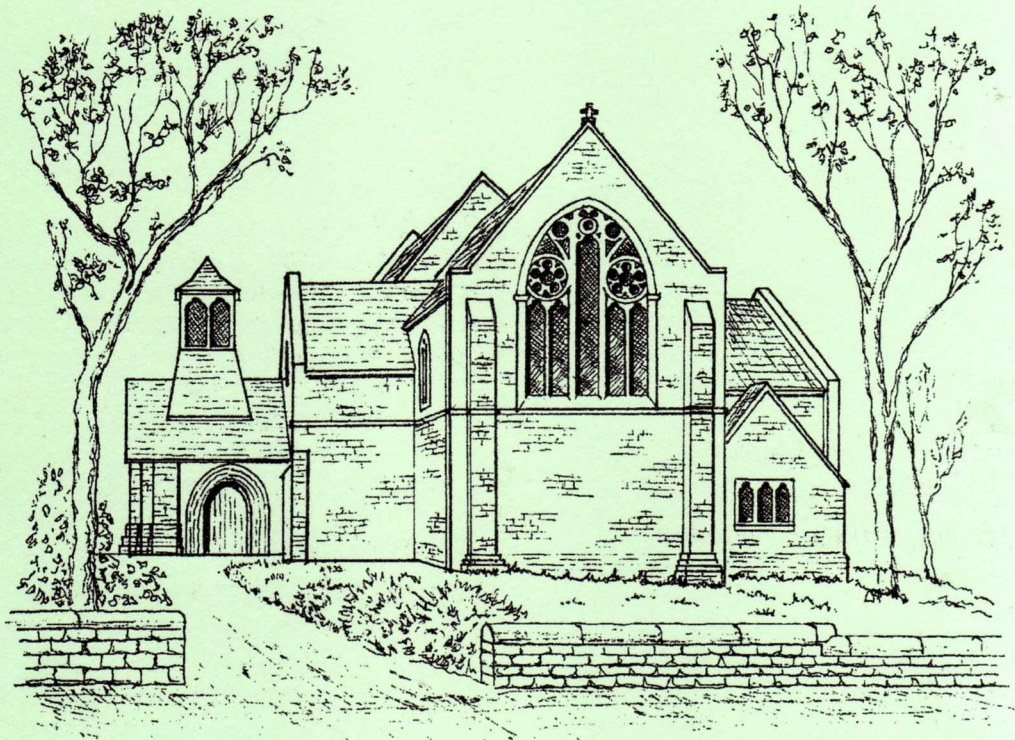


# *St. John's Church Mosley Common*



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

*Church Magazine  
August/September 2012  
75p*

# Who's Who

## Vicar

Rev. Julian Hartley  
St. John's Vicarage  
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## Readers

Mr. Keith Worthington  
'phone 0161 702 8566

Mr. Mike Stuckey  
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Mr. David Kendrick  
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## Churchwardens

Mrs. Marie Stuckey  
35 Brett Road, Boothtown  
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Miss. Andrea Taziker  
9 Pear Tree Grove  
'phone 0161 799 5754

## P.C.C. Secretary

Mavis Wright  
81 Manchester Road, Astley  
'phone 01942 878366

## St. John's School Head Teacher

Mr. Warren George  
St. John's School  
'phone 0161 790 2195

## Team Rector

Rev. Jonathan Carmyllie  
'phone 01942 883313  
e-mail j.carmyllie@btinternet.com

## 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

## 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

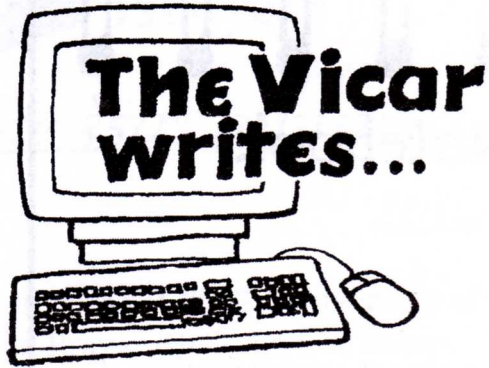
This is the name given to our children's and young people's groups which meet in Church on Sunday mornings.

### 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)



One of the big events in the Olympics is the marathon, a challenging race of something over 26 miles. I've not run a marathon, but in my school days I used to like cross country running. You set off full of energy, raring to go yet knowing that it's going to be a long, hard race. You have to pace yourself for it, ready to cope with the inevitable exhaustion and showing dogged determination to finish. Then, at the end there's a sense of exhilaration that the race has been run, that you have completed it - there's a sense of achievement.

Don't worry... I'm not going to turn out like my old games master and take you out on a long, hard, muddy cross country race! Mind you, there is a race for us to run. As we run it I commend to you these words from the writer of the letter to the Hebrews...

"...let us run with determination the race that lies before us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. He did not give up because of the cross!..." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

We're running together. In this race we're running with each other, not against each other. And it is a race for everybody to run in.

Mind you, just as in the big races there are certain runners that people tend to look out for. I suppose that in our race, because I'm the Vicar I'm one of the runners that people will look out for! Hey, ho... That's life as a public figure for you! But never mind looking out for such as me! Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus!

As for the race itself, well St. Paul put it like this...

"...However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me - the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace..." (Acts 20:24)

That neatly sums up the task of the Church - its mission and ministry. That's the race the Church is on and, since we are part of the Church, it's also the race we're on.

I am certain that we are able to run that race and to run it well. Furthermore, I believe that we can finish it with a sense of satisfaction and achievement. As we travel along the course and discover its twists and turns, the downhill bits and the hills to climb, remember God who equips us for the race, who gives us the energy to run it and who provides the blessings that await us at the end.

Julian Hartley ~ Vicar

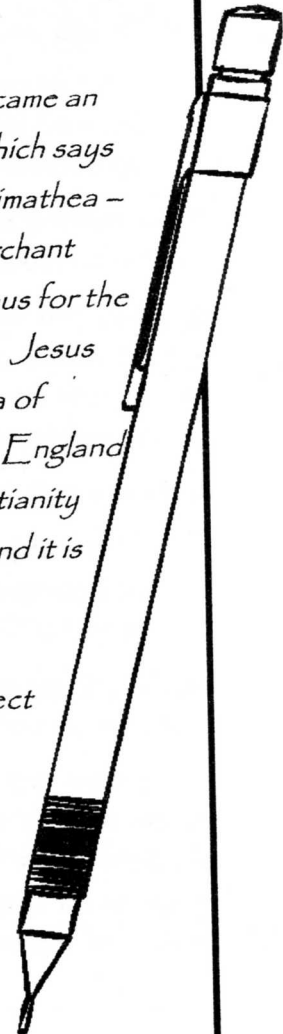
# The PCC Secretary's Notebook

*As many of you may have realized, I love books and have a great respect for them. I don't think I could ever buy one of those Kindles. I have recently come across one entitled "Mary called Magdalene", a big thick paperback of some 900 pages. Wonderful! It covers the life of Mary Magdalene from 7 years old. I am currently up to a part where Mary, with her parents and brothers, has just been on her first annual pilgrimage to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. On the return journey home, amongst other families, Mary has just met Jesus and his family. How much of this is true who knows but there is a lot of fascinating history in it!*

*In the bible not much is known of Jesus from around that time until He became an adult. As you may expect, I have also read yet another wonderful book which says that Jesus may have come to England with his great uncle, Joseph of Arimathea - hence 'And did those feet'. Joseph of Arimathea was a very wealthy merchant trading in tin and other materials, and he made journeys to Cornwall, famous for the mining of tin. He also of course claimed Jesus' body after the crucifixion. Jesus seemed used to being on the sea. He slept through the storm on the Sea of Galilee when his disciples were fearing for their lives. Did Jesus come to England with him during those missing years? Who else would have brought Christianity to this country? Apparently in Cornwall there is much evidence of this and it is generally accepted there that He did.*

*I expect this is common knowledge to the more experienced on this subject but I for one never realized, so I shall continue reading and learning.*

*Mavis - PCC Secretary*



## *The 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the 1662 Prayer Book*

This year sees the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the 1662 Prayer Book or the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) as it is known. It was published after the Restoration of the monarchy with Charles II and was part of an effort to restore to the country some of the stability that it had lost during the Civil War period when to many people it seemed that the world had 'turned upside down'. It wanted to re-establish a 'reasonable' religion which would in turn balance and stabilise family and community life firmly rooted in the Christian faith. In it were set out the services that we would all recognise today as part of the Church of England; Morning prayer, Evening Prayer, Baptism, Marriage, Funeral, Holy Communion. However the book itself is based on the original Book of Common Prayer first published in 1549 under Edward IV and later reorganised by Archbishop Cranmer of Canterbury – one of my heroes, a fallible man who was martyred for his religion, with a great speech before he died.

Even today the rites of passage laid out in it still mark our modern and more secular lives. Large numbers still come to church for the service of baptism for their children. Words of the still popular service of Holy Matrimony are part of our daily language; *"I take thee to my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part...."*, *"Speak now or forever hold your peace"*, *"With this ring I thee wed"*. From the Funeral service; *"Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust"* is part of our common heritage. Whilst the language has changed in more modern versions, the words of the 1662 book and its influence still permeate our world today and are still central to the Christian faith and illuminate our common worship.

Interestingly whilst the Book of Common Prayer is long out of copyright and can be freely reproduced around the world that is not the case in the UK. Here it is what is known as a 'royal prerogative' held by the crown in perpetuity and if you want to publish in the UK you have to obtain a special licence to do so!

Around the country and indeed around the world there have been and will be special events to mark the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary and many churches will be holding Book of Common Prayer services in the original 1662 language. There is a day of celebration on the 8<sup>th</sup> September in Chester Cathedral and in the same month an exhibition in Carlisle Cathedral.

After the Bible the Book of Common Prayer is the most frequently cited book in the "Oxford Dictionary of Quotations". It has been published in over 200 different languages around the globe including Zulu, Persian, Mohawk, Kashmiri and Eskimo-Aleut. It has a matchless beauty of language that has shaped the culture and thought of the English speaking world and has nourished millions of Christians in their faith and will continue to do so *forevermore*.

# The Summer Fayre and Heritage Day 2012

By Andrea Taziker

Well, I have to admit that given the rather wet weather we have been having lately, and 'wet' is an understatement if there ever was one, we had a lot of alternative plans ready for our joint church and school events in June and July! No-one was thus more amazed when both days turned out to be gloriously sunny - divine intervention maybe? I was seriously relieved for the Heritage Day commemorative stone unveiling which, as the stone was stuck to the outside of the building there was little scope to move the ceremony inside! However I need not have worried, July 7<sup>th</sup> to my amazement given the flood warnings, which frankly are becoming normality this summer, dawned bright and sunny and stayed that way all day. Our local MP Mr. Andy Burnham turned up on time and did a lovely speech about our local area and Mr. Tinker, a well loved MP of past years who used to teach the boys of the school football in the very playground we were stood in. The curtain, fit for the stage at the Palladium, came off the Velcro with elegance - we had tried some out on the brick wall of our house the week before to see if it stood up to the weather, it did! And the school choir sang 'All things bright and beautiful' and 'drunken sailor' wonderfully, the Vicar added the importance of our church school and the part played in educational reform in the past by the church and we all sang 'Jerusalem' lustily at the end! The exhibition was very interesting - and its tricky writing this myself as I did the displays! "Do you remember.....?!" was often repeated as I listened to people looking for their names in the school records or their house on a map or their face in a photograph. Andy the MP, as he said to call him, had a walk round the exhibition, a chat to the Community Group representatives who had their own display of the hard work they are doing in the area and brought up the topic of the 'bus', need I say more!?! The Hot Pot lunch was fantastic and many people stayed for a few hours, had lunch, afternoon tea, the children made peg dolls, played Victorian games and took part in Victorian classroom re-enactment and there was even a guided tour of the building including the splendid new commemorative stone! It was a marvellous day, with a busy and bustling atmosphere and a lovely sharing of memories and knowledge. A fantastic way to celebrate 190 years of our school faithfully serving the community in Mosley Common. Roll on 2022 and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, now what can we do for that?

The Summer Fayre 2 weeks before this was also a most successful event. We did make the decision to hold the Fayre inside this year, Plan B, which although the day turned out sunny was the correct decision as it was really, really windy! We had a performance space in the middle of the hall and were wowed by the antics of Mister Magic Man and his rabbit, impressed by the nimbleness of the Zumba group, amazed at the agility of the gymnastic twists and twirls of the Abigail Bibby School of Dancing and delighted by the relaxed limberness of the Lindale Ladies and Friends. We had many stalls and games for people to indulge, plants were sold some unusual varieties of tomato included, the Children's Centre ran the duck hooking and bobbing apples (and got a little wet!). The food was delicious both in the cafe with its wonderful strawberry teas and the yummy beef burgers! All in all a wonderful day was had by all and the event made over £700 for our church and school! A big thanks goes to all who helped at these events as without them none of this would have been possible!

A big Thanks

# *My Jubilee Experiences*

*By Sylvia Taziker*

When it was mentioned to me that we should spend our May Bank Holiday as near to London as possible so that we could go into the City to see the Jubilee Celebrations I must admit that I was very worried! When I look back I feel very pleased with myself because had I known some of the things I did I would probably have stayed at home! But I loved it, the crowds, the pouring rain, the cheering, the mad waving of flags (or your scarves or Union Jack paper hankies if you had forgotten your flags!), train journeys, soggy beef butties, and another day with only half a slice of bread and jam for breakfast (because we had no more bread) and then nothing else but a cup of coffee until 6 o'clock!

Our journey began on Friday, we had decided that we would not use the motorways and that we would , stay at one of motels and continue our journey in the morning slowly making our way to the caravan we had finally booked at a place called Dorney Reach which is about half a mile from Eton. It is actually where the lake is which is being used for the rowing competitions in the Olympics. Dorney is a village on the banks of the Thames, there were seats at the end of a path on our caravan site where we could have gone to sit on and watch the river on the balmy summer evenings we should have been due to, Andrea did have a walk down to look with waterproofs, boots and broolly, she was back in about five minutes as the forecasted gale had arrived early, we never even braved it! Our journey had brought us through some lovely country side and some very busy places, we had actually seen some of the Formula One cars "flying" around the track at Silverstone. We went through Slough which is a busy area and eventually arrived in Eton which is very interesting but quickly turned off the main street and amazingly found ourselves in the countryside and going across Dorney Common which is a sort of marshy place with the road running through the middle of it and a large herd of cows which just wander about, Every day as we started out we drove towards Eton, over the Common and besides the cows we had a wonderful view of Eton and Windsor Castle, a very good way to start the day.

On the Sunday we went by train from Windsor to London and queued for a taxi at Waterloo where we had seats booked on a platform on the Embankment opposite the Houses of Parliament. The platform had been specially erected for disabled people and as it wasn't full up we all managed to get onto it and stay together, luckily we had taken our rolled up chairs to sit on as there were no seats provided (I became very fond of my Union "Jack" seat – no Union "Flag" for me!). We had a wonderful view of the whole flotilla and as the Queen passed she and the Duchess of Cornwall turned and waved straight at us! Well that was what it seemed like! Everything was wonderful, I particularly liked the bells, I loved the bits where numerous church bells rang as the barge passed by, we were opposite the Houses of Parliament and could hear the Westminster Abbey bells amongst all the rest, cue the tears in the eyes! Everything in the Pageant was wonderful and we felt very privileged to be able to watch it as it happened. We stood and waved and cheered for about 2hrs, quite a bit in the rain, but it went by so quickly, it was magical! We had begun to pack up and walk away but were having a last look at the river when the Canal Boats came slowly along, so of course we stayed to watch! It had rained on and off but at that point the big stuff came and we were utterly drenched but did not budge. We felt connected to the boats and made lots of noise cheering and pointing them out to each other and all the other people listening when we spotted the ones we thought came from near to us and the ones which had apparently to us been coal barges – I will always remember the sight of them passing the Houses of Parliament in the pouring rain in this misty light, it was a perfect memory.

As we were returning home completely drenched I had a very frightening experience. Back at Waterloo station Roy went to look for us a seat then we heard our train being announced and Andrea went to look for him and I carried on to our platform. However by then it seemed that London was emptying by way of that station and the crowd was moving across my path, terrifying wasn't the word for it, in the end I went with the crowd to the entrance to their platforms and then managed to struggle along to ours. We then

went onto our platform with only 2 minutes to spare and I was busy protesting that I couldn't possibly get onto the train because there was a big gap up to the door, Andrea was trying in vain to pull me up when all of a sudden a hand in a black coat came, grabbed hold of my arm and virtually hoisted me in, we didn't know who the hand belonged to because the train was so full up and still don't today but are very grateful. I have never seen so many people squashed into anything in my whole life, it was very full when it set off but at every station the voice came over the tannoy asking everyone to move up if possible so that the people waiting there could get on, I felt more like shouting "never mind them, just leave them waiting!"

Next day was the concert night, we decided to go to a theatre in an old barn nearby where they had a big screen; the evening began with champagne and canapés and the crowd in there were very nice. Once again we waved, sang, cheered and really enjoyed it (and we had seats and were dry!)

On the day of the Procession from St.Pauls we only went into London about dinner time as we knew that we were not likely to get a place to see much, but we wanted to be amongst the hustle and bustle. This time we went by car, the traffic was scary, that is all I can say about it. We again got a taxi and the driver told us that The Mall, Trafalgar Square, Green Park and one of the other Parks were all full so he took us as near to the Mall as possible, we had a little walk and eventually put our chairs up in the street at the back of the Duke of York's Column, we did ask permission from a policeman! Again the rain arrived, but nobody bothered we all had macs of some kind and by then everyone was used to it. I really enjoyed it because this street became the highway to Hyde Park as almost everyone who passed had been trying to get into Trafalgar Square and then were told to go to Hyde Park and had no idea where it was and stopped to ask our policeman. It provided us with lots of fun as quite a while later they returned after being told that Hyde Park was full! Andrea just missed by one to get into Trafalgar Square, if she had got in she may have met Ann Hilton who had managed to get in there earlier and had been able to join Boris Johnsons Party and had had a fabulous time. Had we been able to get into Hyde Park we could have seen Betty Hartley who had enjoyed the day there, being fed with all kinds of food which was being given out to everyone and watching on the big screens. We were actually sat on the white line in the middle of the road, in, of all places, Pall Mall! I bet that doesn't happen every day. A young Japanese man came to a stop in front of us and got his fluffy sound boom out of his bag and was then joined by his companion a young Japanese lady with her T.V. camera who asked us if we would mind if she asked us some questions. The young lady was very concerned that we had been there for two hours and not seen the Procession but Andrea kindly informed her that it didn't really matter because her mother, who was sitting there wet through with her Kagool hood fastened very tightly over her head and face, was there to see the flypast because the Red Arrows would be in it and she was a big fan. At that minute the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight came right over where we were sitting and I got up as quickly as possible - then came the Red Arrows - day made! I was only glad that I don't know anyone in Japan who if they saw us on the T.V. may have wondered at this person who sits in the middle of the street, wet through, in the pouring rain on this day of all the pomp and ceremony waiting for nine red aeroplanes to fly over! Although I was quite satisfied I would have liked to see something of the rest of the day's festivities. We couldn't get a taxi back to the car and it was still tipping down, the next best thing came by a 'rickshaw'- well, I made a lot of noise saying I couldn't possibly get in but the young man was very persuasive and actually fitted us all three in, we asked him to drop us off in the street opposite the Ritz but he went one better and actually dropped us off at the front door of the Ritz, we certainly arrived in style as we made our escape across the road!

Our last visit into London was on the Wednesday when we had tickets for a Concert on the Horse Guards Parade by the Combined Bands of the Six Companies of the Royal Marines. It had been a lovely sunny day but about half an hour into the concert the rain again came down in bucketfuls but no matter, everyone merely got out their trusted Kagools once more and stayed sitting, rain or no rain. The bands were very good, we have seen them before in Liverpool but not six Companies together. I love the drummers, the way their arms are always so in immaculate time. Afterwards we were allowed to cross Horse Guards Parade and were able to see the Mall in all its glory with all the Union Jacks flying in the wind and the Palace at the end. It made a fitting end to a few days we are never likely to forget.



# Fruit of the Spirit

For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth; ~Eph 5:9

S U L E E C G G E S U S T  
S O O E G O O F N T O U E  
E C N A R E P M E T N S O  
N G G S A F A I T H E H O  
K S S G S C P O E L O N O  
E U U O C E E E K O O O G  
E T F O O P N R S S S V U  
M P F D S E E E N O P N E  
I E E N E T Y P L E N G S  
O N R E O O E R I T S N G  
E A I S J A G C G G N N S  
M R N S C N T H E Y F E K  
E T G E P E G E O N C T G



FAITH

GENTLENESS

GOODNESS

JOY

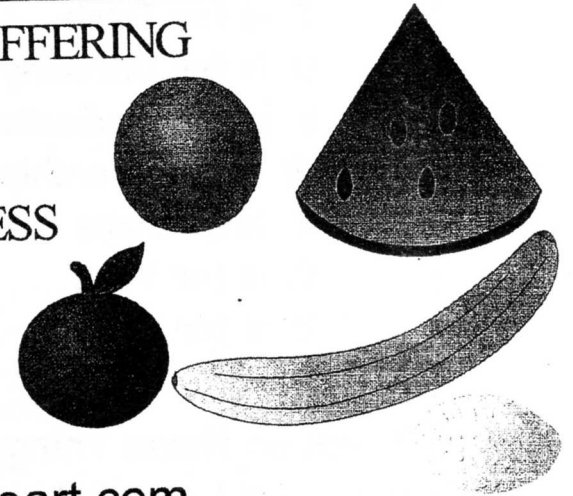
TEMPERANCE

LONGSUFFERING

LOVE

MEEKNESS

PEACE



# A BIBLICAL ALPHABET

By Margaret Howarth

This is my simple alphabet, do one for yourself. You will be surprised at the outcome.

- A is for Angel
- B is for Birth
- C is for Christ
- D is for Disciple
- E is for Evangelist
- F is for Faith
- G is for God
- H is for Heaven
- I is for Immanuel
- J is for Joseph
- K is for Kingdom
- L is for Love
- M is for Mary
- N is for Nazareth
- O is for Orator
- P is for Peace
- Q is for Quiet
- R is for Resurrection
- S is for Slain
- T is for Tomb
- U is for Unfailing
- V is for Vindicated
- W is for Worship
- X is Exerxes
- Y is for Yoke
- Z is for Zeal

Think on these things, read each work in turn and reading them will help with your concerns. Be loyal and faithful and always be true to a God who will never abandon you.

The First Time at St. John's 25<sup>th</sup> September 1887

I paused when I entered the church,  
The first time I'd been in the place.  
Dear Mrs. Brown was before me,  
Excitement and joy on her face.  
Staunchly patronal that lady,  
Her cheeks flushed and eyes spilling tears.  
It was the first time for everyone:  
Construction had taken two years.

The Sidesman gave me two church books:  
A hymn book and Common Prayer;  
A good Church of England welcome.  
He smiled as I focused my stare  
On the folk already seated,  
This promised a memorable night.  
I could smell the pitchy-pine pews  
And fumes from the flick'ring gas lights.

I found a spare place near the back,  
The Baptism font at my side.  
Entered the Choir and the Clergy  
Their faces brimming with pride.  
This a new church for the people  
And hymns full of praise we did sing.  
A place for humble devotion,  
A house for our Heavenly king.

Morning Service March 2012

The Morning Service at the Church of St. John  
Had started on time - it's ten thirty-one.  
The Reverend Hartley bade 'Welcome!' to all  
Then offered a prayer by the Apostle Paul.

'The ladies, on Wednesday, their usual event  
'Have a service in church each week throughout Lent.  
'On Thursday the toddlers, in the room at the back,  
'They are guided of course by dear Mrs. Black.

'Our first hymn today is two-hundred and three.  
'Please join together and sing *Happy are we.*  
A familiar tune the Organist played  
And such wonderful sounds of Worship they made.

When the people sat down the Warden did stand  
Her own Book of Scriptures there in her hand.  
The gospel she read was from Luke, Chapter four,  
Of our Lord in the desert showing Satan the door!

'Temptation', the theme of the service today;  
How stealthily the Devil will pass our way.  
'May the minist'ring Angels who by His side  
'Be constantly with us till the Eastertide'.

### Writers notes

In September 1887, 'dear Mrs. Brown' was the widow of John Brown and the Brown family lived at Pear Tree House. The family were one of the original pioneers of the Mosley Common School Church and their son, George was a member of the Building Committee when the church was planned. Margaret Brown was truly patronal and would have been proud, like everyone else, when she entered the doors for the *first time!* The pulpit was provided by the Brown family and was dedicated to John Brown who died in 1878.

Both of these tales are part-imaginary but the events were real as were the people, except, of course, Mrs Black who was included to support the rhyme!

In September 1887, 'dear Mrs. Brown' was the widow of John Brown and the Brown family lived at Pear Tree House House. The family were one of the original pioneers of the Mosley Common School Church and their son, George was a member of the Building Committee when the church was planned. Margaret Brown was truly patronal and would have been proud, like everyone else, when they entered the church doors *for the first time!* Both of these tales are part-imaginary but the events were real as were the people, except, of course, Mrs Black who was included to support the rhyme.

The pulpit was provided by the Brown family and was dedicated to John Brown who died in 1878. The Baptism Font was provided by Mrs. Harrison of Chaddock Hall and was located at the rear of the church but was removed when the Church Lounge was built. A new font was provided by Walter Smith in memory of his wife, Margaret who died in 1977. The handsome brass eagle lectern stood in front of the Chancel and was given by Mrs. J. Higham of Ivy House, Swinton and in memory of her husband, John, who was a leading subscriber to the Building Fund.

## Hymns sung in 1887

The Hymns sang at the opening of St. John's Church in September 1887, 125 years ago, were: 'Christ is the Foundation of the house we raise', 'All people that on earth do dwell' and 'Glory to thee my God this night'.

**"Christ is the foundation  
of the house we raise;  
be its walls salvation,  
and its gateways praise;  
may its threshold lowly  
to the Lord be dear;  
may the hearts be holy  
that shall worship here."**

This first verse of this hymn seems most appropriate for the service which commemorates the official opening of a new church and it must have been sung with real emotion on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1887.

**"All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,  
come ye before Him and rejoice."**

This is sung to the tune known as the 'Old Hundredth' as it is based on Psalm 100. The hymn was written in the 16<sup>th</sup> century in Geneva by 2 Protestant exiles fleeing religious persecution in their own countries, a topic familiar to modern times as well. William Kenthe, a Scottish clergyman was helping to translate the Bible especially the Psalms and put the words together. Louis Bourgeois, a French protestant, was helping him and added the tune. In this year of celebrations it is interesting to note that this hymn was also sung at the Queen's Coronation in 1953.

**"Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."**

A century later Thomas Ken wrote 'Glory to thee my God this night' of which this is the last verse, known as the 'Doxology' in the Protestant church. This is a hymn of praise that extols the glory and majesty of God, from the Greek word 'doxa' which means 'glory'. The tune to which it is sung is by Thomas Tallis perhaps England's greatest early composer and the leading composer of music in Tudor England. He managed to live and work through the reigns of all the Tudors, remain Catholic and wrote in English! An amazing and talented man!

# Our Story and God's Story.

By M. and M. Stuckey

When Bishop Nigel visited the parish in May 2010 as part of his pilgrimage to every parish in the Manchester Diocese we reflected on the 'story of our church'. Bishop Nigel brought with him the Commonwealth Baton, which has a distinctive light that pulses with the runner's heartbeat, this bator provided a symbol as we were charged to pass on the Gospel to the next generation. Those who began the task of building the church over 125 years ago would rejoice that God's word is still being spread today in Mosley Common.

The first service of 'Divine Worship' at St John's was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 1887, 125 years ago this year, but the roots of the church started many years before that. The beginning is closely linked to the establishment of a school, initially a Sunday School, in 1822. As the years passed it was felt that a church building was needed.

The intricacies of plans, endowments, discussions and funding are detailed elsewhere but in 1885 it was decided to name the planned church after St. John. So in September 1885 the Foundation Stone was laid. Even in the pouring rain what an exciting day that must have been!

The curate in charge at the time was the Reverend John Morris and he was reported as saying that, "He rejoiced in thinking of Mosley Common that they had there the Church of England in all its purity, that they had the absence of all ritualism in their services, for where the Gospel is preached in all its simplicity there true progress had been made."

Reverend Morris served the parish for 21 years, 11 as Curate-in Charge and the rest as vicar. His task was to build the church and secure money for it. We know the church took two years to build but it was 1896 before all the money had been paid off. It is a credit to our forefathers that "they did not stint from the task".

Reverend Morris died in 1905 and Reverend Matthew Hall succeeded him. He'd had 21 years in the ministry and so much was expected of him. He saw the building of the first vicarage next to the church in 1907. Sadly after a few years he became ill and although he retired from 'active service' he did not resign his position. This led to huge financial implications for the church and consequently a very unsettled period. Between 1911 and 1929 there were a succession of curates-in -charge, the last one, Reverend F. Simmons, becoming vicar from 1929 to 1936 after Matthew Hall had died.

The succession of ministers, the First World War and the Depression must have led to many difficulties in the life of the church including the postponement of improvements to the interior of the church and the school and also less documentation of the period.

From 1936 to 1962 the vicar was Reverend Dr Robert Key. He is reported to have been a 'learned well educated man, a somewhat controversial figure and a great character.' He was interested in all aspects of social life in the parish and he helped produce amazing pantos which are still fondly remembered in the area!

His task when he came to St. John's was 'to save church schools'. The school building was in poor condition and the finances were not there to improve the situation. The Second World War, in which one of Dr. Key's sons was killed, and a further period of austerity made the building plans difficult but improvements were made and various social activities such as sermons and bazaars helped to raise funds.

1962 to 1969 was the period of Reverend John Dey's ministry. He inherited a situation where much building work needed to be done at school and the church was in need of repair. In order to sort out the financial position he started the 'Planned Giving Scheme'. This was not an easy task, schemes like this were not commonplace then and initially the results were rather discouraging. However during this period

new church boiler was fitted, the Sunday School was reorganised into CYPEC groups and Reverend Dey was the instigator of sending young people from the church to Christian Holiday Camps.

When Reverend Jack Bell was appointed as vicar in 1969 he faced a challenging position both practically and spiritually. In his first Annual Report he said he knew he faced the challenges of a growing parish and he believed he was able to offer what was needed. During his 20 year ministry this was borne out.

Reverend Bell oversaw the much needed building work at school; some of the funds were raised by a novel (at the time) Waste Paper Collection scheme. There were structural repairs to the East Window, the lounge at the back of the church was created and the present vicarage was built. The creation of the lounge had a big impact on church activities, also on baptism services as the font was removed and a portable one was designed that is now placed at the front of the church for these services. The church had children's groups, youth groups and uniformed organisations attached to it. Social activities included continuing with the fund raising bazaars and summer fairs plus Village Queen events and Walking Days. During his ministry House Groups were started, we had Parish Weekends away and the Women's Fellowship was further developed. One member of the church was trained for the Reader Ministry. Reverend Bell was committed to World Mission and as a result we were linked to Susan Davies in Nigeria, followed by K Aziariah 'Christ for all' in Andhra Pradesh, India. In the 1980's his son Stephen went to work for ECM in Albania and is now based in Croatia and the church has continued its links with him.

When he retired in 1989 Reverend Bell had 'sown the seeds for continued growth' both spiritually and practically. The next vicar would inherit more than many had for some time. Who would that be?

Along came Reverend Andrew (Andy) Lindop. This was his first post as vicar and he was keen to develop many new initiatives. Under Andy's leadership the interior of the church was re-ordered and painted pink, a massive project, much of the funding coming from church members. The school was used as 'church' for several months. A Vision Statement that is regularly reviewed was written. Church members took part in a 'Tools for the Job' course to discover their gifts/abilities. We went to Spring Harvest, we went camping as a church and we continued Parish Weekends away. Andy helped to develop different styles of worship, including the introduction of a music group while still maintaining worship with traditional hymns and organ music. The church supported Pais workers to develop our youth work and the first worker here was from this church. We were involved in Alpha. A second member of the church was trained for Reader Ministry. Andy introduced the church to Hansi and Kath, Indian missionaries working with families and children in India. The church still has links to them. Fund raising at this time was often through Gift Days.

A popular member of St. John's E. Robinson developed a HOPE project in the late 1990's. The four letters in the word HOPE were used to target, through prayer and action, issues of great concern. H for homelessness, O for oppression, P for poverty and E for evangelism. The latter coincided with the year 2000. The church commissioned the writing of a Passion play which was performed in local schools with our 'Churches Together in Boothstown' partners. Part of our outreach into the community.

Reverend Julian Hartley's induction as vicar took place in the autumn of 2000. He has overseen the continual development of the church, including setting up 'Commissions' to ensure that the gifts of church members are still used effectively. There have been Alpha courses during his ministry. Julian has been part of an increase in community links. These were strengthened due to the church's involvement in keeping the school open. As a result a new children's centre was built on the school site and considerable building work has taken place in school. In addition the church took part in the 2008 Hope Project and held events to foster links with the community. Firework events via the 'Rocket Rev' connect church and community, a toddler group meets in the lounge, members of the church are involved in the Mosley Common Community Group. In the last two years there have been 'Carols on the Common' and Band Concerts linking church and the community.

Our ecumenical links are strong, several ecumenical services are held each year. The production of the Passion Play in 2000 led to the development of C+nbad's, a Churches Together drama group, which until recently performed several events each year. The Women's Fellowship continues to flourish and is

responsible for many of the fund raising events. House Groups continue and Healing Services form part of the worship pattern. A third person went to train for the Reader Ministry. We took up the Micah Challenge and we have been a Fair Trade church for some time now. There are children's groups and a Brownie pack. Support for mission work continues for those previously mentioned and our links with Barnabus have increased as church members provide volunteers and sandwiches on a weekly basis. A few years ago a refurbished kitchen and toilets plus a disabled ramp for access were added; the bulk of the finance coming from a grant from Viridor and from Wigan Council.

A big change for the church was the creation of the Team Ministry with the parishes of St. Stephen's, Astley and St. Georges, Tyldesley. Julian has worked hard to ensure this development is secure and now there are increasing links with the members of each church.

Inevitably the history of a church often gleaned from PCC meetings contains much information about finances, building problems and the task of raising substantial sums of money. It does not always document the faith of the members but the fact that St. John's is celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a testimony to all who have been members throughout the years.

In 2012 we believe we are a welcoming church, we enjoy worship together, we have great fellowship with each other, we aim to use our gifts to serve others in God's name and we believe that PRAYER should underpin everything we do. The foundation stone that was laid in 1885 was not marked so it has not been possible to identify it. To those with only a sense of history this may seem a pity but perhaps it is God's way of reminding us that we must be 'living stones' of this church and we, like others before us, are responsible for keeping the foundations firm. We are charged with taking the Gospel into the local community and beyond. God's story never changes.

(Acknowledgements to the contributors to the Centenary Publication in 1987 including Reverend Jacob Bell's 'No Common Tale

## Stewardship

We're grateful to the people of Mosley Common who contributed their time and skills, who took on various roles and who raised funds so that our church could be built 125 years ago. We need to be equally generous in all of these ways as we rise to the challenge of sustaining the church's life and work in our time. With this in mind, to coincide with the 125th anniversary of the opening of St. John's Church in Mosley Common, we're going to run a stewardship campaign. There'll be more news about this early in September.



### Baptisms

June 24<sup>th</sup>

Zara Adebiyi

Clareine Smith-Adebiyi

Alfie Hallwood

Izabel Mullin

### Funerals

May 25<sup>th</sup>

Joan Langford, aged 85

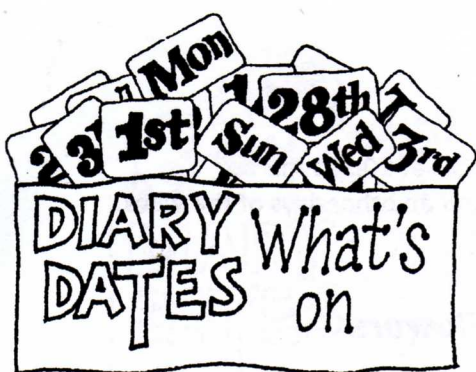
June 11<sup>th</sup>

Robert Bowker, aged 95

July 6<sup>th</sup>

Richard Hindley, aged 41





## MacMillan Coffee Morning

*And bring and Buy*

*28<sup>th</sup> September 10.00am-12.00pm*

*In the Church lounge.*

## Happy Birthday St. John's

September brings the 125th anniversary of the opening of St. John's Church. Our main 125th anniversary celebrations back in 2010 marked its foundation and the beginning of its building. This year we'll be celebrating the completion of the building project and the opening of the church with special services on Sunday 23rd and Tuesday 25th September. We'll be using the 1662 Book of Common Prayer - the service book in use at the time when St. John's Church was opened and which itself celebrates its 350th birthday this year. On the Sunday at 10.30am we'll have a Holy Communion Service whilst on the Tuesday we'll celebrate with Evensong. So please come and join us:

*Sunday September 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am      Anniversary Holy  
Communion*

*Tuesday September 25<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm      Anniversary Evensong*

## Parish Meal

On the 16<sup>th</sup> September we will be getting together for a Parish Meal at the Rendezvous Restaurant. We will be going straight after the Sunday service. The cost is £16. If you are interested please see Ann Haigh.

## Zumba

Zumba Mania came to St John's Summer Fayre this year. Zumba is a form of Latin American dance combined with exercise. It is a very fast paced high impact form of exercise but lots of fun! It is achieving amazing results in weight loss and is a great way to keep fit and healthy. A group of ten ladies wearing matching black and orange t-shirts performed a selection of their dance routines led by dance teacher Kim. It was the first time the ladies had danced in public and they were all very nervous but there was no need to be, the crowd that had gathered around the hall to watch really enjoyed it and gave lots of positive feedback. So come on ladies come and join in the dancing fun. We meet on Monday 7pm-8pm in St John's school hall and on Wednesday 6-30pm-7-30pm in Astley Methodist church.

J Lee-Taylor

## **Sunday Rotas**

These rotas are for our usual Sunday morning services at 10.30a.m.  
Volunteers are requested for services at other times of the day and on other days of the week.

### **Sideserson's Rota**

August 5 <sup>th</sup>	Betty Jones & Marian Blundell
August 12 <sup>th</sup>	Jean & David Kendrick
August 19 <sup>th</sup>	Sylvia & Andrea Taziker
August 26 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Hilton & Ellen Fenwick
Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lilian & Graham Ridge
Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Marjorie Owen & Janette Lee Taylor
Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Eddie & Joan Taylor
Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sybil Hall, Edna Edwards & Betty Hartley
Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Haigh & Mavis Wright
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	Betty Jones & Marian Blundell

### **Coffee Rota**

August 5th	Jean Bayliss & Annette Hewittson
August 12th	Marion Blundell & Ann Hilton
August 19th	Betty Hartley & Carole Priestly
August 26 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Barnes & Marie Stuckey
Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ellen Fenwick & Diane Leakey
Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Phillips & Karen Lawson
Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Bayliss & Annette Hewittson
Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Marian Blundell & Ann Hilton
Sept 30 <sup>th</sup>	Betty Hartley & Carole Priestley
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	Christine Barnes & Marie Stuckey

### **Bible Readers**

August 5 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Baker
August 12 <sup>th</sup>	David Barnes
August 19 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Haigh
August 26 <sup>th</sup>	Adele Hardman
Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Nick Hardman
Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup>	David Kendrick
Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Stella Hopkinson
Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Pam Hartley
Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Vic/Gladys Jackson
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	Betty Jones

### **Church Flowers**

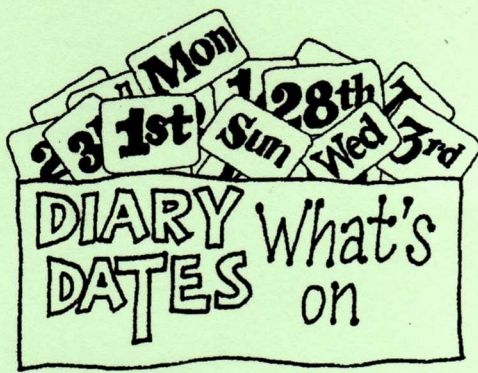
August 5 <sup>th</sup>	Marian Blundell & family in memory of Doris & Jim Blundell
August 12 <sup>th</sup>	Olwen Hill
August 19 <sup>th</sup>	Ellen Fenwick
August 26 <sup>th</sup>	Norah McWalters in memory of Tom
Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kath Barber
Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Susan & Alan Howarth
Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Women's Fellowship
Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Glenys Robinson & family in memory of Eddie
Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup>	In memory of Walter James Smith from the family
October 7 <sup>th</sup>	Betty, Susan & Lucie in memory of Eric

### **Intercessions**

August 5th	David Kendrick
August 12th	Mike & Marie Stuckey
August 19th	Keith Worthington
August 26th	Sue Bloor
September 2nd	Ann Haigh
September 9th	Nick & Adele Hardman
September 16th	Margaret Howarth
September 23rd	Vic Jackson
September 30th	David Kendrick
October 7th	Mike & Marie Stuckey

### **Lay Assistants Rota**

August 5th	Vic Jackson & David Kendrick
August 19th	Nick Hardman & Gladys Jackson
September 2nd	Peter Leakey & Marie Stuckey
September 16th	Mike Stuckey & Glennys Worthington
October 7th	Jim Baker & Keith Worthington



## Services

Sunday August 5th  
10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday August 12th  
10.30am Family Service

Sunday August 19th  
10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday August 26th  
10.30am Morning Worship

Sunday September 2nd  
10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday September 9th  
10.30am Family Service

Sunday September 16th  
10.30am Holy Communion  
with prayer for healing

Sunday September 23rd  
10.30am Anniversary Holy  
Communion

Tuesday September 25th  
7.30pm Anniversary Evensong

Sunday September 30th  
10.30am Baptism Service

Sunday October 7th  
10.30am Holy Communion

### Women's Fellowship

Sept 5<sup>th</sup> Women's Fellowship  
Sept 12<sup>th</sup> Deirdre's ladies  
Sept 19<sup>th</sup> Janet Raven-Martin  
Sept 26<sup>th</sup> Women's Fellowship  
Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> Women's Fellowship

### Monday Fellowship

At the Rowans.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sept 1.45pm

### Wednesday Afternoon "Housegroup"

Wednesday's 2.30pm; 12<sup>th</sup> Sept,  
26<sup>th</sup> Sept, 10<sup>th</sup> Oct.

### Parochial Church Council

St. John's P.C.C. will meet on  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September at  
7.45pm in the Church Lounge.

### Magazine Deadline

Sept 16th

### Services at the Rowans

Holy Communion services will take place in  
The Rowans at 1.45pm on:-

Monday September 3rd

