



Our aim is to offer a variety of articles, essays, and materials that help us develop our Spiritual, Human, Intellectual, and Pastoral life (SHIP).

Our Monthly Newsletter is designed specifically for the St Alban's Community and its friends, featuring curated content that speaks to our daily life under the Catholic faith. We therefore encourage you to publish your thoughts with us, based on facts and reliable sources of information. Our **SHIP** content allows you to print all materials related to the liturgy, retreats, sacraments, etc. (**S**piritual), Catholic social teaching, politics, culture, etc. (**H**uman), science, theology, philosophy, etc. (**I**ntellectual), and everything linked to parish life (**P**astoral). Just remember that our aim is not simply to inform, but to FORM consciences in the light of Catholic teaching... and all these in **LOVE** and **RESPECT**.



Celebrating the Gift of Human Creativity in the Age of AI

By Karyn Johnston



In his recent encyclical [Magnifica Humanitas](#), Pope Leo reflects on the rapid rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and its implications for human dignity, work, and creativity. Acknowledging the remarkable potential of AI as a tool for good, the Holy Father reminds us that no machine can replicate the unique, God-given creativity of the human person, made in His image and likeness (Genesis 1:27).

A central theme of the encyclical is that human creativity is not merely functional or productive - it is a participation in God's own creative love. Whether expressed through art, music, craftsmanship, caregiving, or problem-solving, our creativity reflects the divine spark within us. AI, the Pope teaches, must remain a servant of humanity, never a substitute for the depth of human thought, moral responsibility, or relational love.

Pope Leo also warns of the dangers of becoming passive consumers in a technology-driven world. When algorithms make decisions for us or generate content on our behalf,

we risk losing the habits of reflection, effort and imagination that shape humanity. Instead, Catholics are encouraged to engage actively and thoughtfully with technology, using it to enhance, not diminish, our God-given gifts.

In our daily lives, we are invited to cultivate creativity intentionally. This might mean taking time to draw, write, cook, garden, or engage in music – simple acts that affirm our role as co-creators with God. We should value human encounter: conversations, shared prayer and acts of service that no technology can replace. We are also called to use AI responsibly and ethically, ensuring it supports justice, truth, and the common good, especially for the most vulnerable.

Finally, the text calls us to gratitude. In a world of increasing automation, we must not forget the wonder of human ingenuity and the beauty of creation itself. As Pope Leo reminds us, "Technology may shape our tools, but only the human heart [with faith] can shape a civilisation of love."



First Saturday Devotion 4 July & 1 August 2026

Join our Holy Rosary at 10:30 am,
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

St Alban's Coffee Club

All welcome, especially new parishioners!
This month we will be meeting on **Wednesday 22nd
July at Gastown on Chestergate from 10.30am**. For
more information contact Jane on 07855628085 or just
turn up - look forward to seeing you there!



St Alban's Parish
ROSARY FOR PEACE

Every Wednesday at 5:30pm in Church

Pope Leo's intention for July 2026



For respect for human life

Let us pray for the respect and protection of
human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a
gift from God.



The Book Club will meet next on

Wednesday July 8th

at 3pm for a prompt 3.15pm start, in the Parish Centre.

The book to be reviewed is

'A Thousand Splendid Suns'

by Khaled Hosseini.

We are a thriving friendly group and welcome any
newcomers.

Enquiries to

Mary Loughran: maryfrommacc@msn.com

Tess McGhee: tessmcghee@btinternet.com

CORRECTION

Laudato Si Centre Visit on 23rd September

Please note that the correct email address to book
a place on the visit is:

justiceandpeacemacc@gmail.com

The email address in the June Monthly Newsletter
was incorrect. We are sorry for this error and any
inconvenience it caused.

Many thanks and God bless,

Bernadette Bailey

*Co-ordinator of St. Albans Justice and Peace Group and
the Season of Creation on behalf of HOPE in North East
Cheshire*

M: 07831647928

News from the Parish Council

David Middlemiss

Opening Gospel Reading

The June Parish Council Meeting took place on the 11th of June. Our Gospel reading for the opening of the meeting was taken from Matthew 5:1-12 "*Blessed are the poor in spirit*". Commonly referred to as "The Sermon on the Mount", and unfortunately very appropriate at this time with its reference to "*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God*". Presently, it seems on all levels, that the peacemakers' voices appear to be drowned in the noise of war and civil unrest. Let us all pray strongly that all those who seek reconciliation and healing in our local and worldwide communities will prevail.

Presbytery Garden Shared Table Picnic, 21st June

The main subjects of our Parish Council Meeting agenda this June were a review of our recent May Parish Meeting and planning for our Presbytery Garden Picnic on the 21st of June. The picnic is a shared table event after the Sunday 11.15 a.m. Mass in the Presbytery Garden in the sunshine, alternatively adjourning to the Parish Centre if it rains. Please note, all parishioners are welcome, bring your friends, food and refreshments.

May Open Parish Meeting Review

Our review of the May Parish Meeting concluded that despite it being poorly attended, with only around 20 parishioners in attendance who were not Parish Council members, our discussions at the meeting were good and worthwhile. These discussions revolved around the Church heating upgrade options, which were very well presented by Michael Sherry. We then reviewed in groups our recent Pentecost celebration. These discussions gave us great ideas for next year's Pentecost to expand on Father Tomasz's welcome initiatives of having readings this Pentecost in various 'tongues'. However, given the relatively poor attendance at the past two Open Parish Meetings, it was felt that we should fully consider the nature, content and the timing of these meetings going forward.

Church Heating Upgrade

The Diocese reported back that they were progressing the requirement to secure heating in our Church by looking at the options for a full boiler replacement for our recently repaired boiler. They would report back on the options they considered were available and appropriate. The Parish Council priority in this area was to secure effective heating in place for next winter and to ensure that St Alban's parishioners' wishes in the type of underlying heating provided for our Church in the longer term were also taken into account by the Diocese.

Spiritual Matters

Father Tomasz informed the council of the pending first communicant and juvenile confirmation celebrations in the coming weeks. We have thirty-five new first communicants going through their own special Mass on Saturday 13th June and twenty-eight young people being confirmed on the 26th June with Bishop Mark at 7.00 p.m. God let us all help these seedlings and young buds of faith to flower in our community.

Parish Council Membership and Constitution

Finally, the low turnout at our invited parishioners' May Parish Meeting led the Parish Council to a return to previous discussions on the need to revisit our Parish Council Constitution and to review its membership, purpose, functions and methods of best serving our broader parish community in both spiritual and temporal matters. This review and discussion will be the basis of our next meeting on the 7th of September.

Final Thought

May God give us the thought and insight to always enquire of our neighbour's needs and the strength of character to assist them with our God-given gifts. Amen.

Save the date

The **Magic Voices** concert will be performing in St Albans church on Friday evening, October 16th.

Please come and join this popular event.

More details in September.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

St Alban's 2030 Group has now been running for about ten years. It is mainly a social group for young adults in the parish and friends - those in their 20s and 30s. The group includes single people and couples, young parents, people who have come to the UK from abroad and some who have grown up in Macclesfield and all in between! New members are always welcome, especially if you have ideas for events or activities. Events include socials in the afternoons or evenings, walks, Christmas and Summer Parties, craft afternoons, sports activities.



For more information contact Jane Cole on 07855628085 or jmfcollection@hotmail.co.uk

To all young adults @ St Alban's & friends – you are invited to

St Alban's 2030 Group Summer Social

An International themed evening

- **Saturday 18th July from 7.15 – 10pm in the Parish Centre**
- Please bring a plate/dish of food representative of a particular country or region.
 - Quiz, games and music!
- Drinks available for a donation – wine, beers and soft drinks.

See you there! 😊

For more information contact Jane Cole on 07855628085 or jmfcollection@hotmail.co.uk

Celebration of the Feast Day of St Alban

By Sallyann O'Dell



On Sunday 21st June we celebrated the feast day of St Alban (actual feast date 22nd June) and were delighted to welcome Fr Pat Munroe to concelebrate. We also welcomed the children of St Alban's Primary School, who entertained us with a wonderful enactment of the life of St Alban, as well as leading us in readings and prayers. What accomplished, thoughtful and confident young people!

Afterwards, with the sun shining beautifully and a gentle breeze blowing, we enjoyed a picnic in the presbytery garden; extra tea, cake, scones and chocolate were provided, just for good measure! Many people remarked on how much they enjoyed the afternoon and it was a relaxed, friendly way to catch up with friends, meet new people and celebrate our special community under the guidance of our dear St Alban.



Debt crisis? Debt justice!

By Jerome Johnston

The need:

"I write to you with a heart carrying the reality that our people face today. Nearly 10 million South Sudanese need humanitarian assistance. Flooding has displaced a million people this year. Food insecurity is widespread and malnutrition is rising.

Alongside all of this is the burden of external debt. Years of instability forced our nation to borrow in order to function. Today, so much of our national resources are diverted to servicing that debt, instead of paying for growing food, healthcare, education and building peace. When debt repayment takes priority over essential services, the poorest suffer most."

This is from a letter that Cardinal Stephen Ameyu Martin Mulla of South Sudan has written to the parishioners of England and Wales, asking us to keep up our campaign to tackle the global debt crisis. South Sudan's situation is an example of the broken debt system, in which low-income countries are trapped in a spiral of sky-high interest rates and debts that can never be cleared.

"Last year, in the spirit of Jubilee, you raised your voices in support of a fairer and more compassionate debt system... That solidarity mattered. But the need remains urgent."

In 2025, the UK High Court ordered South Sudan to pay \$657 million dollars to a commercial bank. That's half of the South Sudanese government's annual revenue. This is one of the poorest and most fragile states in the world, in which nearly 70% of the population are in need of humanitarian assistance, being ordered by an English court to pay almost half of their revenue to a big private bank.

The reason this is possible is that the UK allowed it. 90% of debts owed by poorer countries to private lenders, including multinational banks, hedge funds and asset managers, are governed under English law because the contracts are drawn up in the City of London. It means that these banks and hedge funds can sue low-income countries in English courts.

South Sudan is an example; it is not alone

The UK government could stop much of this injustice now by passing a debt justice law that prevents countries in debt distress from being sued. It wouldn't cost a penny of taxpayers' money and it would make a tremendous difference to countries like South Sudan.

As well as passing a debt justice law, the UK government can use its 2027 presidency of the G20 to bring countries together and reform the broken global debt system.

Action: On Saturday 4 July & Sunday 5 July

Sign CAFOD's petition in the church porch calling on the UK government to do two urgent things in 2026 to address the global debt crisis:

1. **Pass legislation to ensure private lenders can no longer make huge profits from countries struggling with unsustainable debts.**
2. **Use the UK's presidency of the G20 in 2027 to fix the global debt system.**

Last year this global campaigning added a real sense of public mandate to the discussions on debt at global summits, including the G7, G20 and UN General Assembly, and increased pressure on politicians to act on this key issue.

There has been a shift in how the debt crisis is viewed by the UK Government. Ministers and officials now speak openly about the need to tackle unsustainable debt.



- The Foreign Secretary, Yvette Cooper, in response to a question in the House of Commons that referenced CAFOD's work on the debt crisis, said: "Countries should not be held back economically by unacceptable debt repayments that make them more fragile and end up in a vicious cycle."
- Baroness Chapman, Minister for International Development and Africa, has said, "Some countries spend far more on debt repayment than they do on health and education and public services. That is not sustainable and we need a solution. Various options are available..."



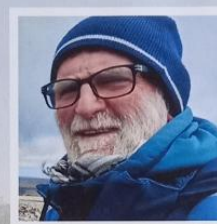


Every signature for our new petition on the global debt crisis in 2026 will help to make a difference.



If you miss the chance to sign in person, you can scan this QR code and sign online.

Jerome is trekking the Great Wall of China



In aid of
East Cheshire Hospice
Where people come to live

This November, I'm taking on the Great Wall of China to support East Cheshire Hospice.

The Hospice needs over £9,000 every single day to provide its vital care, and with only 21% of funding coming from the Government, community support makes all the difference.

Scan the QR code to donate - every contribution truly helps. Thank you!



Scan to donate

Late May Bank Holiday Ramble

By Jerome Johnston

Maybe it was the heat... Maybe it was the prospect of a Pimm's in the shade, but whatever it was there were but four, plus Isla the spaniel, who rambled in May. Actually, that's not quite accurate, as a fifth walked alongside us as our start points coincided until, like a Magus, he continued by a different route.

We'd parked near the entrance of Nether Alderley Primary School and remarked on the 20 mph speed warning. Given that the road peters out to a cobbled track after a few hundred yards, the sign seemed optimistic about speeds that might be achieved. Both Bradford and Hocker Lanes were edged with mature trees in full leaf and they offered welcome shade.

We turned into open fields of grazing sheep, followed a well-fenced path climbing gently towards the woods which surround a deep lake, and approached Finlow Hill. Our compatriot left us there but we continued on Finlow Lane for a short way before we cut through woods to our left, towards Macclesfield Road. We crossed carefully as drivers on this road often see the speed limit as a suggestion rather than the maximum.

The open land and a steep climb in full sun took us to the woods of Alderley Edge where we lunched. Continuing along the Edge, we passed several viewpoints with extensive views towards Manchester and the Pennines before descending towards Mottram St Andrews.



Unless it's the end of the walk, every descent is followed by another climb. This one was steep, long and winding, and took us eventually to Macclesfield Road, and then by a series of paths between and behind some huge residences, back to Nether Alderley, after which the garden of the Blacksmith's Arms was a welcome respite from the heat.

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Parish Council - for maintenance or other issues
contact parishcouncil@stalbanmacc.org.uk

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Contributions welcome from all groups and individuals in the Parish

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