure the pain of grief, for grief is the price we pay for love
Mass 12 Noon, Saturday 1 November 2025

- ✕ Paul Murphy
- ✕ Eamonn Ignatius O'Doherty
- ✕ Peter Thomas Ormesher
- ✕ Mary Patricia (Maureen) Quinn
- ✕ Elizabeth Rice
- ✕ Anne Roche
- ✕ Mairead Roche
- ✕ Eileen Mary Roddy
- ✕ Ronald Keith Sherfield
- ✕ Hon Wah Sizto
- ✕ Andrea Francesca Slater
- ✕ Maria Florence Slater
- ✕ Margaret Mary (Maureen) Street
- ✕ Sheila Stubbs
- ✕ Paul Bernard Sutcliffe
- ✕ Kathleen Tierney-Pilkiewicz
- ✕ Sally Margaret Wanjau
- ✕ Mary Warrington
- ✕ Mathilde (Tilly) Warrington

The prayer of Father Bede Jarrett OP

We seem to give them back to you,
O God, who gave them to us;
yet, as you did not lose them in giving,
so we do not lose them by their return.

Not as the world gives do you give, O Lover of souls.

What you give you do not take away for life is eternal and
love is immortal and death is only a horizon and
our horizon is nothing except the limit of our view.

Lift us up, strong Son of God, that we may see further.
Cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly and know
ourselves to be nearer our loved ones who are with you.

While you prepare a place for us, prepare us also for that
happy place, that where you are we may also be forever.

Amen



Christmas at St Alban's

Your handy 'to do' list from Pre-Advent to Epiphany



Sunday 23 November Feast of Christ the King

11:15am Mass led by
Students from All Hallows
Catholic College



Second Week of Advent

Saturday 6th December -
Sunday 7th December

Greetings Cards for prisoners —
Parish Centre after all Masses
Please bring Unwrapped Gifts for youngsters/
teenagers - organised by SVP

Saturday 6th December

1.15am - Carols Round the Crib,
Macclesfield Marketplace with
All Hallows

Sunday 7th December

9.15am Mass - Little Church & Jesse Tree
11.15am Mass
6.30pm Mass followed by Healing Service,
including Sacrament of the Sick



SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER

Messages of Hope and Advocacy

Make a DATE to send your CARDS

PARISH CENTRE after MASSES

Monday 9th December

9:30am Mass - Feast of the
Immaculate Conception

Wednesday 11th December

6pm Exposition and Evening Prayer
followed by

7pm Mass



First Week of Advent

Saturday 30th November -
Sunday 1st December

**At all Masses: Service of Light & Blessing
of the Advent Wreath** (Please sign up to light
the candles on the list on the notice board)

Saturday 29th November

6.30pm Mass followed by Advent Vigil & Holy
Hour until 9pm

Sunday 30th November

Toy Sunday: We invite parishioners to bring
new **unwrapped** toys & games for under-
privileged children.

9.15am Mass led by
St Alban's Primary
School and Little &
Junior Church
all children are welcome
to participate.

Introduction to the **Jesse Tree**

6:30pm Mass followed by the **Healing Service**

Wednesday 3 December

2pm Ladies' Group Cleaning of the Brasses

6pm Exposition and Evening Prayer

7pm Mass

The Jesse Tree

"A shoot will spring forth from
the stump of Jesse, and a
branch out of his roots."
Isaiah 11:1





Third Week of Advent

Saturday 13th December -

Sunday 14th December

Saturday 13th December

9:30am **Day of Recollection**

- Parish Retreat Day in the
Parish Centre

5pm Syro-Malabar Mass

Sunday 14th December

Enrolment for First Communion

- All Masses

9.15am Mass

11.15am Mass

1pm Polish Mass

2.30pm Christingle-making in Parish Centre
Please bring an orange

3pm Christingle Service in Church followed
by refreshments in the Parish Centre

4.30pm Sacred Circle dance for Advent in the
Parish Centre

Monday 15th December

7pm Penitential Service without Holy Mass

Tuesday 16th December

6pm St Alban's Primary School
Carol Service in Church

Wednesday 17th December

6pm Exposition and Evening Prayer

7pm Mass



Fourth Week of Advent

Saturday 20th December -

Sunday 21st December

Saturday 21st December

12 noon Mass

6.30pm Vigil Mass of 4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday 22nd December

9.15am Mass

11.15am Mass

Christmas Week



Wednesday 24th December

- Christmas Eve

3.30pm Carol Service prior to

4pm Vigil Mass for Christmas

6.30pm Carols and building the Crib
with procession followed by

7pm Vigil Mass for Christmas

There will be **no Midnight Mass**

Thursday 25th December – Christmas Day

9.15am Christmas Mass

11.15am Christmas Mass

No evening Mass

Friday 26th December - St Stephen's Day

12 noon Mass

Saturday 27th December

10.30am Registration for CAFOD Fun Run,
St Gregory's Church, Bollington

No exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and no
Confession

12 noon Mass

6.30pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 28th December

Feast of the Holy Family

All Masses: Renewal of Marriage Vows

Sunday 4th January

All Masses - Blessing of the chalk for chalking
of our houses on Epiphany

Monday 5th January

7pm Vigil Mass for Epiphany

Tuesday 6th January - Epiphany

9.30am Mass

Chalking of our Houses

Journey of the Kings 26th Dec to 5th Jan 2026

Each evening from the Kings from the church crib will
visit a different home in the parish. Parishioners will
be welcome to join the hosts for a time of reflection.
A timetable will be published nearer the time. To offer
to host the Kings, contact aga_hughes@lineone.net

Making your First Holy Communion in 2026?

Our Parish and St. Alban's Catholic Primary School are looking forward to helping parents and their child to prepare and enjoy discovering the love that Jesus has for us through the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

You will have seen the posters in church inviting parents whose child is 7 years plus in June of 2026 to come and enrol and start preparation these Sacraments. A meeting is being held on Thursday 6th November at 5.45 pm in St. Alban's parish centre to meet the "Holy Communion Team" of our Catholic primary school teachers and the parish catechists for those children who do not attend a Catholic school. We are wonderfully supported by Fr. Tomasz. See the picture of Jesus Christ with his hands extended inviting you to partake in the Eucharist (Thanksgiving) to help our children on their spiritual journey of life. Parents too will learn more about their faith, the liturgy that support us in the Mass, parents meeting throughout 2025 and 2026 learning and praying together with your child. The programme of preparation will include praying, developing thinking skills of Jesus in the Old Testament scriptures and especially in the gospels of the New Testament. Our preparation material links and develops the themes of Holy Eucharist to its full realisation at the Last Supper and daily in the Holy Mass.

The children start enrolment for these Sacraments in Advent on 13th and 14th December Masses, learning throughout the Liturgical year of Christmas and the Epiphany, Lent and Holy Week, Easter and finally completing with First Holy Communion in June 2026.

Interested? – then do come to the parents meeting on 6th November to find out more, meet other parents taking this journey of faith with our children. Enrolment forms and meeting dates and special children Masses list are provided at this meeting. A warm welcome awaits to accompany you in 2026.

Carla Read-Shaw



ST. ALBAN'S

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026

**If you wish your child to receive
First Holy Communion next year June 2026**

**Please come for Parents Meeting
Thursday 6th November 2025 at 5.45 pm
St. Albans' Parish Hall**

**Our 'Holy Communion Team' will explain the
Enrolment and preparation course.**

For further information contact:

Email: admin@stalbanmacc.org.uk

Parish Office 01625 423446

Carla Read-Shaw 07753441599

Christmas Carols around the Crib

Saturday 6th December, 1:15pm
Market Place, Macclesfield



All are very welcome – come and join us -
singing or listening.

Organised by St Alban's Catholic Church, Chester Road, Macclesfield



For ADVENT An afternoon of Sacred Circle Dance led by Bridget Ovey

When? Sunday 14th December from 4:30pm
Where? St Alban's Parish Centre
Time? Doors open at 4:30pm
Cost? FREE – just your time, energy
and enthusiasm!

Sacred Circle Dance has the power to bring us together, to bring healing and peace. Each dance is like a moving meditation, so after each one, we have a short pause to absorb the feeling of the dance. This moment of quiet is often a very powerful experience.

Who can dance? Anyone who can walk!! Come with an open mind, an open heart and comfy shoes.

There are 20 places, so if you would like to come and join us, please email bridget.ovey@btinternet.com or text Bridget on 07401 003976 or catch her after Mass.



Joyous voices and ukelele music fill the Parish Centre

Claritas choir (East Cheshire Hospice choir) a **ukelele band** and the **Social Committee** combined, held a very successful and fun evening of musical entertainment on Friday October 17th.

The Parish Centre was 'packed to the rafters' and a great time was had by all. An amazing £1,340 was raised, and all the proceeds went to East Cheshire Hospice.

Thanks to everyone who organised, entertained and attended this wonderful event.

Follow the Kings on their Journey

Each evening from 26th December to 5th January the Kings from the church crib will visit a different home in the parish.

Parishioners will be welcome to join the hosts for a time of reflection. A timetable will be published nearer the time. To offer to host the Kings, contact aga_hughes@lineone.net



Letters to the Editor



Dear Readers

An Apology

In the October 2025 edition of *St Alban's Monthly News* I reprinted a speech given in the House of Commons by Danny Kruger MP which was sent to me by a parishioner. It was a challenging read and I was struck by how little coverage it received at the time given its content and the place in which it was delivered.

Mr Kruger is a committed Christian and used the exalted place that the Established Church has in our democracy to decry the safety, equality and diversity which makes our country so great that people risk their lives on small boats to get here.

I asked Mr Kruger for his permission to reprint the speech secure in the thought that people may want to challenge his thinking directly. It never crossed my mind that people would complain to me or worse still, the completely innocent Fr Tomasz and Candy in the Parish office.

Sadder still, I was horrified that people thought I included it because I agreed with it. Not so.

As editor, I often include articles with which I personally take great issue, but we run a free press at St Alban's and if one parishioner finds it interesting, as the submitter did, maybe others would too. I make no personal judgement on what others believe and I don't speak for the clergy of St Alban's or indeed the Universal Church.

I work hard to ensure I don't create an echo chamber for myself in what I read or listen to in these post-truth times and I completely misjudged how the inclusion of the article would be taken. I am truly sorry for any upset or offense this error of judgement has caused to my fellow parishioners.

I have included a selection of some of the concerns which were raised with me, the written ones anyway, and I am delighted that one correspondent, Laura Moore, took up my offer to give an alternative point of view to act as balm to the offense I have caused. Read her lovely article on pages 11 and 12.

Humbly yours in Christ

Karyn

Dear Editor,

I was delighted to pick up my copy of the October's St Alban's Monthly News. There is always such a wide range of articles, invariably informative and thought-provoking, demonstrating the multifarious interests of our parishioners and the activities which go on in our parish. It is wonderful to learn more about spiritual, social justice and environmental topics. This month, however, I was somewhat shocked by the inclusion of a speech by Danny Kruger MP, a member of the Reform Party. I found his views rather un-Christian. I trust this article was only included to warn us that not all politicians who say they are Christian have the same Christian values that we do?

Dear Editor

I have written to express my concern at the article in October's monthly news "A Prayer in Parliament", quoting the speech of Danny Kruger, a Reform MP.

Although acknowledging the importance of him raising the changes to legislation surrounding Abortion and Assisted Dying, I was concerned regarding the negative and divisive references to the growth of Islam in this country and to those who may not have a faith.

The fact that Mr Kruger has recently decided to join a political party whose fundamental policy is to demonise migrants and asylum seekers who are fleeing persecution, famine and religious intolerance would seem at odds with the values of our loving, inclusive, tolerant and diverse community at St Alban's and the wider Catholic community.

Dear Editor

I refer to the October News. I glanced through it and sent you a complimentary email because it is an impressive document typical of your editorship.

Then I was surprised to see the article from Kruger. Having now read it carefully I am dismayed. A politician making a particular case does not seem to me a welcome contributor our parish magazine.

The purpose of the News is to keep our people informed about what is going on in the parish. I sent you an article written by somebody not of St Albans. It appeared in the same edition. But it was about an initiative in the town in which we have taken part.

I see no connection between us and a report in Hansard giving the views of a Parliamentary candidate not for this constituency. I am so concerned that the initiative to spread the views of this individual comes from him.

If so it certainly does not belong in our parish magazine.

FREEDOM, FAITH, AND THE DIGNITY OF ALL PEOPLE

A Catholic Reflection on "A Prayer in Parliament"

I found myself reflecting on Reform MP Danny Kruger's "A Prayer in Parliament" in last month's newsletter. I can appreciate the intention to share a message seemingly rooted in faith, and care for the sanctity of life, even if some of its themes, particularly those touching on Christian Nationalism and an anti-Catholic tone, caused me concern. We do share so much common ground in our longing for a society that values life and moral reflection, and it is encouraging to see those values expressed in Parliament.

That being said, Kruger's speech left me uneasy, as a human being, but particularly as a Catholic. Oh, I know that Catholics may hold differing views on political and moral questions; the Catechism teaches us that every human being "has the natural right to be recognised as a free and responsible being." But the uncritical reproduction of this speech troubled me. Its content, in several places, seems at odds with Catholic social teaching, and also risks misunderstanding the nature of human rights and promoting a vision of Christianity bound up with national and ethnic identity.

Dignitatis Humanae asserts that "freedom must be exercised with due regard for the rights of others and for the common good." Catholics are called to uphold both wisdom and truth in public discourse. As Pope Pius XII wisely said, freedom of expression "does not mean freedom to destroy or to wound moral principles, or to attack the rights of others." Kruger is free to speak, and I am free to disagree, but if our words disregard the rights of others, then we fail to use that freedom as the Church envisions.

Kruger's views sit uneasily alongside Catholic teaching, particularly the Church's commitment to the universality of the Gospel, the dignity of every human person, and respect for people of all faiths and none.

His remarks about Islam are troubling. I was taught that the Catholic Church recognises truth and

holiness in other religions. *Nostra Aetate* affirms that "the Catholic Church rejects nothing that is true and holy in these religions," and regards with sincere reverence those teachings and ways of life which "reflect a ray of that Truth which enlightens all men." The Church holds Islam "in esteem," and *Dignitatis Humanae* declares that "the human person has a right to religious freedom," grounded in human dignity itself. The Catechism further reminds us that "the right to the exercise of freedom, especially in moral and religious matters, is an inalienable requirement of the dignity of the human person." We simply cannot be faithful to Church teaching while questioning another religion's right to exist within our shared nation.

More worrying to me is Kruger's implication that a concern for human rights, or being "woke," is like worshipping fairies. When we see the image of God in every person, we can be certain that human rights are rooted in natural law and the God-given dignity of the human person; how then can we be considering the words of a man who believes that human rights are mythical and malevolent? Kruger says that human rights outside of Christianity are inventions and meaningless, but the Catechism states that human rights "are accessible to all by virtue of reason, independently of any particular religious belief." They are not inventions of Christianity, but reflections of our Creator's imprint upon every human soul.

Kruger's "prayer" assumes that England is, by nature, Anglican, disregarding the 4 million Catholics in England and Wales, (as well as those from other Christian denominations, other faiths, and none) and overlooking the several centuries of persecution experienced by Catholics in this country. Persecution that occurred, in part, because Catholics wouldn't submit to being a "national church." He also writes that the reformers of the

>>> Continued overleaf>>>

FREEDOM, FAITH, AND THE DIGNITY OF ALL PEOPLE Continued

16th century brought this country back from idolatry. He is, of course, referring to the Protestant Reformation that resulted in the break from Rome, and as such is implying that Catholics are idolaters, which is deeply unfortunate.

He also, by association, assumes that to be Christian is to be English. Defining Christianity in ethnic and national terms risks marginalising non-white and immigrant Christians. Tying faith to Englishness can lead to, even unintentionally, the idolatry of nation over God. Doesn't the Catholic church teach that the church is universal - *catholic* - and not bound to one ethnicity, nation or political system? Galatians 3:28 reminds us that we are all one in Christ Jesus.

We have the privilege of standing up at Mass, next to our brothers and sisters from so many nations and backgrounds, and declaring that we believe we are "one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church." Scripture calls us to welcome the stranger and the migrant (Leviticus 19:34, Matthew 25:35). Pope Francis reminded us that the "immensity of the dignity of each human person transcends all circumstances," and said that our response to immigrants should be to "welcome, protect, promote and integrate."

Our own parish reflects this beautifully. Our priest is Polish. Our Deacon is Hungarian. Until recently we were also blessed with a Nigerian priest at St Alban's. We have such a multicultural congregation, and it is wonderful, a living image of the Church's universality. I believe that St Alban's already embodies a more generous and inclusive vision of Christian life than the one Kruger describes, and I pray we continue to do so, welcoming all, rooted in love, and united in Christ.

Laura Moore



We are half way through the 8-week Bible Course (Wednesday nights in the Parish Centre, 7.45pm). So far, we have had an overview of the Bible, followed by Genesis, then

Exodus, then Kings and Judges. Our focus on the Old Testament concludes with the Babylonian Exile (Nov 5th). We then turn our attention to the New Testament, looking at Jesus (Nov 12th), Acts (Nov 19th) finishing with Revelation (Nov 26th).

I invited some participants and to share their views of the course so far. This is what they told me:

"I think the most important thing The Bible Course is giving me is a top-down view of The Bible as a whole. We are so used to hearing its passages in short extracts, in the Mass for example. These are great at giving us insight into a particular idea or message, but this course sets out to present the entire story of how God relates to us, from the very creation of the world to its fulfilment in the last days.

The course is presented in a series of very well produced videos that walk us through the whole story week by week, with daily readings to keep us engaged throughout its eight-week duration. The passages selected will be familiar to most folks who have been brought up as Christians, but many of us will not have had them presented in a way that integrates them into a whole like this. I particularly like the way that the videos have us look at each passage in the context of the times in which it was written, then ask us to think about how it is relevant to us in the present day. This is an excellent lead-in to meditation and greater understanding of how God works in the world and in each of our lives. For me, one of the most profound insights is how God has used what are, on the face of it, small incidents that took place as much as three thousand years ago to lay the foundation for the whole world we live in today. Indeed the same can be said for any of the ages since then – without them our world now would be completely different". (John Kilroy)

"The Bible Course is proving to be an interesting and easy way to understand how events and characters in the Old Testament are connected to

those in the New Testament. The weekly videos and Bible readings are stimulating varied and interesting conversation in our small groups.

With an easy to follow, yet informative, story line and a daily reading plan, the course would be very useful to anyone wishing to reach a greater understanding of the whole Bible story." (Paul Davenport)

"I have been a Catholic all my life but this course is enhancing my knowledge and appreciation of the Bible so much. What I find particularly helpful is instruction on how to understand a passage by looking at the original context and cultural background and then looking at what the passage means for my life today. I find I am learning something new every week. The additional material available on the Digital Hub is also very interesting and informative. This course is an absolute joy!" (Monica E)

"I thought I knew my Bible quite well, but this course has proved that there is always more to learn! Everything about it is excellent.

Total accessibility for any age.

The videos, the course book and Daily Bible Readings are very good. There is so much material to keep us going. There is also an online 'Hub' to connect to if a week is missed, with the opportunity to watch the videos again.

Getting into groups we learn from one another and explore our differences - so valuable! The story of God's plan for his people comes alive with this course. I would definitely recommend it to others." (Eunice Hicks)

"I don't think I'm alone when I express the sentiments that, as a cradle Catholic, reading the Bible was not something we did at home, in school or even through Church, except at Mass, naturally. I am ashamed to say that my husband, who does not share my faith, has more knowledge of the Bible and its content than I do. Having the opportunity, then, to attend the Bible Course at St Alban's was a no brainer for me. It's a start for me to learn how to make sense of the Bible, to navigate through its diverse library of books and communication styles and try and put into context the stories and wisdom of the Old Testament. I think I was always put off trying to delve into the Bible, not knowing how to



tackle it but during the past few weeks I have begun to look at it very differently, trying to see the bigger picture and feeling reassured by some of the flawed characters whom God chose to work through. I look forward to the rest of the programme and am I sure will now have more confidence to take up my Bible and explore the Word of God within. I hope it will soon look very dog-eared and battered rather than be in the pristine condition it now is! (Julie Bedigan)

"Not being encouraged to read the Old Testament by my Cross-Passionists Nuns at my Catholic Grammar School I am totally fascinated with The Bible Course. Recently I did Bible Study with my local Baptist Church who held a tea and toast open day every Thursday and their faith amazed me.... I assume that because they study the whole Bible from age 12 they understand that our purpose here is to love God and all men.

The course presentation of the Old Testament is showing me that God has a purpose for each one of us and if we do His will, what He asks us to do is trust Him fully. He will be at our side keeping us safe from all evil, just as He did for Abraham, Moses and Joshua. I like the videos, the group discussions and making new friends. After each evening I look forward to delving into the Bible Course digital hub and reading other books and sources." (Ann McParland).

The Bible Course continues each Wednesday evening, concluding on 26th November.

For more information go

to www.biblesociety.org.uk or contact Helen 07972 694834 or

email: helen.lindars@btinternet.com

The campaigning for Palestine is not over



We have welcomed the ceasefire and what we hope will mark an end to the genocide in Palestine. As families start to return to what is left of their homes and to look for the remains of loved ones buried below the rubble, the long, drawn-out process to rebuild lives may finally be able to resume. We are relieved that aid will be allowed in, to prevent hundreds of thousands of deaths from starvation. We welcome the homecoming of the Palestinian prisoners and those on administrative detention, as well as the return of the Israelis held in Gaza.

But we also share with Palestinians their trepidation, rooted in the knowledge that Israel has violated every previous ceasefire agreement – most recently in March this year. Most crucially, we know that the so-called “Peace Plan” drawn up by Donald Trump will not bring an end to Israel’s system of apartheid and oppression. It will not address Israel’s escalating violence and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in the West Bank including East Jerusalem, and it does not offer any viable path towards realising the fundamental and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people – to freedom, justice, and self-determination and return. We know too that any joy that this moment brings is accompanied by enormous grief for the many tens of thousands killed by Israel over the past two years.

Now more than ever, our pressure on the British government is needed. The government must stop arming Israel and instead use every possible means to facilitate immediate access to humanitarian

aid, without which Israel’s genocide will continue in the form of starvation and deaths due to inadequate medical supplies and lack of food. We must continue to campaign until International Law is implemented, the occupation is ended and the Palestinian people win their freedom and their right to live without repression.

We must not confuse this moment with the realisation of Palestinian rights, their aspirations, or with an end to occupation and the loss of life. As well as the 68,000 people killed in Gaza and the 170,000 people injured, this week saw the 1000th Palestinian killed on the West Bank since 7th Oct 2023. There are still thousands of Palestinians in Israeli jails, many without having been charged. Despite the ceasefire, the killing and imprisonment continues.

We must continue calling on the British government to take meaningful action to end its complicity in Israel’s ongoing crimes against Palestinians and push this ceasefire into a lasting deal that is framed around principles of justice and rights.

There will be another Silent Vigil outside Macclesfield Town Hall on Friday 7th November, 5-6pm. Please show your support if you can.

End the genocide, stop arming Israel, stop starving Gaza. Free Palestine!

(Information taken from Palestine Solidarity Campaign and Amos Trust websites.)



Harvest Appeal, Soup lunch and beyond....

What a wonderfully generous response from St Alban's parishioners! And on behalf of CAFOD and all those they support, grateful thanks to you all.

This year your donations through the envelopes was £648.12, but many of you supported online so the total is far higher. In addition, the soup lunch, generated a further £249.00. I'll leave you to do the calculation.



Whatever figure you arrive at is an underestimate as so many of you have been able to GiftAid!

The soup lunches are always a convivial affair and it is a joy to see so many sitting down to a simple meal together. As always, we rely on volunteers to make soups for us to share; without these unsung heroes the event could not happen. The range of soups is eclectic from simple to exotic always tasty and frequently prompting requests for recipes!



This autumn, we were again visited by Kathryn Keenan the Diocesan CAFOD representative and she was able to thank those present at the lunch for the support CAFOD receives from the parish.



Now that the Harvest Appeal is over, you may think there is a pause till Lent 2026... but the work of CAFOD always continues....

As the darker nights draw in and we prepare our hearts for the season of Advent, families around the world are facing cold, uncertainty and crisis. In the Holy Land and across the Middle East, countless families are facing conflict, displacement and loss. Many refugees – like Mariam, a 72-year-old Palestinian mother living in Lebanon - flee conflict only to find themselves living in camps with little protection from the elements. “To stay warm here, you need a river of fuel” says Mariam. This winter, you can help mums like Mariam keep safe and warm. Go to CAFOD.org.uk to find out more and support.

Through its Middle East Humanitarian Appeal, CAFOD is working with trusted local partners to provide food, clean water and medical care to those whose lives have been torn apart by violence.



**Go to
CAFOD.org.uk
to find out more
and support.**

Jerome Johnston

Remembrance and White Poppies

This November the St. Alban's Justice and Peace Group are again sharing White Poppies with parishioners to wear at Remembrance to remember all victims of war but they stand for so much more.

The white poppy has been worn in the run-up to Remembrance Day for over ninety years, as a symbol of remembrance and peace.

White poppies are worn every year by thousands of people across the UK and beyond. They were first produced in 1933 in the aftermath of the First World War, by members of the Co-operative Women's Guild. Many of these women had lost family and friends in the First World War. They wanted to hold on to the key message of Remembrance Day, 'never again'.

White poppies stand for three things:

Remembrance of all victims of war, including both



civilians and members of the armed forces. We remember people of all nationalities. We remember those killed in wars happening now, as well as in the past. We also remember those who are often

excluded from the mainstream, such as refugees and victims of colonial conflicts.

Challenging war and militarism, as well as any attempt to glorify or celebrate war. White poppies encourage us to question the way war is normalised and justified.



They remind us of the need to resist war and its causes today.



A commitment to peace and to seeking nonviolent solutions to conflict. By drawing attention to the devastating human cost of war, white poppies highlight the urgency of our ongoing struggle for peace.

Remembering all victims of war

In wearing white poppies, we remember all those killed in war, all those wounded in body or mind, the millions who have been made sick or homeless by war and the families and communities torn apart. We also remember those killed or imprisoned for refusing to fight and for resisting war. **Today over 90% of people killed in warfare are civilians.**

The red poppies produced by the Royal British Legion, remember the British armed forces, those who fought alongside them and, since 2019, the British civilian victims of war, they do not currently extend their remembrance to all nationalities.

A poll in 2029 showed that 83% of UK adults believe victims of war of all nationalities should be included in remembrance, whilst 86% believe civilians should be included.

We want to remember British military dead, but they are not the only victims of war. We also remember the many civilians who have died or suffered in war, both in the past and today. Suffering does not stop at national borders, and nor should remembrance.

Standing up for peace

White poppies symbolise a commitment to peace and to finding non-violent solutions to conflicts. In this way they reassert the original message of remembrance, 'never again'.

Through economic reliance on arms sales, sky rocketing military spending, investment in nuclear weapons and support for ongoing wars, the UK government contributes significantly to war and militarism around the world (in 2024/25 UK military spending was £57bn). The outcome of recent military adventures highlights their ineffectiveness and devastating consequences.

85% of UK adults believe that Remembrance Sunday 'should primarily have a message of peace'.

>>> Continued overleaf>>>



The best way to respect the victims of war is to work to prevent war in the present and future. We need to tackle the underlying causes of warfare, such as poverty, inequality and competition over resources. A temporary absence of violence is not enough. Peace is much deeper and broader than that, requiring major social changes to allow us to live more co-operatively.

Challenging militarism

The white poppy challenges attempts to glorify or celebrate war. It encourages us to stand up for peace and resist the causes of war and militarism today.

Many of the activities around Remembrance Day are detached from any meaningful attempt to learn the lessons of war. Politicians who plough billions into weapons lay wreaths at the cenotaph. Remembrance events are framed by military language and values. Nationalist narratives, which focus only on military victims on one side, ignore the wider consequences of war.

White poppies challenge the promotion of military values at remembrance time. By drawing attention to the human cost of war, they highlight the urgency of our struggle for peace. They remind us that resistance to war and militarism must continue the year round.

You can find out more about what the Peace Pledge Union is doing to build peace and support nonviolence, resist militarism, and information on military spending and recruitment at <https://www.ppu.org.uk/about-us>.

Dr. Muneer Al-Boursh, the Director-General of the Gaza Health Ministry published a moving elegy for the unidentified martyrs:

Without Farewell... Without Identity

Without farewell, without mothers' trembling hands reaching for one last touch, without wives waving goodbye — their reunion postponed to heaven.

Without children scattering flowers and jasmine over the bodies of fathers who will never wake again, without funerals to honour the majesty of loss — our sons are buried nameless, without identity, without a final goodbye.

Their faces erased by torture and fire, their souls left to speak the truth that bodies no longer can.

Doctors cover their noses and mouths as if standing in an operating room, not a graveyard.

They count the martyrs: "This is number seven... this is twenty... this is fifty-four." Have our dearest become mere numbers written on black bags?

What betrayal is this? What chilling silence has numbed the conscience of the world?

We bury crowns of our heads, the pieces of our souls, while only the words of Omar Ibn Al-Khattab [the second Caliph] console us:

"It matters not if Omar does not know them — God knows them."

They are the unknown martyrs, their names withheld because the occupier refused to release the records and destroyed the labs that could reveal who they were. Yet heaven knows each of them by name, and the earth testifies: in Gaza, pain is never buried.

Indeed, pain in Gaza is never buried; soon after the Khan Yunis mass burial, Dr. Al-Boursh had to examine another batch of 30 martyrs.

This time he wrote, "Crushed Between Earth and Steel... Moments ago, thirty pure bodies of martyrs arrived at Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, after being long held by the Israeli occupation. Many bore signs of complete crushing of the skull and chest, with shattered bones and torn tissues — injuries consistent with being trapped between two opposing forces: the ground beneath and heavy military vehicles.

"These are not battlefield injuries — they are acts of deliberate crushing and field execution beneath tracks of steel. Scenes that silence words, as the bodies themselves bear witness to the brutality of genocide.

"Even in death... their dignity was denied, their features erased."

Salesian Youth Jubilee Pilgrimage to Rome

On the afternoon of Tuesday 29th of July, Ophelia and myself (Raphael) stood in the square of St. Peter's Basilica, eager to see the very-recently-appointed 'Papa Leone', as the chanting crowds called him. We were standing adorned, shawl-like, in England Flags: partly, to represent our country, but also because the sun had sunk behind the basilica and we were beginning to feel a chill.

Along with Ophelia and I, representing St. Alban's, we had an assortment of English youth. We had young people from Bollington, Liverpool, Bolton and London, as well as a group from the Salesian School in Farnborough. Representing Scotland, we had Sisters Ann-Francis and Jill, and Father Jerry, all of which I am grateful to for helping to run and organise the trip.

Of course, it wasn't just us in the square. All around were flags: on banners, on hats, on faces – French, Dominican, Chilean, Spanish, Italian, Mexican, Argentinian and more. Notably, there was much representation from South America. This makes sense, since the Pope spent so much time helping people in that region of the world. Everybody had come, and everybody had been queuing since the late morning. It really did go to show: the Italians cannot organise queues like the English can. It was absolute chaos, but we got into the square eventually.



We had just had a mass said by the Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops when, after communion, a cheer and chanting arose from the back of the square. "O, Papa Leone! O, Papa Leone". Soon there was a scramble, as everyone eagerly stood up on stacked chairs and scurried up lampposts to get the best view. Funnily enough, this would not be the last time that I saw the Pope that week.

The next day, we visited the tomb of Pope Francis in the Mary Major Cathedral and had mass with a Canadian group. Then, after visiting the House of the Salesians of Don Bosco, we headed to an open park area for a Salesian Music Festival. It was a small gathering, compared to the rest of the week's events: around 3,000 people in total. During the festivities, some youth performed what appeared to be a musical adaptation of the entire life and works of Don Bosco. I didn't understand much, but it was a very good performance, nonetheless. Luckily, I later found an Italian girl who very kindly translated the words of the presenters on stage for me. It was a good night, and we got back after midnight, for the third night in a row. No matter! We were all convinced that permanent sleep deprivation was surely a vital part of the true pilgrim experience.

The Thursday was, very kindly, given to us as a day of sightseeing. Thus, I took some of my new friends to San Clemente, a small but beautiful basilica near the Coliseum (the church happened to be on the syllabus of my Religious Studies GCSE, so I could explain the iconography to them relatively well).

It was Friday, however, that was the main event. After a feast of a meal to use up the last of our 'Pilgrim Food Vouchers', we took the metro to its

very last stop and began the walk to Tor Vergata, where we would be sleeping out after a vigil with the Pope. After a few hours of walking and many more hours of queuing, we arrived at the main event. There were 2 million Catholic youth present, so to say that it was difficult to find somewhere to put our things would be a gross understatement. I am almost certain that where we ended up setting



out our sleeping bags was not a designated area, since it was in the brush and grass on the other side of the fence (we had found a small tear that we all managed to squeeze through). Such is life.

Luckily, we were near enough to one of the actual designated sleeping areas to see one of the screens that was broadcasting the main stage. This was sorely needed, since the event was so huge that the stage was several kilometres away. To give you a sense of the absolute vastness of the vigil: myself and a few others decided we would try to walk to the stage. It took us a full 45 minutes of uninterrupted walking to get there. Of course, the Pope soon arrived, coming down the main road that formed a central corridor between the crowds. During the vigil, he answered three questions from three different youth, in English, Spanish and Italian, respectively. The theme was how the youth can keep our faith strong in the modern world. One thing I remember being mentioned was community, which was fitting, since we could see the international community of Catholics present all around us.

After the vigil concluded, some of us tried to sleep. Not me, not yet. Myself and a few others walked around the camp, using the pedestrian paths between the designated sleeping areas. We met groups that were singing, dancing and handing out bracelets. The atmosphere was truly joyful. Around 2am, I returned to our camp. Just as I climbed into my sleeping bag, I heard the collective shriek of 2 million people – a sound I will not forget. It had begun to rain; - heavily. Fortunately for us, the rain stopped within five minutes. Unfortunately, that was more than enough time for every one of us to be absolutely soaked.

All part of the pilgrim experience! Though, I must say, we were rather chilly when we awoke in the morning.

Now we were more or less finished, with all of the official activities attended. However, it turns out that I would be treated to one more surprise. As I was queuing for the porta-loos that morning, chatting to a few Italian girls, I turned to them and pointed 'Look over there!'. I had just noticed, in the distance, two police motorbikes coming over the brow of the hill. They weren't on the main road, as everyone was expecting, but on the pedestrian path, coming straight towards us. The motorbikes were followed by two more. Then, of course, came the Pope-mobile, with Leo XIV himself atop it. They came right past us, parting the crowd. As one can imagine, the queue for the toilets was made significantly shorter by the many youth that had dropped what they were doing and were quick on the Pope-mobile's tail.

Overall, the Salesian trip to Rome was both enjoyable and fruitful. We made sure to say prayers for the parish while we were there. We really cannot thank you all enough for funding our places on the trip: it was truly a wonderful experience!

Raph Sherry



THE MILLENNIUM WELL MARKED



The year 2000 was a big year, celebrated as the beginning of a new thousand or as a time to remind ourselves that our sense of history starts with a birth in Bethlehem.

Either way, a year or two before 2000, our parish priest at the time, Canon Stratton, suggested to the parish that the date should be marked by the Christian community

A number of parishioners took up the challenge, made contact with other churches, took soundings of people involved in community affairs and proposed the formation of a body to support young people. This year it celebrates 25 years of service.

JustDropin was that body. It was set up by the churches of Macclesfield, now collectively known as HOPE in NE Cheshire of which we are a member.

GROWTH FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS



The doors first opened to young people in need of a sympathetic listening ear in small premises in Chestergate. This was in 2001.

Those early pioneer listeners soon realised that they were dealing with a lot of young people in need. Not only were numbers great but the needs were complex. Their ambition was to listen to good effect in line with the desire to *“help young people get on their feet.”* Hence the foot in JDi's publicity



A QUARTER CENTURY ON

At the recent JDi AGM the picture painted was of an organisation still dedicated to young people. But what a difference in scope and scale. Some facts for 2024/25 illustrate the strides made:

- 1,000 individuals supported in year
- Youngsters in Macclesfield, Bollington, Poynton, Wilmslow and Knutsford served
- Expenditure for year £690,000
- Programmes for parents provided
- Volunteers gave 3000 hours of their time
- 1,300 general enquiries received
- A variety of programmes offered to meet different needs
- Demand growing including issues of social isolation, employment, education, emotional health, relationships

LOOKING FORWARD

Those who were at the AGM must have been impressed by a number of things, in addition to scale and scope. As well as the legally required financial and other reports, JDi people presented accounts of the work with particular emphasis on professional standards, notably of training of volunteers, insistence on membership of professional bodies, care to monitor the effectiveness of their work.

In so many ways, the 25-year-old body worthily marked the millennium in our town and echoes St Alban's parish ambition of *“serving all in need.”*

For more about JDi generally

[Home Page - Just Drop In](#)

about 24/25 achievements

[Latest News and Reports - Just Drop In](#) >>>>

How Did We Do 2024-25

Keith Taylor

CLASSICAL MUSIC APPRECIATION GROUP

IN THE PARISH CENTRE

New season starts 16 October 2025

Fortnightly Thursdays 10:15am – 12:15pm on dates shown below

Autumn	Presenter	Winter
16-Oct-25	Fr Peter Dutton	15-Jan-26
30-Oct-25	Bernard	29-Jan-26
13-Nov-25	Fr Peter Dutton	12-Feb-26
27-Nov-25	Bernard	26-Feb-26
11-Dec-25	Fr Peter Dutton	12-Mar-26

Fr Peter Dutton is the recently retired parish priest from Middlewich, and graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music.

All parish members are welcome. Whether you are a casual or regular listener, this is an opportunity to improve your classical musical appreciation and listening skills.

There are no subscription charges, but you are asked to make donations to cover expenses (including coffee)

St Alban's 500 Club

Christmas Draw
After 9:15 Mass on
14 December 2025
You have to be in to win
prizes of £250, £100, 2 x £50
and three fantastic
Christmas hampers



We welcome new members to join - subscriptions are £24 for the year or £2 per month, ideally paid by standing order.

For more information, please contact us at **stalbans500club@gmail.com**

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their subscription or started a new one. The money raised will help parish projects and support our groups.

St Alban's Coffee Club

We meet again on Tuesday 11 November 2025 at The Gas Town Café, Chestergate between 10.15am-12noon.

For more information contact Sallyann on 07709 210480

Let's Knit ... and ...
let's get ... Crafty!!

Knit - Crochet -
Cross Stitch -
Embroidery -
Needlework ...

All are welcome

St Albans Parish Centre
 10.15 a.m. ... till lunchtime

Dates till Christmas ...

9 & 23 Sep. **14 & 28 Oct.**
11 & 25 Nov. **9 Dec.**

Come and join the
St Albans Crafty Knitters

Enquiries:
 Helen Lindars – 07972 694834

Let's get together!

St Alban's Book Club



Note Wintertime Start Time

We'll meet in the Parish Centre on
Wednesday 12th November 2025
2pm for a cuppa and 2.15pm start

We are reading
Wuthering Heights
by Emily Brontë

All welcome to join our friendly group
Enquiries to Mary: maryfrommacc@msn.com
Or Tess: tessmcghee@btinternet.com

Join our bereavement group

Whether you want to chat, just drink coffee or tea, just eat biscuits or cake or just be with people who get what you're going through, St Alban's Bereavement Group hosts a convivial get together every month in the Parish Centre.

Join us every second Thursday of the month throughout 2025 and we'll see how we get on!

2:30pm - 4pm St Alban's Parish Centre

Thursday, 13 November 2025

Thursday, 11 December 2025

Thursday, 8 January 2026



ST ALBAN'S LADIES GROUP WINTER PROGRAMME

5TH NOVEMBER

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

We welcome back
Rachel Kingsley to test
our knowledge

'Assured of a fun afternoon'

19th NOVEMBER

LADIES GROUP CHRISTMAS MEAL

At *PRIME CUT – Blossom
Bistro*

3rd DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS MEETING

*Cleaning of brasses and
Festive Nibbles*

Wishing all members and
friends a

VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Thank you for all your support
Look forward to seeing you again
on January 7th

*For further information
contact Anne Collier on
07305 267325*

live simply At St Alban's

Livesimply challenges us to respond to God's call to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor.

As an example of living sustainably, a number of St. Alban's Parishioners contributed to Macclesfield's sustainability and reducing food waste by volunteering or sharing the food at the

"Feeding 500 Surplus Food Meal" at the Treacle Market on Sunday 26th October.



This event was organised by the 7 groups that make up the Hope Food Partnership, shown in the photo below. Every evening volunteers from these groups collect unsold food from supermarkets that would otherwise be thrown into landfill and share it out with those who need or would like it either free or for a small fee or donation.

So after much planning of menus, chopping mounds of vegetables, hours of cooking and stirring and batch baking, we were able to serve 3 different soups, 2 types of pasta, 2 curries and roasted pork belly followed by apple crumble and a selection of cakes all made from surplus food from supermarkets, to the cold and wet



visitors and stall holders at the Treacle Market. Who could then enjoy the warm dining space in St. Michael's Church along with the usual hot drinks served all day during the market.

Here are some of facts about the food situation in



the UK and what the Silklife Food Bank and the Food Partnership in Macclesfield are doing about it.

If you missed the Feeding 500 event you can try tasty delights made from surplus food by "Angel at my Table" at St. Michael's Café from Thursday to Saturday each week and at "Foodie Friday" events on the first Friday of each month there a three course meal provided for up to 30 people on a pay as you can basis.

Facts about Food Poverty & Food Waste UK

- 1 in 6** households experienced Food Insecurity
- 6.5m** people sought help from charitable food providers (Trussel Trust 'Hunger in the UK' report for 2024)
- 5.9m** tonnes of household food waste (WRAP 2022)

Macclesfield

- Silklife Food Bank – Emergency Support**
- c. 2,000** Referrals per year
- c. 3,000** People helped per year
- 37 tonnes** of food & toiletry donations processed and redistributed in 2024
- 11,500 hours** of volunteering per year

Our Local Groceries & Pantries

- 21,857** Customer visits in 2024

You can also pick up surplus food to cook at home each week from the groups at locations on Mill Street, the Salvation Army and Calvary Churches, the Moss, Hurdsfield and Upton Estates, Sutton and Bollington. This food is available for all who would like to help reduce the waste of food produced for us in our town and not sold. This surplus food is offered to everyone and not only for those on low incomes although it does help many individuals and families access food that they would struggle to afford.

Could you live more simply and help reduce the food waste in our town by picking up some surplus food or volunteering with one of the groups?

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light up a life



East Cheshire Hospice
Where people come to live

Remember a loved one this Christmas and support East Cheshire Hospice

Please join us for our special Christmas remembrance services:
Sunday 7th December at 4pm Macclesfield Reformed Church
Thursday 11th December at 7pm Knutsford Methodist Church

Keep up with St Alban's Parish life
Parish Website - www.stalbanmacc.org.uk
Parish Live Stream - www.stalbanmacc.org.uk/index_files/stalbanslivestream.html
Parish Facebook Page - www.facebook.com/stalbanmacc
Parish Twitter Page - www.twitter.com/stalbanpaul
Parish Council - for maintenance or other issues contact parishcouncil@stalbanmacc.org.uk

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