

St. John's Church Mosley Common



*A part of the Astley, Tyldesley &
Mosley Common Team Ministry*

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Who's Who

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Services

Church Services

There is a service every Sunday morning at 10.30am. Other services are held at various times and various days according to season. Details are given in this magazine.

The Rowans

There is a regular Holy Communion service in the Rowans Lounge on Lindale Road. For details see the Diary Dates page in this magazine.

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

These can be arranged by contacting the Vicar.

Information

Prayer Chain

For urgent prayer requests contact Glennys Worthington on 0161 702 8566 or Nick / Adele Hardman on 01942 888786

Music

Our Organist is Alan Wood ('phone 0161 790 7544) and the leader of the Music Group is David Barnes ('phone 0161 702 8104)

World Mission

We support several societies working at home and abroad, especially Stephen and Tabita Bell working with the European Christian Mission in Croatia and Hansi and Kath Jain in India.

Magazine

This is published every two months throughout the year. The Magazine Secretary is Glennys Worthington ('phone 0161 702 8566) and the Editors are Andrea & Sylvia Taziker ('phone 0161 799 5754). We will deliver a copy to anyone who places a regular order.

Activities

Toddler Group

This meets in the Church Lounge on Thursdays from 9.30am until 11.30am. The leader is Marcelle Cory.

Brownies

The 4th Tyldesley Brownies meet in St. John's School on Tuesdays at 6.30pm. For information contact Kathryn Clare ('phone 01925 763799)

Church Youth Group

This meets in the Church Lounge on Sunday evenings, starting at 7pm. For information contact David Kendrick (01942 882854)

CYPEC

This is the name given to our children's and young people's groups which meet in Church on Sunday mornings.

Women's Fellowship Group

This meets in the Church Lounge on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. The Leader is Ann Haigh ('phone 0161 799 6672)

Fellowship Groups

There are several groups meeting regularly in members' homes and in the Church Lounge for Bible Study, Fellowship and Prayer. For the latest information, contact Mike Stuckey ('phone 0161 357 0155) or Keith Worthington ('phone 0161 702 8566)



Of Halloween & Guy Fawkes

A few days ago, I got involved in an interesting discussion on the Internet about the church and its role and values. It wasn't in a place that you'd normally expect to find a serious discussion about the church..... but, I suppose, knowing me, you won't be surprised to learn that it was on

the firework forum that I'm involved with! Honestly, though, I didn't start it.

It started when someone wrote about their disappointment at not being allowed to do a Halloween event for the church school their children go to. The background is this: when Guy Fawkes Day falls during the week, the demand for firework displays gets spread across the weekends before and after it. But this year Guy Fawkes Day falls on a weekend and that means that just about everyone wants their firework display on the one weekend. To ease the pressure, it was suggested that this particular school might like to have a firework display for Halloween instead. My firework friend understood Halloween to be All Hallows Eve and so thought it might be a something suitable for a church school to celebrate. He was disappointed and puzzled to be told otherwise. So, on the firework forum he expressed his disappointment and puzzlement, writing, "They are happy to do a celebration for Guy Fawkes where someone tried to commit terrorism and then got burnt to death but not celebrate Halloween. (Hallows Eve)."

Actually, I'm pleased to be able to say that the discussion that followed was good-natured and positive. Eventually, as the resident Vicar, I thought I should join in. Obviously, folk were expecting - even hoping - that I would. And this is what I said.....

"Probably the issue is what things have become and what people are making of them today.

Many people don't know what 5th November historically is about. So they don't see themselves as celebrating anything connected with terrorism or attempted regime change. Anyway, I understood that, originally, the celebrations were about marking the failure of the plot and were a kind of thanksgiving that the "terrorists" did not succeed. So today we can celebrate the triumph of good over evil.

All Hallows Eve and All Saints Day should be good things to celebrate. But few people these days seem to know or understand what Halloween is. So it's become associated with the dark side of things, and wickedness, evil and mischief have become the prevalent themes. Trick or treat is considered as mischief - quite apart from there being other concerns about child safety these days. So churches and their schools, understandably I reckon, don't want to be involved in the celebration of things that are not good. They'd rather remind folk (especially children) of the good things and show that we can have fun and we can have a party based on positive themes. Try that, though, and we get accused of being spoil sports - folk just prefer to latch on to the bad things. Mission on, methinks."

There was more in the discussion about the positive role of the church in the community. Maybe I'll write about that for the magazine another time. As I said in the discussion on-line, that's a subject dear to my heart and one that I could say or write a lot about! Certainly the positive role in the community is something that I reckon we at St. John's have been working on with success. But for now, concerning the festivals coming up in the next few weeks.... concerning Halloween and Guy Fawkes, I wrote "Mission on, methinks". So that's what I think.

What do you think?

Julian Hartley ~ Vicar

