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HotPott

September 2026

Pott Shrigley's Church & Parish Magazine



Dear Friends

Dear friends,

If you have a garden, how is your harvest this year? In August and September at the vicarage we need to be watching our fruit trees carefully, ready to collect the various species of plums, pears and apples that we are blessed to receive each year.

We have several varieties of plum tree, but one in particular has never produced much fruit during our tenure in the vicarage. In the last three summers the greengage tree has only managed to give us a handful of plums, which is a shame as the fruit is quite delicious. Thus, we imagined that we were destined just to have a meagre supply of greengages so we needed to savour each one.

Last autumn we invested in a long pole for our pruning shears and thought we might as well prune the greengage tree even though it was not our best tree. I am so glad we did: this year we have collected over six kilos of

plump fruit. Some has been made into jam which has an extraordinarily intense flavour, some have been frozen so we can enjoy crumbles in the autumn and winter, and some have just been eaten as they are.



Rev. Lynn Caudwell

This abundance of fruit has brought home to me Jesus' words in John 15:1-2: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch

in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.'

None of us like to be tested and challenged. Many of us struggle to give up things that no longer help us or other people. However, if we can trust God to mould and prune us through the various life circumstances we face, we too might be surprised by the results.

We are called to fruitfulness which is much more than 'doing'. We are called to put our roots deep down into the love of God and to trust in His

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skilled hand to nurture us and to prune us so that we can be fruitful, not through our own effort, but through the care of the thoughtful gardener, our Heavenly Father.

So, the next time you see the results of pruning in your garden, think of what God might be doing in your heart to produce fruit in your own life and in the lives of others.

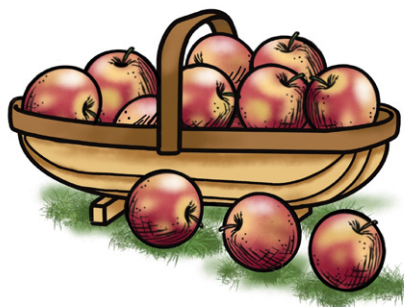
As we consider fruitfulness, we hope to see you at our various autumn events. On Thursday 10th September at 1.30pm, the Bollington Walking Festival will lead a walk which ends with a climb up our church tower. Then the Rev. Hassan John will tell us of the fruit of the work of HART in Nigeria at an evening event in the village hall at 7.30pm on Saturday 19th September; he will also preach on Sunday 20th September. On Sunday 27th September we have our Back-to-School service for all those in education when we will pray for a fruitful year for those at Pott Shrigley School and other educational

establishments connected to those we know and love. Then of course we have our harvest festival at our 10.45am service on Sunday October 18th, where we will be able to give thanks for the fruit of the labour of those who produce our food.

Wishing you an abundant harvest of love, joy and peace this autumn season.

With love,

Lynn.



Congratulations to...

...our front cover stars, Will Trimble and Beth Chasty, who were married at St Christopher's in July. Beth is well known to the St Christopher's Church family, having attended since before she was born! Beth was a pupil at Pott Shrigley Church School and was 2005's Rose Queen. Her parents Clare and Richard are still regular members of our 8.30am congregation.

It has been lovely to get to know Will, a geography teacher from London, as he and Beth attended services at St Christopher's as they prepared for their marriage. It was an extremely happy and blessed day: a wonderful service led by Rev. Lynn and then food, fun and frolicking in a marquee on the village green.

We wish Beth and Will much joy and many blessings in their life together.



Beth & Will



Beth as Rose Queen, 2005

* * *

A little boy at Sunday School learned about the time Jesus went to a wedding and changed the water into wine. "And what did you learn from that story?" asked his father afterward.

The boy thought for a moment and answered, "If you're having a wedding, make sure Jesus is there."

* * *

Christianity and the Stave Churches in Norway

On our recent trip to Scandinavia we were privileged to visit some of the world's oldest preserved wooden places of worship: Norway's beautiful medieval stave churches.

Reg and Jean Ferguson

These were often built on the sacred ground where Norsemen worshipped their gods such as Odin, Thor, Freyja and others. Norse worship happened outdoors in sacred groves, by an altar, or at a heathen hov, which was often the large hall of the richest farmer in the village. The old Norse mythology has spilled over into many of the oldest stave churches, for example carvings show the White Christ fighting evil as the old legends of Sigurd the Dragon Slayer and the Valkyrie Brynhild had done before. At the Reformation in 1536 the churches became the property of the king and their rich interiors were stripped. Later, as the Evangelical Lutheran church became established, many were returned to their original splendour.

But first, a little of the history of Christianity in Norway.

Olaf the Holy, King of Norway, (aka Olaf the Stout!) is often credited with leading the Christianisation of Norway. He was baptised in 1014/1015 by Archbishop Robert the Dane in Rouen, France, whilst staying with Duke Richard II of Normandy, an ardent Christian. Olaf was on his way back from England where he'd been helping Æthelred the Unready to eject the Danes, a military operation that involved Olaf leading a seaborne attack which, according to legend, took down London Bridge!



Mediaeval depiction of Olaf the Holy, with features of Thor; Wikipedia

Olaf may have brought some Anglo-Saxon clerics from England to Norway, but Olaf himself was a warrior who was quite brutal in his attempts to unite Norway, an ambition eventually thwarted by his own rebellious nobles supporting an invasion by King Cnut of Denmark. Olaf died in a subsequent battle in 1030 and Norway returned to Danish rule. In death Olaf quickly became a cult figure, and this appears to have unified the country



Borgund Stave Church

and consolidated the Christianisation of Norway, with Olaf being canonised within a year of his death. It is not clear how fervent Olaf was in spreading Christianity in Norway before death; he may have used it more to gain power, though he possibly brought Christian teachings to the interior of the country. Christianity was probably initially introduced to Norway in the 9th century when trade and plundering raids brought Norsemen into close contact with Christian communities in England and mainland Europe. However, it was probably only when those with power were baptised in England or Normandy that Christianity started to take hold. Haakon the Good (c920 – 961) was probably the first king to attempt to convert much of Norway, though pagan chieftains forced him to stop. Olaf Trygvason started to destroy pagan cult sites in the late 10th century, but again with little success.

Whatever the truth behind Norway's Christian journey, stave churches replaced



Borgund Stave Church interior

the pagan sites of worship and, in common with all Christian churches of the time, were Roman Catholic. Originally more than 1,300 stave churches were built but by the beginning of the 19th century many had disappeared through decay, fire and demolition. More were destroyed after 1851 when a new law stipulated that all churches should be able to accommodate 30% of the local population, which meant that many of the remaining stave churches became too small. They were also cold and dark, so people preferred the new, warmer, and brighter churches that were built. The massive timbers of the stave churches were often reused in other buildings.

The name stave comes from the load-bearing posts (staves) that held the roof up. Most of the surviving churches were constructed between the 12th and 14th centuries and primarily used heart pine, also known as ore pine, which has tight growth rings and a high resin content. As saws were not invented until 1550, the

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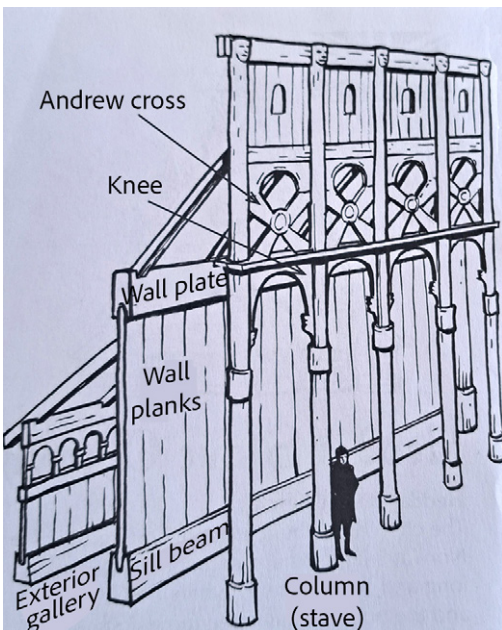
Heddal Stave Church

timbers were fashioned with axes; they were fixed together with the same joints employed by the Viking boatbuilders, who used no nails or glue.

The basic construction of a stave church is of four corner columns fastened to a frame and held together by a sill at the bottom and wall plates at the top. There are 12 inner pillars (staves) which support the roof, which is reminiscent of an upturned



Heddal Stave Church outer gallery



Stave church plan

Viking boat. An outer gallery runs around the building where the congregation could shelter from the weather before the service started. It also served as a place where those with infectious diseases could listen to the service and receive Communion through a hole in the wall.

There are four doors in the outer gallery, all with a specific function: the west admitted processions and children brought for baptism, men came in through the south door, women through the north and clergy through the east. The altar always faces east in stave churches and, as the early believers thought that evil came from trolls in the north, the north side had no windows. The churches were coated with tar made from the fatty substance found in the pine to make the wood waterproof, and this is still done every 10 years or so.



Heddal church door

Rich decoration surrounds all the narrow doors to keep evil spirits out. The roof reaches to the sky drawing the eye heavenwards and there are many carved dragons pulling faces on the gable ends, to depict evil being defeated by good just as in the old Norse legends.

Just 28 stave churches remain. Strangely, the world's most visited stave church is in Poland: Johan Christian Dahl, a Norwegian painter who spent time in Dresden, feared that all stave churches would disappear, so bought one at auction and persuaded the King of Prussia to move it to Berlin. It was taken down, piece by piece, and transported south by horse, sled, and ship. A year later the king demanded it be rebuilt in Lower Silesia, Poland, where it can still be seen in the town of Karpacz.

With grateful thanks to VisitNorway and Wikipedia for some of the information in this article.

Prepare to be entertained!

Why not come along to Pott Shrigley Village Hall at 2pm on Saturday 10th October for a delicious afternoon tea and entertainment from the local Singing Waiters.

Mary Currell

Tickets will soon be on sale at £10 each. All proceeds will go to church funds.

Save the date now; please ask Mary, Madeline or Ros if you need further information.



Flix in the Stix, an innovative year

'Big screen, smaller prices.' The moment I received this message inviting me to exchange £2.50 worth of Tesco Clubcard vouchers for a £5 Cineworld cinema ticket, I suspected they had finally become aware of competition from Flix in The Stix!

Peter Boulton

Whilst we may not be troubling the national cinema chains just yet, our 14th season has once again demonstrated the value of community cinema. Thanks to the continued support of our audiences, volunteers and committee members, we have enjoyed another successful year, maintaining healthy finances, introducing new initiatives and presenting a varied programme of films for audiences of all ages.

Meetings are fundamental to our operation; minutes are taken and not wasted. At the committee meeting at Roger and Sheila Jenkins' home in late August 2025 it was decided we should embrace new technology, and in September *King of Kings* was successfully streamed for Pott Shrigley Church. A simple but effective safety measure of installing a rope barrier to prevent audience members inadvertently exiting from the side of the stage was also introduced. After 10 years of service, our advertising banners had begun to show



their age. Thanks to the creative talents of Anthea Wilkinson's daughter Keri, we commissioned vibrant new replacements from Spiral Colours in Macclesfield. We also selected films through to December for September's voting, guided as always by the expertise of our film critic, Anne Gregory.

Few people relish attending annual general meetings, so we endeavour to make ours as painless as possible. This year was no exception. In fact, we achieved another record-breaking AGM lasting just 35 seconds. Remarkably, this is not a typo, although it does reverse last year's equally impressive 53-second meeting.

A season highlight was the screening of *Widow Clicquot*, the story behind the famous champagne house founded in the late 18th century. With healthy reserves in the bank, we decided to surprise our





audience on arrival with a complimentary glass of Veuve Clicquot, one of the most iconic and renowned champagne brands in the world. Although there were a couple of minor technical glitches during the screening, our former chairman, Mike North, had enabled the necessary sound settings in advance to allow the film to be streamed.

According to the Gregorian and Julian calendars, November is the 11th and penultimate month of the year. It also coincides with our last meeting of the year where we review the film selection for December voting, consider the Christmas screening for Junior Flix and, most importantly, remind Anthea to order sufficient mince pies. Our tradition of

serving warm mince pies now extends to both December screenings and continues to be well received.

January film night took place without Roger and Sheila, who had once again fled across the equator to benefit from Australia's warmer climate. Perhaps an added attraction is Australia has plenty that the UK doesn't have when it comes to food and drink: TimTams, proper bakery pies, high-quality steak and genuinely good coffee. However, unlike in Britain, where you might alternate between eight or nine supermarkets depending on budget, convenience or mood, most Aussies do the bulk of their shopping at just one or two. I'd like to think that it's the indefinable yearning to return to Pott Flix, rather than the spectacular choice of our grocery shopping (the envy of the world) that draws Roger and Sheila back home. Despite being on the opposite side of the world, Roger maintained regular contact regarding film bookings and licensing arrangements, ensuring everything continued to run smoothly.

Our February meeting was held at David and Sheila Garton's home, complete with a welcoming log fire. Among the matters discussed were the donation of surplus old DVDs to the Bridge End Centre and the replacement of 12 seat pads on a shared -cost basis between Flix and the village hall. We also focussed on creating an engaging programme for the remaining season.

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Jasper & Keri supporting VISYON

Easter arrived much earlier than in the previous year, but Anthea was well prepared, having already stocked up on the usual supply of Cadbury's Creme Eggs and Caramel Eggs before departing for Marrakesh. Anthea manages the pre-booked tickets and welcomes those who take their chances at the door. Even while soaking up the sunshine, she continued to receive bookings poolside, relaying them back to Blighty with her customary efficiency.

In addition to being reserve projectionist and bartender, David oversees our publicity and onscreen advertising. Audiences will have noticed recent references to VISYON, the Cheshire charity supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of young people and their families. We were pleased to welcome a presentation from Anthea's grandson, Jasper, who is preparing to walk the Great Wall of China with his mother to raise funds and awareness for the charity. You can still donate:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/keri-jasper-challenge>

There were some brilliant moments during this year's BAFTAs. The Prince and Princess of Wales made a joint appearance, walking the red carpet together. In his speech William said: 'our creative industries are one of this country's greatest strengths...' Robert Aramayo triumphed over Hollywood greats including Leonardo DiCaprio, and Ethan Hawke took the best actor honour for his powerful performance in *I Swear*, which depicts the true story of a man living with Tourette syndrome in 1980's Scotland. I am delighted we included this in our programme of films this season. Other BAFTA nominees featured in our programme, including *Bridget Jones – Mad about the Boy*, *The Ballad of Wallis Island* and *H is for Hawk*. We also showed *Conclave*, *Black Bag*, *The Roses*, *A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood*, *Juror 2*, and *The Choral*. Junior Flix thrived too, with younger audiences enjoying animated screenings of *Arthur Christmas* and *Goat*.

It's been another successful year for Flix in the Stix. We have refreshed our image, embraced new technology, continued to support local causes, and most importantly, brought people together to enjoy great films in a welcoming community setting.

My sincere thanks go to our volunteers, projectionists and committee members for their dedication and hard work throughout the year. Above all, thanks to our audiences for your continued support. As we look forward to our 15th season, we remain committed to providing affordable, enjoyable cinema at the heart of our community.

We couldn't do it without you.

Thank you once again to Chairman Peter and the whole Flix team: their relentless hard work enables our community to come together to enjoy good company and excellent films, and, on occasion, to be educated!



From woodcut to window: the cotton connection

In the last edition of *HotPott* (Summer 2026) we started to uncover the story of the St Christopher window in the church at Pott Shrigley. A visit in May to the John Rylands Library in Manchester to see one of its treasures, a medieval German woodblock print depicting St Christopher, confirmed that this print was the origin and inspiration for the St Christopher window at Pott.

Paul Bowden

As we sat in the library's Bible Room looking at this amazing artefact, we were able to imagine the artist and craftsman who created the Pott Shrigley window, Frederick Eden, sitting in the same room at the John Rylands Library, sketching and copying the images depicted on the woodblock print as he started work on his stained-glass commission. He was probably there in 1913 when the window was installed, 113 years before us, and he doubtless had the joy and privilege of looking at this beautiful drawing for several hours, and perhaps on several occasions!



The Bible Room, John Rylands Library



St Christopher blockprint

There is, however, something more than art that connects the 15th-century woodblock print in Manchester to the early 20th century stained-glass window in Pott Shrigley Church. That something is cotton. Without the great wealth John Rylands acquired as a cotton manufacturer and merchant the ancient woodblock print of St Christopher would never have come to Manchester.

Born at the beginning of the 19th century, Rylands was a younger son of a yeoman farmer and hand loom manufacturer from St Helens. When he died in 1888 Rylands was the largest textile manufacturer, one of the richest people in the country, and able to employ more than 15,000 people in the mill towns around Manchester.

Rylands was Manchester's first self-made



John Rylands

millionaire, the most significant and powerful economic figure in Cottonopolis, as Manchester was then nicknamed. Twice in the 1880s Rylands, through personal interventions and investments, saved the Manchester Ship Canal project from failure. He was, in his time, spoken of as 'the King of the North', but he was no Andy Burnham, the most recent holder of that title.

A deeply reflective and reserved figure, Rylands played no part in civic life or politics in 19th-century Manchester. In the early 1840s he declined a place on the newly created Manchester City Council and avoided membership of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. Instead, Rylands occupied himself with his ever-growing range of business interests in the North West and with the charities



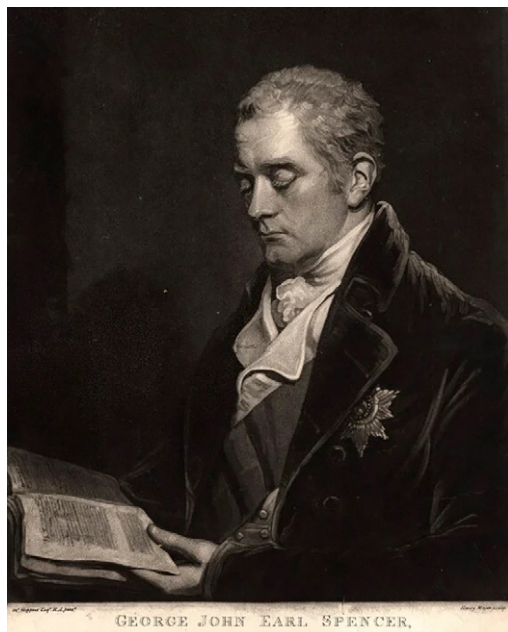
Henriqueta Rylands

he had founded and supported. These charities were expressions of Rylands' Christian faith and motivation.

Rylands was a Congregationalist and he financed Congregational chapels and their communities across Manchester, but with a strong ecumenical vision and a desire to see the bridging of denominations, both of which were far in advance of the times. He had a deep interest in Scripture and built up an extensive library of Biblical and scriptural material at his house in Stretford.

When Rylands died in 1888 it seemed a natural continuation that his widow, Henriqueta, would use part of the vast fortune she inherited to create a unique, by world standards, library and archive of Christian Scripture and literature in his memory.

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George John, 2nd Earl Spencer

So this is what Enriqueta set about doing, and by no half measures. The Althorp Library, already a fine collection in 1788, was added to over 35 years by George John, second Earl Spencer, one of a small group of aristocratic book collectors known as bibliomaniacs who spent vast sums competing to acquire early and rare printed books. George Spencer's book collection was considered one of the greatest private libraries in the world, especially notable for its outstanding collection of early printing. Enriqueta's purchase of this library in 1892 from the cash-strapped John Poyntz Spencer, fifth Earl Spencer, for £210,000, (worth nearly £35,000,000 today) was a breathtaking move.

Over the next several years after 1892 the 40,000 or so books in the Althorp collection were carefully re-catalogued and, one by one, carried up to Manchester to await the completion and opening of the great library building Enriqueta had

commissioned on Deansgate. Amongst these many works was the medieval scrapbook which had the St Christopher woodblock print pasted onto its inside back cover.

HotPott readers have met the other protagonists in this story, the Hoyles, before. (See *HotPott* June 2016.) In the 1890s, as the Althorp books were being transferred to Manchester, Edward Lascelles Hoyle and his American-born wife, Margaret, were living in Knutsford with their four children, of whom John and Geoffrey were the youngest. Edward, then in his late 30s, had been public school and Cambridge University educated and was the son of the MP for Heywood, Isaac Hoyle. He was living the life of a Cheshire gentleman, at least at weekends: outwardly glamorous and remote from anything that John Rylands, who had far greater personal means, might have thought of for himself as he went about his business in Manchester and his chapel life in Stretford. But Edward Hoyle's background, livelihood and fortune were just as much tied up in cotton as John Rylands' was. Edward was 'third generation cotton', perhaps with a sense of the comforts and status that brought, whereas John Rylands had been one of the austere, first generation of cotton kings.

Edward was a director of Joshua Hoyle & Sons, a long-standing and highly successful family company with cotton spinning mills in Bacup, Bury, Oldham and Rochdale. Edward and his fellow directors built a large and architecturally grand warehouse in Piccadilly, Manchester, and this also housed their offices; the building looked more like a hotel than a warehouse and indeed that is exactly what it is today: Malmaison Manchester. The family business supported Edward's country lifestyle, but he and his brothers and



Joshua Hoyle & Sons warehouse

cousins, who were also in the business, were fundamentally Lancashire cotton mill owners and Manchester cotton merchants.

In 1899 Edward and Margaret and their growing family moved from Knutsford to Pott Hall. Edward commuted to work in Manchester during the week. They celebrated their silver wedding at Pott Shrigley in 1909; these were clearly happy years and Pott a happy place for them. However, in 1913, with their family grown they moved on again, this time to Holme Hall Estate and its small 17th century stately home near Bakewell. Edward and Margaret initially rented the property but went on to buy it seven years later. Edward, then in his mid-50s, was able to become a gentleman farmer and to retire from Joshua Hoyle & Sons. But it was that cotton business that enabled Edward and Margaret to make a generous parting gift to the church at Pott Shrigley: the St Christopher window, which they commissioned Frederick Eden to create.

In the close circle of late 19th-century Manchester cotton magnates, John Rylands, who was towards the end of his business career, is likely to have encountered Edward Hoyle, then at the beginning of his own. Rylands would



Holme Hall, Bakewell

certainly have known Edward's father Isaac, the Liberal MP, Rylands being no political activist but open in his support of Gladstone's Liberal Party.

Ryland's wife Enriqueta, his widow by 1890, was more than 40 years younger than Rylands, but the same generation as Edward and his wife Margaret, who was a New Yorker by birth. Enriqueta was born in Havana but educated in New York, so had things in common with Margaret. A fanciful thought possibly, but could it have been that Enriqueta encountered the Hoyles at some social event around 1912 to 1913 and suggested that the St Christopher woodblock print in the library she had created and opened just a dozen years earlier might provide some inspiration for the design of the window the Hoyles were planning for the church? Whatever it may have been, something prompted Frederick Eden to go to the John Rylands Library to seek out and to copy the old St Christopher woodblock print there.

This story has two sad postscripts: John and Enriqueta Rylands adopted two children very late in John's life. Although John and his first wife Dinah, who died in 1843 at a very young age, had seven children, none of them lived beyond early adulthood. Thus John had no

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Geoffrey Morgan Hoyle

sons (for it was sons who counted in those days) to inherit his business empire.

Then in August 1915 Edward and Margaret Hoyle's youngest son Geoffrey, a lieutenant in the Sherwood Foresters, was killed in action near Ypres. His body was never found but he is commemorated on the Menin Gate. Less than a year later his older brother John, a lieutenant in the South Lancashire Regiment, was killed on the first day of the Battle of the Somme; in the month before his death he was awarded the Military Cross for his actions at Neuve-Chapelle. Although Edward and Margaret were living at Holme Hall during the First World War, they chose to place a memorial tablet to Geoffrey and John directly below the St Christopher window in the north aisle of Pott Shrigley Church, poignantly starting the inscription: 'WITH THANKFULNESS FOR THE GIFT OF THEIR LIVES' and describing themselves as 'SOMETIME OF POTT HALL'.

The letters John Hoyle wrote to his mother

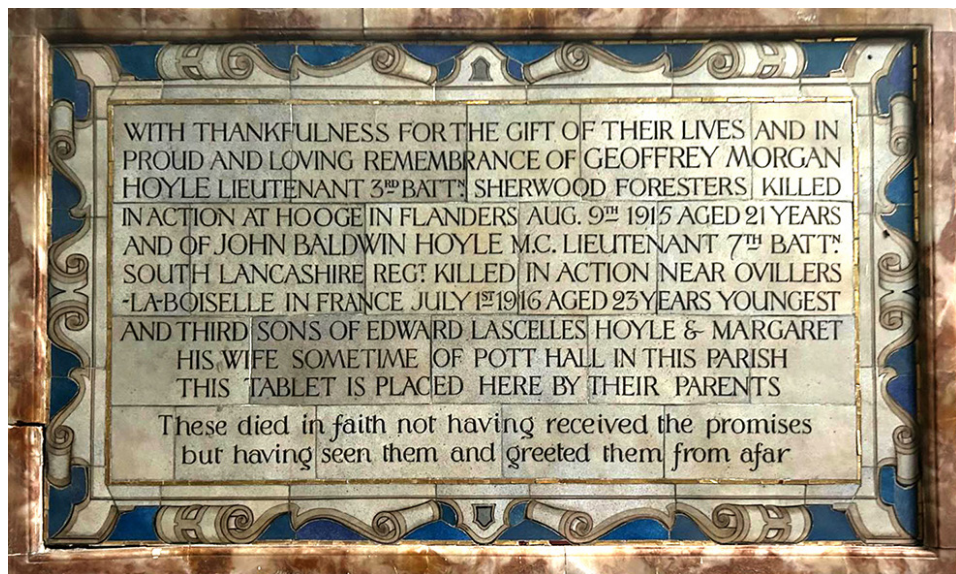


John Baldwin Hoyle

from the trenches have become a small classic of First World War literature and are published as *Some letters from a Subaltern on the Western Front, July 1915 – June 1916*. In them John wrote of his parents' silver wedding anniversary: 'How well I remember that afternoon in 1909 when Geoffrey and I came home [to Pott Hall], a house thronged with aunts and uncles when the Rugby term was in full swing.'

The story of the St Christopher window at Pott Shrigley and the eponymous woodcut print in Manchester are caught up in the history of cotton and the wealth it created, at least for some, to buy and to commission wonderful art. At the same time these stories remind us that neither art nor wealth can protect any of us from personal loss.

This is enough, for now, on St Christopher's woodcut and window, but there is just one question that still niggles: why does the inscription on the woodcut



Hoyle memorial

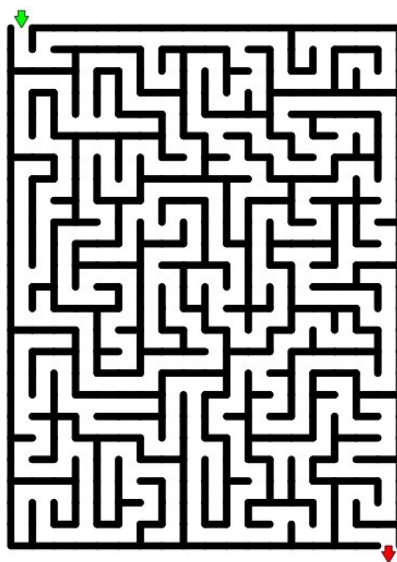
block show a date of 1423 when recent analysis indicates the print made from it that sits in the John Rylands Library was made 20 or so years later, in the 1440s or 1450s? We might need to come back to St Christopher in the next edition of *HotPott*.

With thanks to John Gandy, the Rylands' Cataloguer of Incunabula, Mike Akerman & content from Memorials of Rugbeians who fell in the Great War.

PUZZLE CORNER

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A slightly different festival

Following the huge success of 2025's Pott Shrigley Rose Queen Festival, this year's event followed the same format and was held alongside the Shrigley Stag Fell Run on Sunday 28th June. It was slightly different though: this year we had a Rose King, Arlo, rather than a queen. Arlo looked magnificently regal and fulfilled his role extremely well. Matilda was a beautiful Rose Bud.

Kath Matheson

Arlo and Matilda were both crowned during the 10.45 church service, which had the theme: '*Bloom where you are*'. Rev. Lynn had gathered lots of photographs of past rose queens and buds, some of whom still attend St Christopher's whereas others worship in other places. It was fun to look at the pictures of girls in their teens (or younger) and decide who they were – some



Retiring Queen Eden, Rose King Arlo & Rose Bud Matilda

of the photos were many decades old and the rose queens and buds had changed a bit! Rev. Lynn reminded us that we needn't worry about having enough in life: we can trust God to provide us with what we need wherever we find ourselves, just like He provides food for the birds who don't plant or harvest or store in barns, and clothes for the flowers of the field, which grow and are beautiful despite the fact that they don't work or spin. (Based on Matthew 6:25-28) We should try to be like St Paul, who says in Philippians 4: 11-13: 'I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.' Rev. Lynn encouraged us all to give thanks to God for what we have and to trust Him to give us what we need.

After the service the celebrations moved outside: the bouncy slide was popular with both youngsters and the young at heart,



Mary Currell as Rosebud, 1951



Ros at Lydia's plant table

whilst the more sedate among us enjoyed a delicious cream tea or something tasty from the barbeque. The dog show and Nathan Gabbott's sheep shearing demonstrations were popular, but I was way (or weigh) off in my estimation of how heavy one of Sheila's sheep was! Several children delighted their parents with the toys they bought from the toy stall; gardeners were even more pleased with their purchases from the plant table – our pelargoniums are looking very pretty.

After all the heat waves this summer has produced, conditions for the fell run were not as hot and sticky as they could have been. It still looked extremely tough work though, considering all those hills the runners have to climb and the stiles they have to jump over. It was great that so many runners stopped by at the fete to join in the fun and to spend some money!

Thanks to everyone who came to support our Rose Queen Festival. And many thanks are also due to those who donated goods, prizes for the raffle and cakes for the tea tent, to those who organised and helped at the fell run and to everyone else from Pott School, Pott Village Hall and St Christopher's who worked so hard to make the event successful, both as a wonderful afternoon and as a fundraiser. A total



Mike recovering after a busy afternoon in the bar tent

profit of £2,085.51 was accrued, to be split equally between the school, village hall and church.

Roll on next year!

More photos: see collage on inside back cover and additional photo on page 23.



"...and once you've done the flower arrangements, polished the pews, scrubbed the floor, shined the silver and taken a look at the problem with the boiler we wondered, well, you have to laugh, but all six bell-ringers are on holiday at the same time and..."

Double congratulations to...

...Toby Fraser, who has not only graduated with a BA in geography from Royal Holloway, University of London, but has also been accepted for preliminary training as an officer cadet in the Royal Navy. Toby was in the Bollington Sea Cadets for many years (see *HotPott* September 2022), so is no stranger to the demands of the Royal Navy, but I'm not sure it prepared him for being up at 6am for a room/bed inspection, as he needed to be for his latest assessment at a Cardiff naval base! The process for becoming accepted into the Royal Navy is rigorous, involving aptitude tests, medical and fitness assessments, security checks and several interviews, so very well done Toby!

Toby starts his officer training at HMS Raleigh in Cornwall, then will transfer to Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth. We wish him every blessing as he embarks on this exciting next chapter of his life.



Toby graduating, Chapel at Royal Holloway



Toby in Portsmouth, on board the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth



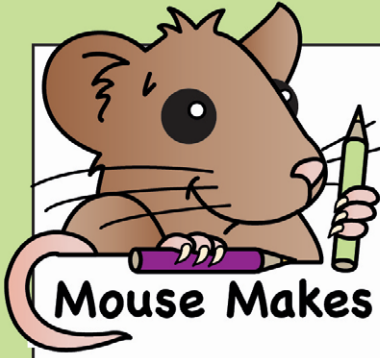
...I take it our local supermarket has a rather good offer on tinned peas at the moment!

* * *

A man bought a new fridge for his house. To get rid of his old fridge, he decided to put it outside in his front garden, along with a sign saying: 'Free to good home.' For three days the fridge sat there without even one person looking twice at it. So eventually the man changed the sign to read: 'Fridge for sale: £30'. The next day someone stole it.

* * *





Mouse Makes



READ
John 15:1-17

THE TRUE VINE

Who is the vine?

John 15:1

What does Jesus
ask us to do?

"Go and bear

_____"

John 15:16

What happens
to the branches
that do not remain
in the vine?

Thrown into the

and

How many
times does Jesus
use the word
FRUIT?

What does
Jesus command?

To _____

one another.

John 15:12,17

How many
times does Jesus
command us
to LOVE
one another?

John 15:6

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

JESUS • I AM • TRUE • VINE • FATHER
GARDENER • FRUIT • FRUITFUL
BRANCH • PRUNES • CUT • WITHERS
CLEAN • THROWN AWAY • FIRE • BURNS
REMAIN • ABIDE • DISCIPLES • JOY



Coffee Break

Across

1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)

4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)

7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)

8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)

9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)

13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)

16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)

17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)

19 Mock (Luke 14:29) (8)

24 Disgrace (Psalm 44:13) (8)

25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus 13:4) (4)

26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome (6)

27 Mean (Numbers 35:23) (6)

Down

1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)

2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)

3 O raid (anag.) (5)

4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)

5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)

6 What the older son heard as he came near

the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)

10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)

11 Do ten (anag.) (5)

12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)

13 Capable of being used (1 Kings 7:36) (9)

14 'Each one should — his own actions' (Galatians 6:4) (4)

15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)

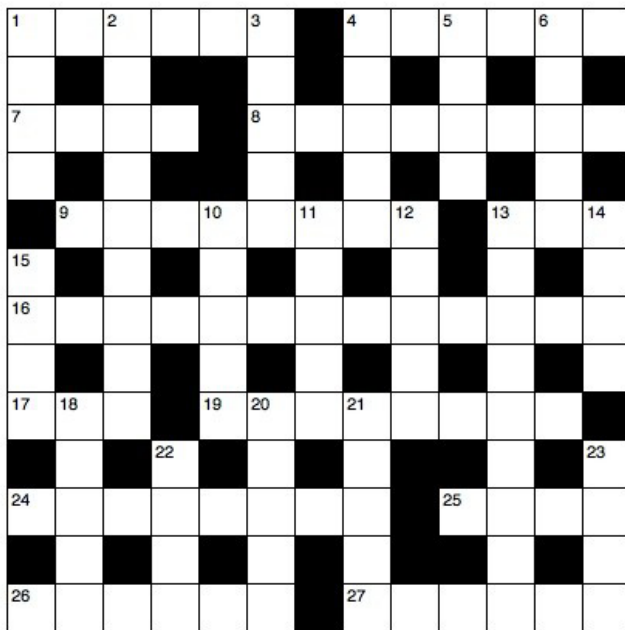
18 'But I am afraid that just — — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)

20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts (5)

21 One of the four sons of Asher (Genesis 46:17) (5)

22 Be distressed (Proverbs 24:19) (4)

23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)



The tale of the Lost Sheep



Baa!
Baa!

JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ALL ABOUT
A GOOD SHEPHERD.



WHO TOOK GREAT CARE OF ALL
HIS SHEEP

THE SHEPHERD WOULD
ALWAYS MAKE SURE EACH
SHEEP WAS SAFE.



HE WOULD COUNT THEM AT
THE END OF EVERY DAY

BUT ONE NIGHT HE
REALIZED A SHEEP HAD
GONE MISSING

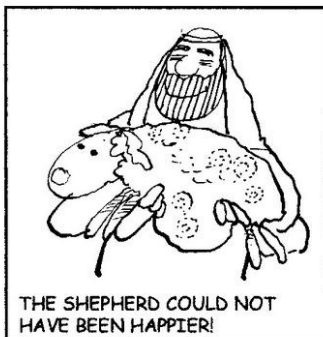


THE SHEPHERD SET OUT TO SEARCH FOR
THE LOST SHEEP

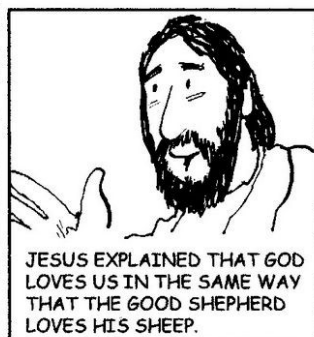
HE SEARCHED HIGH
AND LOW



AT LAST THE LOST SHEEP
WAS FOUND!



THE SHEPHERD COULD NOT
HAVE BEEN HAPPIER!



JESUS EXPLAINED THAT GOD
LOVES US IN THE SAME WAY
THAT THE GOOD SHEPHERD
LOVES HIS SHEEP.

Christmas is approaching fast!



They say that time seems to pass by more quickly the older you get, and I must say that it does seem to defy the laws of physics that it is already time to flag up the Carols by Candlelight services.

And that means that great entertainment is shortly to be had in the form of the St Christopher's Carols by Candlelight Singing Group practices. Do consider joining; being part of the singing group is huge fun, even for those of us who don't have great voices.

You don't have to commit to all the rehearsals and carol services.

The **services** this year are:

Thursday 17th December at 6.30pm

Sunday 20th December at 10.45am, 4.00pm & 6.30pm

Tuesday 22nd December at 6.30pm

The **rehearsals** are at 8pm on:

Tuesday 27th October

Tuesday 3rd November

Tuesday 10th November

Tuesday 17th November

Thursday 24th November

Tuesday 1st December

Tuesday 8th December

Tuesday 15th December

For more information, please chat to Sheila Garton.

From the Registers

Baptism

We welcome into our church family:

12th July Evie Jean Roberts

Weddings

Congratulations to:

20th June Simon Edwards & Jenni Boardman

11th July Terry Holland & Nicoleta-Liliana Nan

18th July William Trimble & Beth Chasty

25th July Benjamin Buckley & Zara Ninian

Funeral

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of:

30th July Ian Maitland

Companions along The Way, July's Prayer Walk

Our walk this month coincided with both the local bell ringers' outing and Anne's vacation, so I wondered who would be free to join me on this month's walk?

Yvonne Foster

I was, therefore, glad when I saw Sheila's Land Rover pull into The Coffee Tavern's car park. Pablo's face was looking through the rear window, eager and hopeful that Sheila would let him out of the back of the vehicle to join her. Next, walking down from Green Close, came Sally, closely followed by Madeline. The theme of the prayer walk was journeying, both physically and spiritually, and so it felt really good to have friends and spiritual companions to share the walk with.

We began by reminding ourselves of the passage in Luke's Gospel: 'While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus



Sally, Pablo, Yvonne, Madeline, Sheila

Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognising Him.' (Luke 24:15-16)

We were glad that Jesus was with us and we prayed for eyes to recognise His presence along the way.

We walked and prayed, and at other times we stopped and prayed: we looked and listened and felt the warm breeze on our faces. Less pleasant, yet still a part of life



'While they were talking and discussing together'



Families of Canada Geese on the canal

and of our journey, we saw, smelt, and had to pass a decomposing sheep in the corner of the field.

Feeling very much among those considered to be privileged in life, we remembered and prayed for those less fortunate: fellow human beings caught up in natural disasters, remembering especially the victims of the earthquake in Venezuela, those in war-torn areas of the world, and those trapped in poor, deprived and neglected areas of the country.

We gave thanks for prayers answered, including the sale of Red Acre Hall Farm and Green Close Chapel.

It was lovely to see, especially along the canal, that we weren't the only ones who were out and about enjoying God's creation and blessings.

On Simpson Lane Sally and Madeline took the short cut back to Green Close. Sheila and I returned across the fields to The Coffee Tavern where we chose some tasty mushroom soup for lunch; Pablo, also welcomed by those at The Tavern, occupied himself by chewing on an antler.

Thank you, Sheila and Pablo, Sally and Madeline for sharing July's Prayer Walk with me.



Along the canal

Prayer walks happen on the first Saturday of the month.

September's walk will start at church at 10.30am,

October's from The Coffee Tavern at 10.30am.

For more information, please contact Yvonne on 07842 428496.

* * *

Jane had a system for labelling homemade freezer meals. She would carefully note in large clear letters, 'Lasagne', 'Beef stew', 'Chicken casserole', etc. But every day when she asked her husband what he wanted for dinner, he never asked for any of those meals.

So finally, she decided to stock up with his various requests. Nowadays her freezer is full of dinners with neat little tags that say: 'Whatever', 'Anything', 'I Don't Know', 'I Don't Care', 'Something Good', or 'Food'.

No more frustration for Jane, because no matter what her husband wants for dinner, it's there waiting.

* * *

The Coffee Tavern

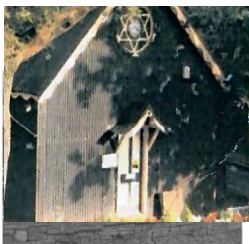
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Reflections on a Prayer Walk

On the morning of Saturday 1st August, four of us gathered at the lychgate of St Christopher's Church for a prayer walk around our beautiful local area. We used the leaflet *Prayer Walk One*, which is available at the back of church for all to use, to guide both our prayers and our footsteps.

Anne Murphy

We wandered through the churchyard before turning left onto Shrigley Road. Armed with a sturdy black bin bag, as we walked and talked we collected discarded litter from the roadside: a small act of care for God's creation and our community.

Pausing by the entrance to Shrigley Hall Hotel, we gave thanks for rest, renewal and leisure and prayed for all those visiting the hotel and for the wedding couples who



Bag of Litter



Anne, Pam, Kath & Sally

come to get married at St Christopher's. We then continued on towards Long Lane, steadily filling our rubbish bag. Along the way, we were amused by a wonderfully hairy caterpillar that seemed determined to race us along the road! The hedgerows along the lane were heavy with ripe blackberries; sadly, my bag was already full of litter so I couldn't collect any fruit!

We stopped to pray at the seat overlooking Sugar Lane and beyond, taking in the glorious view. From there we could listen to the bird song and see for miles, watching trains weaving through the landscape, the planes coming into land at Manchester Airport and the cars motoring along the A523. We prayed for all those who live, work and travel through the many square miles we could see, thinking particularly of farmers who are struggling to grow crops and keep their animals fed and watered in this dry, hot summer.

Taking the footpath off to the left to cross the fields, we paused to pray in the middle of one, surrounded by the peace and beauty of God's creation. We remembered



View from Long Lane

those we know who are unable to get outside to enjoy the surrounding countryside and sunshine, and prayed for all those struggling with ill health, that they would receive the care they need and that they find peace.

Our next goal was to climb the Nab, stopping at Peter Southern's bench for a rest and prayer before making the final push to the summit. It was rather windy at the top, but the magnificent 360-degree views stretching as far as Wales made every step worthwhile.

The descent was filled with our chatter as we admired the gorgeous delicate blue hare bells to one side of the path, sniffed the heady scent of the honeysuckle flowers, and marvelled at the ripening apples on the trees.



Hairy caterpillar

At the junction of Nab Lane and Shrigley Road we stopped again to pray before I headed home, complete with our Womble litter-pick hoard, while everyone else continued back to St Christopher's to collect their cars.

Thank you to Sally for leading our walk, and to everyone for the companionship, conversation and shared prayers.

Above all, thank you, Lord, for the gift of fine weather, the freedom to walk and pray together, and for the beauty of our community and surrounding countryside. May we never take these blessings for granted.



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.

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Just ask the animals



*But ask the animals,
and they will teach you;
The birds of the air,
and they will tell you;
And the fish of the sea
will declare to you.
In His hand is the life
of every living thing.
(Job12:7-10)*

Sue Roberts

Sunday 12th July 2026 saw the return of our hugely popular Pet Service. It was obvious from the animals present either in body, toy or photograph, that we are very much an animal-loving community. Three lambs attended to the churchyard lawn, keeping it in its usual pristine condition, a tortoise sat quietly taking in the surroundings and numerous dogs behaved beautifully, some even joining in vocally (Pablo) with the hymns, which had been carefully chosen to accompany our animal theme.

During the hymn *All things bright and beautiful*, Lynn took holy water and blessed each and every attending animal.

The sun shone brightly and it was the



Lynn with holy water



Will with tortoise

perfect day for us all to worship and thank God for the gift of His wonderful creation.

More photos: see collage on inside front cover.

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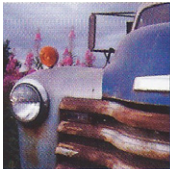
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Pott triumphant!

Way back in June St Christopher's played host to the striking competition organised by the east branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers. This is an annual event open to every tower with ringing bells from Stalybridge in the north to Bosley in the south, and from Rostherne in the west to Fairfield in the east. Not all those eligible enter, which is in some ways fortunate as otherwise the competition might have gone on into the night. Our neighbours are very tolerant, but overnight bell ringing might have tested their patience too much!

Kath Matheson

In a striking competition, the participating bands of ringers can choose what they ring, something simple, or something complicated: that doesn't matter as the object of the exercise is to make the bell ringing sound as good as possible, with even spaces between when the bells strike rather than the bells clashing together as sometimes happens in Pott Shrigley. The competition is divided into two sections: one for call changes, which are simpler, and the other for change ringing when the bells move around in a set pattern that all the ringers have to know by heart.

To avoid bias, our two judges, Mervyn Harrison and John Murfin, both very experienced bell ringers, both hail from Holmes Chapel, a church outside our district. We ensconced them in the beautifully kept church memorial garden, well out of the way of the crowds of bell ringers milling around in the church yard in the evening sun. Well, that's where we left them, but when I went bearing reviving tea and cake sometime later they'd



The winning band

disappeared! I eventually found them sitting on a gravestone under a yew tree, where they'd retreated to escape a roasting from the sun.

It was an excellent turnout for the competition, with nine bands entering, plus a 'scratch' band of hangers-on, so John and Mervyn had a monumental task of concentration to complete. Each band has 15 minutes to complete both a practice time and a test piece, which is the one the judges mark. Ensuring fairness between the bands ringing first and last, plus all those in-between, is no mean feat.

It may all sound a bit serious, but in fact it was great fun. The Pott ringers provided lashings of tea and plentiful cake, essential to any gathering of ringers (unfortunately we didn't supply the other vital ringers' requirement, beer), and it was wonderful to see old friends catching up on the news and new friends being made. Ringing is, at heart, a very sociable activity, as well as fulfilling our calling to advertise our churches, and, of course, the presence of God to the outside world.

When the competition ringing had finished, we all gathered in church with eager anticipation to await the judges'

continued →



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What! Us?!

verdict. At least some did. In all the years the Pott Shrigley bell ringers have entered the competition we have only come close to winning on one occasion, at Bosley sometime in the 1990s. So, when the results were announced I was chatting, rather rudely probably, and vaguely wondered why Mandy suddenly looked amazed, and why Tom was going up towards the judges. Several seconds later I realised that Pott had won the call change section! Admittedly we had the home advantage, but nevertheless it was an amazing achievement for our band, most of whom have not been bell ringing long.



Tom receiving the trophy from L to R David White (chairman), Mervyn Harrison & John Murfin

We are very proud of them.

For the sake of completeness, the scratch band won the change ringing section, but as they were a band made up of ringers from several different towers they don't count (!) and the bell ringers from Sutton, who came second, will go on to represent east branch at the guild six bell striking competition in September.

If you would like to know more, or to try ringing, please contact Duncan Matheson on 07854 884 145.

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11th September	Ros & Madeline
18th September	Judith & Jill
25th September	Caroline & Jean
2nd October	Joy & David



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Recipe of the Month:

Chocolate fudge squares

Madeline is one of St Christopher's expert bakers, and she produced this tray bake for her home group members earlier this year. I'm reliably informed that the squares are delicious, and they certainly look it. The recipe is based on one originally published in Living magazine, subsequently published in 1979 in Living Books; thank you to them!

Madeline Punch

Ingredients:

Base:

125g (4oz) self-raising flour
1 level teaspoon baking powder
2 level tablespoons cocoa
125g (4oz) softened butter
125g (4oz) castor sugar
3 eggs
25g (1oz) ground almonds
½ teaspoon vanilla essence

Icing:

200g (7oz) icing sugar, sifted
75g (3oz) softened butter
2 heaped tablespoons drinking chocolate
1 tablespoon hot water
2 tablespoons milk
Icing sugar for sprinkling

Method:

Preheat oven to 170C, 325F, Gas 3.
Grease an 18x28cm (7x11in) tin and line with greaseproof paper.
Sift the flour, baking powder and cocoa into a bowl, add the other base ingredients.



Beat well for 2 – 3 minutes until thoroughly mixed.

Place into the prepared tin, level the surface.

Cook in the centre of the oven for 20 minutes until light pressing with the fingertips leaves no mark. Turn out onto a wire rack, remove the paper and allow to cool.

Make the icing:

Place the icing sugar and butter into a bowl.

Blend the drinking chocolate and hot water together and add with the milk. Beat well together until smooth.

Spread the cooled cake with the icing and leave to set.

Sprinkle with icing sugar, then cut into squares.

Makes 15 squares.



Services

6th September

8.30am	Holy Communion	Deut 6: 6-7	Lynn Caudwell
10.45am	Holy Communion †**†	Matthew 18: 1-14	

13th September

8.30am	Holy Communion	Colossians 3:11-17	Anne Murphy
10.45am	Morning Worship †**	Luke 10: 25-37	

20th September

8.30am	Holy Communion	TBC	Hassan John
10.45am	Morning Worship †		

27th September

8.30am	Holy Communion	TBC	Lynn Caudwell
10.45am	Morning Worship †**		

4th October

8.30am	Holy Communion	Acts 17: 22-31	Lynn Caudwell
10.45am	Morning Worship †**†	Matthew 28:18-20	

- 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
6th Sept	Tony Witkowski & Anne Murphy	Anne Murphy	Jenny Miles & Annie Smith	Tony & Rachel Witkowski	Joy & David
13th Sept	Judy Keeling & Reg Ferguson	Sally Winstanley	Annie Palace	Judith Harris & Gill MacNeill	Meg & Frances
20th Sept	Matt Bird & Victoria Price	Pam Cooke	Jim Curtis	David & Joy Whitehead	Ros & Madeline
27th Sept	Anne Murphy & Rebecca Roth-Biester	Sally Winstanley	Jenny Miles & Annie Smith	Meg Bailey & Jill MacDougall	Yvonne & Annie
4th Oct	Reg Ferguson & Jean Ferguson	David Garton	Annie Palace	Reg & Jean Ferguson	Frances & Meg





Directory

Priest-in-charge:	Rev. Lynn Caudwell vicar@pottshrigleychurch.org.uk	(please prefix numbers with 01625) 574660
Assistant Priest	Rev. Lynne Bowden a.curate@btinternet.com	01663 732097
Ordinand	Melissa Wearden, melissa.wearden@emmanueltc.org.uk	
Licensed Pastoral Worker	Anne Murphy, 14 Silver Street, Bollington, SK10 5QL	07891 953919
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	Jean Ferguson , 17, Poplar Grove, Bollington, Macclesfield, SK10 5LS	261361
	jeanfergusonuk@msn.com	07762 649990
Verger:	Situation Vacant	
PCC Secretary:	Rebecca Roth-Biester, beccacourtney@gmail.com	
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	David Garton, davidgarton2020@gmail.com	573492
	Andy Phillips, as above	07881 358976
Weekly Bulletin:	Annie Palace, anniepallace04@gmail.com	07401 824669
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Tower Captain:	Duncan Matheson, Church View Cottage, Pott Shrigley, SK10 5SA dmmpott@yahoo.co.uk	07854 884145
Pastoral Ministry:	Anne Murphy, pastoralteam@pottshrigleychurch.org.uk	07891 953919
Children's Ministry	Melissa Wearden, melissa.wearden@emmanueltc.org.uk	
Youth Ministry:	Melissa Wearden, as above	
Health & Safety Officer	Annie Palace	07401 824669
Parish Council Clerk:	Jo Deahl, clerk@pottshrigley-pc.gov.uk	
Wedding Coordinator:	Pam Cooke, weddings@pottshrigleychurch.org.uk	
Head Teacher:	Ms Emma Slater, Pott Shrigley Church School, SK10 5RT head@pottshrigley.cheshire.sch.uk	573260
Website:	Tess Phillips, 26 Hurst Lane, Bollington, SK10 5LP info@pottshrigleychurch.org.uk	
PCC Members:	Duncan Matheson, Sally Winstanley, Peter Kennedy, Jean Ferguson, Andy Phillips, Pam Cooke, Mary Currell, Mike Akerman, Ang Davies, Simon Caudwell, Rebecca Roth-Biester, Sheila Garton, David Garton, David Gem, Annie Palace, Kath Matheson, Reg Ferguson, Anne Murphy.	

This directory was updated on 27th August 2026. Please give corrections and additions to
magazine@pottshrigleychurch.org.uk