

September 2025



St Thomas' Church

**High Lane
Parish Magazine**

50p

St Thomas is a living church in the community of High Lane where everyone is welcome and our mission is to share the love of Christ with all.

Worship with us

Join us for worship in the Anglican tradition.

We are worshipping together in church but you can still be a part of our services by phone. Please see the calendar in the centre pages for details.

Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals

Whilst we are without a Vicar, any enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals can be answered by Robert Taylor on 01663 763478

Pastoral Care Team

Life can be challenging and we all need support. If you would like to talk or receive a visit, please contact Robert Taylor above who can put you in touch with someone from the Pastoral Care Team.

We are Silver Award Eco Church



Digital Donations

To make a donation to support our ongoing ministry and mission here please scan this QR code and you will be directed to the 'Give A Little' donation page. In these tough financial times, we are especially grateful for your support.



Rev'd Lynn writes...



'The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness'

As you read this, Mick and I will, hopefully, be sharing the view over the vineyards in the sunshine of Southern France, perhaps with a glass of something cool in hand!

Each September we watch as the vigneron harvest the grapes, which then become the wine the labourers can enjoy whilst they rejoice in the fruits of their hard work. For their harvest to be successful, however, takes much hard work, care and attention throughout the whole year. The vines must be carefully pruned and trained along wires or trellising; they need to be watered, fed and fertilised. The fruits must be kept off the ground to prevent them from rotting, and they must be regularly checked for pests and disease. In order that they might produce the best fruit for the wine, the vinedresser has to be hardworking and vigilant. Only then are they able to celebrate, rejoice and give thanks for a bountiful yield.

I do think there is a similarity in our discipleship and mission in God's world. There is so much hard work that must go on. Jesus never said that serving Him was an easy ride, in fact far from it! What He actually said was 'take up your cross and follow me' (Matthew 16:24, Mark 8:34, Luke 9:23). Our discipleship requires the denial of self and a willingness to endure whatever it takes to be successful in God's work.

This may seem a strange starting point for the beginning of this new era as your Vicar, but I do believe that if we are to spread the joy of being a Christian, if we are to rejoice in our faith as we share it with others, if we are to spread the love and peace of Our Lord, then we need to be fully aware and open to the task in hand.

None of us should be found passive in the exercising of our faith. Every one of us is called to play our part in ensuring His Kingdom come on earth. I know that this seems as far from our present reality as it has ever been in the current world climate, but we must not allow ourselves to be disheartened. Our role, our purpose, is to spread the love of God, and to demonstrate openly and fully the joy of living within that love. We must ensure that those who walk out of our church at the end of worship, or any church event for that matter, do so feeling uplifted, with joy filling their hearts, their minds and their souls.

If people leave our church feeling downhearted, disgruntled or disconnected, then we must all shoulder the responsibility for not working hard enough, perhaps not loving them enough, or not nurturing and caring for their needs enough. For us that means being aware that every aspect of our demeanour, the way we treat and respond to one another, the way we treat and respond to the other, the stranger at our doors. How we react and greet each person who comes along, whether a longstanding church member, or somebody completely new, has the capacity to fill their hearts and souls, and therefore our church with the love, joy and peace of God.

I am really looking forward to serving you and the community of High Lane, officially, as Vicar, from the 14th September, and to our working together like the vigneron, to ensure that our harvest is plentiful and that we can share the sheer joy of loving and living in and through Jesus Christ.

God Bless, Lynn

Parish ACTIVITIES

Tree Tots is back on Monday 8th September.

**Come join us at St Thomas' Church Tree Tots Group
Mondays during term time, 9.30-11.30am**

A group of bumps, babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their parents or carers. Tea, coffee, play, a chance to chat and make new friends
Suggested donation £2 per family



Messy Church is back!

**Saturday 13th September at 3.30pm
in the Church Hall**

Lots of crafts, a story, and a lovely meal together at the end.

If you are planning to come along, please confirm your attendance by contacting
Carole Clulow 0798 436 2662



Knit and Stitch Group



**The Knitters and Stitchers meet in the church hall on
Saturday 6th, 20 and 27th September
at 2 pm - 4 pm**

We are getting ready for our Autumn Project. We would welcome
any new knitters. We focus on simple knits and lots of chat!

No knitting the second Saturday of the month (Messy Church)
Contact Alison for any questions

**The Bishop of Stockport
Rt Rev'd Sam Corley**

is to License

**Revd. Lynn Boyle as Vicar
and Michael Boyle as Lay Reader**

**in St. Thomas' Church, High Lane
on Sunday 14th September
at 7.00pm**

Everyone is invited to attend the service

DISLEY & LYME
Horticultural Society

**Coffee Morning
and Show Prize Giving**

**Saturday 27th September
10am
All welcome**

www.disleylymehs.com

Parish NEWS

Anniversary of Baptism

1st	Maeva Baksh - Jones Roman Fitzpatrick
2nd	Nate Oldham Rory Jacob Spinks

Funeral

31st July	Eileen Harold
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Churchyard Burial

11th August	Carole Whitehall
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Wedding

16th August	Kenneth John Stott and Megan Elizabeth Shore
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Ashes Burials

20th July	Jane Dyson
20th July	Barbara Gratrix
7th August	Gordon Gregory
7th August	Margaret Gregory
10th August	Judith (Judy) Hunns

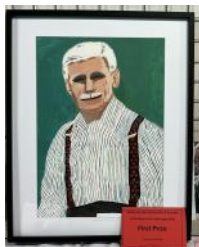


Owen wins again!

Huge congratulations to Owen Taylor who had an amazing haul of prizes at the Annual Disley and Lyme Horticultural Show in August. He achieved 7 first prizes, 9 Seconds, 14 Third and 2 Highly Commended! They included prizes in produce, flowers and plants, cooking and artwork.

In addition, he received the cup for most points in the section for potted plants and containers and "The Chairman's Choice" cup, both pictured below being held by Owen, and a few photos of items that won prizes.

Well done Owen!



The Nicene Creed part 4: The Ascended and Returning Jesus

*On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and
His kingdom will have no end.*

This month we are looking at what the Nicene Creed says about the present and future ministry of Jesus.

'On the third day He rose again in accordance with the scriptures': Jesus' resurrection is central to the Christian Faith, for as Paul says, without it *'our preaching is useless and so is your faith.'* (1 Cor 15.14). The Resurrection demonstrates the triumph of Jesus over sin and death, as well as recognising the breaking in of the new creation and Jesus as Lord over creation. The Creed affirms that it also fulfils the promises of Scripture, as Jesus explains on the Road to Emmaus: *'And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.'* (Luke 24:27).

'He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the father': In the Creed, the Ascension is given equal weight to the Cross and Resurrection, as Jesus is restored to the place of honour alongside His Father. With Christ seated on the throne, there is now *a man* on the throne who is also God the Son. In His absence on earth, Jesus sends His Spirit to live in believers, *'Exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.'* (Acts 2:33). He remembers His people, *'because He always lives to intercede for them'* (Hebrews 7.25).

'He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end': Jesus will return in judgement as *'the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.'* (Acts 10:42). God will put all things right, punishing all evil and establishing His full reign over everything. In contrast to human judgment, which is always partial and subject to error, this final judgment will be utterly true and right, because God knows our hearts completely.

How much does the idea of judgment help make sense of the fate of evil in the world?

New Advertisers

We are delighted to welcome two new advertisers: **Anita Goodwin** who is a KORE Therapy Consultant & Clinical Acupuncturist and **Vincent Rossi**, who is a handyman who can turn his hand to many jobs.

Do please contact them if you feel they can help you and please also mention that you saw their advert in the Parish Magazine. We are very grateful to all our advertisers who support our church and magazine by buying advertising space. If you need help in the home, do look through the magazine first to find the help you need.

What's the Big Idea? – An Introduction to the Books of the New Testament: 1 Corinthian

'When people become Christians, they don't at the same moment become nice. This always comes as something of a surprise' (Eugene Peterson).

After founding the church in Corinth Paul spent a year and a half with them, showing them how to live out this new life as a community of believers. Corinth was a major commercial centre in Greece and a crossroads for travellers and traders across the Empire. Its people placed a high premium on wisdom, but Corinth was also known for its immorality. Little wonder that the church was plagued with so many problems! However, after Paul left the church factions developed, immorality was rife, and worship had become a selfish grabbing for the supernatural. Paul's letter, written around AD 55 in Ephesus, is a response to these problems.

It is clear that, although the church was gifted (1:4–7), it was immature and unspiritual (3:1–4). Paul's purpose for writing was to:

- instruct and restore the church in its areas of weakness, correcting erroneous practices such as divisions (1:10—4:21), immorality (ch. 5; 6:12–20), litigation in pagan courts (6:1–8) and the abuse of the Lord's Supper (11:17–34).
- correct false teaching concerning the resurrection (ch. 15).

This letter is very relevant for us today, as we are also powerfully influenced by our cultural environment. Many of the questions and problems that confronted the church at Corinth are still with us. Yet despite the problems, Paul's focus remained on knowing Christ in His life and trusting in the power of the cross: *'For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.'* (2:2).

Your choice

One beautiful Sunday morning, a priest announced to his congregation:

"My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a £100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a £50 sermon that lasts 15 minutes, and a £10 sermon that lasts a full hour.

"Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."

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What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to Books of the New Testament: 2 Corinthians

'For anyone operating under the naïve presumption that joining a Christian church is a good way to meet all the best people and cultivate smooth social relations, a reading of Paul's Corinthian correspondence is the prescribed cure' (Eugene Peterson).

Paul sent four letters to the Corinthian church: one mentioned in 1 Corinthians 5:9; 1 Corinthians; a 'severe' letter mentioned in 2 Corinthians 2:3–4; and 2 Corinthians sent around AD 55 around a year after 1 Corinthians.

Paul had a number of reasons for writing this letter:

To express the joy he felt at their response to his painful letter (1:3-4; 7:8-9, 12-13).

To share his troubles in Asia (1:8-11) and why he changed his travel plans (1:12-2:4).

To ask them to forgive those who had offended him (2:5-11).

To warn them not to be *"yoked together with unbelievers"* (6:14-7:1).

To explain the true nature of Christian ministry (2:14-7:4).

To encourage them in giving and completing the collection for the Jerusalem Christians (chapters 8-9).

To deal with the opposition (chapters 10-13) and prepare for his coming visit (12:14; 13:1-3, 10).

In this very personal letter Paul defends his leadership against accusations of inconsistencies in motives and credentials. A major theme concerns the relationship between suffering and the power of the Spirit. His opponents argued that Paul *suffered too much* to be a Spirit-filled apostle.

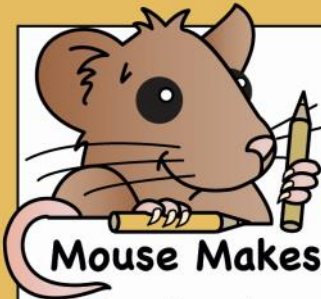
Paul responds by saying that his sufferings embody Christ's death and his endurance reveals God's glory: *'He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.'* (2 Corinthians 12:9).

NHS Encourages Pregnant Women to Protect 'Winter Babies' Against RSV

Details from NHS England

NHS England is urging eligible pregnant women to speak to their maternity service about getting the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine from 28 weeks to ensure their babies are protected ahead of winter.

RSV is a leading cause of infant mortality and a main cause of child hospitalisations every year – with almost 7,000 bed days taken up by children with RSV last winter in England.



"Let us fear and respect the Lord our God.
He gives **autumn** and **spring** rains
at the right time. He makes sure that we
have the harvest at just the right **time**."
- from Jeremiah 5:24

"God... gives you **rain** from
heaven and good harvests
at the right times. He gives
you plenty of **food** and
fills your hearts with **joy**."
- from Acts 14:16-17

"May the people **praise** you **God**...
The **land yields** its harvest, God,
our God **blesses** us."
- from Psalm 67:5-6

"**Honour** the
Lord with your
wealth and the
first part of
your **harvest**."
- Proverbs 3:9

"So the one who **plants** is not
important, and the one who **waters**
is not important. Only **GOD** is
important because He is the one
who makes things **grow**."
- 1 Corinthians 3:7

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Find the words in **bold** type in the bible quotes in the
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REAP • PICK • CROPS • GRAIN • CORN • BARN • BREAD • THANKSGIVING

Saint of the Month

17th September – Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen

If you want to make the most of every minute of your life, and to use your various talents to the utmost, then Hildegard is the saint for you.

Born as the tenth child into a nobleman's family in the Nahe valley of the Rhineland during the High Middle Ages, Hildegard stood out from others by the time she was eight. That was when she began to receive supernatural visions from God.

Understandably, her family felt that this sort of thing was beyond them, and so they entrusted her to a woman called Jutta, a female recluse with close ties to the benedictine monastery at Diessenberg. Seven years later, Hildegard became a nun of the community around Jutta, and when Jutta died in 1136, Hildegard became the abbess.

But Hildegard was never going to be one of your quiet nuns tucked away somewhere. Instead, she was always 'out there', and bursting with vitality and energy. She wrote on a wide variety of subjects from theology to medicine, to nature. She composed hymns, chants and songs. And she corresponded with many people, including royalty.

Hildegard was a strong, outspoken woman who saw herself as standing in the biblical prophetic tradition, and as such she was fearless in castigating and reprimanding people whom she saw as needing to repent.

Her supernatural visions of God continued from 1141 to 1151, and with the approval of the Archbishop of Mainz, she recorded many of them. This collection was called *Scivias*, and it dealt with the nature of man of the Last Judgement. When the Pope also approved her visions and writings, Hildegard's fame spread. In time, Hildegard's community grew so large that it moved to Rupertsberg near Bingen, from where she travelled throughout the Rhineland, speaking and teaching. Above all, Hildegard had a firm focus to her life: Jesus Christ and His redemptive death on the Cross. She was devoted to Him.

What time you should stop drinking the night before

If you drink alcohol after 10pm at night, you may still be over the limit by 9am the next morning. So says IAM RoadSmart, a road safety charity. It has warned that drinking alcohol late into the night can pose a 'serious threat' to your safety as a driver the next morning. And even if you are within the legal limit, still a 'groggy head' means a slower reaction time at the wheel.

Chief Constable Jo Shiner, the National Police Chiefs' Council lead for roads policing, has said: "There is simply no excuse for getting behind the wheel when you are impaired through drink or drugs, and this includes the morning after."

Drinkaware, the drink-driving charity, says that on average, alcohol is removed from the body at a rate of one unit per hour.

Is Gen Z coming to church?

Dr Peter Brierley considers some recent statistics. His sources for this article include: The Quiet Revival (Bible Society); Church Times reports from March and April; Daily Telegraph "Features" supplement, 16th April; and Statistics for Mission 2023, Church of England.

Could it be true that a *Quiet Revival* (as the report is called) is taking place? Another reasonably large survey commissioned by the Bible Society's research team suggests it could be. In March 2025 Bible Society repeated a survey they had carried out in 2018, asking 13,000 people if they went to church (It was 19,000 in the 2018 study). Perhaps to their surprise, but, as suspected by others, and to the incredulity of still many others, they reported that attendance at church once a month in England and Wales had increased from 8% in 2018 to 12% in 2025, and the increase was mostly seen among those aged 18 to 34, defined generally as those born between 1997 and 2012; that is, those now aged 12 to 27 in 2024.

A more detailed breakdown showed that in every age-group, men are attending more than women, except for those aged 65 plus, where the percentages are equal. For men aged 18 to 24, this meant an increase from 4% in 2018 to 21% in 2024 and for women from 3% to 12%, respectively.

Whatever the reason some Gen Z people are coming to church, the report's findings agreed with other studies – that churchgoers are often happier than those not going to church.

As for denominations, the Roman Catholic growth has been substantial and widespread. The *Daily Telegraph* 'Features' supplement in April had the headline: 'The extraordinary resurgence of Catholicism in Britain', and explained, "Gen Z want to belong – modern life can be lonely They have digital friends but never meet them. They are crying out for community."

Wives Group

We begin a new programme with lots of interesting things to look forward to.

- | | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| 1st Sept | Meeting cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances | F |
| 8th Sept | My Life in Crime Part 2 with Simon Michael, ex Lawyer/Writer | R |
| 15th Sept | A.G.M. | I |
| 22nd Sept | Such are the dreams of a 1950's everyday housewife with Sue Holden | E |
| 29th Sept | Home Brew - Family Fortunes | N |
| | | D |

Come and join our friendly group.

Kind regards
Karen & Lesley

- TALKS ▪ QUIZZES ▪ MEALS OUT ▪ ANNUAL DAY OUT ▪



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150 years of the Keswick Convention

An iconic Christian convention is celebrating 150 years this year. From the humble beginnings of a vicar holding a meeting on his vicarage lawn back in 1875, the Keswick Convention now runs a year-round Christian teaching ministry and attracts 15,000 to its annual three-week summer convention.

The Keswick Convention was the brainchild of Canon Thomas Harford-Battersby, Vicar of St John's Keswick. He had attended a Christian conference in Oxford, and found it life changing. "Christ was revealed to me so powerfully and sweetly as the present Saviour in His all sufficiency." And later he added: "I found He was all I wanted: I shall never forget it... How it humbled me and what peace it brought." Harford-Battersby wanted to share this joy in Christ with others. So, with the help of a friend, he erected a tent on his vicarage lawn that summer and simply invited local people to come along.

Even that first year, it was a success. Over the week, nearly 400 people attended. And in the following years, more people came. Hundreds then thousands of them, from many denominations, eager to learn more about the Bible. Within a few years of its starting, Christians all over the world were making an annual pilgrimage to the little Lake District town, to hear the best Bible teachers that were available.

Some highlights along the way:

1875 – first convention, in St John's vicarage garden in Keswick.

1901 – the first marquee was erected on the Skiddaw Street site.

1969 – the second week of convention was started, aimed more at families

1997 – the Rawnsley Hall in Keswick was bought, to extend youth ministry

2001 – the third week of the convention was launched

2015 – the Pencil Mill in Keswick was acquired, and it is now an integrated home for the Convention.

Many missionary societies and theological colleges owe their roots to the Keswick Convention: Hudson Taylor of China and Amy Carmichael of India had close ties with Keswick.

In recent times, speakers have included some of the best-known preachers in the evangelical world: John Stott, Donald English, George Duncan, David Coffey, and Anne Graham Lotz. Today many Keswick teaching events are held around the world: in Africa, Australia, New Zealand, North America, India, Jamaica and Japan.

The Convention's motto remains – 'All One in Christ Jesus'.

When the sun goes edgewise, and daytime equals night

22nd September is the autumnal equinox (if you live in the northern hemisphere) or the vernal (Spring) equinox (if you live in the southern hemisphere). The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the Sun is 'edgewise' to the Earth's axis of rotation, so that everywhere on earth has 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness.

Eco NEWS

Still danger in our rivers and coastline

Many of our rivers and too much of our coastline have been infected with raw sewage.

Some statistics: there are about 14,500 storm overflow drains in England, which are used to pump raw sewage into rivers and the sea when there is heavy rain. In 2024, there was a record 3.6 million hours of sewage spills into waterways. These spills suffocated wildlife by the millions and made bathing very unsafe for us.

The government is promising drastic action in the coming years, but meanwhile the widespread pumping of raw sewage is still going on.

Blue Green Algae in canals and ponds

The recent warm weather, lack of rain and reduced traffic in the local canals have caused a sharp increase of Blue Green Algae in our local waterways, ponds and lakes. During a bloom, the water becomes less clear and may look green, blue-green or greenish-brown. Scums can form during calm weather when several bloom forming species rise to the surface. This can look like paint, mousse or small clumps.

Cyanobacteria or 'blue-green algae', a type of blooming algae, can produce toxins. These toxins can kill wild animals, livestock and pets. They can also harm people, producing rashes after skin contact and illnesses if swallowed.

Algal blooms block sunlight from reaching other plants in the water. They also use up oxygen in the water at night which can suffocate fish and other creatures. Oxygen is also used up when the bloom decays.

You can't tell if an algal bloom in the sea, a lake or river is toxic just by looking at it, so it's safest to assume it is. Keep pets and children away from the water and avoid skin contact with the water or algae.

If your pet does enter the water, try to stop it licking it's fur and once home give a thorough bath with shampoo to wash away all the bacteria. You should also wash your skin thoroughly with soap and water if you have had contact with the water or your pet's fur.

Call the Environment Agency Environment incident hotline to report algal blooms: Telephone (24 hour service) 0800 80 70 60

Thrifting Fruit

One of the good things about Facebook has been the thrifting of fruit from people's gardens. Recently Facebook has been awash with folk offering plums, apples, rhubarb, etc from their gardens to ensure such produce did not go to waste. If you need some fruit for jam or cooking, always check Facebook first before you buy!

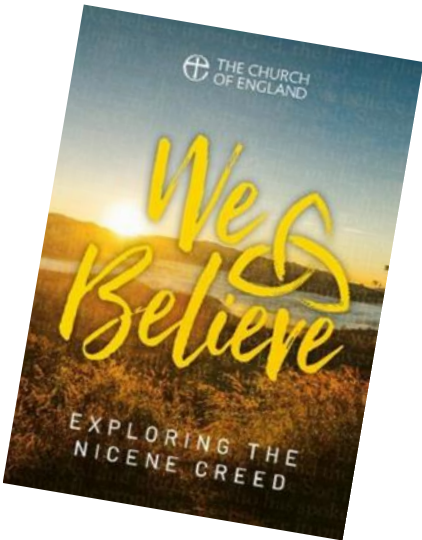
Book Review

We Believe – Exploring the Nicene Creed
Various authors, Church House Publishing,
£3.99

Here you can join with believers around the world in celebrating 1700 years of the Nicene Creed, one of the most enduring statements of Christian faith.

We Believe offers 24 daily Bible readings and reflections to help you pray and reflect on the Nicene Creed’s timeless truths. Taking each line of the Creed in turn, it provides a short Bible reading, a reflection, a question to help you grow in faith, and a prayer, drawing you deeper into the Creed’s meaning and significance for your life.

Whether you have been reciting the Creed for many years – or are exploring Christian faith for the very first time – this beautifully illustrated booklet will offer you new insight and inspiration.



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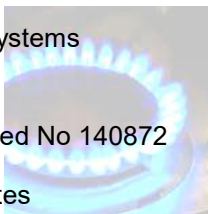
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and referrals

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Tel: 0808 143 1316

Calendar for September 2025

Services will be held in St Thomas' Church unless otherwise indicated.

Please do not attend if you have any Covid-19 symptoms.

St Thomas' Church is trying hard to reach all our parishioners using a variety of methods. Do join in our worship in person or by telephone

Church is open each day for Private Prayer.



Wednesday 3rd	9.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 4th	9.00pm	Telephone Compline
Saturday 6th	2.00pm	Knit and Stitch Group

Sunday 7th	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
	8.30am Holy Communion
	10.00am Parish Communion
Monday 8th	9.30am Tree Tots Group
	2.00pm Wives Group
Wednesday 10th	9.30am Holy Communion
Thursday 11th	12 noon Luncheon Club
	9.00pm Telephone Compline
Saturday 13th	3.30pm Messy Church

Sunday 14th	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
	8.30am Holy Communion
	10.00am Parish Communion
	7.00pm Licensing of Rev'd Lynn Boyle as Vicar and welcoming Michael Boyle as Reader
Monday 15th	9.30am Tree Tots Group
	2.00pm Wives Group
Wednesday 17th	9.30am Holy Communion
Thursday 18th	9.00pm Telephone Compline
Saturday 20th	2.00pm Knit and Stitch Group

Sunday 21st	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
	8.30am Holy Communion
	10.00am Parish Communion
Monday 22nd	9.30am Tree Tots Group
	2.00pm Wives Group
Wednesday 24th	9.30am Holy Communion
Thursday 25th	12 noon Luncheon Club
	9.00pm Telephone Compline
Saturday 27th	10.00am D&L Horticultural Society Coffee Morning
	2.00pm Knit and Stitch Group

Sunday 28th

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

8.30am

Holy Communion

10.00am

Parish Communion

6.00pm

Evensong

Monday 29th

9.30am

Tree Tots Group

2.00pm

Wives Group

Prayer for the Licensing of Rev'd Lynn Boyle

**Gracious and loving God,
We thank You for calling Rev'd Lynn Boyle to serve
as the shepherd of this parish.**

**Bless her with wisdom, compassion, and strength
as she takes on this sacred responsibility.
May she lead with humility, inspire with faith, and
guide with love.**

**Grant her the courage to proclaim Your truth,
The patience to nurture Your people,
And the grace to walk alongside us in
times of joy and challenge.**

**Bless this community, Lord, as we welcome Rev'd
Lynn and her husband Mick into our midst.
Unite us in purpose, deepen our faith, and help us
to grow together in Your service.
May Your Holy Spirit guide us all in the ways of
peace, truth, and love.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour,
Amen.**

Community NEWS

High Lane Residents Association

Due to the summer holidays we didn't have a meeting in August so I thought I'd look at the history of a former resident of High Lane who was typical of the early residents of High Lane, using historical documents open to all.

William, a distant relative of my husband's, was born in 1857 at one of the terraces on Middlewood View, one of six children. His father was a coal miner working for Lord Vernon collieries. He was baptised at St Mary's in Disley, as St Thomas's still was only consecrated the following year.

At 14 he was working as a cotton weaver, I assume in Windlehurst Mill. By 1881, aged 24, he was married to Harriet and had two children, a boy and a girl. Four more girls followed. He was now a coal miner and still living at Middlewood View. Possibly in a different cottage.

On the 1891 census he has four children, the eldest working as a cotton weaver and he remains a coal miner hewer. Ten years later he is now 44 with five children at home and still working as a coal miner. By 1911 only two children are still at home and he continues to work.

Harriet his wife died in 1933 aged 76 and on the 1939 register William is still living at Middlewood View, now retired, with one of his daughters. Three of his daughters are married and also living along Middlewood View.

William died in 1943 at the amazing age of 86 and is buried at St Thomas's.

Our next meeting is the AGM on Thursday 2nd October at the Village Hall 8pm.

Caroline Smith

Vice chair – High Lane Residents Association

Email: contact@hlra.org.uk



Monday Coffee Morning

Don't forget the lovely weekly coffee mornings held each Monday in the Village Hall, next to High Lane Park. There is always someone to chat to, tea and coffee and biscuits and friendly team behind the event.

10am to noon.

You will be made most welcome!

CAMEOS

Wednesday 3rd September

At Windlehurst Church. Doors open at 1.45pm for prompt start at 2pm.

A warm welcome to all, a good sing and homemade refreshments.

The King's Trust

Did you know that young people aged 16 to 30 years old can apply for free funding through the King's Trust Development Awards? The Development Awards can cover the cost of course fees, tools or equipment to help young people achieve their goals.

They offer grants of up to £500 to support young people into a positive outcome. To be eligible for an Award, the young person must be:

- Aged 16-30 and living in the UK
- Studying less than 14 hours a week or not in compulsory education
- Unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week.

The King's Trust also run free training courses to help young people gain employment with retailers (such as M&S and Boots); hotel group IHG; and Northern Care Alliance.

If a young person has a business idea they are passionate about, the King's Trust have a fantastic free Enterprise programme to help turn that idea into reality. With expert-led workshops, one to one support and opportunities to apply for funding, they provide the tools needed to create a strong business plan and launch a successful business

They also have a service where a CV, Cover Letter or Job Application answers are reviewed by corporate volunteers, who will provide feedback to help the person get an interview. Volunteers are from corporate companies such as Barclays, Tesco, Apple and more! All will provide high quality feedback in word comment boxes on your CV.

Find out more via webchat at kingstrust.org.uk



HIGH LANE VILLAGE WI

Our Women's Institute group meets at High Lane Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm.

Our Women's Institute group meets at High Lane Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. However, as we have proved to be so popular this year, we have had to take the decision to cap our membership at 70, due to restrictions of numbers in the Village Hall.

We shall still be very happy to welcome any ladies to come along and give us a try. Your first visit is free and you can try us twice more, at a cost of £5 per visit. If you would then like to join us, we would add your name to our waiting list.

You can follow us on our Facebook page: **High Lane Village WI**, where you will find a month by month list of our future activities!

If you should require any further details please contact Jean Pye on: (01663) 635595 or contact us at hlvwi1@gmail.com

Welsh writers launch book inspired by ancient pilgrimage path

A new book documenting a Welsh language pilgrimage and literary project was recently launched at Tafarn y Plu in Llanystumdwy.

The publication brings together blogs, poems, photographs and essays from the Llwybr Cadfan Literary Project. The project aimed to create cultural events at locations along Llwybr Cadfan, the historic pilgrimage path once walked by 6th-century Saint Cadfan.

Two resident poets, Siôn Aled and Sian Northey, created original work offering a fresh perspective on this ancient trail. Working with guest artists, they staged 11 events at locations including Saint Cadfan's Church, Cymer Abbey, and aboard the Ffestiniog Railway.

Welsh writers and performers who took part included Manon Steffan Ros, Twm Morys, Gwyneth Glyn, and the late Dewi Pws. Each event combined poetry, music, creative workshops and historical presentations tailored to reflect the character and history of its location.

Project Lead Elin Owen said: "Working with artists and communities along Llwybr Cadfan has been transformative for all involved. Each location told its own story and together we've woven these voices into a book that honours both Saint Cadfan's legacy and strongly connects to our Welsh heritage, our identity and the Welsh language."



OPEN HOUSE INVITATION

10 Holly Road, HIGH LANE

To view MARGARET GREGORY's ART WORK in her home

Choose a memento from her remaining works

Any proceeds or donations will go to charity

SATURDAY 13th September 2025 10am – 4pm

SUNDAY 14th September 2025 10am – 4pm

OR contact Helen to arrange a private visit on a different date

07774 962888 office@apgassociates.co.uk

The most productive nightmare of all time?

1600 years ago, Europe's top scholar was an Italian called Jerome; he loved the works of Cicero. One night he dreamt that he had died, and reached the gates of heaven. The gate-keeper spoke to him: 'Who are you?'

"*Christianus sum.*" replied Jerome. "I'm a Christian."

"No." said the gatekeeper. "You're not a Christian. You're a Ciceronian!" He went on to explain: "You see, here in heaven we judge people by what they were *most*, when they lived on earth. And you dedicated everything to the classics and the works of Cicero. So, we judge you not to be a Christian, but a *Ciceronian*. You cannot enter."

Jerome woke with a start, and made his resolve. Not only did he begin truly to follow Christ, but he bent his academic ability into translating the Bible into the common language of Europe, Latin. It took him years. His translation became known as the *Vulgate* version.

That Bible served Europe for a thousand years. With the Bible's message becoming the foundation of European civilisation, its culture became united. Once we take Christianity and the Bible out of Europe all that we would be left with is a collection of squabbling, heathen tribes. It's time for Europe – like Jerome – to be woken up again.



Did you spot many butterflies this past summer?

The wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation is deeply worried about our butterflies. Or rather, the lack of them. It seems that more than 80 per cent of our species have declined sharply in number since 1970s.

Each summer sees the Big Butterfly Count, when the public is encouraged to send in the number of butterflies they have seen over a short period of time. Last year saw the lowest number of butterflies spotted in the count's 14-year history. Even the familiar species like the small white, common blue and small tortoiseshell had their worst summer ever. And a record number of people saw no butterflies at all.

Butterflies have been hit by climate change, the use of pesticides, and damage to their habitats. The drought this summer will have been bad news for their caterpillar offspring, which need growing plants to feed on.

So, this autumn, why not plan a happier year for butterflies in 2026? As you prepare your garden for winter, go to www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife/butterflies-in-your-garden for some ideas of how to make your garden butterfly-friendly.

Celebrating 200 years of the public railways

Two hundred years ago, on 27th September 1825, the world's first public railway opened. It was the Stockton and Darlington Railway in north-east England.

Inspired and supported by a prominent Quaker, Edward Pease, and backed financially by many Quakers nationally, it has been described as "the great theatre of railway operations", sparking the explosion of railways across the world and boosting the industrial revolution. About 20 miles of the original 25 mile stretch still exist, now as part of the Northern Rail line.

The technical expertise behind it all came from George Stephenson, an extraordinary self-taught engineer whose expertise, which originated in the mines, stretched beyond railways. His *Locomotion No 1*, built for the Stockton and Darlington line, was the first steam locomotive to carry passengers on a public rail line. He worked with his 18-year-old son Robert, who is known for creating the more famous *Rocket* four years later.

The first Stockton and Darlington train – which in fact ran from Old Etherley Colliery, some distance north of Darlington – was led by a man on horseback with a flag. The motto of the organising committee was "At private risk for public service".

With brakemen stationed between the wagons, the train reached 12 to 15mph and was greeted by an estimated 10,000 people at the Darlington junction, where some passengers left and more boarded. The average speed was calculated at about 8mph. Six wagons of coal were given to the poor by way of celebration.

A nine-month festival in County Durham and the Tees Valley – with artwork, spectacles and community events – is marking the bicentenary of the opening of the railway. As a tribute to his life and achievements, a bronze statue of George Stephenson was unveiled at Chesterfield railway station in 2005. An earlier statue stands in Neville Street, Newcastle.

More info at: <https://railway200.co.uk> and <https://www.railwaymuseum.org.uk>

Fresh ideas for doing church

The elderly priest, speaking to the younger priest, said, "You had a good idea to replace the first four pews with plush bucket theatre seats. It worked like a charm. The front of the church always fills first now."

The young priest nodded, and the old priest continued, "And you told me adding a little more beat to the music would bring young people back to church, so I supported you when you brought in that rock 'n roll gospel choir. Now our services are consistently packed to the balcony."

"Thank you, Father," answered the young priest. "I am pleased that you are open to the new ideas of youth."

"All of these ideas have been well and good," said the elderly priest, "But I'm afraid you've gone too far with the drive-thru confessional."

"But, Father," protested the young priest, "my confessions and the donations have nearly doubled since I began that!"

"Yes," replied the elderly priest, "and I appreciate that. But the flashing neon sign, 'Toot 'n Tell or Go to Hell' cannot stay on the church roof!"

Children's Society gives an urgent warning

Thousands of children across the UK are being exploited to move money for criminals. Some are only 15 years old. So warns the Children's Society. In a recent report, it has highlighted what is going on behind closed doors. Young people "are being tricked, pressured and groomed into handing over their bank details, receiving transfer or even opening new accounts. This is financial exploitation." And it is ruining young lives.

Children's Society explains: "It can start innocuously enough online: a friend request, an advert for 'quick cash' or a message that seems harmless. But the consequences are anything but harmless. Some families end up in financial trouble, some have their bank accounts frozen. Other children carry criminal records into adulthood, and some victims have faced serious violence. "Many don't realise what's happening until it's too late. Too often, the adults around them don't realise either. And sadly, any child can be vulnerable."

What can adults do? If you have a young person in your life, check out our tips below:

1. Talk about money and online offers - how to treat 'quick cash' adverts as a red flag.
2. Create a no-blame space - children need to know they can speak up without automatic punishment.
3. Watch for changes - sudden new clothes, unexplained deposits, or anxious behaviour around phones can signal grooming.
4. Report and seek help early - banks, schools and safeguarding teams can act faster when informed quickly.

Meanwhile, Children's Society is urgently calling on the Government, the police, financial regulators, and banks "to work together to tackle this hidden crisis, setting an ambitious target of significantly reducing child financial exploitation by the close of this parliament."

Get Involved: Donations Needed!

Details from Stockport foodbank and Wellspring

Stockport Foodbank has actioned a call out list of urgently needed food and toiletries. Can you help? The Foodbank helps those going through "tough times" with the provision of emergency food parcels which contain enough food for three days irrespective of the size of the household.

Urgently needed food items include snacks such as packed biscuits, chocolate bars, cereal bars, breadsticks, crisps, tinned meat, tomatoes, beans and soup, and rice (500g bags).

They also require sanitary towels, shampoo and toothpaste.

Donations to: collection baskets in supermarkets or their warehouse (car park at Hazel Grove Baptist Church) from Monday to Friday, 9am - 12 noon.

<https://stockport.foodbank.org.uk/>

How to have a 'more healthy' heart

Gratitude may help you recover more quickly from a heart attack. So says a study by the University of California, who examined gratitude as part of an outlook that involves appreciating the positive aspects of life, and often goes hand in hand with spirituality.

It was found that people who have a life attitude of being grateful are also likely to have a better mood, better sleep, less fatigue, and lower levels of inflammatory biomarkers related to cardiac health. Researchers said they were surprised to find that gratitude accounted for such beneficial effects. As one scientist put it, "It seems that a more grateful heart is indeed a more healthy heart."

How can you express gratitude in an easy-to-remember and daily way? Why not bring back the habit of pausing to say a simple grace of thanks before each meal? And why not take a few minutes to say your prayers before bed each night?

Reminder - National Emergency Test

The UK Government will send a test Emergency Alert to mobiles around **3pm, on 7th September 2025.**

The Emergency Alerts system is used to warn if there's a danger to life nearby, including extreme weather. It allows vital information and advice to be sent to people rapidly in an emergency.

During the test, mobiles will vibrate and make a loud siren for roughly ten seconds, even if set to silent. A message will appear, making it clear the alert is only a test.

The Government will continue ongoing engagement with domestic violence charities to ensure people know how to switch off alerts on a concealed phone. Full instructions telling you how to opt out are available at www.gov.uk/alerts/opting-out

Learner drivers must wait months for driving test

If someone in your family wants their driving licence this autumn, they may have to wait months before even getting a driving test.

For the average waiting time across all test centres has recently increased to 22 weeks, up from 14 weeks back in February 2024, according to the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA).

The AA Driving School says that: "With the vast majority of driving test centres now showing waits at the maximum the system will allow, the situation cannot get much worse.

"While we would expect [the DVSA's] changes to take a few months to show a positive impact, it is still disappointing to see that learners are continuing to face an uphill battle when it comes to booking their driving test."

Heritage Open Days in September

September sees a host of places opening for special Heritage Days/Talks/Events. The best place for information is www.heritageopendays.org.uk/whats-on. Here are a random selection from the Greater Manchester lists—also within easy reach of us are Cheshire, Derbyshire etc and easy to search for using the location.

Stockport Plaza

Sunday 21st September from 11.00am Stockport's 1932 Super Cinema and Variety Theatre from 11am. Free to attend events and an opportunity for you to investigate behind the scenes Presentations are scheduled for 11am, 1pm and 3pm, no need to book, simply turn up on the day and experience the very best of yesterday today.

Brushes and Bold Letters: Signwriting talk with Andy Russell

Civic Hall, Park Lane, Poynton, Stockport, Greater Manchester, SK12 1RB
20 Sep 2025. This evening talk and demonstration event is prebook only.

Explore Cross Street Chapel Manchester: from 1694 to today

Cross Street Chapel - Unitarian, 29 Cross Street, Manchester, Greater Manchester, M2 1NL 14 Sep 2025. Pre-booking not required

Museum of Transport, Greater Manchester: Bus Tours

Museum of Transport, Boyle Street, Manchester, Greater Manchester, M8 8UW
An opportunity to ride on historic buses from the Museum of Transport, Greater Manchester. Children under 16 must be accompanied. Various dates

Richard Roberts Archive: Architecture and Advertising through the Ages

13th September. Unit 14, Adswood Industrial Estate, Adswood Road, Stockport, Greater Manchester, SK3 8LF Join us at the Richard Roberts Archive where we will focus on the role of print advertising in promoting the designs and products of architects, builders and materials suppliers from the very earliest days.

Scarecrow Weddings

St Albans Church, Offerton Lane, Offerton, Stockport, Greater Manchester, SK2 5AG. 13 Sep 2025 Pre-booking not required 10am—5pm
Did you know that Scarecrows get married in church, you didn't, well come along to St Albans Church, Offerton, Stockport to see for yourself.

British Food Fortnight 2025 – 26th September to 12th October

This annual fortnight is timed to coincide with Harvest celebrations.

This annual 'celebration' of the diversity and quality of British Food is aiming to be bigger than ever this year, involving restaurants, pubs, schools, universities, care homes, the NHS, and even the Houses of Parliament.

Why not take advantage of the fortnight, and see what one of our local restaurants and pubs might offer?

All in the month of September

It was

1,100 years ago, on 4th Sept 925 that England gained her first ever king. He was Aethelstan, King of the Anglo-Saxons (924-927) and then King of England (927-939). Aethelstan was grandson of Alfred the Great, and 30th great-grand uncle to Queen Elizabeth II.

300 years ago, on 29th Sept 1725 that Robert Clive, 1st Baron Clive (Clive of India) was born. This British general helped to found the British Empire in India.

200 years ago, on 27th Sept 1825 that the world's first public railway opened. It was the Stockton and Darlington Railway in north-east England.

150 years ago, on 3rd Sept 1875 that Ferdinand Porsche, Austrian-born German automotive engineer was born. He designed the Volkswagen Beetle and Tiger tank, and founded the Porsche sports car company.

100 years ago, on 7th Sept 1925 that Laura Ashley was born. The Welsh designer and businesswoman was known for her traditional printed fabrics, soft furnishing and women's clothing. Co-founder (along with her husband) of the Laura Ashley textile company and chain of shops.

90 years ago, on 3rd Sept 1935 that British driver Malcolm Campbell set a new world land speed record of 301.13 mph in *Bluebird* at Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah. First person to break the 300mph barrier.

Also 90 years ago, on 15th Sept 1935 that the Nuremberg Laws were passed in Germany. Jews were no longer classed as German citizens, and the Nazi flag was adopted as the national flag of Germany.

80 years ago, on 2nd Sept 1945 that V-J Day (victory over Japan Day) took place. Representatives from Japan signed the formal instrument of surrender on board the US battleship *USS Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

Also 80 years ago, on 19th Sept 1945 that the Nazi propaganda broadcaster William Joyce (Lord Haw-Haw) was sentenced to death by a British court after being convicted of treason. He was executed on 3rd January 1946.

75 years ago, on 3rd Sept 1950 that Italian racing driver Giuseppe (Nino) Farina became the first-ever Formula One World Champion after winning the 1950 Italian Grand Prix.

70 years ago, on 4th Sept 1955 that Kenneth Kendall became the first newsreader to appear on screen in the UK, reading the *BBC Television News*.

Also 70 years ago, on 21st Sep 1955 that Britain annexed Rockall, an uninhabited granite islet in the North Atlantic, to prevent the Soviet Union from placing surveillance equipment there to spy on Britain's secret nuclear missile tests.

Also 70 years ago, on 22nd Sept 1955 that Britain's first independent TV channel was launched. ITV ended the BBC's monopoly.

Also 70 years ago, 26th Sept 1955 that Bird's Eye frozen fish fingers went on sale in the UK.

30 years ago, on 3rd Sept 1995 that the online auction site eBay was founded (as AuctionWeb). The first item sold was a broken laser pointer.

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St Thomas Parish Directory

During this time of Interregnum, please contact the Church Warden on 07818112731 with any queries . Please be patient with us as messages may take a day or so to be answered.

Reader Emeritus	Tony Berry	01663 762393
Churchwarden	Malcolm Bennett	07818112731
Hon Secretary	Les Coop	01663 830077
Hon Treasurer	Geoff Gaskell	01663 763796
Finance Manager	Alvin West	07709 034470
Gift Aid	Alvin West	07709 034470
Verger	Robert Taylor	01663 763478
Sacristan	Ann Lambert	01663 764521
Caretaker	Steve Billinge	0785 5053404
Safeguarding	Janet Bailey stthomassafeguard@gmail.com	07767 228135
Wives Group	Karen Ganly 01663 762698 & Lesley Longworth	01663 810288
Eco Group	Shan Alexander	07766 664611
Luncheon Club	Helen Richardson	01663 764723
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