

A close-up photograph of a vibrant red poppy flower in full bloom, positioned in the center-right of the frame. Behind the flower, several golden-brown wheat stalks with long, thin awns are visible, some in sharp focus and others blurred. The background is a soft, out-of-focus field of similar wheat, creating a warm, autumnal atmosphere.

Holy Trinity

WATERHEAD

**Suggested
donation
50p**

November 2021
holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk

Services at Holy Trinity Church

Sunday 11:00 am Parish Worship
Wednesday 7:00 pm Family Communion
Baptisms and marriages by arrangement with the Vicar.

Please submit items for the December magazine by 15 November. You can e-mail files to paulmonk111@gmail.com

People at Holy Trinity Church

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Gift-aid Secretary	Vicky Heaton	(07906) 077 058
Parish Hall Manager	Naomi Parkes	(07907) 410 606
Sunday School	Yolanda Ryder	
Rainbows	Sarah Wilson and Natalie Morris	
Brownies	Val Lees and Moira Belcher	
Guides	Karen and Lisa Cannon	
Beavers and Cubs	Lee Thompson	(07907) 907 354
Scouts	Mark Dickinson	(07976) 666 512

Letter

from the Vicar

I was leading class of primary-age children, talking of this and that. The children were well behaved and very attentive, though a few were slightly restless now and then. I finally sat up, sure I'd done a good job, and asked my final question. It was not an important question at all—more a means of drawing together the final themes. But the first two answers completely shattered my sense of contentment, as both had completely misunderstood what I'd said.

I often feel the same when I think about my Christian life. Up to a point, I can feel quite pleased with myself: 'This is alright!' or 'Aren't I doing well?' but a chance remark or an overheard comment reveals my error. Perhaps I was meant to hear a few chance words; sometimes, no doubt, it's God's wonderful timing that has choreographed the encounter—He ensures that I'm in that place at that time to hear that snippet of opinion, to make me re-assess.

It is a sign of maturity as a Christian that we continually review our faith. We need to see if we are growing as Christians. A Christian who does not grow into an ever-greater awareness of God is probably growing away from God. A Christian who does not pause to think, 'How am I doing, Lord? Am I doing what Jesus would have me do?' is far more likely to be miles off course than the person who looks critically at themselves.

So it's important to realise that we are placed on earth to serve God. We are given the gift of life for nothing less than the requirement to grow into Christian discipleship. Anything else is to miss the point. We misunderstand human life if we use it as a way of acquiring wealth, status, or experiences.

Like my class of children, we can feel we're doing really well until God asks us his last and most important question, 'Were you wholly mine?'

Wishing you the glory and love of serving such a wonderful God.

PAUL

2021 dates for your diary

Sunday 31 October	4:00 pm: All Souls' Day A service of thanksgiving for the faithful departed in Waterhead Church.
Sunday 14 November	10:50 am: Annual Service of Remembrance at Waterhead War Memorial. 11:30 am: Annual Service of Remembrance in the Church — please note the change of start time.
Saturday 20 November	7:00 pm for 7:30 pm: Quiz night at Waterhead Parish Hall (see page 8)
Saturday 4 December	100 am: Councillors' Surgery in the Parish Hall.
Saturday 11 December	Decorating the Church for Christmas.
Weds 15 December	7:00 pm: Annual Carol Service.
Sunday 19 December	12 noon (approx.) Faith lunch for Christmas in the Church, after the main service.
Friday 24 December	4:00 pm: Christingle Service at Waterhead Church.
Friday 24 December	11:30 pm: Midnight Mass service at Waterhead Church.

Bible readings for November

Sunday 31 October

All Saints' Day

First: Isaiah 25:6–9

Epistle: Revelation 21:1–6a

Gospel: John 11:32–44

Sunday 14 November

Remembrance Sunday

First: Daniel 12:1–3

Epistle: Hebrews 10:11–14

Gospel: Mark 13:1–8

Sunday 28 November

Advent Sunday

First: Jeremiah 33:14–16

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 3:9–end

Gospel: Luke 21:25–36

Sunday 3 November

Third Sunday before Advent

First: Jonah 3:1–5, 10

Epistle: Hebrews 9:24–end

Gospel: Mark 1:14–20

Sunday 21 November

Christ the King

First: Daniel 7:9–10, 13–14

Epistle: Revelation 1:4b–8

Gospel: John 18:33–37

All labour that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.

Martin Luther King Jr.



Love is not shellfish
(with apologies to 1 Corinthians 13)

The word 'church' is ambiguous because it means different things to different people. It can be a building, a congregation, a denomination, or the entire body of all Christian believers.

Some people call this latter concept of all believers the 'Church Universal.' St Paul usually calls it 'The Body.'

Anyone can be a member of the Church Universal, which is why it embraces so vast a group of people. It includes not only those who are physically present for example in a service of worship, but also people who are away temporarily (on holiday, ill, at work). The universal Church also includes all Christians who have died and even those who have not yet been born. The phrase 'the Church' therefore includes all Christians ever: past, present and future.

We talk about this all-embracing Church each time we recite the Nicene Creed. This statement of belief acts as a simple check-list and a way of defining a Church to see if it is fulfilling its mission.

The Nicene Creed says:

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

We call this fourfold list the 'marks of the Church'.

One — There is only one church in God's eyes. Church denominations are irrelevant. So all congregations are a valid part of the one true Church provided they seek to abide by the other marks of the church. So a denomination is far from being true to God if it says that it alone is the Church.

Holy — The church is at its most authentic when it genuinely seeks to live as God wants it to. So it will be holy. This holiness means literally 'apartness,' meaning the Church should never succumb to the temptation to be like the culture in which it finds itself. It must differ and be better.

Catholic — If a congregation is a part of the one, true church, then its life and witness will have a great many things in common with other congregations. Their mission and teaching will act as unifying themes. Indeed, when true to itself, the Church seeks to learn best practice from whichever parts or denominations are seeking to live a Godly life. The word 'catholic' originally meant 'universal in extent' and 'involving all'; in this context, catholic means the whole Christian body or church. The use of this word in the creed seeks to

describe the unifying nature of faith.

Apostolic — The church, when true, follows the teachings of the first apostles. The true church seeks to obey God as revealed in the Bible. A Church that fails in one of these four aspects needs to pray hard, asking God for help in repairing the damage. A Church that fails in two or more needs to examine itself and repent.

The description of the Church at the end of the Apostles' Creed is much simpler:

I believe in the holy Catholic Church.

The 'marks' of the Church

**You can be committed to the Church
but not committed to Christ,
but you cannot be committed to Christ
and not committed to
the church.
Joel Osteen**

The background of the poster features a warm, golden-yellow color palette with soft, out-of-focus floral and leaf patterns. Red poppies are scattered throughout, particularly on the left side, adding a poignant touch to the design.

Holy
Trinity
WATERHEAD

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 10 November

10:50 am at Waterhead War Memorial

11:30 am at Waterhead Church

holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk

The background is dark with a bokeh effect of light circles. A large, ornate gold Christmas bauble with a red and gold ribbon bow is the central focus, with other smaller baubles visible in the background.

Holy
Trinity
WATERHEAD

Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve

Service starts at 11:30 pm

All are welcome

The background is a deep red with a pattern of gold swirls. Several lit candles are visible, casting a warm glow. In the foreground, there are Christmas decorations including red and gold baubles, a slice of orange, and some greenery.

Holy
Trinity
WATERHEAD

Christingle Service

Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm

All are welcome

holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk

The background is a bright, warm yellow with a bokeh effect of light circles. Various gold Christmas decorations, including stars, baubles, and garlands, are scattered across the scene.

SAINT
Barnabas
CLARKSFIELD

Christmas Day

Celebration and Eucharist

Service starts at 9:30 am: all are welcome

medlockhead.co.uk

Curate's corner

At the end of September I went to Walsingham. The title of the weekend pilgrimage was *'Let it be unto me ...'* a few of the words said by Mary in response to the Angel Gabriel at the Annunciation.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham is dedicated to the Mother of Jesus and is a holy site. It is maintained by the Church of England for Christians of many traditions. The story goes that in 1061, Mary appeared in a vision to Richeldis, a Saxon noblewoman. She took her, in spirit, to the house in Nazareth where she was asked to become the mother of Jesus. Mary then called upon Richeldis to build an exact replica of that house saying *'All who seek me there will find succour.'*

As we might expect, the shrine was destroyed by Henry VIII during the Reformation but, in 1931, the present day shrine with a re-construction of the house was established. It has been a popular pilgrimage site ever since, attracting thousands of visitors each year.

Even though I am quite 'catholic' in my tastes, I never really fancied a trip to the shrine myself, not least as the 'guardians' do not allow women to participate at Mass. But I thought I should go at least once.

The place itself is impressive: a collection of buildings (including comfortable accommodation, a modern refectory, and a café bar) set in beautiful gardens in a peacefully small Norfolk village.

Worship in the shrine church is what most would call 'high' with incense, bells and sumptuous vestments, but there are also various chapels and the 'Holy House' itself in which to find space and time for private prayer. Stations of the Cross are positioned in the garden (I particularly enjoyed these) and there is a regular evening procession during which the statue of Mary is carried aloft as pilgrims follow with candles singing *'Ave Maria'* (Hail Mary). There are healing and reconciliation ministries available and 'sprinkling' at the 'Holy Well'

Not much remains of the medieval monastery, destroyed by Henry VIII

For the duration of the weekend, I chose to wear my collar (as did two other women priests in the party). I did get a few disparaging glances from some of the other people there, but I also had other women who approached me to say they were heartened to see us there representing ordained women. I also had a few minutes to chat with a Roman Catholic woman (she called me 'Father'!) who said it must be such a joy to be a priest and, as we parted, she asked me to bless her.

The whole experience was refreshing as I spent time reflecting particularly on Mary's words and my own response to God's call.

It has to be said, Mary certainly *'Let it be'* far quicker than I did ... but here I am!

Revd Jane

Quiz night

After 2 years we will at last be able to hold a **Quiz Night** which will take place in the Parish Hall on Saturday 20th November. The quiz will start at 7.30 pm so please take your places as soon after 7:00 pm as possible so that we can start promptly. Getting there early will give a head start on one of the picture rounds so bring your friends to make up your team (maximum of 6 people per team). Tickets cost £5 for adults and that includes nibbles and a (mostly) cheese buffet supper. Entry for children under 12 is free, and tickets for those between 12 and 18 years of age cost £3.

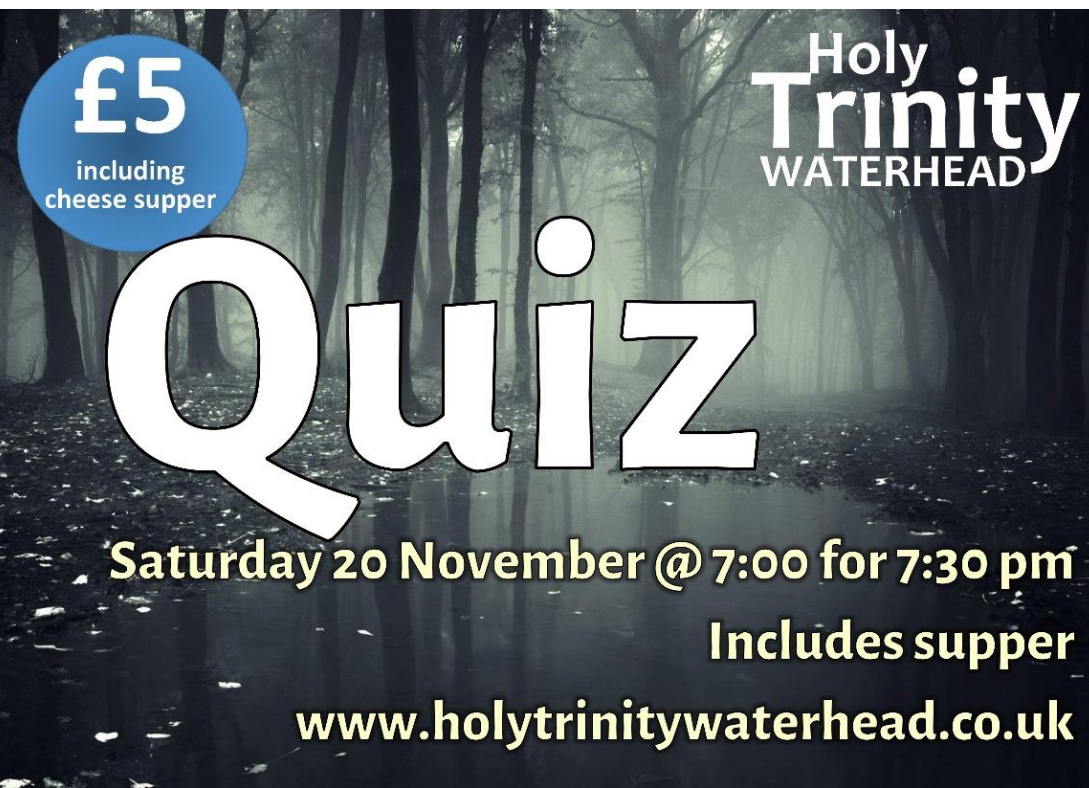
The bar will be open and there will be a raffle as well as a cash prize of £30 for the winning team. If anyone would like to donate a raffle prize please contact Lynne Schofield on (07804) 094 457. The money raised will go towards the new kitchen in the Parish Hall. Anyone who uses that kitchen will know that it is seriously overdue for refurbishment. So come along for a fun evening and help us to make the Parish Hall an even better venue.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who bought a blue knitted forget-me-not badge, which we sold in support of Alzheimer's Research. Kelly Hulse from St Barnabas' Church raised the astonishing sum of £810. Well done!

Christmas raffles

We will be holding two raffles and, as in pre-Covid years, the prize in one raffle will be a Christmas hamper and in the other raffle all the prizes will be chocolates. There will be boxes at the back of the church from late October for donations of prizes for both raffles and a list of suggestions for the hamper.



£5
including
cheese supper

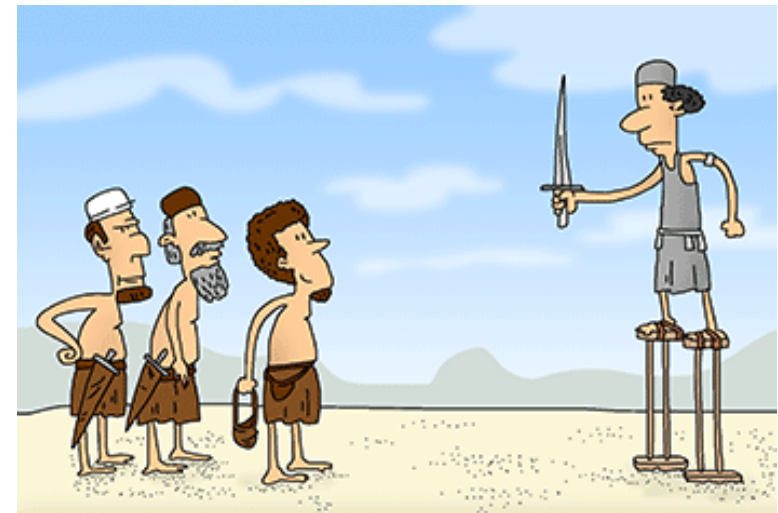
Holy
Trinity
WATERHEAD

Quiz

Saturday 20 November @ 7:00 for 7:30 pm

Includes supper

www.holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk



Goliath's replacement was even less effective
(with apologies to 1 Samuel 17)

Michael King Jr. was born on 15 January 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. He was the second of three children to Michael King and Alberta King. He was named 'Michael' at birth but was called 'Martin' from an early age.

It was a family of faith. His father Martin Luther King Sr. was an early civil rights activist and minister and his maternal grandfather was a pastor of the *Ebenezer* Baptist Church. The three children read aloud from the Bible as instructed by their father. His grandmother told lively stories from the Bible to her grandchildren. The family was also extremely strict.

As a very young child, King became friends with a white boy whose father owned a business across the street from the family home. The boys started school at the age of about six years. King had to attend a school for black children, Yonge Street Elementary School, while his playmate went to a separate school for white children. Soon afterwards, the white boy's parents stopped allowing King to play with their son with the words, 'we are white, and you are coloured.' King told his parents who started a long discussion about the history of slavery and racism in the United States. King later said that learning of the hatred, violence and oppression that black people had faced made him 'determined to hate every white person.' In response, his parents instructed him that it was his Christian duty to love everyone. They taught by example.

In Boston, during his work on a doctorate, King met Coretta Scott, an aspiring singer and musician at the *New England Conservatory* school. They married in June 1953. They had two sons and two daughters.

In 1954, King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. He also became a member of the executive committee of the *National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People*, the leading organisation of its kind in the entire USA. King's skilful oratory put new energy into the civil rights struggle.

At the age of thirty-five, King became the youngest ever recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. When notified of his selection, he announced that he would give the prize money to further the civil-rights movement.

King was elected president of the *Southern Christian Leadership Conference* in 1957. He used the position to lead the growing civil-rights movement. King's ideals came from Christianity but he learnt operational techniques from Gandhi. During his eleven-year tenure as leader, he travelled six million miles and spoke over 2,500 times, appearing wherever there he saw injustice.

More information

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/1964/king/biographical>

<https://www.biography.com/activist/martin-luther-king-jr>

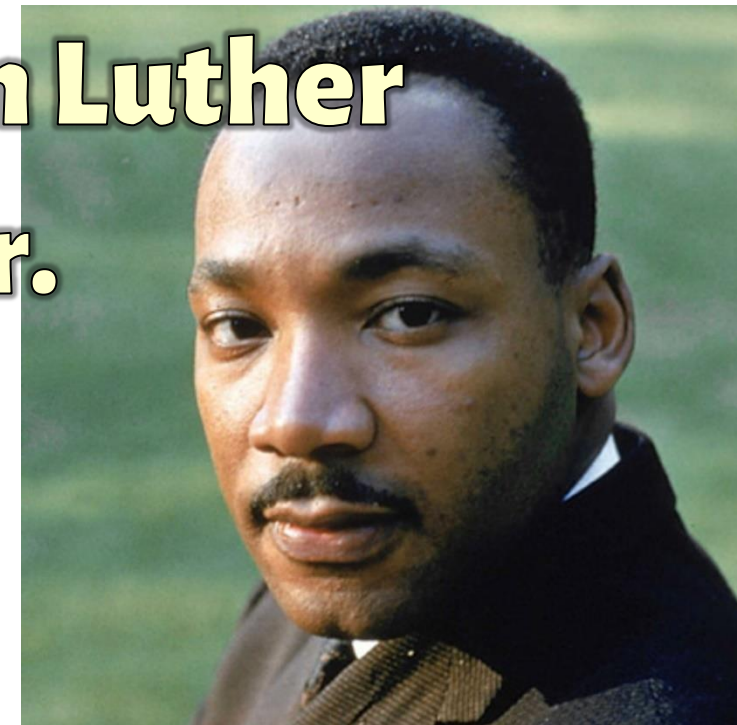
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King_Jr.

In this time, he led a massive protest in Birmingham, Alabama, which won worldwide attention and provided what he called a 'coalition of conscience'. It inspired his 'Letter from a Birmingham Jail'—a manifesto for the black-led civil-rights movement. Actually, his patient, non-violent approach and appeal to white middle-class citizens alienated many Black militants who thought his methods too weak, too late, and ineffective. He continued to preach, write, and consult with church leaders and even presidents. He never stopped. He was assaulted; arrested; awarded five honorary degrees and wrote five books. He was named Man of the Year by *Time* magazine in 1963; and became a world figure.

King was assassinated on the evening of 4 April 1968 while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee. He was scheduled to lead a protest march the next day.

Since then, King has become an icon for the civil-rights movement. His life had a seismic impact on race relations in the United States. Years after his death, he is the most widely known African-American of his era. He was a complex figure in some ways: flawed, fallible and limited in his control over the mass movements with which he was associated, yet a visionary leader who was deeply committed to achieving social justice through nonviolent means. And it all began with a desire to identify with the Lord Jesus he met in the Gospels.

Martin Luther King Jr.



Inspire women

A new self-help group has started at our sister Church of St Barnabas that aims to help local women. It meets in the hall each Thursday morning, 9:00–12:00 noon.

It's open to all women. Activities include craftwork, food, and music. Please contact MaryAnne for more details, on (07599) 006 584.

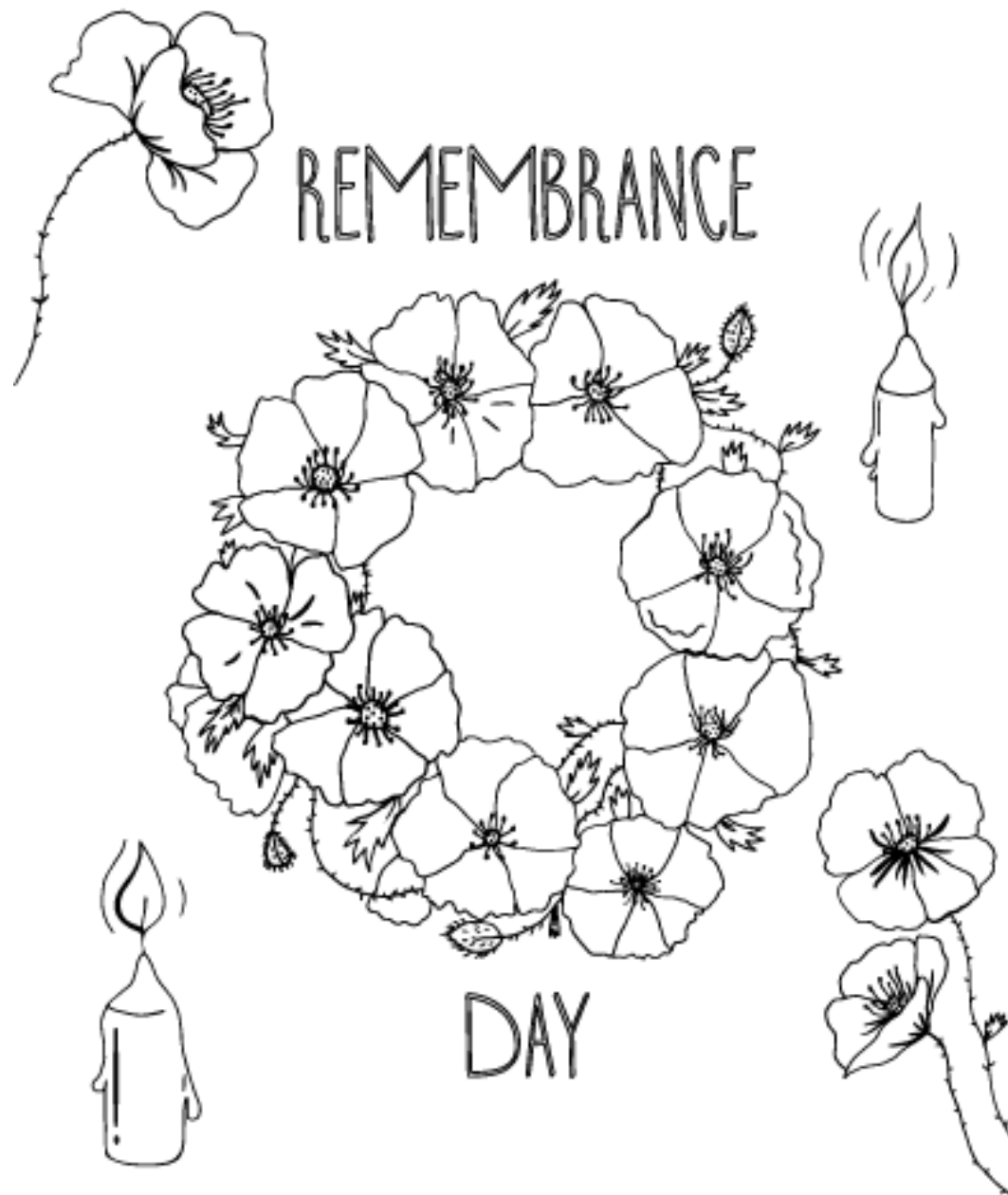


Thank you!

This year's Harvest appeal included collecting food and donations toward the work of *Save the Children*. The collection raised the amazing sum of £92.20.



Thank you to everyone who gave so generously.



Colour this picture

Author The book has traditionally been ascribed to Moses. This idea comes from the common assumption that Moses wrote all the first five books of the Bible, the Pentateuch. But it also follows statements concerning Moses' writing activity (such as 33:1–2; Ex 17:14; 24:4; 34:27).

Name The book is named after two censuses taken of the Israelites.

Date The book has a long and complex history. The book itself says it was written before the Israelites inherited the promised land, so about 1428 BC. But our final version probably dates to the fifth century BC. It was probably edited many times between those two dates.

Overview The Book of Numbers is the fourth Book of the Law of Moses, also known as the Torah or Pentateuch. The Law includes the Books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

The book follows Moses and Israel's journey from the foot of Mount Sinai (where Leviticus ends) to the edge of the promised land of Canaan. This journey is depicted as comprising three separate parts: in the Sinai Desert (1:1–10:10), in Kadesh (10:11–21:35), and on the Plains of Moab near the Dead Sea (22:1–36:13).

The second major focus is Israel's repeated rebellion and God's repeated mercy for His people and disciplining of them.

Content Much of the book describes legislation for priests and people, and shares content with Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy. The narrative tells of the people's rebellion against God and His subsequent judgment against them: God had redeemed them from slavery in Egypt and made a covenant with them at Mount Sinai but they responded with outright rebellion. Their apostasy found extreme expression when they refused to conquer Canaan (chapter 14), which explains why God refused to let them into the promised land. He condemned them to live the rest of their lives in the desert; only their children would enjoy the inheritance.

begins, God organises Israel into an army. God lives among the people (in 'the tabernacle'). Israel then enters a covenant with God at Sinai. After leaving Sinai, the people form an army to establish God's kingdom in the 'promised land' in the midst of the nations.

Many modern readers will feel uncomfortable. While the book portrays Israel as the Lord's covenant people, and its vocation as the servant people of God, their actions look very much like ethnic cleansing. While the book says that God wants to live with fallen humanity and redeem His creation, He often looks like a vindictive deity punishing a small tribe for not being strong enough to live as He wills.

This vision of God informed the theology of the Middle East for centuries, which explains why Jesus so often countered its version with a vision of a peace-loving God who commands love and *is* love.

Famous verses Perhaps the most famous passage from Numbers is the Priestly Blessing from Numbers 6:24–26, which is used in many Jewish and Christian liturgies:

May the Lord bless you and keep you;
may the Lord cause his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
may the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and grant you peace.

This Priestly Blessing also happens to be the earliest Biblical passage ever discovered in an archaeological find: two silver amulets uncovered in a burial chamber on the western slopes of the Hinnom Valley in Jerusalem. They have been dated to about 600 BC.

For more information, please visit the following sites:

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/numbers>

<https://overviewbible.com/numbers>

<https://biblescripture.net/Numbers.html>

<https://trumpet-call.org/2017/09/21/when-was-the-book-of-numbers-written>

The book of Numbers

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

Wordsearch for autumn

Find the following words in this wordsearch.

Apples, autumn, birds, blanket, bonfire, changing, cider, colorful, cozy, crow, deciduous, equinox, flannel, foliage, frost, harvest, hayride, jacket, leaves, migrate, orchards, pumpkin, quilt, rake, rustling, scarecrow, season, spider, squash, squirrel, sunflower, sweater, trees, vegetables, wheelbarrow.

Pleasant sounds

The rustling of leaves under the feet in woods and under hedges;

The crumpling of cat-ice and snow down wood-rides, narrow lanes and every street causeway;

Rustling through a wood or rather rushing, while the wind halloos in the oak-top like thunder;

The rustle of birds' wings startled from their nests or flying unseen into the bushes;

The whizzing of larger birds overhead in a wood, such as crows, puddocks, buzzards;

The trample of robins and woodlarks on the brown leaves. and the patter of squirrels on the green moss;

The fall of an acorn on the ground, the pattering of nuts on the hazel branches as they fall from ripeness;

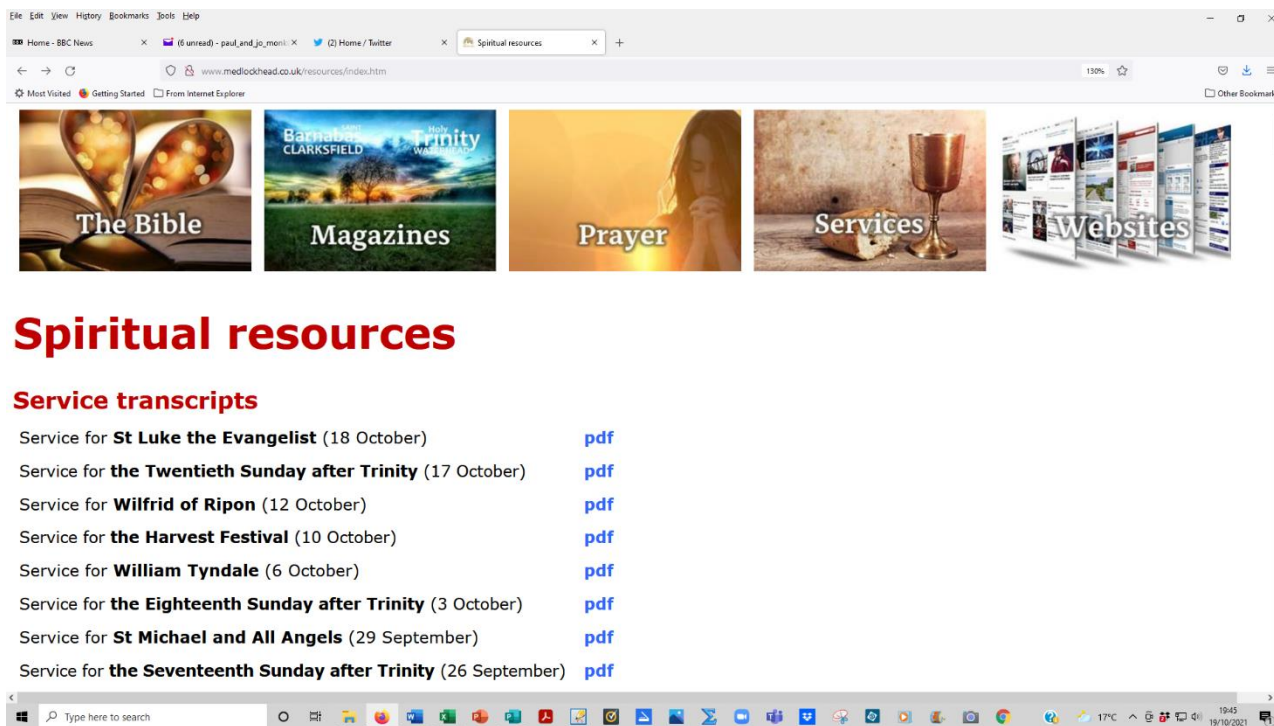
The flirt of the groundlark's wing from the stubbles – how sweet such pictures on dewy mornings, when the dew flashes from its brown feathers.

John Clare

We continue to maintain the Church website and keep it stocked with news and resources concerning Covid. The advice is up-to-date. Please go to the link,
<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/virus>

We continue to produce two service transcripts a week—one each Sunday and one for a mid-week saint's day or special occasion. All the transcripts are up-loaded to the Church website together with information about the Bible, past issues of the Church magazine, and advice about prayer. You can revisit all these files as many times as you like via the link,
<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

When did you last visit our Church website?



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm. The page features a navigation bar with icons for 'The Bible', 'Magazines', 'Prayer', 'Services', and 'Websites'. Below this, the 'Spiritual resources' section is highlighted in red. Underneath, a list of service transcripts is provided, each with a date and a PDF link.

Spiritual resources

Service transcripts

Service	Date	Link
Service for St Luke the Evangelist	(18 October)	pdf
Service for the Twentieth Sunday after Trinity	(17 October)	pdf
Service for Wilfrid of Ripon	(12 October)	pdf
Service for the Harvest Festival	(10 October)	pdf
Service for William Tyndale	(6 October)	pdf
Service for the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity	(3 October)	pdf
Service for St Michael and All Angels	(29 September)	pdf
Service for the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity	(26 September)	pdf

My dream a vision of peace

Where the mountains touch the sky,
Where poets dream, where eagles fly,
A secret place above the crowd,
Just beneath a silver-lined cloud.

Lift your eyes to a snowy peak,
And see the soon-to-be we seek.
Whisper, 'Dreams,' and let them rise,
To the mountains old and wise.

Climbers climb, it's time to try,
Where the mountains touch the sky.
Take me there. Oh, take me now,
Someway, Someday, Somewhere, Somehow.

Where the ocean meets the sky,
Where mermaids dance, where seagulls fly,
A place in dreams I know so well,
The sea inside a single shell.

Only dreamers need apply,
Where the ocean meets the sky.
Take me there. Oh, take me now,
Someway, Someday, Somewhere, Somehow.

A common ground for one and all,
Behind the crystal waterfall,
Where Peace flows like a mighty stream,
Like Dr King I have a Dream.

Extract from a poem by Todd Michael St. Pierre

Our Churches are run by the Diocese of Manchester, and it is changing fast. Those changes are caused by shifts in the area and the country at large, and now Covid, means the Diocese has an additional funding crisis. In consequence, the Diocese has spent about £6 million more than its income during the past three years.

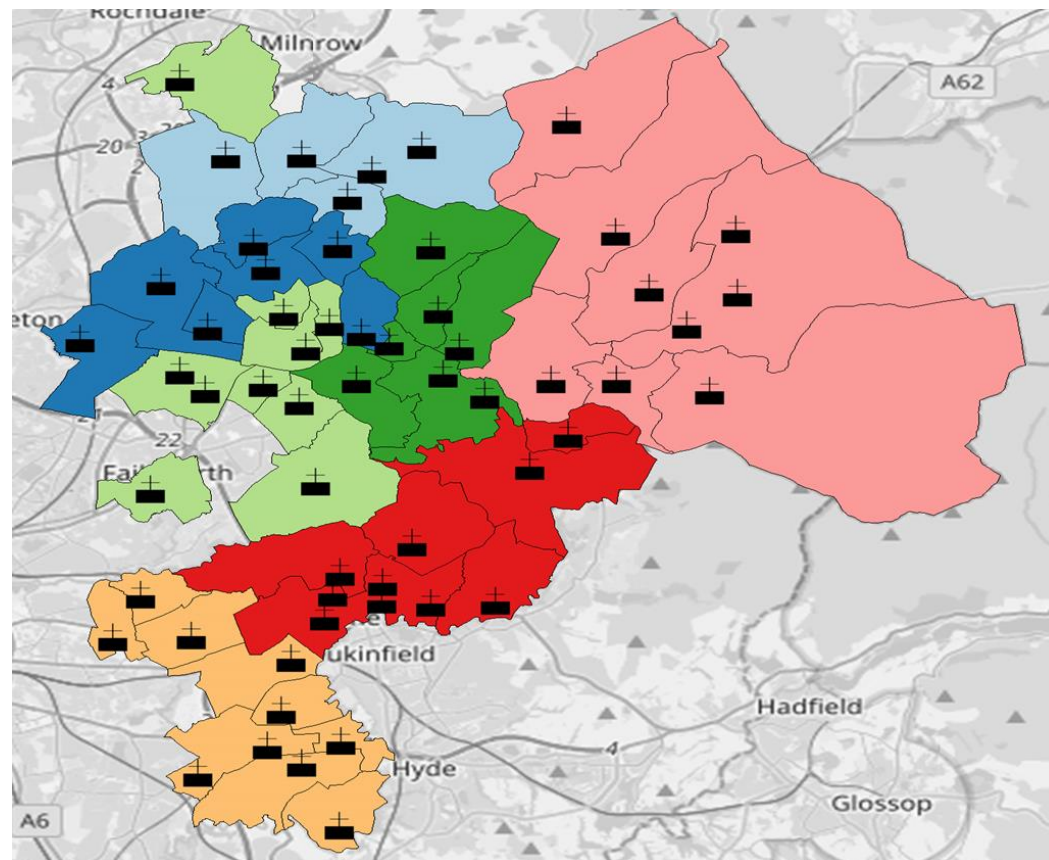
The Diocese's principal expenditure is the cost of clergy and support staff. To make ends meet, the Diocese is cutting the number of clergy by about 25% over the next five years.

It is also changing its support structures: for example, the number of deaneries has recently decreased from 20 to 7. Each is served by a full-time Area Dean. Those deans do not work as a parish priest because the work-load is large.

Our new Deanery of Oldham and Ashton was created by joining together the three former deaneries of Oldham East, Oldham West, and Ashton. Our new Area Dean is the Revd Daniel Ramble who lives in the vicarage next to Leesfield Church.

Our vicar, Paul Monk, helps lead the new deanery. The parishes in the deanery are being sub-divided into seven 'Mission Communities:' the parishes in our Mission Community are spread across East Oldham. Our 'Mission Community' is depicted in darker green in the map opposite. It comprises six Parishes and six church buildings: Clarksfield (St Barnabas), Hey (St John the Baptist), Leesfield (St Thomas and St Agnes), Moorside (St Thomas), Waterhead (Holy Trinity), and Glodwick Parish which, of course, no longer has a church building.

We will see a great many changes locally as a result of these innovations. Most obviously, the local clergy and lay Readers in the six constituent churches will circulate, attending the component Church congregations for worship and other events. They



will also assist at baptisms, weddings, funerals, and all other Church functions.

We should aim for all our church communities to help each other. Please pray that God will show us how *He* wants us to do so.

Our new deanery



**AGE UK
REGISTERED**



**DBS
CHECKED**

**CCTV
ALARMS
SECURITY LIGHTS**

**HANDY MAN
SERVICE**

**NO JOB TO BIG OR
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Letter from Revd Denise

Dear Sister and Brothers

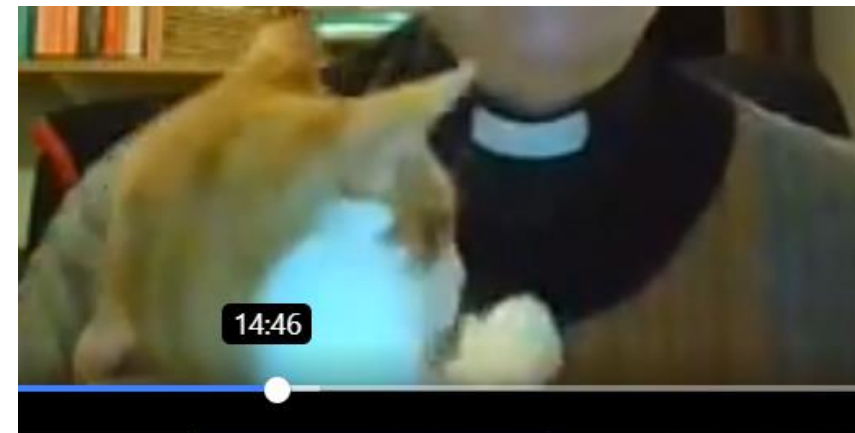
Some of you may know that I have a cat called Larry. I'm one of those people who decided to become a pet owner (or Larry's mum) during lockdown, and I'm so glad I did. It's a lovely thing to have a cat in the house, although visitors to the vicarage may disagree, as his white hair gets everywhere and people frequently end up covered in Larry's fur. I do try to vacuum it up, honest!

Cats are supposed to be a bit stand offish and have a reputation for not caring one way or the other if their human is at home or not, but since I've had Larry, I've noticed that he likes to follow me around, often getting under my feet, and certainly seems to enjoy being in the same room as me. Is it fear of missing out? FOMO as it is called? Perhaps, but I have also noticed that he almost always joins me when I pray. His tail can often be seen on our Facebook livestream of Morning Prayer at 7am.

What can we as mature Christians learn from a cat? Well, forgive me for a seemingly tangential link, but praying together is just as important as praying alone. No doubt you've heard this many times before from me or Paul, but prayer is the absolute foundation of our lives as disciples of Christ. Without prayer individual and corporate, our churches will not grow in faith or numbers, and without prayer our service to our communities will be social work not mission.

I like to think that when Larry comes and sits on my lap in the morning, he in some way is fulfilling his vocation as a part of God's good creation. It is a creation and a mission that we all share equally, and our lives of prayer are what sustain us, and our care for them.

Yours in Christ: Revd Denise



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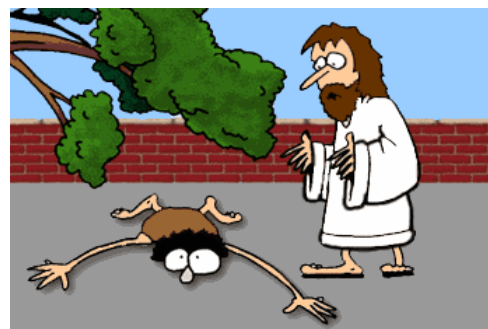
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'Zacchaeus, you should have come
down more slowly!'
(with apologies to Luke 19)

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It used to be hard to believe that walkers had encountered roe deer in the vicinity of Strinesdale reservoirs. For a long time this was not my experience until I noticed one standing in the water where it had waded in to drink. Now they are more common as seasons become warmer, vegetation more lush and trees more expansive. The other morning I was walking from the Academy towards the R.S.P.C.A centre when a fawn stepped onto the road having descended the bank there. As I waited it was joined by a second and then a third. Two more, perhaps slightly older then appeared. All had the late-season greyish colouration. While roe deer can run very fast they do not waste energy and this group merely shuffled off, one by one re-entering the cover of the embankment plants. Raking the fields of Moorside with binoculars, past the alpacas (which look decidedly odd in an English field) I could see a roe buck sporting an impressive set of antlers. These will be discarded in late autumn to be re-grown in spring ready for the mating season.

Evidence

You may have had an unfortunate encounter with the common wasp which stings hard and leaves the victim dancing with pain. There are however many other kinds of wasp, around 9000 separate species having been identified within these islands. Passing an oak tree I was struck by the sheer abundance of button-like galls plastered on the undersides of many

of the leaves. These are caused by the silk button gall wasp and are tiny round structures appearing under magnification as if fashioned from fine brown silk. The minute wasps lay eggs on the leaves, an applied chemical causing the galls to develop and as the eggs hatch out each gall will contain one larva. In late summer the larvae develop into wasps which remain in the galls as the leaves fall to the ground. In late winter to early spring the adult wasps emerge. Fascinatingly this is an all-female generation laying unfertilised yet viable eggs in the oak leaf-buds, forming swellings called blister galls within the leaves. The blister galls shelter a generation of both male and female wasps dependent on sexual reproduction. Their fertilised eggs are deposited to produce the next occurrence of silk button galls. Whilst I have learnt much from writing this page and from our conversations together, I still find the inexhaustible ingenuity displayed within the natural world very surprising. (There are exemplary photos of dissected galls on the Dutch website <https://bladminieerders.nl> and excellent insect info at naturespot.org.uk)

On the upper reservoir and in the grey autumn light a pair of little grebes are working hard to sustain their late brood of three youngsters. Diving constantly they surface with small fish which they pass to the chicks. Often a black-headed gull waits nearby hoping to snatch a free meal.



Silk button galls



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From the memorial book

- 4 **Florence Dean** died 1999 aged 86. Treasured Mum, Grandma and Great-Grandma.
- 5 **Norah Illing** dearly loved Wife, Mother and Friend died this day 1993 aged 72. 'Resting where no shadows fall.'
- 6 **Harriette Heywood Waddington** died this day 1942. Known as Daisy to family and friends. A constant worshipper and a beloved friend. **Rebecca Sarah Robinson** died 1969. 'In Heavenly Love Abiding.'
- 8 **Freda Barnes** died this day 2010 aged 71. Passed away overseas. Greatly loved. Reunited with Trevor.
- 9 **Frank Robinson** died this day 1958 aged 66 years. 'A loving Husband and Father.'
- Louisa Mary Hudson** died this day 1995. 'In Heavenly Love Abiding.'
- 11 **Stuart Stephen Bolton** died 1994 aged 18 years. 'Remembered always with love.'
- Albert Allen** A dear husband and father. Birthday Memories 1923–1978. 'Lest We Forget.'
- 14 **Harry Buckley** died this day 1947. True was his heart, his actions kind, His loving memory left behind.
- Austin John Cox** died 1990. 'His life a Beautiful Memory, His Absence a Silent Grief.'
- 16 **Hilda Harris** died this day 2008 aged 82. 'Treasured memories of a loving Mum, Grandma and Great-Grandma.'
- 22 **Helen Chadderton Feber** died 1996 aged 95 years. 'A deeply caring friend and an inspiration to all.'
- 23 **Fred Broadbent** died 1986 aged 88 years. 'Dearly loved. He lives in our hearts and minds.'
- 24 Loving memories of **John Fielding Baron** who died in 1985 aged 73 years.
- 25 **Fred Wolfenden** died this day 1972.
- 28 **Sarah Fletcher** died 1942. Always remembered.
- 29 **Barbara Battersby** died 1957 aged 3 yrs. 9m. A treasured little daughter and sister. Remembered with love.
- 30 **Frank Albert Horrocks** died this day 1988. Loved and Remembered Always.

From the Parish Registers

Christian baptism

Sunday 10 October

Gracie Roylance.

Bay-Leigh Stevens-Blair.

All baptisms occurred at Waterhead Church.

Christian funeral

Friday 8 October

Raymond Hunt, at Oldham Crematorium.

Monday 18 October

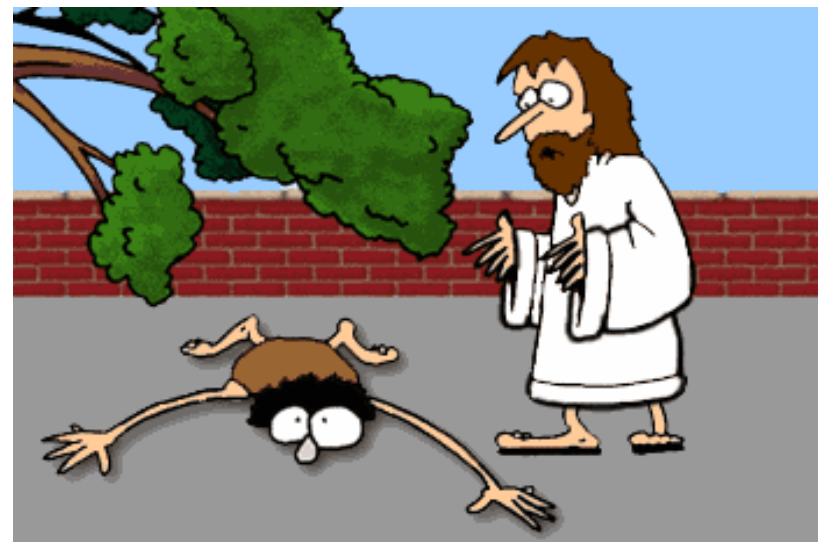
John Heap, at Oldham Crematorium.

Monday 25 October

Marion Reeves, at Waterhead Church, then Oldham Crematorium.

Tuesday 26 October

Ruth Mottershead, at Oldham Crematorium.



'Zacchaeus, you should have come down more slowly!'
(with apologies to Luke 19)



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