

St Alban's Monthly News

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

Issue No. 253



September 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.

Seeds of Peace & Hope



It was so lovely to see the calming corner of the church festooned with artwork and beautiful prayers of peace and hope from our younger parishioners.

The *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*, celebrated on 1 September, is the official start of the *Season of Creation*, a time of sustained prayer and action which lasts a month and four days. During this season we are encouraged to pray and engage in community events in order to deepen our relationship with God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

In his address to launch the season, Pope Leo said 'The theme of this *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*, chosen by our beloved Pope Francis, is 'Seeds of Peace and Hope'. On the tenth anniversary of the establishment of this Day of Prayer, which coincided with the publication of the Encyclical

Laudato Si', we find ourselves celebrating the present Jubilee as 'Pilgrims of Hope'. This year's theme thus appears most timely.

In proclaiming the Kingdom of God, Jesus often used the image of the seed. As the time of his Passion drew near, he applied that image to himself, comparing himself to the grain of wheat that must die in order to bear fruit. Seeds are buried in the earth, and there, to our wonder, life springs up, even in the most unexpected places - the promise of new beginnings.'

In Christ, we too are seeds, and indeed, "seeds of peace and hope". The prophet Isaiah tells us that the Spirit of God can make an arid and parched desert into a garden, a place of rest and serenity. In his words, "a spirit from on high will be poured out on us, and the wilderness will become a fruitful field, and the fruitful field a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.



**First Saturday Devotion
Sat 6 Sept & 4 Oct 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 7 SEPTEMBER 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

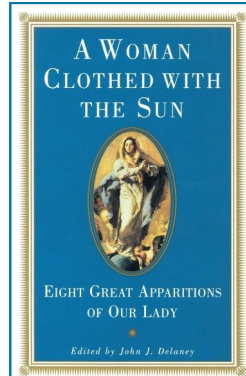
**Pope Leo's Prayer Intention
Sept 2025**



**For our relationship with all
of creation**

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

**September's
Book Review**



**A Woman Clothed
in the Sun**

Edited by
John J Delaney

This book is a beautiful but small, compendium of eight apparitions of the Blessed

Virgin Mary throughout the centuries. The apparitions covered are:

- ✘ Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico - 1531
- ✘ Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Paris - 1830
- ✘ The Lady in Tears in La Salette - 1846
- ✘ Our Lady of Lourdes to St Bernadette - 1858
- ✘ Our Lady of Silence in Knock - 1879
- ✘ The Lady of the Rosary in Fatima - 1917
- ✘ The Virgin with the Golden Heart in Beauraing - 1932-3
- ✘ The Virgin of the Poor in Banneux - 1933

Whilst there are the very famous ones in this list, there are also some lesser known ones to catch our attention.

There is a separate author for each apparition and in turn, a short biographical sketch of each author.

This small volume is an easy and simple read but fascinating nonetheless. Of course the most important part of our focus should be the message(s) conveyed by Our Blessed Mother which are spiritually enriching.

*God bless you as you read
Pauline Emberson*

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

Thank you Fr Paschal

for your spiritual leadership, compassion and kindness
and your smile that lights up the room
We love you and we'll miss you!



Your parish needs you:

a look forward to Volunteering weekend

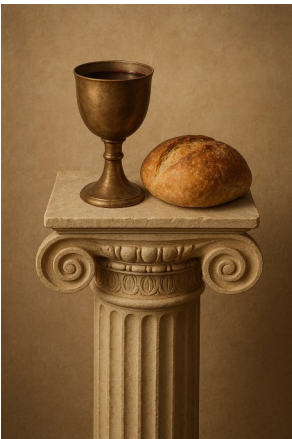
Our parish does a lot. We each participate in different things, but we all are members of our parish family. Everything we take from our parish family has to be put in by someone and that means us!

Every year we ask for volunteers. There is lots to do. Within the routine of our daily and weekly worship, there are altar servers, readers, eucharistic ministers, musicians and choristers, welcomers, apparitors (those who take up the collection) - we see and hear them. But cleaning, flowers, sacristan's duties, and much more is unseen.

Then there are the various societies and groups, including St Vincent de Paul (S.V.P. helping the poor and those in need) Justice and Peace Group, etc.

The Parish Council brings together representatives of four groups or pillars – spiritual, social, fabric and communications.

Spiritual (including preparation and catechesis (teaching etc): for baptism of children, RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of adults – preparing adults for baptism & confirmation to be admitted to the Catholic church), confirmation of young people. Spiritual also includes all the prayer groups, organising the liturgy, especially for the great



feasts of Christmas and of course the Alpha course and the follow on bible study meetings (coming soon.)

Fabric is concerned with our buildings and their repair and maintenance, from day to day issues (sorting the threshold to the presbytery doorway), renewing the



sound system in church, organising repairs e.g. to leaky radiators in the parish centre, repainting the notice board, arranging repairs to the boiler etc etc. to major events involving diocesan finance and fund raising such as re-slating the church roof. Some of these involve volunteers, others identifying minor things that need to be done, etc etc.



Communications pillar includes the parish web site, Facebook page, live feed from church, newsletters and monthly news, and much more.

Social, includes the quiz evenings and Ceilidhs, shared table events and much more.



Not everything is listed here but you get the idea – there is lots to do, and while most volunteers continue to help there is always a need for fresh faces for one reason or another.

So, please, please, please, think about getting involved.

If you are already involved, thank you! Please keep up the good work if you can or if you can no longer help in one task consider perhaps something else which suits you now.

If you want to learn more, or want to try something out watch out for the information around church, and on the web site, especially the coming **Volunteers Weekend of 20th/21st September.**

Michael Sherry

Sacramental Healing Service

JESUS HEALS TODAY

We would like to share with you the journey of our healing ministry at St. Alban's in Macclesfield.

Healing is at the heart of the mission of Jesus Christ, the Divine Physician. In the Gospels, He not only cured physical illnesses but restored peace, forgiveness, and communion with God. The Catholic Church continues this saving mission through the Sacraments. Healing is never just physical – it touches the soul, brings peace, and restores relationships with God and others.

Our healing ministry began in 2010, rooted in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and the prayer groups of our parish. From their heartfelt gatherings of praying for one another, a dedicated healing service blossomed.

In the early days, the service was a blend of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, lively praise and worship music, and small teams of two offering personal intercession. God provided excellent musicians, even drummers, and over time it became a cherished part of parish life, drawing around 20 to 25 people regularly.

During the COVID pandemic, Fr. Peter and Fr. Paschal introduced an online service, which brought comfort to many. Afterward, we joyfully revived the in-person service with a new regular time: the first Sunday of the month. The service also gained a deeper sacramental dimension with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available during adoration. This broadened its reach, drawing

parishioners of many backgrounds, all seeking to accept God's will and experience His presence through the Sacraments, music, and prayer.

When Father Tomasz became our parish priest, he introduced the Anointing of the Sick before the Benediction and final blessing, bringing the healing ministry to its fullness. Today, the service is a tapestry of sacramental grace: Adoration of the Eucharist, the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Sick, heartfelt personal intercession, and uplifting worship or TAIZÉ music. It is a space to encounter God's presence in a fresh and healing way—physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Healing through the Sacraments restores harmony with God, ourselves, and others. It gives grace for forgiveness, strength to offer our sufferings to God, and opens a renewed dialogue with Him. Through this, both visible and hidden miracles can happen, and God is glorified!

In recent months, we have seen more parishioners joining the service. We witness transformations, reconciliations, and tears of sorrow mixing with tears of joy, hope, and trust. If you are seeking peace, a renewed relationship with God, or simply a deeper experience of His healing love, we warmly invite you to join us on the first Sunday of each month.

*In Christ,
Deacon Gyorgy*

Christine's healing experience

When my dear sister was diagnosed with MS it was very shocking for everyone. I was drawn to "healing services" held in local churches, and would add her name to prayer lists, light candles but then began attending healing services and asking for prayer for her. I read books, for example, by Francis McNutt and Sr. Briege McKenna, about healing and even miracles. But I also saw my sister's condition becoming more severe. I tried not to give up hope.

We moved to another country for a year. While away, I knew she was becoming frailer, and in a

tearful way I found myself standing "on her behalf" in a line of people to receive prayers of healing and anointing. I was asked 'what was my prayer' and I just said 'she was dying and I am very sad'.

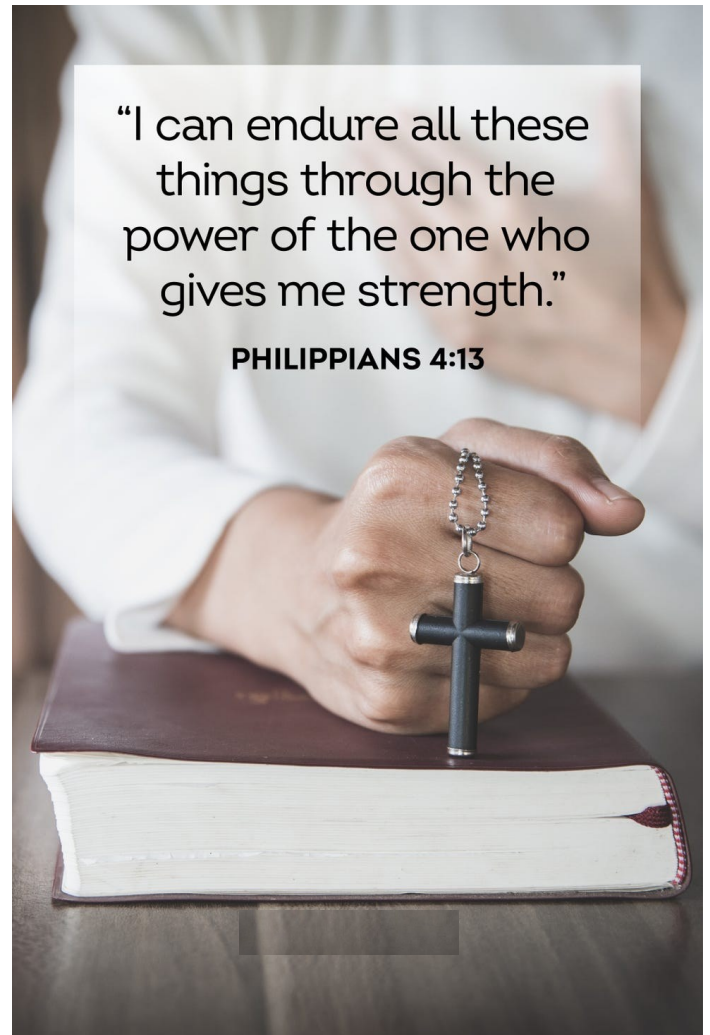
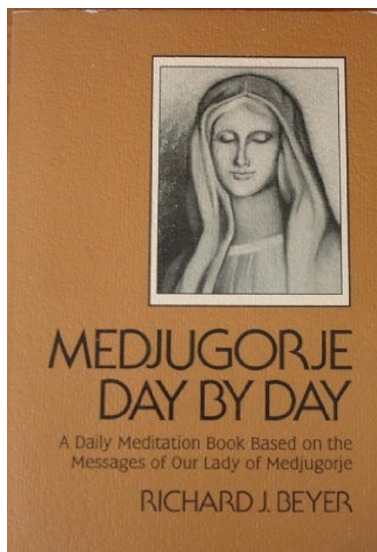
"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

ISAIAH 41:10

I remember they looked at me gently as they prayed and then said something like the Lord will always give us what we need to cope in every circumstance. That scripture helped me especially as others would describe dreadful pictures of possible final days for my sister.

Medically, the illness ran its full course. However, while in hospital for respite, she was invited to attend a prayer group in the chapel and received prayers. Afterwards she was inspired by a daily meditation booklet from Medjugorje.

We would visit her when back home and see some extremely difficult and challenging times for her and the family. Yet when we left, as others would testify at her funeral, we would come away with our hearts singing. She died very peacefully at home with her husband.



"I can endure all these things through the power of the one who gives me strength."

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

However, when exactly 12 months later I found myself in the same Neurology department waiting for the confirmation of my husband's illness, I was anxious and quite wretched. (We'd just got over all this haven't we Lord?) In the many years of care I would come to healing services, for him but more for myself to help cope with anxiety, fear, tiredness and so on. I especially appreciated the prayers in the final years and months of the illness. Knowing that the good Lord is merciful and never 'allows more than we can cope with in His strength' was tested to be sure, but each time I could ask others to pray for me, confident especially in those hard times when I felt I couldn't or wouldn't pray.

We were given so many blessings and the final weeks I could not believe could be so precious for us both.

*Trust in Him
Christine*

Colleen's healing experience

Each month when I sit in Church and hear it announced that there will be a *Healing Service* on Sunday evening, I wonder how many parishioners sitting in Church really *hear* the announcement or indeed, how many of them *know and understand* just what a Healing Service is? There was a time in my life when I also had no idea and I would never have thought that such a service was for me.

If I had had any thoughts about it at all, I might have envisaged a crowded, charismatic service, where people were called to the front to receive loud and conspicuous prayers for healing – a bit like *throw away your crutches and walk*. Healings are God-given gifts and so needed, but the healing service in our parish could not be further from this imagined scene.

Our Healing Service takes place after the 6.30 Sunday evening Mass, the *first Sunday* of each month. At the end of Mass, the Blessed Sacrament

is placed on the altar and then candles are lit to remember and pray for different groups of people: the lonely, those who are bereaved or homeless, or who are struggling with physical or mental ill-health, or who are caught up in war and other atrocities. The individual candles are placed on the altar to help and guide us in prayers.

Elizabeth and members of our parish music ministry teams, lead us in quiet, reflective hymns.

While this is happening, the different prayer ministry teams, take their places in Church. The teams work in pairs and sit either at the front of the Church near the Baptismal font or on either side at the back. We aim to be as discreet and inconspicuous as possible with two or three teams generally present each Sunday evening. We are not experts by any means: we are ordinary parishioners who have undertaken training to guide and help us in this ministry.

Everything shared is *confidential*. It is *the Lord who*

heals not us. We are merely channels. We have learned to *listen* and quietly *pray* for the person concerned. We pray for any practical, emotional, or physical concerns that someone might bring to us, for themselves or for anyone else they want to bring before the Lord. We are *not* there for spiritual healing, that is the central work and ministry of our priests.



Father Tomasz is present throughout the healing service, sitting quietly, available for anyone who might like to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, that great Sacrament of Mercy which heals the soul and gives us grace and strength for the journey

The service last for about an hour. The atmosphere is calm and prayerful. Many people just sit quietly before the Blessed Sacrament and lay their hearts and their cares before the Lord: some go quietly to

Confession, or to one of the prayer teams, or use the opportunity to do all three during this beautiful time of Adoration and prayer. The service finishes with the Sacrament of the Sick for those who would like this additional grace and blessing: gathered around the altar, Fr Tomasz anoints and blesses each person in turn and the service finishes with Benediction with our Deacon Gyorgy.

Our next two healing services will be on *Sunday 5th October and Sunday 2nd November*. I hope that this article has given you a flavour of what happens during the service. Many of those who regularly attend each month would witness to the blessings which come from this healing time spent with the Lord. It is prayerful, peaceful and filled with joy. Come and join us and be part of this great blessing.

You will be so welcome
Colleen

A Better World Needs All of Us



A savings and loan group in Sierra Leone helped Yeabu to start her own business

I was challenged recently by someone who felt s/he could not support CAFOD because it mixed politics and religion. Well of course it does; not by favouring one political party over another, but in a broader sense. Pope Francis taught that love is political: our



Farming techniques that help to regenerate and protect the environment are helping families in Bangladesh to grow the food they need

choices in life reflect whether we are Good Samaritans or passive bystanders. In his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* Pope Francis invited the

Church to live out the call to universal fraternity and social friendship.

When you support CAFOD you make a choice which goes beyond a donation:

You stand side by side, with our sisters and brothers around the world, supporting them to face injustices wherever and whenever they encounter them.

You work hand in hand with farmers finding new ways to grow food on land laid bare by the climate crisis.

You support water engineers finding ways to ensure their communities have enough to drink if the rain doesn't fall.

You stand with expert emergency workers braving conflict to get help to their communities, and parents doing whatever they have to, to keep their children safe.

You work alongside peace builders and social workers, healing wounds that are more than skin deep.

You raise your voices in unison with brave activists, speaking out against corruption, injustice and the abuse of our common home, the earth.

You stand shoulder to shoulder with ordinary people fighting to defend their rights and their freedom – to food, to fair pay, to life without discrimination.

Your support, encourages and cheers on fundraisers, volunteers and campaigners in parishes, schools and other communities across England and Wales as they raise vital funds, petition our politicians and pray for a better world.

Because good things happen when we combine our efforts. When we share what we have, build on our strengths, and try our new ideas. We all have a part to play, together or alone.

There are so many ways we can continue to build a better world together!

Jerome Johnston



Thanks to your support, local Church experts in Ukraine helped Maria and her family to get enough fuel to heat their home so they could stay warm during the extreme cold

Unintended consequences

St. Mary's College, Twickenham, now St Mary's University, celebrates 175 years of Catholic education this year. Many contemporaries will be gathering there as we have done every five years since our leaving; this is our 50th anniversary. It got me thinking about significant memories I have hung onto and which members of the College staff most influenced me.



Joan Mary Walpole Reilly

Joan Reilly (English Dept), lent me her car to drive to Stratford on Avon with three others to see a Twelfth Night and Macbeth. She also gave us the tickets. All on trust that we'd put some petrol in the tank and pay for the

tickets when we could! I've taken school groups to theatres all over the country as a result – sometimes related to their studies.

Cecily Hastings (RE) was extraordinary. She travelled to Hanoi, North Vietnam at the height of the war, so she could be better informed when protesting. She was passionate in speaking out in the cause of right against injustice.



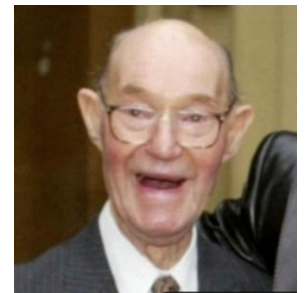
A man with a big chin and the broadest smile, Father Stan Brindley never lectured me but I think about him often at Mass. He never said, "Let us pray." With him it was always, a softly spoken, "Let's pray..." Suddenly, prayer seemed like a great idea. Yes, let's! And we got to our feet with enthusiasm. Fr Stan also came along to Folk nights and the regular country dances. (This was around the time of the British Folk revival.) He always had a variety of young partners, all had learning difficulties but he made them welcome and part of our social life as equals. He demonstrated inclusivity, before it became a thing.



I first met Donal (Daniel) O'Leary when he was studying for a post-graduate teaching certificate. He was another who tolerated our challenges to traditional Catholic teaching in spite of the fact that he was also a

priest. Subsequently, he became one of the College staff. I remember him standing outside the chapel as we rolled up for the Sunday evening Mass. There would be a gentle touch on the arm, "Can you help out this evening? Will you be a Eucharistic Minister? Will you do a reading? Will you help with the collection?" Often it was the least likely, he would ask, but it was impossible to refuse such a gentle request. Donal eventually returned to Leeds Diocese and wrote numerous reflections on our Faith. He was another priest, as were most, who was never judgmental of the students, their views or lifestyles. His caring and understanding are probably why so many of us kept our faith close.

Finally, there was "Joe" Jagger, (Yes, he really was Mick's father.) a very quietly spoken lecturer in the Physical Education department. He noticed a student struggling with suitcases, put down what he was carrying and rushed to help the one in difficulty, taking the suitcases to their destination; an example to us all who had been watching the struggler with amusement.



I remember little of the courses themselves and less of the lectures. I daresay the young people I have taught have similar recall, but I wonder what small things like these had a bigger influence.

Jerome Johnston

Read about their lives by following the links:

Joan Reilly: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/30853>

Cecily Hastings: <https://ealingabbeyparish.uk/cecily/>

Fr Daniel O'Leary: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/36438>

Joe Jagger: <https://www.independent.ie/news/joe-jagger/26418759.html>



Friends of the Holy Land is an apolitical and ecumenical charity existing to help and support the Christian population across the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan.

We focus on helping individual named Christians in the Holy Land, providing hope, prayer and practical assistance. We fund a mixture of sustainable and immediate relief work in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan working in partnership with organisations such as the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem and the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

A network of lay and clerical professionals, rooted within the Christian community in the Holy Land verify our projects and beneficiaries. They quickly identify cases where our support has the potential to make the Christian community stronger and more resilient.

Our work focuses on the key areas of education, employment, health and housing. We support the School of Joy, a school in the West Bank for children with special needs as well as St Martha's House, the first day care centre for elderly women in Bethlehem. Employment projects range from sponsoring work placements for young people, providing seed corn funding to assist Christian business ventures and supporting the traditional Christian industry of Olive Wood carving,



The war in Gaza has caused utter destruction and devastation, with continuing attacks and danger to citizens. Through our contacts on the ground we are providing help to those sheltering in the Christian churches and buildings, largely in Gaza City, as well as increasing our emergency support elsewhere in the West Bank and Israel.

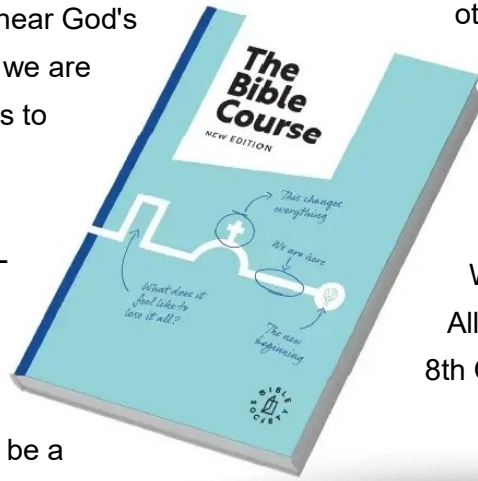
You can give securely online, discover how to support our projects and find prayer topics at our website www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

Friends of the Holy Land
Farmer Ward Road
Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2DH

Telephone 01926 512980
office@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

NEW - THE BIBLE COURSE - 8 Wednesday evenings starting October 2025

Each time we attend Mass, we hear God's word through the readings, and we are guided and helped by our priests to understand and know scripture. However, unlike some other Christian denominations, Catholics historically were not encouraged to read the Bible for themselves. This has now changed, but the Bible can be a daunting prospect to read, even with the aid of daily reading plans and smartphone apps.



other. And it's enjoyable! If the pilot is successful, we hope to run it again. After all, the Bible is the world's best selling book of all time!

We are working out the final details. All being well, the course will start on 8th October, straight after evening Mass 7.45-9.15pm, in the Parish Centre.

Want to know more?

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course>

St Alban's contact: Helen Lindars 07972 694834.

This autumn, some of the Parishioners who ran the Alpha course earlier this year are piloting "The Bible Course" for the first time. This basic, introductory, eight-week course is produced by the non-denominational Bible Society to promote and encourage Bible reading. As described by the Bible Society, it "explores the big story of the Bible, one step at a time. It will give you a beautiful view of God's purpose for planet earth - stretching back to creation and forward to eternity. Through the course, we'll learn how to make sense of the Bible and how we fit into the story."

Each Wednesday evening will include a video presentation and group discussion. Participants will have a course book (£9.99), containing information from the videos, thoughtful questions to ponder and a daily reading plan to accompany the course. There is access to free online resources to explore further.

Our experience of running Alpha is that coming together in a group can stimulate new insights and understanding. We learn together and from one

REMEMBERING GAZA

A Silent Vigil
outside Macclesfield Town Hall

5.00 – 6.00pm
Friday 5th September

We will
remember the suffering people of Gaza,
call for a ceasefire,
and for our government to cease arms
sales and to impose broad sanctions on
Israel

NO CHANTS, BANNERS, FLAGS, PLACARDS

This event is organised by Global Justice Now (Macc Group) who will supply placards. We welcome anyone who shares the aims and ethos of this vigil

ST ALBAN'S LADIES GROUP ARE FULL OF GRATITUDE

We would like to give thanks to...

THE WORLD OF WEDGWOOD for welcoming us on JULY 23rd when members viewed the WEDGWOOD Museum and became 'LADIES WHO LUNCH' all served on Wedgwood China and we even managed to fit in some



We would like to give thanks to everyone who supported

'OUR CHARITY OF THE YEAR' :

EAST CHESHIRE HOSPICE We were delighted to hand over a cheque to Karyn Johnston for £419.42 after two collection boxes and the proceeds from the wonderful **STRAWBERRY FAYRE** had been counted. THANKS were given to Karyn CEO, East Cheshire Hospice for kindly giving her time to explain fully how the monies would be spent.






The 5 First Saturdays
Rosary & Fatima Prayers

St Alban's, Macclesfield
10:30am
First Saturday of every month

Join us for the first Saturdays Rosary and devotions for all your intentions

We meet on the first Saturday of each month at St Alban's Church

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



PAPIER MÂCHÉ PATTY

Join me for my new series of workshops, starting this September. We have fun and relaxing groups and none of us take ourselves too seriously!
Tea and coffee provided (and occasionally biscuits!!)

Creative Art Workshops
at
All Saints Church, SK11 8HE

Tuesday afternoons, 1-3 pm
This 6 week course costs £60 and starts on September 16th

We will dabble in drawing, colour mixing and collage and discover where it takes us

For more information:
www.pattycallaghan.com/booking

Papier Mâché with Patty
at
Hurdsfield Community Hub SK10 2PX

Thursday afternoons, 2-4 pm
This 6 week course costs £60 and starts on September 25th

Learn all the basics of this absorbing and eco-friendly craft and create your own papier mâché animal.

All materials provided

For more information:
www.pattycallaghan.com/booking



Claritas Choir


Singing for you at
St Alban's Parish Centre
Friday 17th October
7.30 pm

We are **Claritas**, a mixed choir of 50 members. Our songs are 'easy listening' numbers which we perform regularly to raise money for **East Cheshire Hospice**

Claritas means Brightness and this is our aim, to bring brightness into the lives of people at the Hospice, our choir and our audience. We hope to see you there!!

Limited Tickets **£10.00** including light refreshments from choir members and St Alban's Social Committee.
St Alban's Parish Centre, Chester Road, SK11 8DJ

Tickets on sale after Masses on 28 September, 5 October and 12 October



St Alban's Coffee Club

Join members of the parish on the 3rd Wednesday of the month

We meet again on Wednesday 17 Sept 2025 at
The Monocle Cafe
between 10.30-12noon.

For more information contact
Sallyann on 07709 210480

Let's get together!

St Alban's Book Club



BACK FOR THE AUTUMN!

We'll meet in the Parish Centre on
Wednesday 10 September 2025
3pm for a cuppa and 3.15pm start.

We are reading
*Dante's
Divine Comedy*

All welcome to join our friendly group
Enquiries to Mary: maryfrommacc@msn.com

Or Tess: tessmcghee@btinternet.com

Be with those who have walked a mile in your shoes

Whether you want to just 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, 11 September 2025

Thursday, 9 October 2025

Thursday, 13 November 2025



ST ALBAN'S LADIES GROUP

AFTER OUR SUMMER BREAK

WE WELCOME YOU BACK

ON 3RD SEPTEMBER

2.00p.m. for our

OPEN MEETING

AUTUMN PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER

17th In this Season of Creation
we introduce our

SPEAKER: Rachel Mortishire-Smith – Seasonal British flower-grower and florist

“HOMEstead GROWN – growing and arranging seasonal flowers with Nature in mind”

OCTOBER

1st OPEN MEETING

“Come & meet old friends and make new ones”

**We meet informally in the Parish Centre
on 1st / 3rd Wednesday 2.00-4.00p.m.**

**for discussion and talks
of mutual interest**

Tea & Biscuits are provided

**You are assured of a warm
welcome**

15th **SPEAKER:** KATH REYNOLDS is welcomed back

*“Goose Grease & Brown Paper”
A fun trip down memory lane
pre-NHS days.*

**For further information contact
Anne Collier 07305 267325**



PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

An Eco Festival of events in Macclesfield

1st September - 4th October 2025

The international Season of Creation has been celebrated by churches in Macclesfield for ten years and is open to all local people. In 2025, the call from the religious leaders around the world is for everyone to “create peace with creation”. The hope is that Creation will find peace when justice is restored. There is still hope and the expectation for a peaceful Earth. To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and be quiet, but instead to act, pray, change and reconcile with Creation and the Creator in unity, repentance and solidarity. Action for peace can include advocacy, sustainability projects, cleaning campaigns or education to show that caring for Creation is central to our faith and how we live our lives. We must collaborate and build on diversity to achieve peace and there are opportunities in the events we have planned in and around Macclesfield to learn about, pray for and get involved in caring for Creation.

31st August World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation Prayer Service 4.00pm. To pray in an local rewilded habitat. Meet at car park at Macclesfield Leisure Centre, Priory Lane, SK10 4AF
Stall at the Treacle Market in the St Michael's Churchyard

1st September Remember to say Grace before eating your meal today, and throughout the Season of Creation, thanking God for creating the food and for the people who have produced it.

Care for Creation Bible Study Mondays, 11.00am - East Cheshire Hospice Chapel, SK10 3DR

2nd September Sustainable Church Flowers Demonstration 7.00—8.30pm St. Michael's Church, Market Place SK10 1DY
How to provide church flowers sustainably using seasonal and local flowers and foliage.
Booking required 01625 421984.

3rd September Consider how many bottles of water or soft drinks you buy. Could you replace these with tap water in a reusable bottle? Find out more: www.refill.org.uk

Care for Creation Bible Study Wednesdays, 7.00pm at East Cheshire Hospice Chapel, SK10 3DR

4th September Turn off the television, computer, mobile phone, etc. and spend half an hour going for a walk or other activity in God's natural world. Invite your family or others to join you.

5th September Foodie Friday 6pm for 6.30pm St. Michael's Church, Market Place SK10 1DY
3 course meal, pay what you feel, all made from food which would otherwise be wasted. Booking required: St Michael's Office 01625 421 984

6th September Litter Pick 10.30am. Join the monthly litter pick in Prestbury followed by tea and coffee. Meet at St. Peter's Church, Prestbury, SK10 4DG

7th September Family Cycle Ride along the Middlewood Way. Meet at 12.30pm below Tesco Car Park, SK10 2AB to cycle approx. 7 miles to Nelson's Pit for a picnic. Bring a packed lunch.

8th September Have a meatless/vegan meal. Meat and cheese have a large carbon footprint. Could you do this more often during the Season of Creation and beyond?
Bible Study at the Hospice - see above

9th September Make do and mend rather than buying new. Find something that could be repaired and bring it to the monthly Repair Café on Saturday 13th September.
More info email: repaircafe.macc@gmail.com

10th September Remember we are part of God's creation and to take care of ourselves in the way God intended with compassion and care.

Care for Creation Bible Study Wednesdays, 7.00pm at East Cheshire Hospice Chapel, SK10 3DR

11th September People, Planet, Pint 7pm - 8.30pm
The Snowgoose, Sunderland Street, SK11 6HN.
Come and chat about local sustainability initiatives.
A drink on the house for the first 10 people!
Find out more at www.scoopandscales.co.uk

12th September Whilst shopping select Fairtrade, plastic free and locally produced products with low food miles. Have you shopped at Scoop and Scales the refill shop at the Old Sunday School, Roe Street, SK11 6UT Find out more: www.scoopandscales.co.uk

13th September Repair Café 10.00am - 2.00pm
Community Centre, Duke Street, SK11 6UR
Parish Walk (4 miles) Prestbury to Adlington
10.00am from St. Peter's, Prestbury, SK10 4DG.
Creation Walk I (6 miles) 10:00am start & finish at Holy Trinity Church, SK10 2PX Contact Andrea: 07366 561 955

14th September Big Trees and Mini-Beasts—
Family Fun in West Park 12.00pm - 2.00pm Meet
at the Rangers Hut next to the Café.
Reflective Service 4.30pm to celebrate the Season
of Creation in the monastic garden. St. Peter's
Church, Prestbury, SK10 4DG

15th September Scoop and Scales Book Club
7.30pm - 9.00pm Reading: One Garden Against
the World by Kate Bradbury. Scoop and Scales,
Old Sunday School, Roe Street, SK11 6UT.
Sign up: www.scoopandscales.co.uk

Bible Study at the Hospice - see above

16th September How is your Council tackling
Climate Change and What can you do to help?
7.45—9.15pm Come along to find out more. St.
Alban's Parish Centre, Chester Rd, SK11 8DJ

17th September Reduce food waste by planning
your meals and buying just what you need.
Bible Study at the Hospice - see above

18th September Think about how you travel.
Could your journeys be walked, cycled or by bus to
reduce use of our cars? It's good for our health too!
Arrange local deliveries by electric cargo bike from
eLOV Macclesfield More at: <https://elov.co.uk/about/>

19th September Would you like to grow food?
Come along to one of the Macc Market Garden
weekly volunteering sessions. Find out more at Fa-
cebook/maccmarketgarden
Creation Walk II (4miles) 6:00pm from St John's

Church, Earlsway, SK11 8RS Contact Andrea
07366 561 955

20th September River Bollin Clean Up 10am - 3pm
Riverside Park, SK10 2SL. Drop in, families
welcome. Bring your wellies and gloves.

21st September Litter Pick 11.30am after the
service St. Peter's Church, Windmill Street,
SK11 7HS All welcome. Find out more at
www.scoopandscales.co.uk

22nd September As we uphold the human right to
food, clean drinking water and safe sanitation for
all. Pray today for the people in the world who don't
have access to these. Bible Study - see above

23rd September St. Peter's Surprising Gardens
10-12.00noon Drop in to find out more St. Peter's
Church, Windmill Street, SK11 7HS

24th September Donate unwanted clothes to
local charities or initiatives like The One Project.
They also take a wide range of hard to recycle
waste. Find out more: Facebook/ oneprojectmac-
clesfield. Bible Study at the Hospice - see above

25th September How is your money or pension
invested? Does it contribute to harming creation -
through fossil fuels or destroying natural habitats?
Check out your bank at: <https://bank.green/>

26th September Take stock of what you've done
so far. How are you getting on with listening to the
voice of Creation? What more could you do to
take better care of God's creation?

27th September Visit to RHS Garden Bridgewater
9.30am - 3.30pm Coach trip with discount tickets
to these beautiful gardens. Info, costs and booking
at: www.scoopandscales.co.uk

28th September Sacred Circle Dance 3pm-5pm
St. Alban's Parish Centre, Chester Rd, SK11 8DJ
Booking required: 07401 003976

29th September Pray for all those who have been
affected by climate change, natural disasters and
wars through injury, death of loved ones, loss of
their homes or livelihoods.
Bible Study at the Hospice - see above

30th September "Brilliant Bees" Talk 7.30pm.
Safely meet some amazing honeybees: taste dif-
ferent honeys and find out how beekeepers care
for these vital pollinators. Sallyann O'Dell, Bee
Keeper at Tatton Park. Macclesfield Methodist
Church, Westminster Road, SK10 1BX



PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

October 2025

1st October Take a break from consuming and buy nothing today. Bible Study - at East Cheshire Hospice

2nd October Apple Pressing 4.00pm - 7.00pm Come and have a go at pressing apples and enjoy some juice.. Drop in at Scoop and Scales, Old Sunday School, Roe Street, SK11 6UT. Suitable for all ages.

3rd October Foodie Friday 6pm for 6.30pm St. Michael's Church, Market Place SK10 1DY 3 course meal, pay what you feel, all made from food which would otherwise be wasted.

Booking required – St Michael's Office 01625 421984



4th Celebration and Feast of St Francis of Assisi

Prayer Service 1.00pm Light Lunch 2.00pm
Prayer Service to close and thank God for the Season of Creation. St. Michael's Church, Market Place, SK10 1DY

Caring for Our Common Home - Some Milestones



Echo of St Francis of Assisi

A decade ago this year, the Pope made history by articulating Church teaching on the role of belief in our approach to the environment and its current crisis. He chose the Canticle of St Francis "*Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures*" as the title for what he saw as "the cry of the earth."

ENCYCLICAL LETTER
LAUDATO SI'
OF THE HOLY FATHER
FRANCIS
ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

In the great tradition of papal teachings, he started with the "signs of the times," notably environmental degradation, and pointed towards changes both spiritual and practical urgently needed by humanity particularly the poor.

The Encyclical was welcomed by environmentalists in that it clearly made the state of the planet a matter for people of faith.

Global warming - the limit



The Pope's timing was apt because in 2015 the Paris Agreement, a landmark, was struck under the auspices of the United Nations. It is widely said that

Laudato Si influenced the thinking of many delegates to the conference which passed it- an unusual moment of decisiveness. It was a legally binding international treaty that committed nearly every nation to combat climate change by keeping global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and preferably 1.5 degrees Celsius, above pre-industrial levels.

Unfortunately warming has still to be brought under the control target. Earth's greenhouse gas concentrations were the highest on record in 2014.

Our common home – building the care

Perhaps recognising the magnitude of the task, the Pope did more. He established the **Season of Creation**- a 34day period of prayer and reflection on the Care of our Common Home – the theme which is the



Caring for Our Common Home - Some Milestones



focus of Laudato Si. The establishment of Creation alongside other seasons eg Advent and Lent, is a measure of the importance of the issue and the scope of the ecological conversion it calls us to undergo.

The first day of the Season, September 1st, was always marked by the Orthodox Churches whose year starts on that day with a commemoration of how God created the world. The Season ends on the 4th October, the feast day of the Little Saint, Francis.

Also established was a worldwide movement to *inspire and mobilize the Catholic community to care for our common home and achieve climate and ecological justice, in collaboration with all people of good will.*



2019 A Bishop's Residence becomes a Laudato Si Centre. The Bishop of Salford responded to the challenge by beginning a major environmental project in the grounds of his residence, Wardley Hall.

The Laudato Si Centre addresses the needs of the environment and human ecology, in a space for practical action to care for our common home, to help to leave a sustainable world for future generations. It aims to be a beacon of hope and a centre of excellence in sustainable ecology. It offers education, examples of good practice.

2025 Missa pro custodia creationis. Pope Leo XIV approves a new Mass centered on care for the environment thus marking the anniversary of Pope Francis's great encyclical and signalling continuity of approach.



2025 Season of Creation. St Albans again coordinates the programme for this "eco festival of events in Macclesfield." The 30+ churches of Hope In

North-East Cheshire invite people" to join in this period of reflection and action to cherish and protect our environment.

And the programme this year is very full. Events and activities in churches, outdoors, in a variety of venues including an orchard, a pub (free pint for first comers) and a RHS Garden. Activities range from family fun in the park to quizzing local authority action on the climate, from Bible study to apple pressing...and not forgetting litter picking. All these and many suggestions for contemplation.

Some Earlier Milestones.



Laudato Si was a major step for the Church. It was also a radical critique of many aspects of the world order, not treating environment degradation as separate from other issues, notably that of global poverty. Earlier St John Paul II had called Catholics to an "ecological conversion."

And two movements – to which we have subscribed as a parish- meet a concern for the poor AND for the environment.

Livesimply challenges us to respond to God's call to live simply, SUSTAINABLY "*not using more than our fair share of the shrinking resources of our world, which are there for all*" and in solidarity with the poor. We make a commitment to it in Lent every year

Many years ago we signed up to be a Fairtrade Church. This involves various forms of support for farmers including the use in parish events of Fairtrade goods at prices which give them fair wages. Part of the arrangement by which the farmers qualify for this support is that the farmers are committed to SUSTAINABLE methods of cultivation, for example avoiding the excessive use of pesticides so common in many agricultural systems.



Bank Holiday Monday Ramble

Getting to the start was the beginning of the adventure. The road to Whaley Bridge maybe closed, but it is still clear to Ginchlough where a sharp right turn takes you onto increasingly narrow, winding and steep lanes passed Jenkin Chapel, up to Pym Chair and then down to Errwood Reservoir. Oncoming traffic, struggling cyclists, and walkers in the road all added to the challenge. There were six of us in all and Isla the spaniel.



It was quite a shock to see the reservoir almost empty and the boats of the sailing club marooned with no access to water! On the other side of the dam, though, Fernilee looked quite full. A farmer I met on the recce told me that water stored in Errwood becomes brackish from the peat in the moorland, and so it is deliberately run off into Fernilee to preserve as much purity as possible. The Goyt Valley itself was a thriving farming community before the reservoirs were built in the 1930s. It also had a gunpowder factory and a paint mill!

The day could not have been better. The sun shone brightly in a sky dotted with white fluffy clouds and there was from time to time a cooling breeze. All the paths bar one at the start/finish were well maintained and we were able to keep to a good steady pace. Woodland afforded dappled shade and views through to the breeze-ruffled surface of Fernilee. Occasional patches of farmland,



open paths and a climb through woodland to a lane gave variety to the walk to Taxal Church which marked the half-way point.

Reluctant to ford the R.Goyt, we crossed by a sturdy bridge and headed back. More woodland, and open fields leading from Taxal to the dam where it climbs steadily to the top of the dam.

From here the path follows the course of the former Cromford and High Peak Railway which was only closed in the 1967. Built in 1831, it linked the Peak Forest Canal at Whaley Bridge with the Cromford Canal and with a climb of about a thousand feet was one of the highest lines ever built in Britain. About halfway along this section, we met two parishioners;



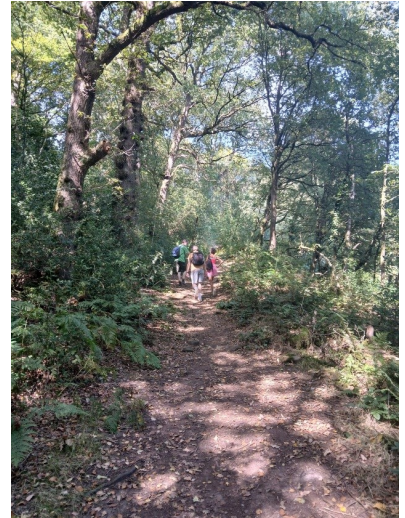
they'd been unable to join the start of the ramble, but decided that they'd like to explore the area. After a short stop to exchange experiences, we set off and crossed back to the west side at the foot of Errwood reservoir and the steep rough climb to our cars.

The journey back through the lanes was as challenging as before. Moving from passing place to passing place, wary of cyclists and the many other road users who now use the route to get to Whaley Bridge! We'd made very good time on the walk and took the opportunity to rehydrate at The Poachers in Bollington where there is a delightful beer garden.

Afterthought: Max joined us – from Oxford. I think this makes him the Rambler from furthest away, unless some can challenge this claim!

Jerome Johnston

My thanks to Maz for the photographs



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Lend a helping hand in the Parish

We would like to reinstate some of the traditions at Mass which we had to stop during the darkest days of the pandemic, but we need your help. Are there any of these volunteer roles you think might be your way to help live your faith?

Sacristan: Support the clergy in preparation for Mass

Welcomer: Greet people, give out hymn books and newsletters.

Apparator: Make sure things are in place for the Mass – people to do offertory procession, collection.

Collector: Passing the basket for the weekly offering collection

Training will be given to those who are new to the role.

Email parishcouncil@stalbanmacc.org.uk to find out more

BOOK NOW!

5K or 10K Sponsored Walk

27th September 2025

START FINISH

PIE & PINT
5 or 10km walk

At Macclesfield Rugby Club

Buy your tickets now at:
www.echospice.org.uk/pie-and-pint

East Cheshire Hospice
Where people come to live

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

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