



# Holy Trinity WATERHEAD

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**September 2022**

**[holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk](http://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 October magazine by  
15 September . You can e-mail files to paulmonk111@gmail.com**

## People at Holy Trinity Church

### Vicar

**The Revd Dr Paul Monk**

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**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've spent a lovely few days away with my family in Shrewsbury, in rural Shropshire. It was a lovely time of long walks, exploring, relaxation, and talking.

I always return from a holiday, however short, with a sense of surprise that my relationships feel fresher and renewed—'surprised' because it should be obvious that all types of friendship require time, *and that I'd somehow not made the effort for those relationships that matter*: I'd not achieved a good work-life balance.

Every life requires relationships. Those relationships lie on a spectrum from those which are less substantial through to those which are vitally important and life-enhancing. All require effort but, if we are wise, we will work hardest at the important relationships, such as family, neighbours, close colleagues, and so on.

It's therefore surprising that many of us don't work at our relationship with God. Part of the comfort underpinning the Christian faith is the idea of eternal life with God, which we often call 'Heaven'. So it seems wise to get to know God now, by spending time with Him.

Spending time with God requires us to apportion Him our attention time each day, carving out a regular time of appropriate duration, and (like other relationships) listening as well as speaking, giving, and receiving.

Which is where the analogy with a holiday becomes more important. If our earthly relationships improve when we have a holiday, perhaps we ought to plan ahead, scheduling a special time with God, say, two or three times a year. (The church often gives the name 'retreat' to such times of greater interaction with God.)

Now I've returned from holiday, I am determined to maintain the relationships with those I value in my life, so today—before I let the busyness of life take over again—I'm putting aside times when work must take second place to relationships: people and God are more important.

Wishing you joy and love as your relationships grow:

PAUL

# Bible readings for September

**Sunday 4 September**

**Trinity 12**

First: Deuteronomy 30:15–end

Epistle: Philemon

Gospel: Luke 14:25–33

**Sunday 11 September**

**Trinity 13**

First: Exodus 32:7–14

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:12–17

Gospel: Luke 15:1–10

**Sunday 18 September**

**Trinity 13**

First: Amos 8:4–7

Epistle: 1 Timothy 2:1–7

Gospel: Luke 16:1–13

**Sunday 25 September**

**Trinity 14**

First: Amos 6:1a, 4–7

Epistle: 1 Timothy 6:6–19

Gospel: Luke 16:19–end

**The task of Christianity to not provide easy answers  
to every question, but to  
make us progressively  
aware of a mystery.  
God is not so much the  
object of our knowledge as the cause  
of our wonder.**

Kallistos Ware



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# Autumn Fair

## Saturday 8 October

**11:00 am until 2:00 pm**

**Many stalls, including: raffles, café, bar, lucky dip,  
and many more.**

**[holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk](http://holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk)**

We are holding an Autumn fair on Saturday 8 October between 11 am and 2 pm in the Parish hall. This is our first fair since 2017; we hope there will be something for everyone: we plan a range of ever-popular stalls and a raffle, tombola (general and chocolate), lucky dip, home bakes, plus games for the children. There will also be a café providing a range of savoury and sweet treats.

In order to give us time to gather donations and to spread the load for everyone, there will be boxes at the back of the Church for donations of raffle prizes, tombola items, and chocolate: please remember to bring your donations to church on a Sunday or Wednesday.

Since our last fair, the usual group of helpers has dwindled, so please come forward if you think you could help in any way. All help will be much appreciated, even for a short time. Please contact Linda Birkby on (07729) 712962

Please put the date in your diary is 11:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday 8 October, and come along to have some fun.



The word generally translated as 'angel' in the New Testament literally means 'messenger', so God sends angels to announce, explain, and interpret. For example, angels explain the resurrection to Mary and her friends in Matthew 28:5-7 or instruct the Apostle Philip in Acts 8:26. In most instances, these heavenly messengers look much like human beings, though they are clearly different, for example they dress in white. Sometimes the 'angel' is in fact God Himself and many references in Genesis can be read this way.

The Jewish religion did not always have angels. Heavenly messengers appeared about 600 BC, perhaps after the chosen people were exposed to foreign influences while in exile. Suddenly, their scriptures abound with a whole series of intermediaries between Heaven and earth.

The most powerful and most perfect was Lucifer, who fell after his sin of pride (Isaiah 14:12). Before his fall, he was beautiful and wise, and a protector in the Garden of Eden. As it says in Ezekiel 28:12, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: "You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God".'

Next in power were the Cherubim, who usually function as guardian spirits in both the Old Testament and ancient Near East. They are impossible to describe but are 'covered in eyes'. The first Cherubim in Scripture appear early in Genesis: after God drove Adam and Eve out of Eden, 'he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden Cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of

life' (Genesis 3:24) in effect protecting Heaven from sinful humanity. Perhaps for that reason, two gold figurines of Cherubim were made and placed on the Ark of the Covenant. In fact, most of the references to 'Cherubim' in the scriptures refer to these gold figures. The only exceptions appear in the prophecy of Ezekiel, for example when he heard, 'the sound of the wings of the Cherubim' (Ezekiel 10:5).

Next in importance were the Seraphim, who lead the eternal worship in Heaven, ever circling the throne of God with their wonderful praise. The only description in scripture appears in the famous passage known as 'the call of Isaiah', in Isaiah 6:3, 'Above [God] were Seraphim, each with six wings: with two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.' Incidentally, this is the only description in scripture of an angel having wings.

Archangels are next in this series. In fact, the word 'archangel' appears only twice in scripture: in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, which describes the second coming, and in Jude 9, which describes Michael whose role was to protect Israel. Ancient traditions say that Raphael and Gabriel were also archangels, and later mythologies name even more.

Finally, come 'mere' angels. In the New Testament, they usually appear as a human-looking being dressed in white. None has wings. They rarely speak but they clearly possess special powers. For example, it was an angel who removed the stone sealing Jesus' tomb (see Luke 24:4).

The Bible sometimes describes guardian angels, though the idea is not particularly well developed. For example, Psalm 91:11 says, '[God] will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways', and Jesus says that every child has an angel whose role is protection (Matthew 18:10). Later church teaching supplies a great many non-scriptural additions to these ideas.



# I believe in angels!

**For more information, please read the following:**

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/what-was-the-purpose-of-the-angels-at-jesus-tomb.html>

<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/angels-and-demons/what-are-all-the-names-of-angels-in-the-bible.html>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guardian\\_angel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guardian_angel)



**Colour this page**

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**Find these words in the wordsearch above**

Created, Gabriel, Heaven, Immortal, Michael, Protectors,  
Seraphim, Servants, Subject to God, Super strength, Sword,  
Ten thousands, Trumpets, Uncover Angels, Wings, Worshipers

**Angel wordsearch**

# Food for thought

You often hear someone being described as a 'God-fearing person'. Less usual, however, if not altogether rare, is to hear someone described as a 'God-loving person'. One wonders how the majority of us approach the notion of God for us to articulate our ideas in these terms.



# Did you know?

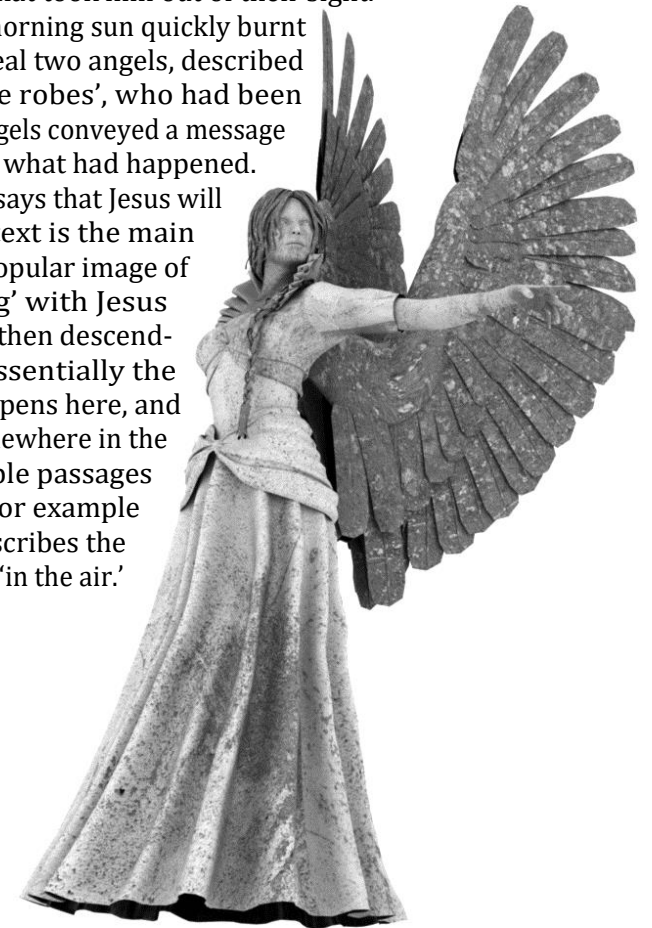
*As the disciples were watching, Jesus was lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'* Acts 1:9-11

Jesus was taken up to Heaven on what we now call 'Ascension Day'.

Palestinian Christians retain an ancient tradition that Jesus and his disciples were grouped together during a night of intense prayer on the top of the mountain now known as the 'Mount of the Ascension'. As dawn approached, a thick ground mist rose and hid the hand of God as He took His Son up to Heaven. It was this mist which the Scriptures describe as 'a cloud that took him out of their sight.'

At dawn, the hot morning sun quickly burnt away the mist to reveal two angels, described as 'two men in white robes', who had been there all along. The angels conveyed a message from God, explaining what had happened.

This passage then says that Jesus will return. In fact, this text is the main source of our most popular image of the 'Second Coming' with Jesus appearing in the sky then descending to the earth—essentially the opposite of what happens here, and maybe coming to somewhere in the Holy Land. Other Bible passages differ significantly. For example 1 Thessalonians 4 describes the faithful meeting Jesus 'in the air.'



First of the four, Saint Matthew is the Man;  
A gospel that begins with generation,  
Family lines entwine around the Son  
Born in Judea, born for every nation,  
Born under Law that all the Law of Moses  
Might be fulfilled and flower into Grace  
As every word and deed in time discloses  
Eternal love within a human face.  
This is the gospel of the great reversal  
A wayside weed is Solomon in glory;  
The smallest sparrow's fall is universal,  
And Christ the heart of every human story  
'I will be with you, though you may not see  
And all you do, you do it unto me'

Malcolm Guite

# St Matthew

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from <https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/tag/st-matthew>

St Matthew's Day occurs on Wednesday 21 September



# Symbolising

## The four evangelists

The four authors of the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, are known as the 'evangelists'. They are often represented with a symbol (itself sometimes called 'an attribute' or 'tetramorph'). These symbols sometimes stand in for the Evangelists as a kind of visual shorthand. Sometimes they appear in a very stylised manner.



**Matthew the Evangelist** wrote the first gospel in the Bible. He is symbolised by a winged man (or angel). He represents Jesus' Incarnation and so Christ's human nature, and implies that we should use our power of reason to achieve salvation.



**Mark the Evangelist** wrote the second gospel account. He is symbolised by a winged lion—a figure of courage and monarchy. This symbol implies that Christians must be courageous. Mark is also often shown with a book representing his Gospel, which was the first to be written.



**Luke the Evangelist** wrote the third gospel (and the Acts of the Apostles). He is symbolised by a winged ox or bull—a figure of sacrifice. This symbol suggests that Christians should be prepared to live sacrificially as believers. By ancient tradition, Luke was a painter so is also sometimes shown painting.



**John the Evangelist** wrote the fourth gospel. He is symbolised by an eagle—in all creation the creature with the best eyesight, who is reputed to be able to look straight into the sun. This symbol suggests that Christians should be able to look on eternity without fear or flinching.



Josephine Bakhita was born in about 1869 in Darfur in western Sudan. Her father was brother to the village chief.

In 1877, when she was 7–8 years old, she was seized by Arab slave traders. She was forced to walk barefoot the 600 miles to El-Obeid and was sold and bought twice before she arrived. She was sold three more times in the period 1877–1889.

‘Bakhita’ was not her birth name. Rather, *bakhīta* (which is Arabic for ‘lucky’ or ‘fortunate’) was given by the slavers when she was forcibly converted to Islam. Indeed, the trauma of her abduction caused her to forget her original name.

Her experiences as a slave varied from fair treatment to cruel. Her first owner, a wealthy Arab, gave her to his daughters as a maid. Life was relatively easy until she offended her owner’s son, possibly for the ‘crime’ of breaking a vase. As punishment, she was beaten so severely she was incapacitated for a month. After that, she was sold.

Her fourth owner was a Turkish general. She served his mother-in-law and his wife, who were both cruel to their slaves. Bakhita said later, ‘During the years I stayed in that house, I do not recall a day that passed without some wound or other. When a wound from the whip began to heal, other blows would pour down on me.’

In 1882, the El-Obeid region was threatened by revolutionaries so the Turkish general sold his slaves. Bakhita was bought by the Italian Vice Consul. He was a kinder master and he did not beat her, so when it was his time to return to Italy, she begged to be taken with him, and he agreed.

They left for Italy in 1885. On arrival, she was given away to another family as a gift and she served them as a nanny. When her new mistress decided to travel to Sudan, Bakhita was placed in the custody of the Canossian nuns in Venice.

She first encountered Christianity with these nuns. In fact, she refused to leave them when her owner returned and appealed to both the King of Italy and the Patriarch of Venice.

In 1889, an Italian court ruled that because the British had outlawed

slavery in Sudan before Bakhita’s birth and because Italian law had never recognised slavery as legal, Bakhita had never legally been a slave. She was therefore free: she chose to remain with the Canossian nuns. In early 1890, Bakhita was baptised with the names of ‘Josephine Margaret’ and ‘Fortunata’ (Latin translations of the Arabic *Bakhita*). On the same day, she was also confirmed and received Holy Communion for the first time.

Josephine became a novice with the Canossian nuns in 1893. She was eventually assigned to a convent in Schio, Vicenza, north of Verona, where her gentleness, calming voice, and her ever-present smile became well known. She was loved alike by the children attending the sisters’ school and by local citizens. She was charismatic and often referred to lovingly as the ‘little brown sister’. It was said that, ‘her mind was always on God, and her heart in Africa.’

Bakhita proved that forgiveness after suffering is possible. For example, when a young student asked her, ‘What would you do if you were to meet your captors?’ she replied, ‘If I were to meet those who kidnapped me, and even those who tortured me, I would kneel and kiss their hands. For, if these things had not happened, I would not have been a Christian today.’

Bakhita died in 1947 and was canonised in 2000—the first black woman in modern times to become a formal saint. She is now the patron saint of those who survive human trafficking.



# Josephine Bakhita

**For more information, please read:**

[https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=5601](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=5601)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josephine\\_Bakhita](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josephine_Bakhita)

# Being an eco-Church in September

- When the evenings draw in, wear a jumper rather than putting on the heating, or only heat the room you're using.
- Turn the thermostat down by one degree—it won't feel very different but if everyone did this one small act, it would cut your energy usage significantly.
- When tidying the garden, put all the refuse in a green recycle bin rather than a black dustbin.

## From the parish registers

### Holy baptism

Sunday 7 August

Jayden Rees-Bradbury

Sunday 21 August

Tallulah Belle Grenfell-Gates

Matilda Beatrice Wimbush

all at Waterhead Church

### Holy matrimony

Sunday 28 August

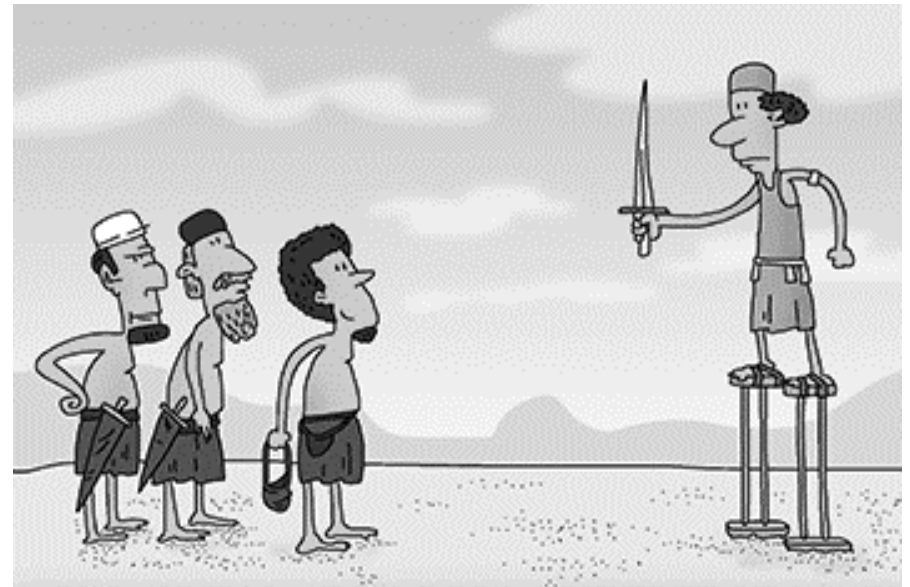
James Osborne and Alison Matthews

at Waterhead Church

### Christian funeral

Friday 4 August

Alma Kelly, at Oldham Crematorium



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

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# Swing Band Concert

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# Songs of praise

Celebrating harvest and renovation of the nave,  
with Melanie Marshall and Louise Marshall

Sunday 2 October at 3:30 pm

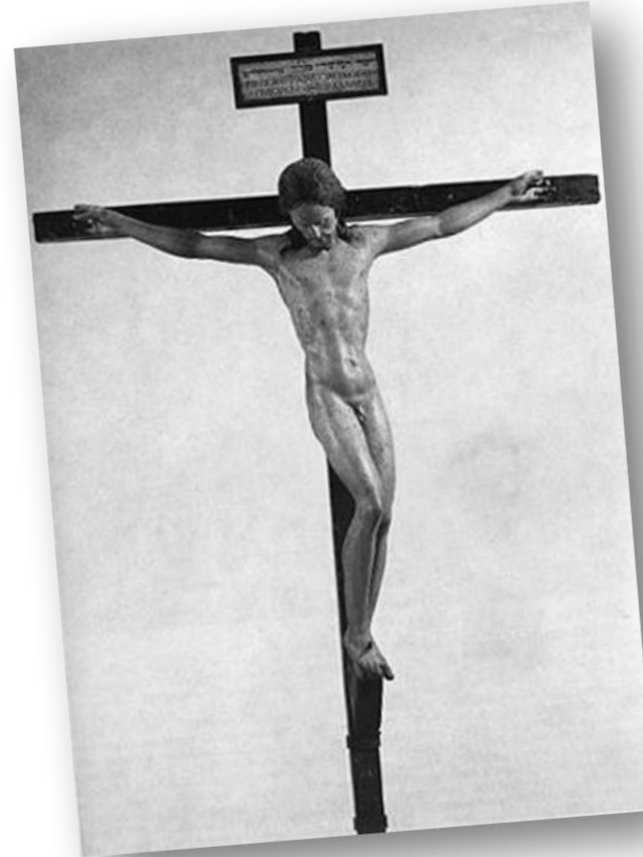
Entry by ticket: please call (0161) 620 3027

[barnabas-oldham.co.uk](http://barnabas-oldham.co.uk)

## ‘Cross’ or ‘crucifix’?

Both the cross and the crucifix are sacred to Christians.

- We call a representation of the crucifixion a **crucifix** if the cross also depicts the figure of Jesus.
- We call a representation of the crucifixion a **cross** if the cross does not include a figure of Jesus.



Some churches prefer to depict an empty cross because it emphasises the resurrection—Jesus is no longer crucified but has risen from the dead.

Other Christians prefer to depict a crucifix, because it emphasises the Passion and the cost of our salvation.

This crucifix was painted by Michelangelo and finished in 1492. Today, it's located at the high altar of the church of Santa Maria del Santo Spirito in Florence, Italy. The image is more accurate than many insofar as it represents a *naked* Jesus: out of reverence, most artists chose to (incorrectly) portray him wearing a loin cross.





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# Purple plaque for inspirational Doreen

A 101-year-old lady from Waterhead who helped to break the Enigma code during World War II has been honoured with a purple plaque.

Doreen Brooks was part of a team which intercepted German messages, logged them and sent them to Bletchley Park where they were decoded.

The codebreakers had no idea of the importance of their work until it was finally recognised in 2009 and Doreen received a letter of thanks from then-PM Gordon Brown.

Now Doreen has received another honour with the installation of a purple plaque.

The initiative was launched by care provider Home Instead to honour older people and commemorate their achievements to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Eight plaques have been put up in communities all over the UK next to the blue plaques of Great Brits such as Charlotte Brontë, Charles Dickens and Emmeline Pankhurst.

Doreen, who has been a client of Home Instead Oldham and Saddleworth since 2019, commented: "Why me?! I'm not an MP or anyone famous. It was a shock, but it was a nice shock."

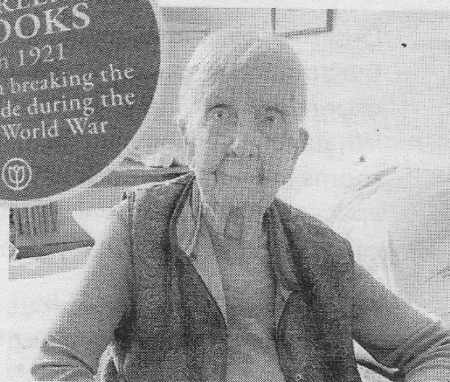
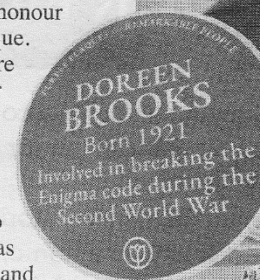
Her plaque sits next to that of journalist and historian Elizabeth Wiskemann in Edinburgh.

Mick Sheehan, managing director of Home Instead Oldham and Saddleworth which is based on Uppermill High Street, said: "We are beyond pleased that Doreen's heroic actions during World War II have been recognised with the purple plaque award.

"She is an inspiration and it is a pleasure to



Doreen  
during the  
war;  
below,  
today



provide her with support."

Other people honoured with a purple plaque include Gordon Bailey, an ambulance serviceman and volunteer; Peter Davies, an RAF pilot in WWII who was shot down behind enemy lines and escaped; and Rhona Dunn, a charity worker and volunteer who taught literacy and numeracy in prisons.

## Congratulations!

Doreen is Waterhead Church's oldest member. She was 101 earlier this year. This excerpt comes from the *Saddleworth Advertiser*, for August 2022.



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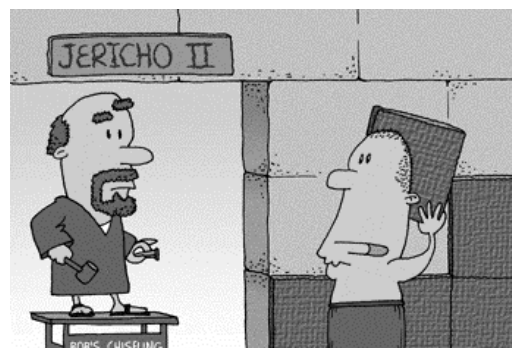
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(with apologies to Joshua 6)

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August 19th. A sunny morning with a more than welcome cooling breeze. I am standing by the upper reservoir watching the resident water fowl; mallard, coot, and little grebe together with a visiting pair of tufted duck. A

# Evidence

is a silent killer, efficient and unobtrusive. This quiet example of sparrowhawk behaviour contrasted markedly with a scene witnessed a few days earlier.

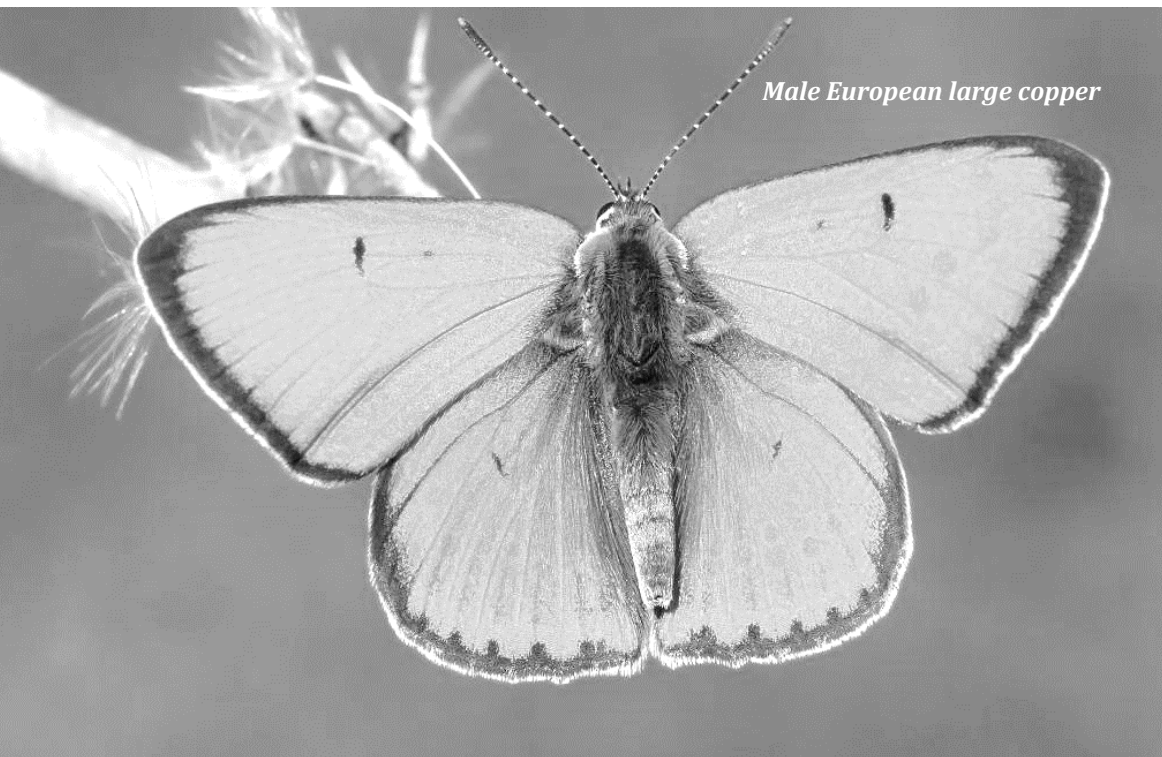
To the side of Waterworks Road lies a small rectangle of untended scrubland bounded by a stone wall and a gate. One afternoon this area resounded with a cacophony of bird noises. Every local crow, magpie and jackdaw had gathered, both in the trees and on the ground, all alarm-calling at once to generate a high-decibel onslaught of sound. Through this harsh din could be heard the repeated shrill scream of a bird of prey. Peering over the gate I could see the head of a sparrowhawk protruding from a parched tuft of grass. Momentarily distracted by my presence she shifted her position allowing her prey, a blackbird, to hurtle out from beneath her, jinking and twisting away in the shadow of the wall. The hawk settled briefly on the wall, wheeling round with one beautiful wing outstretched before launching herself under maximum acceleration in the same direction

sparrowhawk glides above the water to make a neat landing on the branch of a tree, giving the impression that this species

as the intended prey. Some distance away and high in the trees could be heard the incessant, plaintive call of her young demanding to be fed.

Sometimes a purchased bouquet of flowers will contain a wiry twig bearing a cluster of sealing-wax red berries. These are cut from a shrub commonly called tutsan, scientific name *Hypericum androsaemum*. I was interested to see a plant of this growing from a stone wall next to the River Medlock between Waterhead and Lees, cheerful yellow flowers at the base of the small shrub with berries of red or black higher up. I always think that 'tutsan' is a strange name for a shrub, but it is said to derive from the French *toute-sain* meaning 'all wholesome'. There was a tradition of pressing the leaves in prayer books and Bibles because they were fragrant and associated with good fortune. Culpepper's herbal recommends the use of tutsan for healing wounds 'either outwardly or inwardly' because 'the continual experience of former ages hath confirmed the use thereof to be admirable good.'

Our untidy church yard has the advantage of being a wonderful habitat for insects. I recently photographed here a small copper butterfly, a common species described in *Coleman's British Butterflies* (1895) as 'a little gem' which has a 'metallic effulgence'. The book goes on to relate the case of the related large copper, 'the pride of British entomology', a striking fenland species which became extinct in the mid-nineteenth century because of changes in land usage.



Male European large copper

£5

Holy

Trinity

WATERHEAD

Waterhead Parish Hall

Waterworks Road

Oldham OL4 2JH

Halloween party

Saturday 29 October

starting at 7:30 pm

Food included. Disco and party games and lucky dip prize.

Fancy dress optional

holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk



## From the memorial book

- 6 **Rebecca Lucy Heap** died 1999. 'Safe in the arms of Jesus.' Always remembered with love, Mummy, Daddy, Amy and Cameron, 'Sleep tight little angel.'
- 7 **Trevor Barnes** died this day 1994. Passed away overseas. Loved by all.
- 11 **Clara Whitehead Henthorn** died 1962. Kind, compassionate and an untiring worker.
- 14 **Maria Pollard** died this day 1999 aged 89 years. Memories of a dear sister, remembered with love.
- 18 **Ethel Oliver** beloved wife of Dr William Oliver and devoted mother of their six children, died this day 1974.
- 19 **John Wardle Slater**, son of Thos. & Sarah Slater of Waterhead, was buried on this day, 1931, at Milton Cemetery, Portsmouth.
- James Johnson** died 1983. A Loving Husband, Father and Grandfather.
- 22 **Peggy Jane Lawton** passed away this day 1997 aged 72 years. 'Her Life A Beautiful Memory.'
- 23 **Lucy Oliver** Born 15 September 1920. Died this day 1996 aged 76 years.
- 25 **Frank Cheetham** Died this day 1955.
- 26 **Ronald Boase** died 1990 aged 61 years. 'A friend and helper of many.'
- 27 **Alice Cheetham** Died this day 1971.
- 30 **Mary Schofield** nee Woolley born 24.1.1897 died this day 1992. Remembered every day.

Holy  
**Trinity**  
WATERHEAD

Waterhead Parish Hall  
Waterworks Road  
Oldham OL4 2JH

## Friday night project

**Praise and worship. Relaxed celebration of faith for all generations. Bar and food available.**

**Coming soon: watch this space ...**

**Each month at 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall**

**[holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk](http://holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk)**

## New service

Later this year, we start a new venture, the 'Friday night project'.

It promotes a relaxed worship style in the Parish Hall, following a model that is sometimes called 'Café church'. The projector and screen provide the music to provide an atmosphere that is modern, contemporary, and accessible. The bar and kitchen serve food and refreshments.

This new service will occur every month. Everyone is welcome.





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