

# St. Thomas' Moorside

October 2020

£1



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## Vicar's Letter



### *Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ*

As I write this, we are enjoying a short burst of late summer. It's been sunny and warm for the past few days and I've spent a little bit of time in the vicarage garden reading.

It could well be that these simple pleasures, blue skies, warm sun, a good book have become very precious over the last six months. We have all needed to look inside ourselves and think about where we might find solace, peace and rest.

I wonder what you have found to 'keep you going?' Many of you will have missed hugs from family and friends, even visits from loved ones are restricted at the moment. This is a very difficult thing to accept and live with, but again how important do we now believe family and friends to be? How much do we all long to be able to spend unrestricted time, and in unrestricted numbers, with those we love?

It's possible that the last few months have put some things into perspective, and made us rethink our priorities. It's possible that what time we can spend with family and friends has become incredibly precious and even more of a joy than in more usual times. I hope so at least.

For those of you who have been unable to meet or be close to your families recently, you should know that God is with you as God is with all of us.

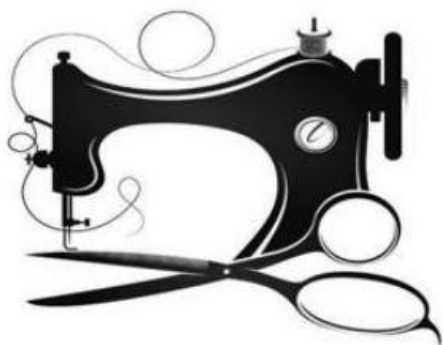
One of my favourite Bible verses is from St Paul's letter to the Philippians, 'Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice'. These words have been particularly difficult to live by this year as so many familiar and enjoyable things have been denied us. But, of course rejoicing in the Lord doesn't or shouldn't depend on the situations or circumstances we find ourselves in, however upsetting and strange, our response is to what Jesus the Son of God has done for us in dying and rising to new life.

It's easy to appear to be speaking in platitudes when I write things like, 'God is with us in dark times' etc. but it is true. So, rejoice when you spend time with family and friends. Thank God for all the ways we can communicate without being together. Ask God to be present to you when you feel alone and isolated, and give thanks for all the simple things that have become so important.

*Yours in Christ,*

*Rev'd Denise*

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Wednesday Worship 7pm

**Other dates – (To be confirmed & subject to change)**  
**See Page 5 for more details**

Harvest Festival - **Sunday 4th October**

Commemoration of Departed Loved Ones – **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 6.30pm**

Remembrance Sunday - **Sunday 8th November 10am**

Confirmation Service - **Sunday 15th November**

Online virtual Christmas Fayre - on Christmas Market with STYLE

Facebook page throughout November

Actual physical Christmas Fayre - **Saturday 28th November** (if  
permitted)

Dates for the Carol Service and Nativity to be confirmed



## **Festivals and Commemorations for Autumn**

**Harvest Festival – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October** – The church will be open from 10am until 4pm on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and before and after the Sunday morning services until 3pm for donations. Please do drop off your gifts for Oldham Foodbank and the Booth Centre. Sadly, many more people are now in need. We hope that having the church open during these times will encourage confidence to enter the building.

**All Souls – Commemoration of Departed Loved Ones – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 6.30pm** – This service will take place despite the restrictions at time of writing. Please contact Revd Denise by phone, email or in person if you wish to attend. Alternatively, please contact Revd Denise with names of those you wish to be remembered at this service if you are not able to join us.

**Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November** – This will be different from previous years. The Parish Eucharist will be celebrated at 10am timed to finish at 10.45am. The Act of Remembrance, including the two minutes silence, will take place outside in the churchyard and involve the laying of wreaths on the Commonwealth War Graves. This will be timed for the silence at 11am. We hope this will enable more people to attend at a safe social distance.

**Confirmation Service – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November** – I have been in contact with Bishop Mark to confirm that this service is going ahead. Numbers will be restricted. Please contact Revd Denise for more information.

**Christmas Carol Service** – At the time of writing we are unable to plan for a Carol Service as singing is currently restricted.

**Sunday School Nativity – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December** – We hope to have some form of Nativity play. It will take place in the Church Hall and be ticketed. More information as we have a clearer idea of the situation nearer the time.



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# Gift Day 2020

## Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October



A chance to give a bit more to the work of God's mission at St Thomas. The work of St Thomas has been continuing throughout the 'lockdown' and although restrictions have been lifted slightly, our income has dropped dramatically during this period unfortunately.

We are asking you to help by offering your extra gift on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October as you would in more usual times.

We have a number of ways that you could make your extra contribution. We now have a contactless card reader, as well as the traditional envelopes. Please **gift aid** if you can.

If you are unable to come to church yourself on the day please contact Revd Denise or someone you know who may be coming, in order to offer your gift.

In addition, why not consider setting up a regular payment through your bank using the details below:

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Sort Code - 05-06-46

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## **Wardens Letter from Simon and Sam**

By the time this article has been published, we will have both been nominated as Church Wardens, and we hop, that we will have been successfully voted in.

It is a huge privilege to be involved in the PCC of such a beautiful church, in this Parish, and an honour to be part of the family. The role of a Church Warden is something that neither of us take for granted. Thank You to all of you who voted in our favour.

Despite Coronavirus still being determined to blight our day-to-day activities, we are quite busy at the moment! The APCM was held, the confirmation classes are now in full swing and we have recently reviewed the school attendances in order that parents and carers can submit them to the school of their choice.

One thing that we have learnt this year is how quickly time passes, and no doubt, it will be no time at all before hopeful parents and children learn whether or not they have been allocated their first choice.

In the meantime, we shall continue to hold them in our Prayers.

Peace be with you and stay safe,

*Sam & Simon.*

### **Christmas Greetings!**



No not yet! But if you would like your Christmas greeting published in the December magazine then please email me by 15<sup>th</sup> November on [editor@stthomasmooreside.org](mailto:editor@stthomasmooreside.org) It's a lovely way of keeping in touch, especially now that many of us are not physically meeting or are missing out on the usual social events.

The suggested donation is £5 per greeting. Thank you.

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### **Christmas Shopping!**



Again not yet, unless you are super-organised (I am most definitely not in this category). However, if you have not signed up for Easyfundraising then please do so. Many of us are using online shopping more than ever and lots of the big retailers will give us a small donation each time you shop, at no extra cost to you.

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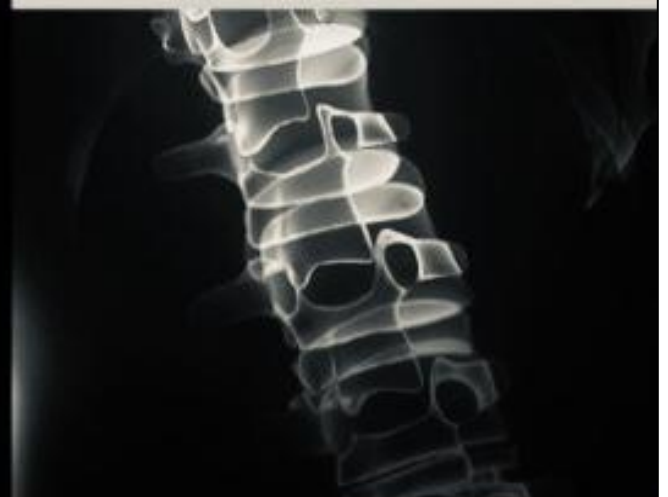
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We are pleased to report that Sunday school is back up and running with some slight changes, but nothing too major. The children now have a designated area where they will sit, either in family bubbles or even in classroom bubbles if they are in the same class at school.

We have welcomed some new children to Sunday school which has been wonderful and the usual faces have returned which has just been a joy!

We are asking all the children to bring their own pencil cases and stationery to limit the risk of cross-infection. They have been fabulous at keeping their hands clean and staying in the designated seating areas.

Dare I mention it, but we have even started to talk about the nativity play and this year it is going to be slightly different, possibly being held in the church hall rather than church but more details will follow over the coming weeks.

On our first week back we had a letter from Alfie Brown, talking about how much he had missed Sunday school so it was wonderful to read that letter to all the children. Thank you Alfie. In the same week we also found out that we have some budding actors, Jack and Joseph, who both have acting roles in some popular TV programmes so keep a lookout.

Just to remind you that we do have a Sunday school Facebook page but this is just for parents and carers of the Sunday school children as it is a closed group for safeguarding reasons. We do also put information on the church Facebook page which is an open group.

Sunday school is open age 4 and upwards if anybody has any questions or queries please do approach a Sunday school leader







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## Reader Ministry

The path I have travelled on my spiritual journey has been a long one with I guess not surprisingly, the inevitable twists and turns and pitfalls, but at every step of the way I have felt myself to be truly blessed and protected by God. Now I hope to commit myself more fully through further training which I hope will enable me to exercise my ministry in a broader way.

I have attended church since I was a teenager and have worshipped at St Thomas for thirty years. For most of this time I can honestly say that I felt no calling at all until about ten years ago when the Diocese began to promote lay ministry courses. I felt an inner voice calling me to respond and I prayed about it – but I did nothing. The voice remained persistent for a couple of years, and would not go away – in fact it became so loud that I could no longer ignore it and I took myself to a Saturday morning meeting about Authorised Lay Ministry. At the same meeting someone spoke about the Foundations for Ministry course and that sounded so exciting that I signed up for that as well.

I thoroughly enjoyed and felt spiritually enriched by both courses. I began to give a talk during our Sunday morning service every now and again and put together evening services to commemorate WW1, the Battle of The Somme and an Easter Celebration service. About a month after being commissioned as an ALM our incumbent Brenda retired and so I began to lead our monthly Parade services, beginning with the November Service of Remembrance.

I have constantly felt called to follow further training and progress in my ministry but have held back, wanting to devote more time to composing music. Finally, I have decided that if I manage my time wisely, maybe there is in fact time to do both. After applying for Reader training and having three interviews I have been accepted on the course and am looking forward to expanding my knowledge and experience in various different ways. Quite simply, I hope to continue to do what I already do in church – but do it better – with a deeper awareness and understanding of God's Word and teaching.

*Gail Randall*





**Treasurer's Letter**  
**for all your financial giving, it really is greatly appreciated.**

As already mentioned we now have an electronic card reader for donations via debit/credit cards. We're hoping that this will make life easier and be another option for offerings to church. There is a charge for each donation so could we please ask that you give a little more to cover this i.e. instead of £5 give £5.50; instead of £10 give £11; instead of £20 give £22 etc?

## Charity

A cheque for £12.91 was recently sent off to the Church Urban Fund from filled collection boxes. Thank you to the individual who donated these.

**PARISH SHARE** We have paid a further £2,000 towards our parish share making £8,000 against our £36,000 commitment. The spotlight is on us as to why we are not meeting our parish share. Yes, of course, this year is much more challenging but we paid less than 60% of our parish share for the past 2 years. The Wednesday night services are always well attended and have recently re-started. However, the financial giving at these services is negligible and not realistic. We don't want to be penalised and possibly lose our super vicar do we? Who Knows? Therefore, we (congregants and people in the parish) need to give more thoughtfully and realistically to maintain our beautiful church.

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP US TO RAISE FUNDS?**



We received a cheque from Easy Fundraising last month for £30.30. Thank you to all the shoppers who used the site to raise funds for us at no extra cost to themselves. Anyone who wishes to join, please do so. Oh, and remember.... keep shopping!

**Just for fun...** *The answer to last month's question: Which film character shouted "SHOW ME THE MONEY" and can you name the actor too? Is Rod Tidwell played by Cuba Gooding Jr in the film Jerry Maguire.*  
This month's question: *Who acted as James Bond in the Casino Royale 2006 film and who was the lead actor in the original Casino Royale film made in 1967 (not 007 though)?*

Corinne





## **ECO CHURCH AND STYLE**

It has been difficult for me to up the momentum that started with our toilet twinning activity 12 months ago, not least because of lockdown. However, things are continuing, and the more visible efforts are apparent in and around the church grounds. I wish to say a huge **thank you** to Mike and the Historical Society for all their efforts. The flower beds at the church entrance were this morning still in bloom and the gates are looking splendid thanks to the new coat of paint.

Now is the time we can start planting bulbs for spring if you want to help with this display in any way please email me:-

[readerangela@stthomasmoorside.org](mailto:readerangela@stthomasmoorside.org)

I have had some pallets donated and would welcome a few more. I am hoping to have a seating area built from these so if we have anyone reading this with skills and experience with this, I'd love to hear from you.

I know I mentioned the flowers in the church grounds but already I am planning and looking ahead to advent and Christmas! This might be because I have been working with the other STYLE ladies on our virtual Christmas fair which starts on the evening of **21<sup>st</sup> October** when hopefully I'll be going live on Facebook to introduce the Market, the Style raffles and some upcoming Church events. This fair is to replace both Traditional Christmas Fair and our Exclusive Christmas Fair this year.

Please do look at the virtual market there are lots of Craft Sellers throughout the month and they will be showing lots of wonderful items to decorate your home or give as a gift. We are still hopeful that we will be able to hold a live event where we can host a visit from Father Christmas and his elves on 28<sup>th</sup> November so do please keep watching for notices.

If you have any unwanted gifts of toiletries; bottles (alcohol, soft drinks, toiletries); chocolates; toys or anything else we can make use of to raise funds by holding raffles, tombolas etc, please bring them into church or let somebody know that we need to collect them from you.

**Following the success of our virtual Summer Market STYLE look forward to welcoming the market stalls as listed below. Please do join in!!**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Link</b>	<b>Products</b>
<b>Oct 21st</b>	STYLE	Live Introduction	Raffles and Gift day
22nd	Melanie Anderson	<a href="https://uw.co.uk/?position=N14215">https://uw.co.uk/?position=N14215</a>	Utility supplier
23rd	Linda Philips	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Handmade-By-Linda-P-470664086437097/">https://www.facebook.com/Handmade-By-Linda-P-470664086437097/</a>	Cards and gift tags
24th	Jules Jakes	<a href="http://www.templespa.com/juliejakeman">www.templespa.com/juliejakeman</a>	Temple spa
25th	Annie Brown	<a href="https://m.facebook.com/Artisannebrown/">https://m.facebook.com/Artisannebrown/</a>	Knitted toys
26th	Raye McKown	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/AuroraBloomShop">https://www.facebook.com/AuroraBloomShop</a>	Jewellery
27th	Angela Gibbons	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Pea-Pod-2528288081411999/">https://www.facebook.com/Pea-Pod-2528288081411999/</a>	Home Decor
28th	Elaine O'Neill	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/elaineoneill4/">https://www.facebook.com/elaineoneill4/</a>	Personalised gifts
29th	Linda Bott	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/maidinlimbo">https://www.facebook.com/maidinlimbo</a>	accessories
30th	Jill and Paul Morris	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Woodlandsjutebags">https://www.facebook.com/Woodlandsjutebags</a>	Craft bags etc
31st	Emily Yates	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/forteytreats">http://www.facebook.com/forteytreats</a>	Gift baskets hampers
<b>Nov 1st</b>	Christine Robinson	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/647814562616156">https://www.facebook.com/groups/647814562616156</a>	Garden craft decoration
2nd	Hannah Dashwood	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Hannahvirtualpage">https://www.facebook.com/Hannahvirtualpage</a>	Cards, Jewellery, baking
3rd	Claire White	<a href="https://loobylousscents.scentsy.co.uk/">https://loobylousscents.scentsy.co.uk/</a>	Wax melts fragrance diffusers
4th	Scarf seller	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/thescarfseller">https://www.facebook.com/thescarfseller</a>	scarfs
5th	Antonia Houghton	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ourlittlebookstore">https://www.facebook.com/ourlittlebookstore</a>	Books
6th	Kim Sarah	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/highstreethampers/">https://www.facebook.com/highstreethampers/</a>	Treat hampers
7th	Joanna Leach	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/jojosbeautylashesparties">https://www.facebook.com/jojosbeautylashesparties</a>	Beauty
8th	Michelle Rhodes	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/198313404116369">https://www.facebook.com/groups/198313404116369</a>	Perfumes
9th	Emma Slater	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Partylite-by-Emma-Slater-1554199074853544">https://www.facebook.com/Partylite-by-Emma-Slater-1554199074853544</a>	candles
10th	Elaine Butterworth	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/eclipsehandmadejewellerybyelaine">https://www.facebook.com/eclipsehandmadejewellerybyelaine</a>	Jewellery
11th	Victoria Tori	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Redrosemelts/">https://www.facebook.com/Redrosemelts/</a>	Wax melts
12th	Jeanette	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/goups/17">https://www.facebook.com/goups/17</a>	Cards and gifts

	Sykes	<a href="#">5653586155703r4</a>	
13 <sup>th</sup>	Emma Mitchell	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/228534991047604">https://www.facebook.com/228534991047604</a>	Usbourne books
14 <sup>th</sup>	Fiona Hindley	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/865958430559034">http://www.facebook.com/groups/865958430559034</a>	Bottles, vases etc. with lights
15 <sup>th</sup>	Rosie Bacon	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Little-Poppets-Preloved-New-339009253292618">https://www.facebook.com/Little-Poppets-Preloved-New-339009253292618</a>	Toys
16 <sup>th</sup>	Sophia Maria Foden	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/sophsassybowtique/">https://www.facebook.com/sophsassybowtique/</a>	Hair bows
17 <sup>th</sup>	Wendy Sidebotham	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/772639643067036">https://www.facebook.com/groups/772639643067036</a>	cosmetics
18 <sup>th</sup>	Clare White	<a href="https://loobylousscents.scentsy.co.uk/">https://loobylousscents.scentsy.co.uk/</a>	Wax melts fragrance diffusers
19 <sup>th</sup>	Emma Hulme	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/emhulmes">https://www.facebook.com/emhulmes</a>	Perfume
20 <sup>th</sup>	Estella Gadwell	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/flystella51">https://www.facebook.com/flystella51</a>	Jewellery
21 <sup>st</sup>	Bekky Jackson	<a href="http://www.facebook.cpm/remecoco">www.facebook.cpm/remecoco</a>	Bathbombs wax melts
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sarah Walker	Elaine O'neill	
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Jaqualine Foden	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ginisthefuture">https://www.facebook.com/ginisthefuture</a>	Bottles with lights and personalised items
24 <sup>th</sup>	Tracey Jacobs	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/ME-TIME-kids-clothingjewellery-accessories-261452357373937/">https://www.facebook.com/ME-TIME-kids-clothingjewellery-accessories-261452357373937/</a>	Kids clothing etc.
25 <sup>th</sup>	Vicky Longdon	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/vickytreatbox/">https://www.facebook.com/vickytreatbox/</a>	Gifts treats
26 <sup>th</sup>	Gaynor Atherton	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/1114135675636937/?ref=share">https://www.facebook.com/groups/1114135675636937/?ref=share</a>	Body shop
27 <sup>th</sup>	Jan Hunt	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/The-Crafty-Llama-1810672362346524">https://www.facebook.com/The-Crafty-Llama-1810672362346524</a>	Felt animals
28 <sup>th</sup>	STYLE	Live Market with Father Christmas	
29 <sup>th</sup>	STYLE	The drawing of any remaining Raffles after church	

**Shops dreaming of an early Christmas this year** Christmas should start with October's half-term this year, rather than in November. Christmas lights could be switched on, and shoppers (hopefully) enticed back to the shops. So say many retailers, as they struggle to recover from the pandemic. An executive with the New West End Company in London explains: "If we can bring the start of Christmas early, it will make it easier for people to spread their spending."

Making 'Christmas come early' may have another advantage. Traders argue that having more weeks of Christmas shopping will ensure a more steady flow of visitors, which will make social distancing easier. Meanwhile, shopping remains in the doldrums. In some parts of the country, numbers of shoppers are still 63 per cent down on last year. Shopping in the West End has been at only 37 per cent of the normal level.



My Eco Tip this month has not come from my book about getting rid of plastic, it is a variety of ideas I have picked up over the last few years to try and do a plastic free Christmas.

### **Cards -**

1. How you send your Christmas greetings can make a huge difference.
2. Send virtual card instead of actual cards or use the Church magazine to send good wishes.
3. Recycle part of last year's cards, use the images or pop out sections to design your own cards this year.
4. If you are less artistic then when selecting your cards then check they do not contain glitter and plastic which make them harder to recycle.
5. If you do buy cards then select an ethical company or charity card so your money is getting even more value.

### **Presents -**

1. Try to make presents by knitting or crocheting a winter accessory or recycle items rather than buying new.
2. Give an experience day or a gift token.
3. Give a subscription to a charity, perhaps adopt an animal for someone, sponsor child or twin a toilet.
4. Again, purchase from an ethical source and help ensure fair trade.

### **Wrapping -**

1. Avoid the shiny wrapping paper – it's often mostly plastic. Many stores now sell some lovely paper-only wrapping paper.
2. Make a decorative bag that can be reused again and again.
3. Brown paper, candy cane string and a brown card gift tag (from the North Pole) make for amazingly effective wrapping.

All the best Angela X

[readerangela@stthomasmoorside.org](mailto:readerangela@stthomasmoorside.org)

## AUTUMN AT ST. THOMAS'



This year's Harvest Festival will be held on **4<sup>th</sup> October** and we would be grateful for any donations of non-perishable items for Oldham Food Bank. We are also collecting hats, scarves and gloves for the Booth Centre in Manchester and again, any donations like this would be very gratefully received.

Please see page 5 for details of how to donate and church opening times.

Thank you as always for your generosity.



Don't forget the clocks go back  
on 25<sup>th</sup> October!

### THE 100 CLUB

As some people have paid their membership for the whole year but quite a number of others pay monthly, it has been decided to have a big draw in December and the prizes will be £50, £30 and £20. This means that there will be money to give to Church towards the end of the year.

We hope this is acceptable to people but please get in touch if you wish to discuss further.

**Moorside & District Historical Society** are unlikely to meet again before the end of year due to the ongoing coronavirus restrictions. However, everyone is invited to join the Remembrance Service on 8<sup>th</sup> November at 10am in church and then 10.45 outside for laying of wreaths and 2 minutes silence.

Millicent kindly donated some toothpaste etc, to the Trefoil member in Rochdale who makes up 'comfort bags' for the hospitals, and recently Lynn and Millient collected 14 bags and delivered them to Oldham hospital. Well done ladies!

# **R.M.A NEWS**

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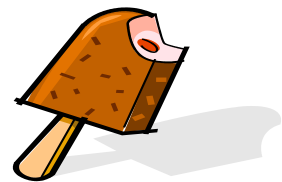
**Cigarettes**

**Ice-Cream**

**Drinks**

**Milk**

**Bread**



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**Mon – Sat.....6am – 7pm**

**Sunday.....6am – 3pm**







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Phone 0161 624 1398

Email: [enquires.mcbbc@gmail.com](mailto:enquires.mcbbc@gmail.com)

Hire the Club for functions and parties (Birthdays, Anniversaries, Weddings, Christenings and Funerals etc.) Full details available from the Bar staff or email us (as above).

Visit our website : [www.moorsidecbc.org.uk](http://www.moorsidecbc.org.uk) or "like" us on



## Fancy joining a team?

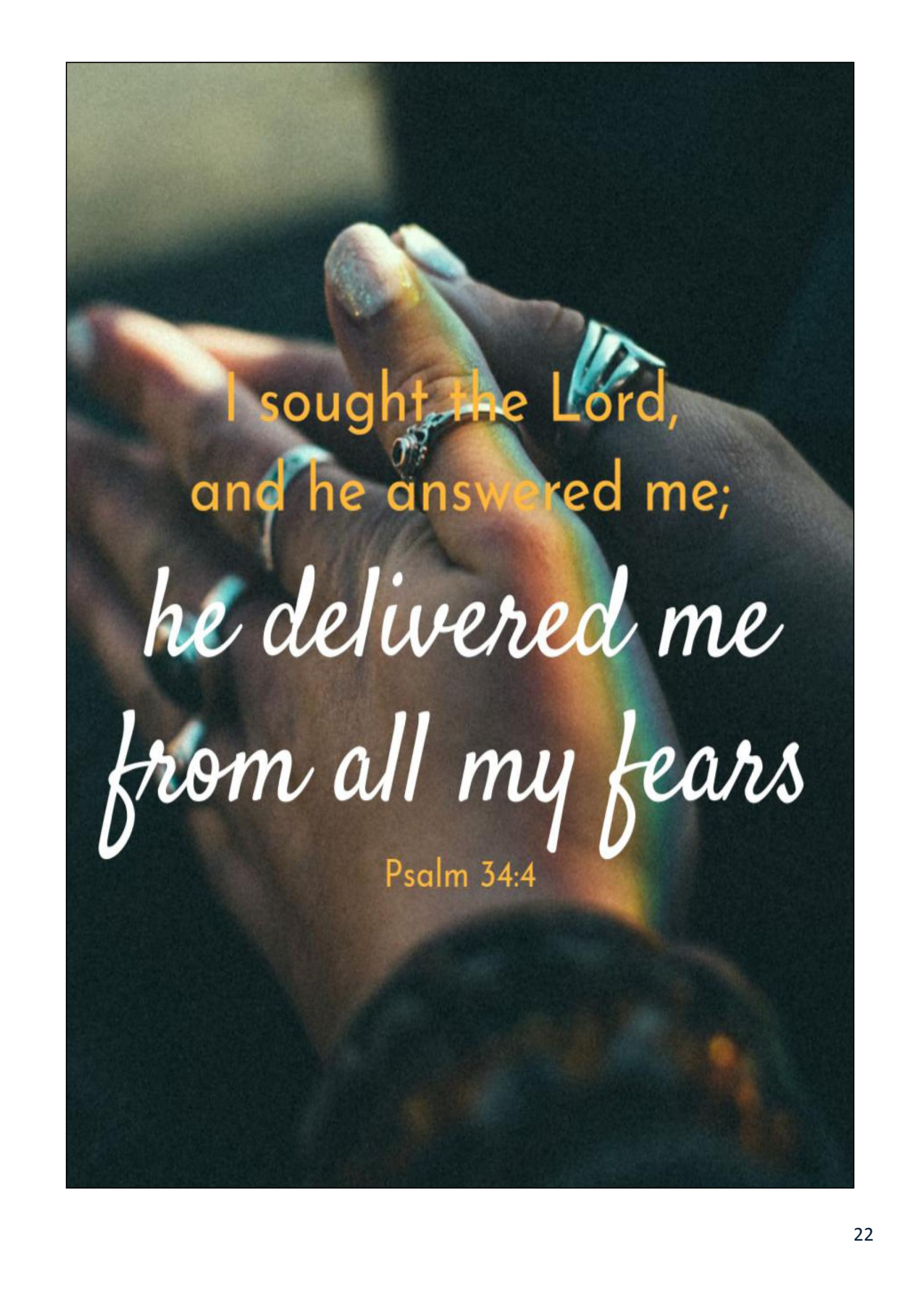
Cricket: Men's and Juniors (Boys and Girls) aged 6-14. We have also started a Women's Cricket Section aged 14+

Bowls: Mens & Ladies, all-age and veterans' teams in various local Crown Green Bowls Leagues

## Fancy joining the Club?

Moorside CBC is a members' sports & social club and every member is a Sporting member (playing or non-playing). Want to join? Simply walk in any evening after 6.00pm (or 4.00pm Saturdays & Sundays) and ask the bar staff for a membership form.

Registered Charity Number: 1153119

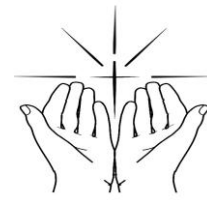


I sought the Lord,  
and he answered me;

*he delivered me  
from all my fears*

Psalm 34:4

## **Need for healing**



Heavenly Father,  
We bring to you all those struggling with their mental health just now.

We pray:

For everyone who is smiling, when inside they're in pain.

For everyone who is saying they're fine, when inside they feel drained  
and empty.

For everyone struggling with fear and worry as the easing of the  
lockdown brings new anxieties.

Be with them in their suffering, as so much of their world has been  
stripped back and emptied.

When loved family and friends have been taken by illness,  
Or made distant by lockdown.

Pour your healing balm into their pain and sadness.  
May you walk with them besides still waters  
May you speak to them in a still small voice.

May you heal them, and fill them, and bless them with your abundant  
love and fullness of life.

And may they know that they are loved by you for the beautiful unique  
person that they are, created in the image of their heavenly creator and  
loving Lord.

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
Amen.

*By the Revd Peter Crumpler*





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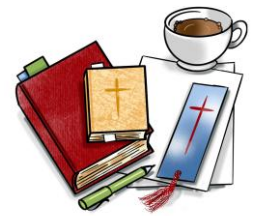
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## Understanding the Bible

As we acknowledge Bible Sunday this month, it's a good opportunity to ask the question: ***why should I read the Bible?***

The Bible is the world's best-selling book of all time. However, it isn't one book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over a period of 1500 years in a range of literature including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (end times). Despite having a number of different writers, the Bible claims one author: God himself!

This is the basis of the unity of its message and authoritative claim to be the primary way by which God speaks to us: *'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work'* (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired (*'the word of God in the words of men'*) and presents itself as a **manual for life**, equipping us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us in applying the words to our lives: *'the Spirit will guide you into all truth'* (John 16:13).

However, the Bible could also be described as a **love letter** from God, as He uses it to deepen our relationship with him. As Jesus said: *'You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me'* (John 5:39,40). Christians follow a person not a book, and the Scriptures are intended to help us to know Jesus better.

At her coronation the Queen was given a Bible with the words ***'the most precious thing this world affords'***. Does this reflect our own attitude to the Bible?

### **Litter Virus**

A face mask is a helpful thing –  
It traps those nasty germs!  
An extra message I must bring  
In these poetic terms:  
When you've finished with your mask  
A bin is simply found  
So drop it in – an easy task!  
Don't leave it on the ground!

*By Nigel Beeton*

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## **The language of church-going**



BULLETIN: Your receipt for attending the service.

HOLY WATER: A liquid whose chemical formula is H2OLY.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

INCENSE: Holy Smoke!

JUSTICE: When your children have children of their own.

KYRIE ELEISON: The only Greek words that most Catholics and Anglicans can recognise besides gyros and baklava. (it means Lord have mercy)

PEW: A medieval torture device still found in many Anglican and Catholic churches.

PROCESSION: The ceremonial formation at the beginning of the service, consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.

RECESSIONAL: The ceremonial procession at the conclusion of the service – led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd to the carpark.

RELICS: People who have been going to church for so long that they actually know when to sit, kneel, and stand.

TEN COMMANDMENTS: The most important – and oldest – Top Ten list.

USHERS: The only people in the church who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.

*This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*



For the Christian, the Bible is God's word to us; it tells us about His character and creative purposes, how He has related to people in the past, and His promises for the future. Science is a specific way of studying the world, exploring the physical properties of things – a wonderful way to explore God's creation. So, the question to ask if the Bible and Science seem to be contradicting each other is, have we made a mistake in interpreting one or the other?

Science is very good at answering certain types of questions: 'What size is it?', 'How fast does it travel?', 'What is it made of?', and so on. Questions like 'What's it for?', 'What should I do with it?', and 'What's it worth?' can't be answered using scientific methods. Some of the misunderstanding in discussions of science and religion come from not recognising the limits of science.

It's also important to recognise what the Bible is, and what sorts of questions it can answer. The Bible was written well before people began to investigate the world in ways we would recognise as scientific. Of course, people in the Ancient Near East were studying the world around them, observing the movements of the stars, the processes of life and death that happened all around them, the seasons, the behaviour of physical objects, and so on. But they did not study the mechanisms underlying these things systematically using the tools of science, and they did not see or describe the world in scientific terms – not because they weren't intelligent, but because science as we know it wasn't happening at that time.

Instead, the biblical writers used words that were commonly used in their own cultures to record events, share truth and wisdom, and tell stories that convey deep truth about God's character. If we want to understand God's intention in inspiring these words, we need to do some careful work to connect with those ancient writers and find out what they meant, before we can discover what those words mean to us today.

These principles can help us have far more fruitful conversations about science and Christian faith. If we allow any apparent conflict between Science and the Bible to fuel our search for understanding, not only will we learn as individuals, but we will be able to draw others into a conversation that is relevant to wider society today.



# The tale of the RICH FOOL



JESUS OFTEN TOLD  
STORIES WITH  
HIDDEN MEANINGS

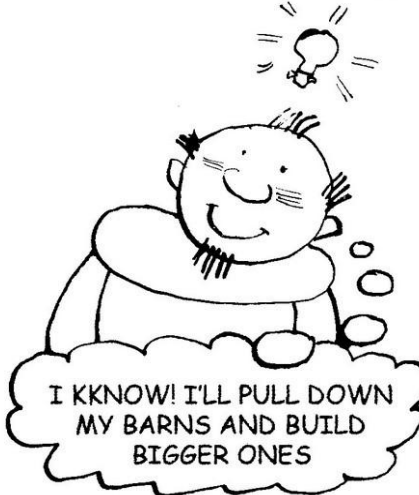


ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A MAN  
WHO HAD LOTS OF LAND WHICH  
GREW WONDERFUL WHEAT.

I HAVEN'T ANYWHERE TO  
KEEP ALL THIS FOOD



I KKNOW! I'LL PULL DOWN  
MY BARN'S AND BUILD  
BIGGER ONES



THE MAN DEMOLISHED HIS  
OLD BARN'S....

...AND BEGAN TO BUILD  
NEW ONES.



SOON I'LL BE THE RICHEST  
MAN IN THE TOWN!



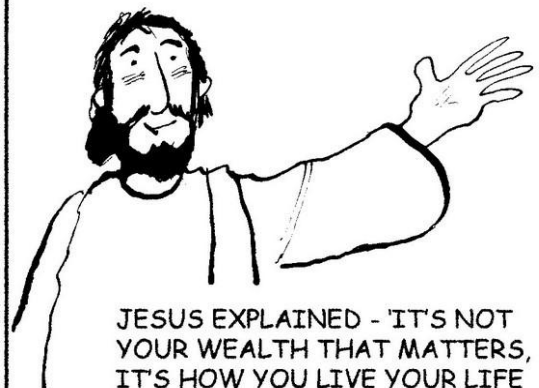
I'M SO LUCKY - I CAN  
EAT, DRINK AND BE  
MERRY!



BUT THAT VERY NIGHT,  
THE MAN DIED!



WHAT GOOD WERE HIS  
RICHES NOW?



JESUS EXPLAINED - 'IT'S NOT  
YOUR WEALTH THAT MATTERS,  
IT'S HOW YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE  
THAT'S IMPORTANT



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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### **Black boxes**

Adam and Julia Haigh

<b>DATE</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
<b>Sunday 4th October</b> Harvest Festival	Deuteronomy 8. 7-18;	2 Corinthians 9. 6-end	Luke 12. 16-30
<b>Sunday 11th October</b> Eighteenth after Trinity	Isaiah 25. 1-8	Philippians 4. 1-9	Matthew 22. 1-14
<b>Sunday 18th October</b> Luke the Evangelist	Isaiah 35. 3-6	2 Timothy 4. 5-17	Luke 10. 1-9
<b>Sunday 25th October</b> Last Sunday after Trinity	Nehemiah 8. 1-4a, 8-12	Colossians 3. 12-17	Matthew 24. 30-35
<b>Sunday 1st November</b> All Saints Day	Revelation 7. 9-end	1 John 3.1-3	Matthew 5. 1-12



### *Parish Registers*



#### **Baptisms**

We continue to pray for those whose baptism has been postponed.

Please pray for those who will be confirmed in November.

#### **Holy Matrimony**

We pray for Ashley and Cordy Woolley who were married here in September.

#### **Funerals**

We pray for the repose of the soul of John Smith and for his grieving family.



## CONTACTS AND EVENTS

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WARDENS	Simon Cane	2 Rossendale Close, Shaw	07775 571305
	Sam Atherton	Sam.atherton@icloud.com	07903 823352
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CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS	Sarah Edwards	st.thomas.moorside@gmail.com	07852 524300

*Please check with group leaders for start dates or keep an eye on our Facebook pages for more information*

Monday	Handbell Group	10.30am – 12pm	Choir Vestry
	Rainbows	6.30pm -7.30pm	Church Hall
	Brownies	6.45pm - 8pm	
	Bell Ringers	7.30pm - 8.30pm	Bell Tower
	Bible Study	7.30pm	Choir Vestry
	Guides	7.30pm – 9pm	Church Hall
Tuesday	Beavers	6.30pm -7.30pm	Church Hall
	Cubs	7.00pm - 8.30pm	
	Scouts	8.00pm - 9.30pm	
	Explorers	8.30pm–9.30/10pm	
Wednesday	Youth Group for 3 <sup>rd</sup> Age	1.30 – 3pm	Church Hall Lounge
	Wednesday Worship	7pm	Church
Last Weds of month	Junior Bible Study	6pm	Choir Vestry
Thursday	Choir	6.30pm – 8pm	Choir Vestry
Sunday	Parish Communion	8.30am/10.30am	Church
	Sunday School/Sunday Youth	10.25am	Church Hall