£1

HotPott

November 2026



Pott Shrigley's Church & Parish Magazine

Pott Shrigley C of E Primary School

PTFA

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sunday 6th December

Starting at 12pm

(straight after the church service)



Soup and Cakes



Refreshments including tea, coffee and hot chocolate



Games for children



Santa will be in his Grotto

Come and join us for some Christmas fun and get into the spirit!

Everyone welcome!

Dear Friends

Dear friends,

November is a month of remembering... 'Remember, remember the 5th of November,' and of course not forgetting Remembrance Sunday which this year falls on 8th November.



Rev. Lynn Caudwell

Remembering is difficult to fit into our hectic days, days which always push us to look ahead, sometimes with trepidation. What if this happens, or this, etc... But if we long to live joyful lives, we need to practice remembering. Remembering God's story is an essential spiritual practice.

My father was good at looking back and telling the same old stories about growing up as a farmer's son, or about what happened in the war. I could recite some of them off by heart because he almost always used the same words, phrases and pauses. Humans have always told stories that shape us, give us meaning and tell us how to live and who to associate with. All our choices and actions demonstrate a story we believe. To be someone who follows Christ means you are living as part of the story of God, this is the essence of living as a Christian.

Christians believe that God's story of what humans are is true. We accept that He has repeatedly told us what our purpose is, how we are supposed to treat one another, how we use our bodies and our money, how we should speak: all our actions and choices are designed to fit with the story God tells about Himself and His people. When we forget God's story we inevitably start living in another story. These stories change where we put our hope and what we look to for identity.

Can I encourage us all to look beyond the soundbites that surround us? There is a bigger story we are all part of and we need to remember.

In this season of remembering, Psalm 103 can help us to look back over our lives and remember what God has done for us:

'Praise the Lord, my soul;
all my inmost being,
praise His holy name.

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November 2026



Bonfire night, Pott Shrigley

Praise the Lord, my soul,
and forget not all His benefits –
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.'



May you have a good season of remembering this November.

With love, Lynn.



...I haven't the heart to tell her the bishop went home 20 minutes ago!

In Flanders Fields



Poppies; blog.billiongraves

In Flanders fields the poppies grow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae's *In Flanders Fields* is one of the best known of all the poems penned by soldiers in the First World War.

Kath Matheson

It was probably written on 3rd May 1915 at the Essex Farm Advanced Dressing Station where McCrae was serving as a brigade surgeon during the Second Battle of Ypres. The day before, McCrae's close friend, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, had been killed by artillery fire; McCrae had presided over Helmer's burial in a makeshift grave marked with a simple wooden cross on



John McCrae; Wikipedia

a battlefield where wild poppies were beginning to bloom among the newly dug graves.

John McCrae was born into a Christian family on November 30th 1872 in Guelph, Ontario; his father was a lieutenant-colonel in the Canadian army and McCrae joined the local army cadets aged 14 years. Although his studies were impeded by severe asthma, McCrae qualified as a medical practitioner in 1898, tutoring students along the way to help pay for his studies. He wrote poetry and short stories during his time at medical school, several of which were published. McCrae served in the Second Boer War, leaving after a year with mixed feelings about war: he felt compelled to serve his country but was shocked by the injuries and sickness he treated and resigned from the military in 1904. For the next 10 years he continued

continued →



2nd battle of Ypres; Imperial war museum

to write poetry and practice medicine but in 1914, 41-year-old John McCrae enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was appointed as medical officer and major of the 1st Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery and treated the wounded of the Second Battle of Ypres in a hastily dug eight-foot square bunker in the back of the dyke along the Yser Canal just north of Ypres. McCrae described the battle as a nightmare: 'For seventeen days and seventeen nights none of us have had our clothes off, nor our boots even, except occasionally. In all that time while I was awake, gunfire and rifle fire never ceased for sixty seconds ... And behind it all was the constant background of the sights of the dead, the wounded, the maimed, and a terrible anxiety lest the line should give way.'

From June 1st 1915, McCrae was ordered away from the frontline to set up No.3 McGill Canadian General Hospital near Boulogne. The hospital was housed in



No3 McGill Canadian Hospital, Boulogne; Royal College of Surgeons

huge durbar tents donated by the Begum of Bhopal, India, but these provided insufficient protection from the winter storms so in February 1916 the hospital moved into the old Jesuit College in Boulogne where, despite being Chief of Medical Services and a Lieutenant-Colonel, John McCrae chose to stay in a tent instead of the officers' huts, perhaps in solidarity with those who remained on the front line. When McCrae was transferred behind the lines he told his friend Sergeant Major Cyril Allinson: 'all the goddamn doctors in the world will not win this bloody war: what we need is more and more fighting men.'

Different versions exist of how and where McCrae wrote *In Flanders Fields*: one of the most popular tells of Cyril Allinson, who was delivering the brigade's post, spotting McCrae in the back of an ambulance scribbling in a notebook whilst intermittently gazing at Lt Helmer's grave. When Allinson read the poem he was so moved he committed it to memory, describing its vivid imagery as 'almost an exact depiction of the scene in front of us both'. McCrae, however, wasn't satisfied with the poem and tore out the page it was written on, crumpled it up, and threw it away. It was rescued by either Allinson, or Canadian journalist Major-General Edward Morrison. Others claim McCrae wrote

the poem in 20 minutes after the funeral of Lt. Helmer, and yet others report that McCrae worked on *In Flanders Fields* between arrivals of the wounded in his aid station. Whatever the truth of this, McCrae probably worked on the poem for several months before being eventually persuaded to submit it for publication. Rejected by The Spectator, *In Flanders Fields* was published anonymously in Punch in London on 8th December 1915 with the word 'grow' at the end of the first line replaced, with the author's permission, by 'blow'. Subsequently McCrae used both words interchangeably when writing copies for family and friends.

When the poem was attributed to McCrae in *Punch*'s end-of-year index he was inundated with messages, telegrams, and letters from around the world. The poem became extremely popular with soldiers and civilians worldwide and was translated into multiple languages, with McCrae remarking: 'It needs only Chinese now, surely.'

The vision conjured by *In Flanders Fields*, with wild red poppies growing and blowing among the rows of simple wooden crosses above buried soldiers, turned the red poppy into an enduring symbol of commemoration and remembrance for the fallen across the world. There is a haunting contrast between the natural beauty of the poppy and the sound of the lark and the burial crosses and the thunder of distant artillery, but the continuation of life amidst mass destruction is also highlighted.

For soldiers, the poem summed up the realities they faced fighting in the hellscapes of the Western Front. For those on the home front, it helped to bring home and define the cause for which young men and women were giving their lives worldwide.



Advertisement for war bonds in Canada; veterans.gc

In Flanders Fields held strong propaganda value: written from the perspective of the dead, the poem speaks directly from the viewpoint of soldiers buried beneath the battlefields. The statistics of war are humanised, and readers reminded that these soldiers once lived, loved, and experienced ordinary human joys. It places a heavy moral obligation on the living to pick up the torch and continue the fight, otherwise the dead would have died in vain. This enabled snippets of the text to be used for recruitment campaigns, war bond drives and propaganda. It may even have helped overcome the conscription crisis in Canada in 1917; McCrae was said to have been pleased by this.

As the decades have progressed, *In Flanders Fields* has been re-evaluated. For some, it represents the futility of war and the enormous cost to life conflict brings; it reminds others of the sacrifice made by young men and women around the world.

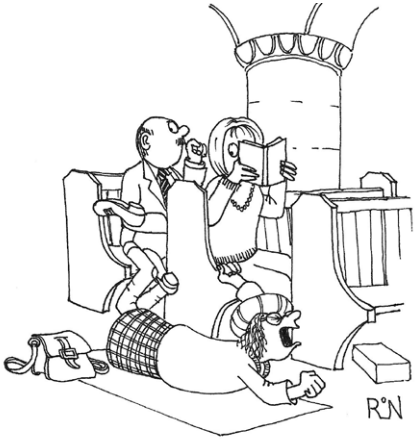
John McCrae wrote poetry throughout the war, and rode his horse, Bonfire, for hours through the French countryside, taking his spaniel, Bonneau, with him. In January 1918 McCrae contracted pneumococcal pneumonia and meningitis, possibly exacerbated by living in a cold wet tent. Despite being transferred to No.14 British Hospital, John McCrae died on 28th January, 1918, aged 45. Bonfire, with

continued →



John McCrae with Bonfire and his dog Bonneau; Susannah Fullerton

McCrae's boots backwards in the stirrups, led the funeral procession to Wimereux Communal Cemetery, where McCrae was buried. He, and his most famous poem, are also commemorated in Essex Farm Cemetery near Ypres and in the Flanders Fields Memorial Garden in London, where soil from the battlefields of Flanders, including Essex Farm, fills a central flower bed which is surrounded by the words from *In Flanders Fields*. Lt Helmer, whose death prompted this famous poem, is commemorated on the Menin Gate, his original grave being lost in the fog of war.



Somebody sat in Minnie Hyssop's pew



Menin Gate, Ypres

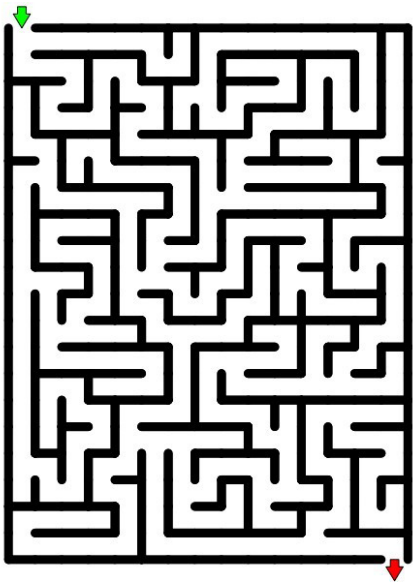
www.cwgc.org/our-work/blog/in-flanders-fields-the-life-and-death-of-war-poet-john-mccrae/

https://theguardsmuseum.com/about-us/news/10-years-on-the-flanders-fields-memorial-garden/

https://www.truepatriotlove.com/blog/in-flanders-fields-the-powerful-story-behind-the-iconic-remembrance-poem

https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/remembrance/people-and-stories/john-mccrae

MAZE PUZZLE



A Weekend with Hassan John

In September Pott Shrigley Church was delighted to welcome Rev. Hassan John back for the weekend. *HotPott* readers may remember that the St Christopher's church family contribute to Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust (HART), a charity that works through local people to bring sustainable change to communities in Abeyai, Armenia, Myanmar, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Timor-West and Uganda. We had two opportunities to meet with Rev. Hassan: at an informal get together (with tea and cake) at the village hall on Saturday night, and again at our two morning services on Sunday (more tea and cake).

Kath Matheson

Rev. Hassan spoke mainly about the Christian communities in the Middle Belt of Nigeria who have suffered persecution from militant Islamists for many years. Since January 2026 more than 3,000 Christians have been killed and 2,000 churches burned down. Pastors are particularly targeted, with Boko Haram beheading two in recent months. Rev. Hassan pointed out that the perpetrators of these attacks are mainly militants who have rejected the love, mercy, grace and authority of God; disputes over access to land and water are infrequently the cause. Kidnapping is also a huge business in the Middle Belt, with several radical Islamist groups funding their terrorist activities through extortion and the Nigerian government being unable or unwilling to stop them. Most Muslims deplore such actions and both communities are eager to live in peace; HART projects benefit whole communities, including those who practise Islam or traditional African religions.



Rev. Hassan John

This has resulted in some accepting Christ as their Lord and Saviour, which is wonderful, but many don't.

Rev. Hassan reminded us that Christ told His disciples that following Him would come with a cost, and just like He told Peter to 'feed My sheep' (John 21:17), all Christians should be willing to be 'sent' to do God's work in supporting others in need (Isaiah 6:8) and in showing God's love to others. The HART teams, supported prayerfully and financially by individuals and churches (including St Christopher's), seek to provide both practical and spiritual support to communities who are under constant threat of attack.

Education is particularly targeted by the terrorists, so HART run education buses (one of which St Christopher's funds) to give children in remote villages basic English, maths and Bible

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Education in remote villages where schools have been destroyed

studies, the latter to help them know that the love and compassion of God is there even in the most difficult circumstances. The aim is to build resilience in these communities by giving them hope in their present and future lives.

More recently, HART ambulances have responded to incidents of violence, but they often arrived too late. HART are now training villagers as first responders, who learn among other things, how to stop bleeding and plug bullet holes before the ambulance arrives. HART also train traditional birth attendants about hygiene and other aspects of care to improve maternal, and therefore baby, health. Medical back packs are issued, so essential equipment is always readily to hand in the villages. The ambulances transport specialist health staff to remote villages where they provide expert advice to



HART ambulance



Meeting with rural communities, explaining God's love

patients who would otherwise be unable to get it. Psychologists and psychiatrists are vital members of the team: many children and adults have been traumatised by witnessing the death of loved ones, and many have life-changing injuries themselves. Rev. Hassan showed us a video of worship in a village where 54 people were killed in May 2025; everyone in the church had lost a relative and many were orphaned. He also told us of a lady, Lundi was in labour when she arrived into a village where an attack had just started; her husband, the driver who brought them and the health staff were all killed but she escaped through a window and gave birth in the bush. In the comfortable West, despite the many difficulties families face, such trauma is impossible to imagine.

Rev. Hassan reminded us of Matthew



Lundi with Na'anbammun - The Lord helped us

25:40: 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' He thanked us for continuing to pray for the work of HART and for the people HART helps, and he also thanked us for continuing to support HART financially. He asked us to pray particularly:

- for the Lord to raise more workers and people dedicated to shepherding the Lord's sheep and for Him to continue to provide guidance to strengthen and build the Church
- for the people facing persecution to continue to remain resilient and faithful to the Lord our God despite the tragedies and challenges
- for the West/UK to remain diligent in prayers for those facing persecution.

Please do pray for HART and for persecuted Christians everywhere.

For more information about HART, and to donate to their work please go to: https://www.hart-uk.org/



Where is God in their suffering?



Rev. Hassan with Muslim ladies

Rushbearing at the Chapel

On the beautifully sunny day of Sunday 16th August 2026, Reg and I made our way to Forest Chapel, where we joined the local congregation and many people from the surrounding parishes for the annual Rushbearing Service.

Jean Ferguson

The origins of this traditional service date back centuries, with one of the earliest references to it appearing in the records of St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol in 1493. In those ancient times rushes or straw covered the stone or earth floors in churches to help keep them warm and dry in the days before modern heating, and to provide more comfortable seating as



Forest Chapel

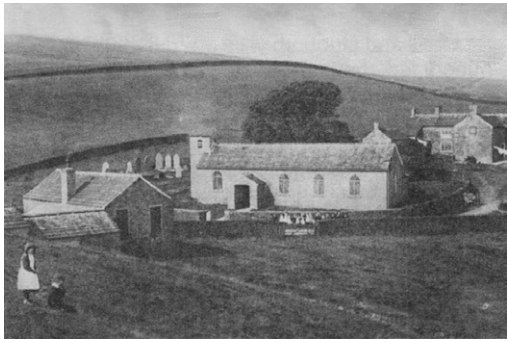
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only the rich had pews. The rushes were replaced each year, often after harvest or to coincide with the anniversary of the church's dedication. Replacing the rushes not only had a practical purpose of throwing dirty rushes out and replacing them with clean ones, it symbolised (and still does) how God can refresh us too by forgiving our sins, helping us to 'throw out' everything in our lives that's not helpful to our walk with Christ, and enabling us to start anew each morning. The spreading of rushes was banned during Cromwell's Commonwealth period (1649 to 1660) and during the plague years around 1665 for fear of contagion being spread in the rushes; by the Victorian period, when churches were more likely to be heated and to have pews, the custom had largely died out. However, it's possible that rushbearing has been celebrated at Forest Chapel annually since 1673; there are plenty of rushes growing around the building so they would have been a cheap and convenient floor covering. However, pews were installed relatively early as rent was being charged for them in 1729 to pay for a resident minister, so rushes weren't necessary to provide a comfy seat in church!

Forest Chapel is a tiny hamlet, still with a church and an active farming community but no longer boasting a school, and the public house, the Stanley Arms, is temporarily closed. Forest Chapel is perched at 1,300 feet above sea level and is in Macclesfield Forest, hunting ground for the Earl of Chester, though I don't think we've seen the current earl, Prince William, in the forest on his horse recently. The first stone chapel was built in 1673 with funds from Lord Derby and the local populace, and was a chapel of ease (a church built within a large parish to enable local people to worship without having to travel too far) for Prestbury.



Church porch strewn with rushes



Forest Chapel around 1900



Rushbearing service 1930s



Rev. Simon Gowler & Ven. Jane Proudfoot

In about 1720 Francis Gastrell, Bishop of Chester, noted that Forest Chapel was not consecrated; it is, however, dedicated to St Stephen. The chapel was rebuilt in 1834, with much of the poorer stone being used to rebuild the schoolroom. In 1906 it became the church for the combined parish of Macclesfield Forest and Wildboarclough, but it is now in the Parish of Rainow with Saltersford and Forest.

The church is tiny and, as is usually the case, on 16th August it couldn't accommodate all those who came; traditionally the second half of the service and the sermon would take place outside among the tomb stones. In 1880 this was a problem as it rained so heavily that people had to take refuge in the schoolroom! This year the service was taken by Rev. Simon Gowler, vicar of Rainow, and the sermon was given by the Ven. Jane Proudfoot, Archdeacon of Macclesfield.

A choir formed specifically for the service sang *Thou Visitest the Earth* and the Lord's



Among the tombstones

Prayer. Everyone behaved themselves, unlike in 1848 when the churchwardens reported 'a riotous rushbearing' and repairs had to be made to the chapel. The churchwardens' accounts for that year show: 'pd To William Smith for repairing the windows at the chapel and school broken at a memorable Rushbearing.' In 1888 the service was disrupted when the local bobby, PC Hough from Rainow, attempted to arrest a notorious poacher who had failed to pay his most recent fine and a fight ensued in the churchyard! No one complained about the length of the Ven. Jane's sermon either: in 1887 Rev Freeman wrote to explain 'My sermon was not forty minutes in length, …twenty would be nearer the mark.'

In 2026 no one misbehaved. After the service everyone was invited into the chapel to inspect the fresh rushes carpeting the floor, as well as to admire the beautiful arrangements of flowers, picked from people's gardens, which adorned every window sill. Tea, coffee and delicious rushbearing biscuits were enjoyed as the worshippers sat among the gravestones and caught up with old friends and new.

With very many thanks for the use of material from Rushbearing at Forest Chapel *by Janice Reading.*

PCC Ponderings, September 2026

Look right, look left…

St Christopher's is privileged to have the use of the village hall facilities just across the road from the church. As well as being home to Pott Shrigley C of E Primary School, the hall gives us space for Junior Church to meet on Sundays and for occasional evening or after-church events. Road safety remains important whenever children move between the church and the hall. Parents and Junior Church leaders will continue to take responsibility for helping children cross safely.

Simon Caudwell

The PCC highlighted the need for clear communication between the church and the hall, both in emergencies and when letting the vicar know that the children are ready to return at the end of the service. As mobile coverage in Pott Shrigley is now much more reliable, Junior Church leaders and sidesmen are asked to exchange phone numbers whenever children leave the main service to go across to the hall.

The Christmas Crush

The PCC also reviewed safety arrangements for our popular Carols by Candlelight services. We are always delighted to welcome visitors from near and far, and we want as many as possible to join with us in raising the roof as we joyfully celebrate Christ's birth. Concern has been expressed about the safety of cramming so many people into our building for these services, especially in the presence of all those candles, so this December we will add a fifth carol service.

Our existing fire risk assessment already includes contingency plans to make sure



Traffic between church and the village hall

everyone can leave the building safely in an emergency, but possible additional measures this year may include:

- encouraging regular church members and families to avoid the busiest services where possible;
- asking people to dress up warm and bring an umbrella in case the church reaches its safe capacity and no more people can be admitted. It may be possible for people to listen to the service outdoors.

We do not plan to issue tickets as these services are acts of worship, not performances. As always, the best advice we can offer is: 'Come early!'



Back to School Sunday

It was a delight to see so many families, staff and governors from Pott Shrigley Church School at our all-age worship service on 27th September, and a delight to see lots of other families with children too!

Kath Matheson

Many *HotPott* readers will know that St Christopher's has recently become a 'Pilgrim Place', one of a network of places of worship which provide a welcoming, peaceful, safe space which offers visitors time to relax and reflect. To this end we have introduced literature at the back of church to help visitors explore St Christopher's and to learn how various things, like the font and the pulpit, help us to know more of, and to worship, God. Some of these cards are specifically designed for children and Rev. Lynn gave every child in church who wanted one a



set of pilgrim cards and a pen to help them explore and understand our *continued →*





church building and the Christian faith.

And then it was on to the customary presentation of Bibles to children who attend Pott Shrigley Church School. Those in the reception class received a Bible story book, *The Beginner's Bible*, those in year three were given the *International Children's Bible* and those in year six *The Lion Graphic Bible: The Whole Story from Genesis to Revelation*. We hope they and their families enjoy reading (and learning from) them over the coming months and years.

In September, Miss Slater became head of Pott Shrigley Church School. Some in church had not met her before, so Rev. Lynn took the opportunity to introduce her and to pray for her as she takes on this wonderful, but busy, task. We wish her many blessings.

Autumn term news

Class 3

Our first term has been very busy and we can't believe that it is almost time for our first half-term break.

Every week, we welcome *Open the Book* into school for our Collective Worship. They bring the Bible stories to life and we get to join in the drama too. We have already enjoyed watching the stories of Joseph and Moses.

We are also looking forward to the Harvest service at St Christophers on Sunday 18th October where we will bring all our donated food items that we are collecting for Silklife Church in Macclesfield.







Bringing bible stories to life

The Great Food Bank Build-Off 2026

🎄Get collecting and get creative this November! 🎄

Victoria Price

Gather tins, packets and non-perishable food items — then stack and build something wonderful.

Whether it's a tower, a Christmas tree, or something wonderfully weird — every item helps stock our local food bank, and every creation counts! Prizes for the most creative, tallest and funniest builds. Photos to Victoria Price by the end of November. Thank you — every donation makes a real difference!

THE GREAT FOOD BANK BUILD-OFF 2026

How creative can you get with your donations?

Buy as many food bank items as you can and then use your donations to build something **AMAZING!**

It could be a tower, a Christmas tree, a snowman, a reindeer, a robot, a castle... anything you can imagine!



MOST CREATIVE Prize

TALLEST BUILD Prize

FUNNIEST BUILD Prize

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- You can collect items from anywhere (e.g. family, friends, neighbours).
- The food must still be suitable for the food bank afterwards (e.g. unopened and in date).
- You don't have to buy loads to enter – even a few items can make an amazing creation!

Take a photo of your creation and send it to

Victoria Price

Running throughout December
(Final date to be confirmed)

Together we can make a difference

FOOD BANK

Cover story: Afternoon Tea and the Singing Waiters

What a treat was in store for the many who squeezed into the village hall on Saturday 10th October to enjoy a wonderful afternoon tea and superb entertainment from the Singing Waiters, a group formed from the Poynton Male Voice Choir.

Kath Matheson

The range of sandwiches, sausage rolls and cakes was amazing; the fund-raising team and friends had worked extremely hard to produce such delicious food, to say nothing of setting the hall up, keeping us topped up with tea and clearing up afterwards.

The Singing Waiters are a talented bunch: we enjoyed some songs from the shows, Simon and Garfunkel, Elvis, folk songs and Gilbert and Sullivan among others sung by the whole choir, with some solos too, including one sung by David Allaby, who was revisiting old ground from his time in the famous Pott Shrigley Youth Group. And all interspersed with some funny stories.

Thanks to all who made it happen, and to everyone who supported it too. The event was a great success: it raised the fantastic amount of £550 for church funds, but more importantly it brought people together to share a wonderful afternoon.



Afternoon Tea in the Village Hall



The Singing Waiters



St Christopher's Pastoral Ministry

For pastoral support, a listening ear, a home visit, Holy Communion at home, prayer support or if you have a baptism enquiry

please contact the pastoral ministry care team via Anne Murphy.

pastoralteam@pottshrigleychurch.org.uk

telephone: 07891 953919

Highways

New/Updated/Completed

Dates when issues were first raised with Cheshire East Council (CEC) Highways appear in brackets.

- SR510043006: Bakestonedale Road resurfacing work. Tim Roca MP has been contacted to assist with getting this completed at the same time as the Hammonds Brickworks culvert to save closing the road twice. (Various reports 2026)

Jo Hadfield

- SR510034984 Traffic lights at Hammond's Brickworks, Bakestonedale Road: culvert repair and the work to repair the damaged wall scheduled to begin in September has now been deferred to February 27. The clerk has requested this work be coordinated with the resurfacing work which is also scheduled. (May 26)
- SR510037980 (originally SR510034986) Damaged sign & chevrons at Norman's Hall Bend: Repairs will be completed 'dependent on weather and budget availability'. (November 25, re-reported in May 26)
- Fingerpost at Norman's Hall bend: Cheshire East Council (CEC) Highways have no knowledge of where the missing fingerpost has gone, or a list of hardware removed on the day the chevron was removed. The items were in place on 3rd June and their absence noticed on 11th June. Ward councillors are now to fund a replacement sign.
- 3476412 New and improved signage on Brookbank bend: Cllr Lancaster continues to chase this matter. (Nov. 24)

Cameras

CEC Highways had no previous knowledge of the cameras placed on Long Lane, Shrigley Road and Sugar Lane. These have now been removed.

Village hall

The issue of lorries hitting or near hitting the village hall continues with another incident last month. CEC have agreed to replace the 'Road narrows' sign with 'Overhanging building' and 'Vehicles in middle of road' warning signs along with new road markings. No timeframe has been given for this work to start.

Adlington New Town

Although Adlington is not on the government's list for the first new towns it remains in the running for future developments. The Stop Adlington New Town (SANT) group will continue to operate to assist and advise parish councils should there be any further changes.

Adlington Park Consultation

This is the new Belport proposal for 1,200+ homes to be built opposite Adlington Hall. In the recent consultation at Adlington Hall Belport confirmed the development would include plans for a convenience store and land for a primary school. Concerns remain that:

- no school is in the plan, and Belport had no idea if current secondary schools have capacity for additional pupils
- the absence of NHS provision in these plans: no new hospitals, GP surgeries or dentists
- the Poynton relief road is almost at capacity

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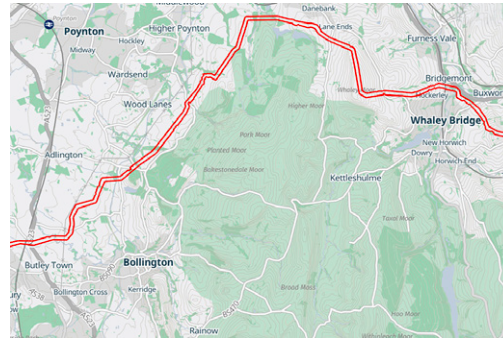


- there are no plans or, indeed, capacity to increase railway services at Adlington
- the current water supply, sewage treatment and their associated networks are already under strain and lack capacity to cope with such a large development
- the development would add significantly to the flood risk
- there are no plans to add any care homes for the elderly.

Belport expect to put in a planning application in Spring 2027. Residents can find more information here: https://pa.cheshireeast.gov.uk/planning/index.html?fa=getApplication&id=406945

Peak Cluster pipeline

Although the new route for this enormous 100-metre-wide pipeline now takes it north of Lyme Park, at the width of a six-lane motorway whilst still under construction, it will still have a severe effect on the countryside and homes all along its length from the Peak District and Staffordshire Moorlands to the sea: construction will take 18 months and will involve, among other things, the removal of ancient trees and hedges. A map can be found at peakcluster-consultation.co.uk.



Peak cluster pipeline route

Consultations start in November 2026. CEC is the fourth local authority to formally oppose the scheme.

TraCE

TraCE (Track, report and alert Cheshire East) replaces Fix My Street. This is a 24/7 online map tool launched by CEC to enable residents to report local road and street problems such as:

- Road issues: Potholes, worn road markings, and damaged or missing signs
- Street cleansing: Fly-tipping, litter, and dog-fouling
- Lighting and drains: Faulty streetlights and blocked drains or gullies
- Vehicles and obstructions: Abandoned vehicles and fallen trees.

The clerk has been advised the more times a problem is reported the more likely it is to be fixed. Therefore, the council urges residents to report issues on the link below even if it has already been reported on the portal. See an issue, report it at traCE: https://trace.cheshireeast.gov.uk

Brownfield land register toolkit

Research by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) reveals there is enough brownfield land to build 1,400,000 homes in England; more than half of these sites already have planning permission (either outline permission or better), so

they could be built on rapidly. CPRE have launched a toolkit to provide information on brownfield land across the country to help increase the amount available for development and to protect greenspaces and countryside. You do not need to own the land and can make CEC aware of brownfield sites such as empty properties, unused buildings or car parks anywhere within the whole of CEC: this will help to prevent development on greenbelt land. Add them here:

www.cpre.org.uk/resources/brownfield-land-register-toolkit/

To find out how the toolkit was successfully used to keep the Wirral Green Belt from being developed on log on to:

www.cprecheshire.org.uk/news/protecting-wirral-green-belt

Planning

Pending

NP/CEC/0826/0845: Cophurst, SK10 5SE
Listed building consent
Low pressure abrasive paint removal from external brickwork. (Sept. 26)

NP/CEC/0826/0846: Cophurst, SK10 5SE
Listed building consent
Proposed internal renovation and services upgrade. (Sept. 26)

NP/CEC/0826/0847: Cophurst, SK10 5SE
Listed building consent
Proposed remedial works intended to arrest internal timber deterioration in the roof. (Sept. 26)

The council supports all three applications.

Enforcement

6/0064ENF Brookbank Farm, SK12 1TF
Feedback: Swimming pool and floodlights will need planning approval, whilst the surface track is under review.

Next meeting

The next council meeting will take place at 8pm on Monday 2nd November 2026.



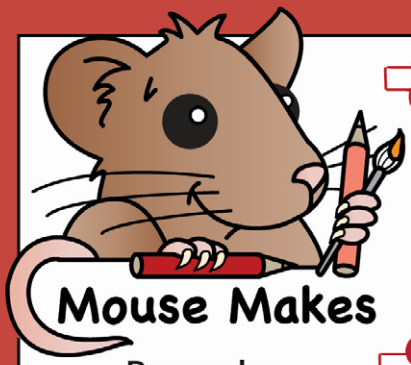
* * *

A pious man, who had reached the age of 105, suddenly stopped going to church. Alarmed by the old fellow's absence after so many years of faithful attendance, the minister went to see him.

He found him in excellent health, so the minister asked, "How come after all these years we don't see you at services anymore?"

The old man lowered his voice. "When I got to be 90, I expected God to take me any day. But then I got to be 95, then 100, then 105. So, I figured that God is very busy and must've forgotten about me, and now I don't want to remind Him!"

* * *



Mouse Makes

Remember
the words Jesus said:
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
Colossians 3:25

Remembrance Sunday is the day we remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives so that we could live in peace, it mirrors what Christ did for us when he gave his life so that we could live in peace with God.

Jesus said:
"No one can have greater love than to give his life for his friends."
John 15:13

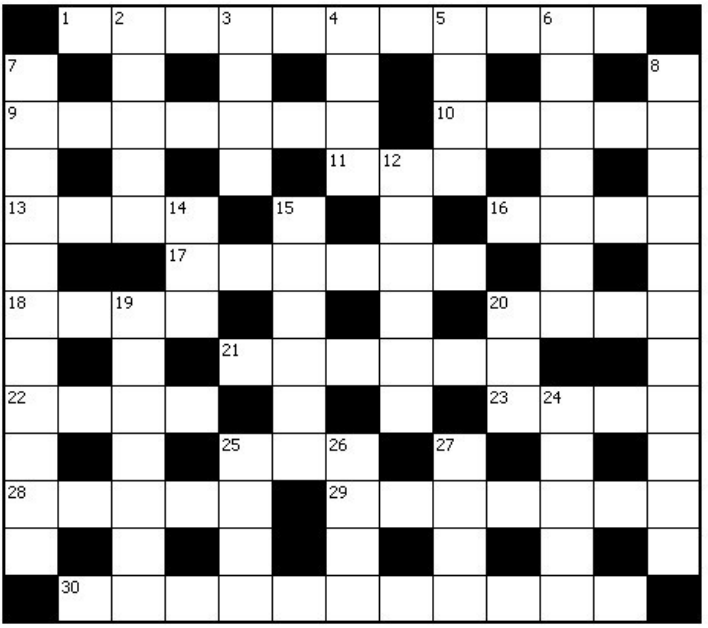
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Coffee Break



Across

1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all _, Lord of all _, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy'(11,3)

9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you _ your fellow Hebrew?" (Exodus 2:13) (7)

10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline _ (2,3)

11 'At even _ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay'(3)

13 A descendant of Gad (Numbers 26:16) (4)

16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but _ for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)

17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)

18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must _God rather than men!'(Acts 5:29) (4)

20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, _ Eareckson Tada (4)

21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)

22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat _ _ '(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)

23 Infectious tropical disease (4)

25 Tree (3)

28 'No fear of me should _ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you' (Job 33:7) (5)

29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)

30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

2 'O Jerusalem, how _ I have longed to gather your children together' (Matthew 23:37) (5)

3 Way out (4)

4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)

5 Done (anag.) (4)

6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)

7 Concerning the study of God (11)

8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)

12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)

14 Frozen (3)

15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)

19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)

20 See 1 Across

24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)

25 Time (anag.) (4)

26 Lists choice of meals (4)

27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the _ of God is eternal life inChrist Jesus our Lord'(Romans 6:23) (4)

Rampant Briars and Towering Willow Herbs



Our first 'Love Where You Live' churchyard working party was a great success. We were blessed with glorious autumnal weather, perfect for working outdoors, and 11 enthusiastic volunteers aged between 2¾ to 81 years old. All set to work with gusto on what looked like a mammoth task.

Yvonne Foster

After over an hour's hard work uprooting and cutting back saplings, wrestling with thick, tangled, briars and then carting it off to the compost heap, we stopped for some refreshments. Sitting back with our brew and chocolate biscuit, or in the case of the toddler two chocolate biscuits, we were all amazed at what we'd achieved.



Tea break



Hard at work

There's still so much to do, and so many more graves and headstones with loved ones' names on to be revealed. By having monthly community working parties we are confident we will get the upper hand over the rampant briars and towering



Rampant briars



We're getting there

rosebay willow herbs: nature thriving but sadly in the wrong place.

When we have gained some control, it will be good to think about how the churchyard can be cared for in the future. It would be wonderful if we could, together, find a way to manage it for the benefit of our community and for wildlife.

The next community working party will be on 14th November, meeting in St Christopher's churchyard at 10am.

Still Asking For More!

So many thanks to everyone who brought food and toiletries to church over the Harvest period: Dan from the SILKLIFE foodbank, who spoke at our harvest service, was so pleased to see the masses of contributions that were brought forward during the first hymn. We'll be taking them down there in our very full van tomorrow.

Jean & Reg Ferguson

But... it's that exciting time of year again: the SILKLIFE Reverse Advent Calendar is here. And we need those who can to donate again: it's your chance to pop a food item into a carrier bag instead of popping a chocolate into your mouth.

Copies of the calendar are available at the back of church, near the font; please pick one up, have a look at it and decide if you can help. We did brilliantly last Christmas, completely filling our campervan with donations of food to help struggling families in our area. Like last year, SILKLIFE are requesting staple (rather than Christmas) goods to replenish their stocks, which are in great demand to meet



Harvest donations

the huge local need to help anyone who is struggling to feed themselves or their families. With our help, SILKLIFE will be able to continue helping hungry people in 2026.

Please pick up a calendar and read it; you can choose to buy the item suggested for each day, or just some of them – it's totally up to you, but all

continued →

contributions are useful and will be welcomed. Anyone preferring to donate money can scan the QR code on the calendar or speak to us about the simplest way to do this.

Thank you from every person you help.

And for the kids amongst us: try **The Great Food Bank Build-Off 2026** (see page 17).



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The vicar's alternative to traditional after-service coffee was having a dramatic effect on male church attendance



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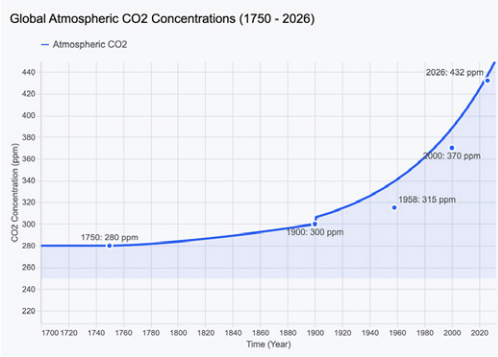
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People's Emergency Briefing, a challenge to us all

The prospect of a 50-minute film on the climate and nature crises might not feel very enticing. We know the situation is bleak; do we want to sit through more depressing analysis? What can I do about it anyway? My actions aren't going to make a difference. And there are always two sides to an argument. Despite these thoughts, on Friday 11th September Sarah and I went along to a screening of the film *People's Emergency Briefing* at St Michael's Macclesfield.

Cliff Mills

The film *People's Emergency Briefing* is intended to address the fact that many of us have never been fully informed about what the climate and nature emergency means for our lives, our economy and our future. MPs are invited to every screening to hear the evidence alongside their constituents. The film is intended as a catalyst for a wider public conversation and a stepping-stone towards a live televised national briefing, introduced by the prime minister and delivered by independent experts, so that all of us in the UK can be fully informed about the risks we face and the solutions available.



Atmospheric carbon graph



I won't try to summarise the content, but even being generally aware of the subject, I was shocked by various things, including:

1. A graph showing that the amount of carbon in the earth's atmosphere remained fairly constant over millions of years until the Industrial Revolution, when it started to rise exponentially. The last 200 years of human activity has brought devastating change.

2. The extent to which there are already in existence ways of addressing different facets of the problems we face, but which are not being pursued. Why not?

3. The statement that the weather we had this year is the best we will have from now on.

The film is good, but not without its flaws. It already feels a bit out of date with the focus on fires, rather than the floods which have dominated the news more recently. But the scientific summaries are clearly presented by credible academics, and in each case followed by reflections from a number of members of the public and a few celebrities. This gives time for the dramatic information, which has been presented in such a concise way, to sink in.

It's not just about what you would expect: the climate, the weather, nature and economics; it's the inclusion of experts on

water (which will become an inadequate resource); on food and farming (which will become impossible without adequate water); on health (which will be impacted in numerous ways for different people); and on security and the use of the army in the likely breakdown of law and order as shortages of vital resources occur.

So, after watching the film and listening to the short time of discussion that followed, I think everybody (from 16 years old upwards) should see this film. We need to be informed by it to understand:

1. The nature of the emergency, how every aspect of our lives will be affected, and how soon.

2. What can and should be done, not so much by each of us addressing how our own lifestyles impact on the world (important though that is), but what we collectively could do if we were so minded.

Each of us needs to provide our own answer to the following question: 'How should I respond to the knowledge that we are passing on to future generations a world in a much more fragile state than the one our predecessors left for us?'

This last point is the most challenging. It is all too easy to ignore the crisis because we feel powerless to do anything about it, or that it is pointless us doing anything unless government takes the lead. Yes, I can use my democratic right as a voter, but that's not sufficient. Democracy doesn't give us a free pass from responsibility for human activity. I know my grandchildren will have a lower standard of living than us, but will they be able to live out their natural lifespan?

A wise anthropologist once said: 'Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.' We know there will be strong opposition because many people have a lot to lose. Solar power was discovered as an energy source in 1954, but solar panels didn't become commonplace for another 50 years. Why? 'The use of solar energy hasn't been opened up because the oil industry doesn't own the sun.'

There is a moral imperative to do something because we have a better understanding of the nature of the problem than previous generations. And we must not fail to take sufficient action to protect the interests of future generations.

What I find most disturbing is talking to younger people who have decided not to have children because of the likely future. You might disagree with them, but it's their view.

I haven't even mentioned faith yet …

So here is my challenge: please can I present to the PCC a proposal that St Christopher's should hold a screening of the *People's Emergency Briefing*?

[1] See the final report of the Intergenerational Commission https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/advanced/a-new-generational-contract/

[2] Margaret Mead https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_Mead

[3] Ralph Nader, in the 1970s.



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What Makes a Good Life?

In late September, people from St Christopher's, St Gregory's, Adlington St John's and St Oswald's, and some who don't regularly attend any church, met at The Cotton Tree for Church/Chat in the Pub.

Anne Murphy

Having just heard the news about Esther Rantzen's death, we chatted about how she'd presented the BBC television series *That's Life!* for 21 years up until 1994 and founded two charities: the children's helpline Childline in 1986, and The Silver Line, designed to combat loneliness in older people's lives, in November 2012.

This led us to consider the question: 'If you had to describe a 'good life' without mentioning money or possessions, what would you include?'

One person felt that a good life is reflected in what we contribute to our community;



The Cotton Tree



Esther Rantzen in *That's Life!*

another said it was about having Jesus in your life. This led to a thoughtful and varied discussion about what genuinely makes us happy and content, and whether busyness is the enemy or the friend of a good life.

We were reminded of Jesus' words in John 10:10: 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'

Suddenly it was approaching 9.30pm, so we closed our evening in prayer, giving thanks for our time together: for the conversations shared, the friendships being created, and the warm welcome we received from Jayne and her team at the pub. We also prayed about the problem of the increase in local fly-tipping following the closure of the local tip, and for wisdom concerning the Peak Cluster and the proposed CO_2 pipeline.

And there was an additional bit of encouragement as we left: a gentleman at the bar said he'd be keen to join us next month. We look forward to welcoming him — and anyone else who would like to come along!

Church/Chat in the Pub meets on the last Wednesday of each month, 8pm at The Cotton Tree. All welcome!

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* * *

The bishop needed to call one of his clergy about an urgent problem within the diocese. But when he rang the vicar's number, he was greeted with a child's whispered, "Hello?"

Feeling impatient, the bishop asked, "Is your Daddy home?"

"Yes," whispered the small voice.

"May I talk with him?" the bishop asked. To his surprise, the small voice whispered, "No."

"Well, is your Mummy there?" asked the bishop. The small voice said "Yes."

"May I talk with her?" Again, the small voice whispered, "No."

"Well, who else is in your house?" the bishop demanded.

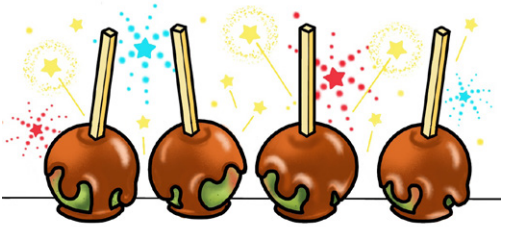
"A policeman," whispered the child. Startled, the bishop asked to speak with him.

"No, he's busy," whispered the child. "He's talking to Daddy and Mummy and the search team."

"What is going on there? Who are they searching for?" demanded the bishop, now thoroughly alarmed.

Still whispering, the young voice replied, along with a muffled giggle: "Me."

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4th December	Sally & Yvonne



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Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of:

25th September Ruth Rogers, aged 81 years

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18th October Michelle Jackson, aged 59 years

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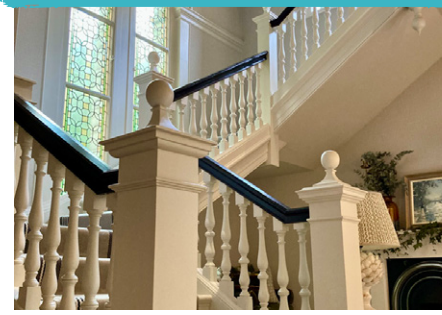
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To check availability, discuss your requirements, or view the hall, please contact our booking secretary.

Please note, all functions must conclude by midnight at the latest.

Booking Secretary:
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Recipe of the Month:
Posh Beef Stew

This was the beef stew we served at the *Off with the Penguins Antarctic* evening last January. It's straightforward to do and warming on a winter's night. A Matheson family Favourite!

Alex Matheson



We use skirt beef (skirting). All the cooking is done in an ovenproof lidded casserole dish that can also be heated on the hob.

Ingredients:

Olive oil and butter for frying
1kg braising beef, cut into 3cm pieces and tossed in plain flour
250g smoked bacon, cut into 3cm pieces
150g button mushrooms
250g shallots
1 onion, chopped
3 garlic cloves, chopped
750ml red wine
6 medium carrots, cut into chunks
Bay leaf, thyme sprig, parsley

Method:

Heat oven to 170°C/150°C fan/Gas mark 3-4.

Pour sufficient olive oil into the flameproof dish to fry the beef. Fry the meat over a medium heat in batches ensuring it's browned well. Put each batch into a large bowl.

Add a little more oil to the casserole dish, fry the bacon till crispy then add it to the bowl containing the beef.

Fry the mushrooms, then put in a separate bowl to the beef.

Add sufficient butter to the pan to fry the shallots, chopped onion and garlic and fry gently for about 10 minutes until the chopped onions and garlic are soft. Add to the bowl containing the beef and the bacon.

Add a bit of the wine to the pan, scrape the browned bits from the bottom of the pan with a wooden spoon to incorporate them into the liquid. Add the rest of the wine and bring to the boil.

Add **all** the ingredients **except the mushrooms** into the casserole and bring back to the boil. Cover, put into the oven and cook for 2½ to 3 hours until the beef is tender.

Remove from oven, stir, taste and season. Add the mushrooms, then return to the oven without the lid for ½ hour.

Remove the bay leaf and sprig of thyme.

Serve with green vegetables such as broccoli or beans, and crusty or garlic bread or mash.

Services

1st November

8.30am	Holy Communion	Revelation 7.9-17	Lynne Bowden
10.45am	Holy Communion†	Matthew 5.1-12	

8th November

8.30am	Holy Communion	1 Thessalonians 4.13-18	Lynn Caudwell
10.45am	Morning Worship‡**	Matthew 25.1-13	

15th November

8.30am	Holy Communion	1 Thessalonians 5.1-11	Anne Murphy
10.45am	All Age Worship †	Matthew 25.14-30	
3.00pm	Confirmation Service		Bishop Sam

22nd November

8.30am	Holy Communion	Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24	Lynn Caudwell
10.45am	Morning Worship‡**	Matthew 25.31-46	

29th November

8.30am	Holy Communion	Isaiah 64.1-9	Lynn Caudwell
10.45am	Morning Worship‡**	Mark 13.24-37	Melissa Wearden

6th December

8.30am	Holy Communion	Isaiah 40.1-11	Lynn Caudwell
10.45am	Holy Communion	Mark 1.1-8	

- All services underlined in blue will be **streamed live** on our Facebook Page & YouTube channel.
- A recording of each live-streamed service will be available from the services page of the church website:

‡ Junior Church **Youth Church (at 10.45am) † Refresh Youth Group (at 7.00pm)

Rota	Readers	Prayers	Sidesmen at 8.30	Sidesmen at 10.45	Coffee
1st Nov	Reg Ferguson & Jean Ferguson	David Garton	Annie Palace	Tony & Rachel Witkowski	Ros & Madeline
8th Nov	Paul Bowden & Mike Akerman	Sandy Milson	Jim Curtis	Reg & Jean Ferguson	Yvonne & Annie
15th Nov	David Gem & Sharon McMullen	Sheila Garton	Sharon McMullan	David & Joy Whitehead	Frances & Meg
22nd Nov	Judy Keeling & Anne Murphy	Anne Murphy	Jenny Miles & Annie Smith	Mike & Sue Akerman	Gill & Sharon
29th Nov	Tony Witkowski & Paul Bowden	Sandy Milson	Sharon McMullan	Meg Bailey & Jill MacDougall	Joy & David
6th Dec	Tony Witkowski & Paul Bowden	Sandy Milson	Jim Curtis	Tony & Rachel Witkowski	TBC

Christmas 2026

@ POTT SHRIGLEY

Join us for our seasonal services

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER	Holy Communion 8.30am
	Christmas Unwrapped 10.45am Fun for the family
THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER	Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm
SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER	Holy Communion 8.30am
	Carols by Candlelight 10.45am, 4pm & 6.30pm
TUESDAY 22 DECEMBER	Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm
CHRISTMAS EVE	Holy Communion 11.15pm
CHRISTMAS DAY	Family Communion 10am
SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER	Family Communion 9.30am

Or join us online: pottshrigleychurch.org.uk
or Pott Shrigley Church

St Christopher's Church Shrigley Road Pott Shrigley SK10 5RT

Directory

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This directory was updated on 2nd October 2026. Please give corrections and additions to magazine@pottshrigleychurch.org.uk

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