

St Alban's Monthly News

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

Issue No. 254



October 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.

Our Lady of Fatima: a symbol of union in a divided world



In an age marked by rapid change, uncertainty, and spiritual searching, the message of Our Lady of Fatima continues to resonate deeply with modern Roman Catholics. First appearing to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, the Virgin Mary's message was one of prayer, repentance, and peace—timeless themes that remain all too relevant today.

For many, Our Lady of Fatima is more than a historical apparition; she is a spiritual mother who calls the faithful to a deeper relationship with God. Her emphasis on the Rosary as a powerful tool for personal and global transformation encourages us to return to contemplative prayer in a world dominated by distraction.

Fatima's call to penance and conversion also speaks to modern Catholics navigating moral complexities and societal pressures. Her message reminds the faithful that personal holiness and communal responsibility go hand in hand. In a culture that all too often prioritises

individualism, Our Lady's appeal for sacrifice and reparation for the sins of the world invites us to live with greater compassion and accountability.

The prophetic elements of the Fatima apparitions — particularly the vision of hell, the call for the consecration of Russia, and the prediction of future trials — are interpreted by many as a call to vigilance and hope. Rather than inciting fear, these messages are seen as a divine invitation to trust in God's mercy and to actively participate in the healing of the world through prayer, care for creation and simple acts of kindness to one another.

Ultimately, Our Lady of Fatima offers us a path of light through the shadows of contemporary life. We can all rekindle our devotion to Our Lady of Fatima by joining our special Mass on 13 October, see weekly newsletter for details. Her message is not confined to the past — it is a living call to faith, hope, and love in a world that so desperately needs all three.



**First Saturday Devotion
Sat 6 4 Oct & 1 Nov 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 5 OCTOBER 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

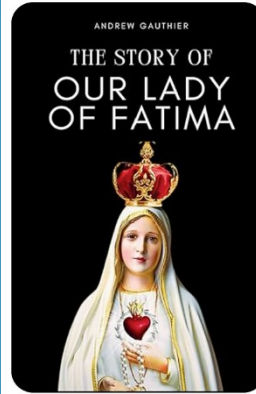
**Pope Leo's Prayer Intention
Oct 2025**



**For collaboration between
different religious traditions**

Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

**October's
Book Review**



**The Story of
Our Lady
of Fatima**

By Andrew Gauthier

This is a captivating narrative that traces the extraordinary events of 1917 in the quiet

village of Fatima, Portugal.

It delves into the mystical encounters between three shepherd children, Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta, and the luminous presence of the Virgin Mary. Through vivid storytelling, it unravels the series of apparitions, unveiling the messages, secrets, and miracles that marked this historic event.

You are taken on a spiritual journey, exploring the impact of Our Lady's messages on prayer, repentance, and devotion.

The book weaves together the historical context, the lives of the children, and the transformative power of faith, inviting us to reflect on the enduring significance of Fatima in the Catholic tradition.

"The Story of Our Lady of Fatima" is not merely a historical account; it's a compelling exploration of the spiritual and supernatural dimensions of faith.

This book offers readers a chance to delve into the heart of the Fatima messages, inspiring contemplation on the enduring relevance of Our Lady's call to prayer, penance, and devotion to the Immaculate Heart.

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



Fr Paschal's parting words

On 31st August 2025 we said goodbye to Fr Paschal as he quite rightly was ear-marked for promotion to his own parish on the Wirral. Everyone who came to his Mass of thanksgiving enjoyed themselves. The Mass has been recorded, but unfortunately it ran on longer than the recording time and so Fr Paschal's parting words to us were partially missed.

He has kindly let us have a copy of his speech which is wonderful to read even if you heard it live!

Fr Paschal said: *My dear Brothers and Sisters,*

As I stand before you today, my heart is full—with gratitude, with memories, and with deep affection. For more than twelve years, we have journeyed together in faith, in fellowship, and in service. We have celebrated joys, mourned losses, and grown stronger as a community rooted in love and grace.

It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to walk alongside you St Alban's Catholic Community/ family — to share in your stories, to pray with you, and to witness the quiet miracles of everyday faith. You have welcomed me not just into your (our) parish, but into your lives. And for that, I am profoundly thankful.

Though the time has come for me to step away, please know that I carry each of you with me in my heart. The laughter, the tears, the hymns sung with conviction, the quiet moments of reflection—they have shaped me in ways I will never forget.

This is not goodbye, but a blessing on the next chapter—for you and for me. May you continue to be a light in this community, steadfast in your compassion and bold in your faith. And may God's peace go with us all. Please I continue to ask for your prayers because without prayers I cannot function well in my new parish. Also, I ask for your continued full support for Fr Tomasz in the good work he, Deacon Gyorgy and team are doing for us.

Besides, I might have stepped on some people's toes. I wish to extend my sincere apologies to anyone I may have offended during my time serving in the Parish.

It's a mistake of the mind and not of the heart. My intention throughout my missionary work has always been to share compassion, faith, and understanding. However, I recognise that during this journey, my words or actions may not have always reflected that spirit.

If I have caused hurt or discomfort, I deeply regret it. I am committed to learning from these moments and growing in humility and grace. And those who have offended me, I have forgiven and forgotten. Thank you for your patience, and for allowing me to be part of this community this number of years.

Lastly, a very big THANK YOU for your gifts!!!

*With love and gratitude,
Paschal*



Did you miss the Season of Creation?

Hopefully you got to see the displays in church on the Rood Screen or in the Calming Corner created by our talented Tessa Albanese, Jane Cole and lots of our younger members.

St. Alban's Church Displays



We have had so many and varied events and activities taking place since 1st September, here are some of the things you could have joined in with.....

World Day of Prayer for Creation Prayer Service

is where it all started on 1st September in the orchard next to the Leisure Centre and after the service there was a visit to the wild habitats behind the Leisure Centre created by [Macc Wild](#).



Sustainable Church Flowers Demonstration



Tessa shared "We enjoyed a very informative and creative evening at St Michael's church on Tuesday 2nd September which was well attended. During the demonstration we were shown many inventive and clever ways of flower arranging without the use of "oasis foam" which is environmentally harmful and no longer used by many florists in churches, flower shows, etc.

The florists used all sorts of containers and devices along with seasonal and garden flowers. It was a very energetic process and the result was to make less formal but very beautiful and striking arrangements. It was a very inspiring evening.

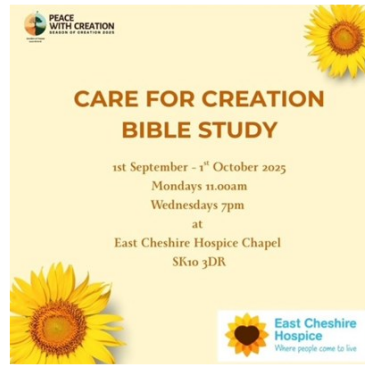
Creation Canteen

Over 30 people enjoyed an amazing shared table which included produce grown in Macclesfield and surplus food from local supermarkets.



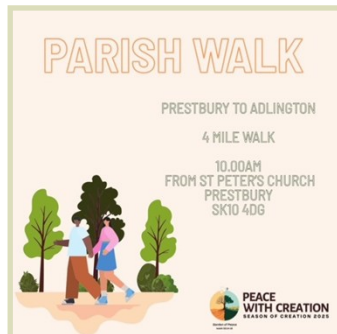
Bible Study

Small groups have been meeting in the Hospice Chapel with Marion Tugwood, the Chaplain, to learn, reflect, discuss and pray about our role as Christians to care for creation.



Creation Walks

There were a range of prayer walks between churches in North East Cheshire, with a visit to St. Alban's on 19th September. More details on these walks is available on pages 8 and 9.



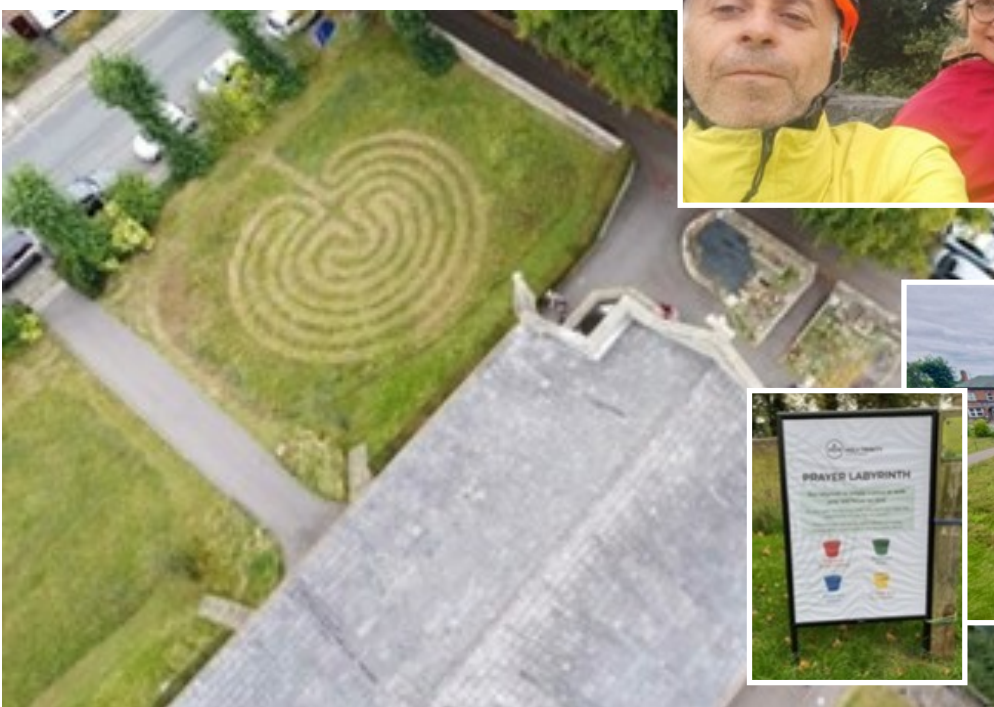
Family Cycle Ride

Patty tells us... "Our bike ride for this year's Season of Creation was true to form – the rain started literally as we were setting off! But were we daunted? We -ell... Actually no! The massive claps of thunder as we reached Nelson Pit did give us pause but we sheltered in the Visitor Centre for our picnic (how British!!) And, in a very redemptive and somehow symbolic way (Fr Tomasz would express it so much better than me), the rain cleared up as we rode home and the sun finally came out! And it was altogether splendid".



Prayer Labyrinth

The creative team and gardener at Holy Trinity Church Hurdsfield designed and mowed an amazing labyrinth in their wild flower meadow.



River Bollin Clean Up

A robust team braved the weather to cut, bundle and weave willows through the pouring rain to strengthen the banks of the River Bollin.



Harvest Mass at St. Alban's

The children gave us excellent feedback on their Little Church discussion including some recommended recipes.



Big Trees and Mini-Beasts



An energetic event for families with young children to spend time exploring nature in one of the local parks had 75 people from 30 families joining in.

How is your Council Tackling Climate Change and what can you do to help?

St. Alban's Parish Centre was the venue for Richard Baker a Climate Change UK Ambassador to educate us on the development and use of the [Climate Change UK Scorecards](#) which rate all English councils on their position and action to address climate change. We were pleased to hear how Cheshire East Council are performing well in some areas but that there is a lot more to be done in many others. We were also pleased to be joined by the Cheshire East Council Climate Change Champion along with other councillors and officers working in the Carbon Team.

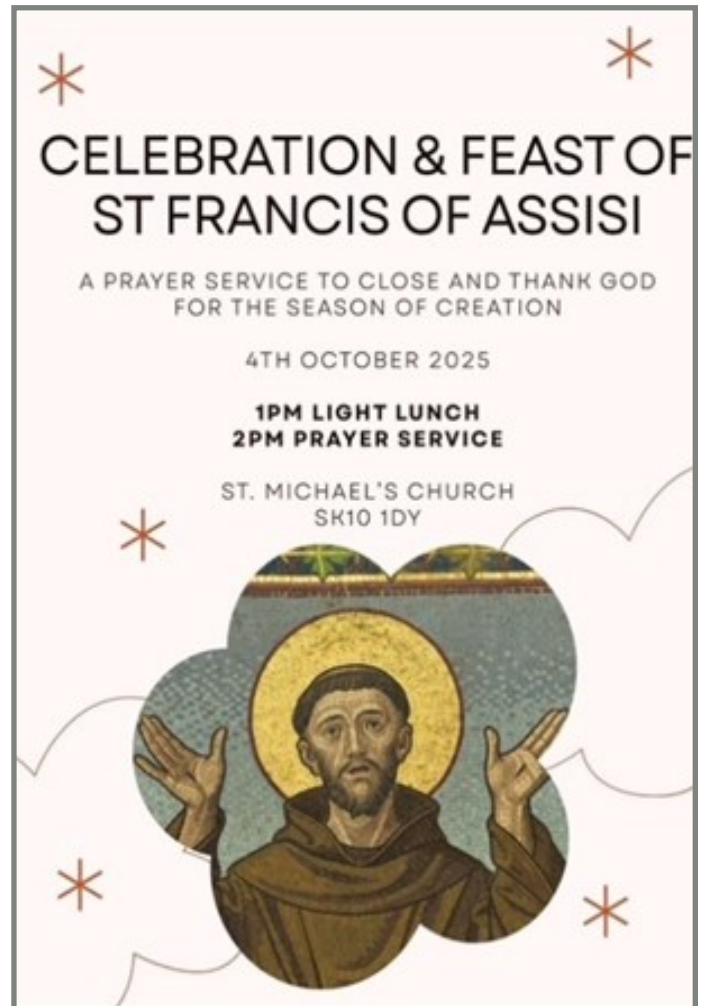


Then there are events that took place in the last week of the Season and after the Newsletter deadline, including Sacred Circle Dancing and a Brilliant Bees Talk

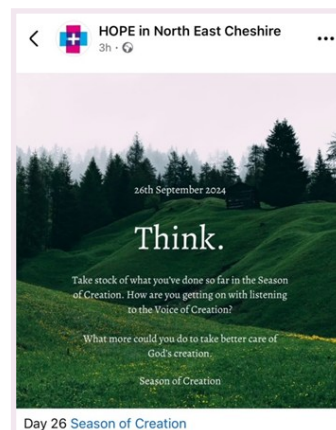
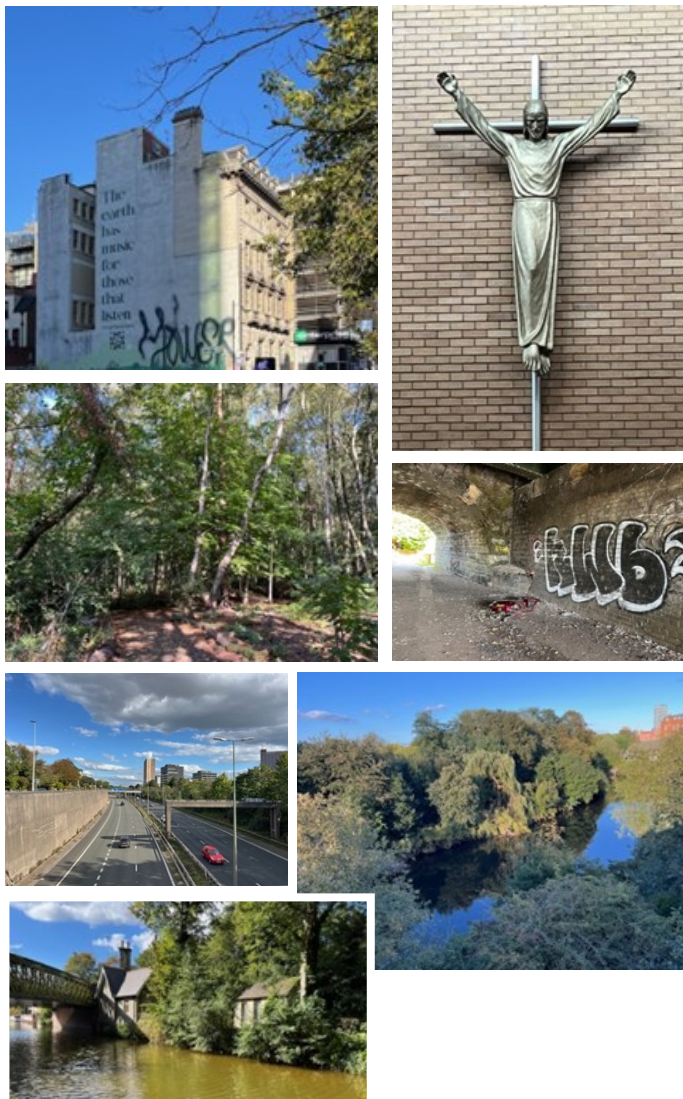
Salford Hope in Creation Pilgrimage

Jerome Johnston and Bernadette Bailey joined members of the Salford Diocese and Columbans to walk 9 miles from the [Laudato Si Centre](#) in Wardley to the Salford Cathedral to celebrate the Jubilee Year as pilgrims of hope for the care of Creation. About 25 people, including a number of Columban priests who had serviced in countries such as Peru, the Philippines, Japan and seen directly the impact of climate change on the lives of those living there. The group walked through urban areas, woodland, parks and along canals and we were joined on the way by students from three schools. During the pilgrimage we stopped to pray about the wonder of God's creation, destruction man has brought and hope for the future. We were welcomed by Holy Cross and St James Churches for comfort breaks and pray and explored our personal experience of climate change and actions to with student chaplains from St. Patrick's R.C. High School.

Prayer Service to celebrate the whole Season and the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi



Every day throughout the Season of Creation we have social media posts on Facebook and Instagram and this one seems a fitting end to this article and to make us think **how can we build "Peace with Creation" in our lives every day.** If you are still stuck for ideas have see the article on page 14.



If you would like to know more, join the review meeting at the start of November or the planning group for 2026 please contact Bernadette Bailey at justiceandpeace-macc@gmail.com.

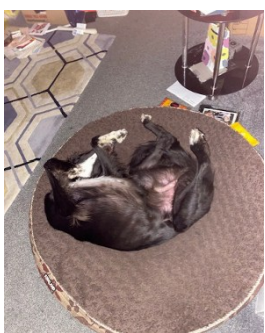
Season of Creation Walks took the place of rambles in September

There were three of them, and all blessed with fine sunny weather!

1 On Saturday 13 September, a group of 13 walkers set off from **St Peter's Church, Prestbury** to walk to **St John's Church, Adlington**. The weather was kind and rain held off until the afternoon, and we all loved the varied, mostly traffic free route, as we followed a footpath across fields and Tytherington golf course initially, and then walked on quiet roads to join the Middlewood Way by the bridge over the Silk Road. After Bollington we switched to the canal towpath which we followed to Adlington. We had a few stops en route when we enjoyed readings from the Psalms on the theme of Creation and, when we reached the church at Adlington, we sat in the sunshine enjoying delicious home-made cakes and barista coffees - well deserved after 5.5 miles! The café at the church in Adlington is open every Saturday in the summer months and is highly recommended for refreshments!

St Alban's were represented by Brigid and Mach who submitted his own "paws for thought":

We met at St Peters Church in Prestbury - and got



together with a lovely group of people. They were all so kind to me along the walk. I love being out and about and sniffing in nature! It was good that the humans stopped a few times and said psalms about nature, it made them happy and gave me lots more time to

smell things.

We went across Tytherington golf course and up to the Middlewood, then along to the canal at Holehouse Lane. I always love walking on the canal, lots of ducks and other critters to pretend to chase!

We ended up at a cafe in Adlington called St Johns. My human and the other humans had lovely cakes and tea. The cafe area was outside and the humans had cleverly put up umbrellas to stop apples falling on their heads, There was nothing for me so I of course milked that for all it was worth, and got lots of strokes and cuddles from the humans.

There was a prayer in the church and after that, some of the humans said I was so well behaved and a perfect dog. (Fortunately, my human didn't split on me and tell them about hole digging in the back garden!)

But I felt so happy on the walk, I felt loved, cared for and safe. All natures critters should have a chance to feel like that. Thank you for caring about the beautiful world we all share.

Luv from Mach and his human Brigid x

Ps it was a walk of about 6 miles, I was very glad to get home and get my feet, (I mean paws really), up for a rest!



2 Also on Saturday 13 September, I took the bus to Holy Trinity, Hurdsfield where a group of five of us representing different parishes set off for what was initially billed as a 6mile walk. During the week preceding week however, there was a notification that it was actually 8.9miles... More of this later. The sun shone, the wind gusted and we began with a prayer & reflection on various man-made impacts on the environment as we walked the Holy Trinity, Labyrinth. (There's a photo elsewhere in the Season of Creation review by Bernadette Bailey.) We set off uphill and wove our way through side roads to emerge on the canal which we followed to the spiral bridge on Clarke Lane where we diverted to Middlewood Way to St Gregory's Bollington. If like me you have never been to St Greg's it is worth a visit to see the beautiful mosaic reredos and altar.



Season of Creation Walks continued

From here we walked on to St Christopher's, Pott Shrigley where we used wind fallen leaves, twigs and other findings to create our own prayerful image which we watched blow away as we prayed – itself a powerful image of the transient nature of life. Much welcome tea was provided by volunteers here who showed us the gargoyle of the Cheshire Cat from *Alice in Wonderland*. On and upward to Holy Trinity, Rainow. During this section Rev Simon, led the way to his church. We passed behind Savio House and admired the ridge where White Nancy glowed in the sunshine. Arriving at Holy Trinity, Rainow we were greeted by welcomers with tea sandwiches, cakes and fruit. Our Creation task here was to explore where different commodities were sourced. The airmiles of some things we take for granted are huge! The final leg between the Holy Trinity churches was along the B5470, however, it was suggested – not by me – that we take a “short cut”. It was a lovely path with expansive views over Macclesfield and the Cheshire plain, but it **increased** our walk by another 3miles!



3 Friday 19 September was an evening walk from St John's, Earlsway. Bernadette Bailey, Josephine McGhee with Wiston and I joined others outside and after a prayer we set off to our own St Alban's, where we were welcomed by Fr Tomasz who showed us the calming corner it's marvellously creation-themed decoration by the children, the banner and the impactful streamers and banner on the rood screen. From here we walked to St Peter's to visit the



garden. After a refreshing cuppa and biscuits, Matt from Scoop and Scales led us in a reflection in church. It was dark now and we thought it was safer to continue our journey rather than visit the community allotment. Our next calling point was the Methodist Chapel on Westminster Road for a short stop for reflection before our final station at the chapel in East Cheshire Hospice. We'd walked along Victoria Road, now in darkness but for street lamps and turned in down the path through the grassed area at the rear. We had a very quiet, reflective and prayerful time here, led by Marion Tugwood the Chaplain. From here it was back through the Pavilions and across Chester Road to return to St John's.

4 Lastly, the Laudato Si Pilgrimage from Wardley Hall to Salford Temporary Cathedral, a walk of 9 miles extended by walks between stations home and Wardley Hall. There's more about this in Bernadette Bailey's review of the Season of Creation. However, a group of about 25 walked the whole distance and we were joined by groups from different schools for sections of the walk. I was surprised by the woodland we were able to access, reclaimed railway lines and canal side paths all accessible from nearby industrial and urban areas. There was jubilation as we posed for a photograph clambering onto the giant SALFOD sign in front of the University before finishing at the Cathedral where Bishop John said Mass to conclude our Pilgrimage of Hope.

The next Parish Ramble will be on Sunday 19 October. Details soon...

A Prayer in Parliament

Danny Kruger, until recently was the Conservative Member of Parliament for East Wiltshire, since making this speech in July 2025, he has 'crossed the floor' to represent his constituents from the Reform party. Some edits have been made due to lack of space, however, we reprint this transcript from Hansard with Mr Kruger's permission.

It is an honour to stand here in this empty Chamber to speak about the original purpose of this space, when it was a chapel in the Church of England. The old Chamber of the House of Commons, on which this space was modelled after the great fire of 1834, was St Stephen's Chapel—formerly a royal church. It was given by the heirs of Henry VIII to Parliament to serve as its debating Chamber. Madam Deputy Speaker, your Chair stands on the altar steps. The Table with the Dispatch Boxes is where the lectern stood.

I mention that because the link between this place and the Church of England is not merely ceremonial. The Prayers we say here at the start of every day are not just a nod to tradition. Our democracy is founded on Christian faith. This Parliament remains the law-giving power of the Church of England. We in this place have the responsibility to approve or disapprove the doctrine and the rules of the Church, and that is as it should be, because the Church of England is not some private club or just another eccentric denomination. The Church is a chaplain to the nation, and through the parish system, in which every square inch of England has its local church and its local priest, we are all members—we all belong. Even if you never set foot in your church from one year to the next, and even if you do not believe in its teachings, it is your church and you are its member.

When I speak of the Church of England today, I am not speaking about the internal politics of the Anglican sect; I speak of the common creed of our country, the official religion of the English and the British nation, and the institution—older than the monarchy, and much older than Parliament—which made this country. It is no surprise that both the Church and the country itself are in a bad way, divided, internally confused and badly led. The Church is riven by deep disputes over doctrine and governance, and is literally leaderless, with even the process of choosing the next Archbishop of Canterbury unclear, confused and contended. The country itself reflects that—unclear in its doctrines and its governance, profoundly precarious, chronically exposed to threats from without and within. It is at risk economically, culturally, socially and, I would say, morally.

[In July 2025], in the space of three days in one infamous week, this House authorised the killing of unborn children—of nine-month-old babies—and it passed a Bill to allow



the killing of the elderly and disabled. I describe those laws in those stark terms not to provoke further controversy, but because those are the facts. We gave our consent to the greatest crime: the killing of the weak and most defenceless human beings. It was a great sin. If, standing here, I have any power to repent on behalf of this House, I hereby repent of what we did.

In the reaction to these votes, and all around us in reaction to the state of the country and the world, something else is happening. There is a great hunger in society for a better way of living, and I want to use this opportunity to explain what that better way is and why we here in England have the means to follow it.

The Jewish and Christian God is a God of nations. He is interested in people as individuals, but also as groups—as communities not only of kinship but of common worship, with a common God. Uniquely among the nations of the world, this nation—England, from which the United Kingdom grew—was founded and created consciously on the basis of the Bible and the story of the Hebrew people. In that sense, England is the oldest Christian country and the prototype of nations across the west. The story of England is the story of Christianity operating on a people to make the institutions and culture that have been uniquely stable and successful.

The western model was forged and refined in England over a thousand years from the 9th to the 19th centuries. What is that model? It is simply this: that power should arrange itself for the benefit of all the people under it, and specifically for the poorest and weakest; that the law is

there to protect the ordinary person against the abuse of power; and that every individual has equal dignity and freedom, including, crucially, the freedom of conscience, religion and belief, which makes space for other religions under the Christian shield—a secular space. Indeed, the idea of a secular space is a Christian concept that is meaningful only in a Christian world. These are ideas that only make sense if one accepts that we have some intrinsic value—a value that is given to us and is not of our own making or invention.

Throughout the long years from the time of Alfred to the time of Victoria, it was assumed that a nation was a community of common worship and that our community—this country—worshipped the Christian God. Then, in the 20th century, another idea arose: that it was possible for a country to be neutral about God; that the public square was empty of any metaphysics; and that the route to freedom lay through the desert of materialism and individual reason—“no hell below us, above us only sky”. That idea was wrong. The horrors of the 20th century attest to that, not least in the west, where we escaped totalitarianism but have suffered our own catastrophes of social breakdown, social injustice, loneliness and emptiness on a chronic scale.

Ugly and aggressive new threats are now arising, because we have found that in the absence of the Christian God, we do not have pluralism and tolerance, with everyone being nice to each other in a godless world. All politics is religious, and in abandoning one religion we simply create a space for others to move into.

In abandoning one religion we simply create a space for others to move into as the dominant faiths. There are two religions moving into the space from which Christianity has been ejected, and one is Islam. In a debate yesterday, I said how much I find myself in agreement with Muslim colleagues in Parliament on moral and social matters. But as I have been saying, this is a Christian country—if it is a country at all—and I cannot be indifferent to the extent of the growth of Islam in recent decades.

It is the other religion that worries me even more. This other religion is a hybrid of old and new ideas, and it does not have a proper name. I do not think that “woke” does justice to its seriousness. It is a combination of ancient paganism, Christian heresies and the cult of modernism, all mashed up into a deeply mistaken and deeply dangerous ideology of power that is hostile to the essential objects of our affections and our loyalties: families, communities and nations. It is explicitly and most passionately hostile to Christianity as the wellspring of the west. That religion, unlike Islam, must simply be destroyed, at least as a public doctrine. It must be banished from public life—from schools and universities, and from businesses

and public services. It needs to be sent back to the fringes of eccentricity, like the modern druids who invest Stonehenge in my constituency with a theology that is seen as mad but harmless because its followers are so few and no one serious takes them seriously.

We can no longer pretend, as people did in the 20th century, that we can be neutral or indifferent to God or to the public square being a godless desert. The fact is that the strong gods are back, and we have to choose which god to worship. I suggest we worship the God who came in the weakest form, Jesus Christ. This God is a jealous god—it is him or nothing—and we have to own our Christian story, or repudiate it. Not to own it is to repudiate it, and to repudiate Christianity is not only to sever ourselves from our past, but to cut off the source of all the things we value now and that we need in the future, such as freedom, tolerance, individual dignity and human rights.

Without the Christian God, in whose teaching these things have their source, these are inventions—mere non-existent aspirations. To worship human rights is to worship fairies, but if we own our story and remember the real sources of our civilisation, we can have these things and make them real—real freedom and tolerance and dignity, a culture of love and, crucially, a culture of humanity. We are in the age of the machine, and a great choice confronts us: whether to make machines in the image of fallen man, bent on exploitation and domination with mankind in its sights, or to make them what they properly are, the servants of mankind able to help us make a better world.

To conclude, a wind is blowing, a storm is coming and when it hits we are going to learn if our house is built on rock or on sand, but we have been here before. The reformers of the 11th and the 16th centuries, the Puritans in the 17th century, the Evangelicals in the 19th century all brought this country back from the edge—from idolatry, error or just plain indifference, and from all the social and political crises that indifference to Christianity brought about—and they each in their generation restored this country to itself.

A new restoration is needed now, with a revival of the faith, a recovery of a Christian politics and a re-founding of this nation on the teachings that Alfred made the basis of the common law of England all those centuries ago. This is a mission for the Church under its next leader, whoever that is; it is a mission for this place—the old chapel that became the wellspring of western democracy—and for us, its Members; and it is a mission for our whole country. It is the route to a prosperous modernity founded on respect for human dignity, responsibility for the created world and the worship of God.

The St Alban's Bible Course starts on Wednesday 8th October in the Parish Centre

What is it? It's a basic introduction to Bible reading, designed to nurture an interest and love of regular Bible reading. The course lasts for 8 weeks and each session will start at 7.45pm on a Wednesday evening, ending at 9.15pm.

Each session is delivered using a well-made video and through informal group discussion. It's interesting, informative, and interactive. There is an accompanying book for the course, at £9.99 (the Parish will assist if price is a problem). There are additional online resources for each session if you want to delve more deeply. Participants will be encouraged to read a short passage of scripture daily between sessions.

Why not come along on Wednesday 8th to see what it's all about and whether it's what you're looking for? All you need is to sign up, bring yourself, a copy of the Bible (if you have one), and a desire to know more.

The Bible Course
NEW EDITION

biblesociety.org.uk/thebiblecourse

We are running The Bible Course New Edition, and you are invited to join.

Starting Wednesday, 8th October 2025

Time: 19:45
Where: Parish Hall, St Alban's Church, Macclesfield

For more information contact Helen
☎ 07972 694834

SESSION 4
Kings
The Story of Power

To give us a rough idea of who is coming, please leave your name, tel number, and email address on the sign up sheet in the Church porch. Or tel or text Helen on 07972 694834, or email helen.lindars@btinternet.com

*We look forward to
welcoming you!*

An 'at home' with Fr Peter

After a downpour of biblical proportions the previous day, the sun truly shone on the righteous as over 60 old friends dropped by to say hello to Fr Peter in his new home in Sandbach! It was a joyous occasion, greatly enjoyed by everyone, Fr Peter in particular. He was very touched that so many people came and was so pleased to receive messages from well-wishers who were unable to make it.

Not just a meeting of old friends but Fr Peter was so happy to see people introducing themselves to each other for the first time; the joys and sometimes setbacks of having such a large parish.

We are pleased to report that Fr Peter has settled well but it will be no great surprise to you that he is still as busy as ever. Retirement? Well, sort of. He certainly doesn't miss the telephone ringing at midnight for a call-out but is still very active pastorally and supporting the Diocese. At least he has time to start growing vegetables and the chance to visit old friends and travel.

Final word from Fr Peter :

Thanks to everyone for their presence as well as their presents and cards, lovely house warming gifts; I will do my best to keep all the plants thriving but they will definitely be loved.

Love and prayer

Peter



IF YOU THINK IT'S OVER...OH NO, IT'S NOT



The display on the altar at St Alban's comes down. We shall sing "Laudato Si' O mi Signore" for the last time. The festival of the Little Saint from Assisi, (the one known for being an English style animal lover) will come (4th October) and go.

The annual Season of Creation will come to an end. The time of special concern for the environment in the Church is finished.

So is the work done? Can we forget the focus on our environment. By no means. Certainly not while fish are caught by trawlers with microplastic in their bodies, while wildfires and floods occur so much more often and so many glaciers melt with rising global temperatures. We should perhaps think of the dramatic phrase coined by a Pope. And it was not that lefty, Francis, but John-Paul II.



JP II saw "Ecological conversion" as needed, a new way of living in stewardship with creation, not just prayer but different practices in daily life. This was a sensible logical proposal but our daily life is strong on established patterns and not so much on finding new ways of acting as we go about our normal activities.

We buy a lot of things. Supermarkets are places which we spend a lot of time as well as money. And the things we buy are often contained in plastics and glass. The plastics – we know – are just what end up in the sea and ingested by fish which can end up on our plates. Maybe something to avoid for the ecological convert.... Hence the role of the refill shop. The what?

We have a thriving example of a refill shop in Macclesfield, in the Old Sunday school in the car park opposite Tesco's. You would have seen the name (as host or supporter) among the events for the Season of Creation.

Scoop and Scales was established five years ago by activists in the Macclesfield ecology community and is now a thriving enterprise boasting 300 products on its website. (the figure is slightly out of date and it should be 400.) The offer includes a lot of lines supplied by supermarkets but without packaging. You bring your own container to refill with your wash-up liquid or breakfast cereal to be taken home and used/enjoyed without adding to the already large burden on the environment.



Of course we can send plastic and glass to the recycling service run by the council. Unfortunately the recycling industry does not cover all our throwaways. A lot ends up burnt or exported to Third World countries. Even if the items are recycled there is an energy cost to the process. "Refill" on the other hand equals "reuse." Reuse means the elimination of the costs of producing the packaging item in the first place. Energy is thereby saved.

Of course the gigantic problem is not to be solved by my changing my shopping habits on my own. But Scoop and Scales estimate that last year their customers overall avoided sending 15,000 pieces of packaging out to be a burden.

Together we can make a difference. Perhaps it's time to visit Scoop and Scales to see how we might join others in the buying habits consistent with JP II's Ecological conversion.

A good start would be to find out more with a click: [Scoop and Scales - Scoop & Scales](#). It has a lot to offer.

Footnote 1 The call for ecological conversion features again in Pope Francis's 2015 Encyclical about Care of Our Common Home (Laudato Si'.)

Footnote 2 An AI source suggests "there are approximately 200 independent refill and zero waste shops across the UK, with more popping up in recent years."

CAFOD who we are and what we are doing

CAFOD is part of Caritas, the global Catholic aid network that brings love, hope and practical help to our neighbours who are experiencing poverty. More than ever in this Jubilee year, we can join together with this worldwide church network, and offer our support and prayers where they are needed most.

Over recent weeks, the conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan especially have been getting worse, and the suffering of families there is in all our minds and hearts. I want to reassure you that through CAFOD's local Church partners, your support – donations you have made in our previous Fast Day collections - is already reaching our neighbours who are caught up in these emergencies.

Waré's story

This Fast Day, I want to invite you to give, using your CAFOD envelope to help our neighbours like Waré, in Ethiopia.

Waré is a mother to five children, and she and her husband herd goats in southern Ethiopia. Severe drought there over the last four years has meant a lot



of livestock died, and water has become very hard to find. Waré said she has never seen a drought as severe as this. "Because of drought, we always have little water," she says, "and because we have lost so much, many families are vulnerable."

Every day, Waré gets up at 5am and walks for a minimum of five hours to find water and return home. But if the nearest water sources have dried up, she has to keep looking – a much longer day, walking to find water.

This is Waré's daily challenge. She even had to walk to find water when she was pregnant with her youngest child. "Sometimes I felt so weak I could fall down ... I was fearful for the baby that I was pregnant with, but that child was with me – so I was also afraid for my [other] children, thinking that maybe I would not make it back to them and they would be left as children without a mother."



ENJOY
delicious homemade soups
& support
CAFOD
Harvest Soup Lunch
in the
Parish Centre
12.30, Friday 17 October
£5.00 - more if you can!

But Waré had you, the Catholic community of England and Wales, as her good neighbours.

With your gifts at Family Fast Day, CAFOD worked together with Waré and her community to build an underground water storage tank, able to support 300 families through a normal dry season¹ and even in longer droughts.

Instead of walking ten hours there and back, or longer, now the tank will mean Waré has water just a 10-minute walk from her home.

Change like this takes time. It calls us to stand with people for the long term, just as Waré and her community stand alongside and support each other.

Please pray that the rains come for Waré's community – your prayers for our neighbours are so needed.

Please give to help communities like Waré's until those rains come. If you can consider starting a monthly gift today, you'll be committing to helping more of our neighbours in need around the world for the long term.

Harvest Fast Day Appeal is 11 & 12 October and Soup Lunch in the Parish Centre on Fri, 17 Oct.



You can give monthly at

cafod.org.uk/envelope

On behalf of CAFOD, thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for supporting Waré and all of our other neighbours in these hard and uncertain times.

Jerome Johnston

Refugees Welcome, Cheshire East

Nicky Campbell (Chair of trustees) writes

A notable, quiet anniversary

10 years ago, yes, it was really 10 years ago, our news broadcasts and newspaper front pages were dominated by pictures of Syrian refugees leaving Syria and Lebanon in small boats, trying to reach safety from terrifying war. One particular picture of a man carrying a dead child, tugged at our collective heart strings to the extent that we knew we had to help in some way.

A meeting was called in Macclesfield. Can we help? People from St Alban's joined those from other churches at the Methodist Church and Refugees Welcome was born. It took time to prepare the groundwork – would there be enough houses, school places, GPs, work for any families who might wish to come to Macclesfield? A partnership was established with Cheshire East Council, and they provided money and support personnel.

Charity formed

Refugees Welcome Cheshire East became a charity, run by trustees and a treasurer. Early in 2017 the first five Syrian families arrived. They spoke no English, so they needed much vital support from our volunteers. A steep learning curve on all sides! The original families are still here and have settled into our community.

Since our tentative early days, we have welcomed two more Syrian families, eight Afghan families, more than 700 Ukrainians, a Chagossian family and a Sudanese family into our Refugees Welcome fold. We run English lessons, Conversation cafés, family support and a furniture and removals service. We still work alongside Cheshire East Communities team, but they are unable to fund us, so we have to spend time fundraising.

Compassion

Currently, in the UK, there are people who do not hold refugees with great feelings of compassion. However, I always point out that no-one would voluntarily leave a place of safety to move to the unknown. I think we should consider how a family must feel before they pack everything they can and leave, as Jesus' family did for the flight into Egypt.

For more information www.refugeeswelcome.co.uk



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)

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




The Parish Social Committee have invited Claritas choir to perform for us in the parish centre on Friday, October 17 at 7:30 pm.

You will be guaranteed a FUN evening.

Tickets are available after masses. Pay by cash, or online – Bank details slips will be available.

Adults £10, and Suggested donations for children-£2-5.

Tickets are limited.

There will be no availability on the door. All Proceeds go to East Cheshire Hospice.

We would welcome donations for raffle prizes, and also cakes on the evening.

Enquiries to Mary on maryfrommacc@msn.com, or Sallyann on sallyanno_dell@hotmail.com



Claritas Choir

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

Tickets on sale after Masses on 5 October and 12 October



World Apostles of Fatima (Crusade St. Marys)

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

St Alban's 500 Club

2025 Summer Draw Winners

1st prize — £250
Karyn Johnston

2nd prize — £100
Charles Golabek

3rd prize — £50
Cecillia Davison

4th prize — £50
Richard Meah

Next Draw 14 December 2025
You have to be in to win it!

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**](mailto: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

Join members of the parish on the 3rd Wednesday of the month
 We meet again on Wednesday 15 Oct 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



We'll meet in the Parish Centre on
Wednesday 8th October 2025
3pm for a cuppa and 3.15pm start.

We are reading
The Women
by **Kristin Hannah**

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, 9 October 2025

Thursday, 13 November 2025

Thursday, 11 December 2025



ST ALBAN'S LADIES GROUP



AUTUMN PROGRAMME

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 on
07305 267325**

missio

**Missionaries of HOPE
among all peoples**

**WORLD MISSION
SUNDAY**

19TH OCTOBER 2025

On the weekend of 19th October, we will join our global Catholic family in celebrating World Mission Sunday.

World Mission Sunday (WMS) is coordinated by Missio, the Pope's official charity for world mission. Donations to WMS go directly to missionaries and local churches in mission dioceses and ensures that support reaches communities most in need in areas of great poverty, conflict and turmoil.

Each prayer and every contribution to the global collection is a powerful act of support for

'Missionaries of Hope amongst all peoples'

There are many ways in which we can donate:

- ✘ *World Mission Sunday envelopes*
- ✘ *Jar at the back of Church*
- ✘ *Send a cheque – Made payable to World Mission Sunday and post to Missio, 23 Eccleston Sq, London SW1V 1NU*
- ✘ *Give online – missio.org.uk/donate*
- ✘ *Give via phone on 020 7821 9755*
- ✘ *Bank transfer:*
Account Name: Missio
Sort Code 16-00-16
Account No. 10824230
Reference: WMS+your postcode

Dear friends, we face many challenges, however anything you can give will be so gratefully received.

You have to be
quiet when
children
are sleeping
not when
they are
being killed



Picture: The Times of Israel

So what are you doing?

- 🕯 are you boycotting Israeli goods and encouraging others to do so?
- 🕯 are you calling for sanctions on Israel?
- 🕯 are you pressing your pension provider to divest from companies which supply arms to the Israeli army?
- 🕯 have you been attending the vigils in Macclesfield?
- 🕯 are you talking to friends and family about the situation in Gaza and the West Bank?
- 🕯 are you proudly wearing your keffiyeh/Palestine flag so others can see where your allegiance lies?
- 🕯 are you praying for true recognition for the Palestinians and that any 'peace plan' will bring them freedom, justice and equality?
- 🕯 are you engaging with charities like Amos Trust and Embrace to find out what is really going on in the West Bank and Gaza?

Don't just say it's awful, DO SOMETHING, however small, to help to change it.

More info from Macc4Pal at maccpalestine@gmail.com

REMEMBERING GAZA

A Silent Vigil

outside Macclesfield Town Hall
5.00 – 6.00pm

Friday 3rd October

We will remember the suffering
the 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,

Please don't bring 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

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TREK 2026!



Trek the Great Wall of China for East Cheshire Hospice
What's holding you back?

11TH - 19TH NOVEMBER 2026

www.echospice.org.uk/trek-china-2026



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

Monthly News Editor: Karyn Johnston
E: karynmjohnston@gmail.com T: 01625 501172
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