St John's High Legh
Parish Magazine

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026

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Janet Harrison 07707 028061

Email: janet@abbeyleys.co.uk
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A group of volunteers known as the Friends of Abbeyfield arrange an informal **Coffee Morning on the first Tuesday of the months 10.30 am onwards.** Interested persons and new volunteers are welcome to attend.

Member Society of Abbeyfield England, a national organisation providing housing, care and support for older people across the UK www.abbeyfieldengland.com or google Abbeyfield Knutsford or find us on Facebook.

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Room available to rent

St Johns church room is available to rent for regular meetings, workshops, training, or small functions £12.50 per hour. Includes the use of a kitchen & free car parking.

Contact the church warden on
Nick 07554 343133

During August we will continue our readings from the Old Testament, hearing stories of Jacob, Joseph and Moses. Then in September we move into the Season of Creation, a season shared with churches across the denominations and across the world.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, explains it like this:

> "In the Season of Creation, we turn again to Christ, through whom all things were made and in whom all things hold together. In his incarnation, death, and resurrection, God's love is revealed not only for humanity but for the whole created order. To care for creation is therefore an essential expression of Christian discipleship and an integral mark of the Church's mission: to strive to safe-guard the integrity of creation, and to sustain and renew the life of the earth. As we follow Christ, we are called to share in his reconciling work, seeking justice, healing, and hope for the earth and for all who dwell within it."

This year the season the season starts with the Festival of Christ in Creation on 6 September. We have always started the Season of Creation on the first Sunday of September but this is a renaming and enhancement of the festival. It is inspired by the tradition of the Eastern Orthodox church who have celebrated it since the 8th century and the Festival has now been incorporated into the Common Worship calendar which we follow.

Creation in Christ is not an expression we have previously used in church. It tells us that Christ's role in the act of creation is the starting point for this celebration. This central Christian doctrine is iconically expressed by the opening lines of the Gospel of John: "In the beginning was the Word... All things came into being through him."

The theme for this year's season is Living Water and we will focus on this on Sunday 13 th September through a passage from the prophet Ezekiel (chapter 47:1-12) where living water flows from the temple bringing life. It is a biblical vision of hope and ecological healing – so important for us in this time of climate emergency.

With best wishes for a hope filled summer,

Clare

LITTLE ACORNS

Little Acorns baby and toddler group meets every Monday in the Church room at St Johns church from 9.30-12 noon.

We are a small friendly group. We chat & make friends, do crafts, sing songs and have unlimited tea, coffee & toast all for a suggested donation of £3.

Enquiries to Liz on 07905 741969

CONTACTS

Vicar	Revd. Clare Leal	01925 407996 Mob: 07342 840194 Email: revclare@stjohnshighlegh.org
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Facebook @stjohnshighlegh

Copy deadline date for the next magazine is
Wednesday 16th September 2026
Please send to Stjohnshlparishmag@gmail.com

Late submissions may not be published

Sunday Services in August and September 2026

2nd August 10.00am Holy Communion

9th August 10.00am All Age Holy Communion

16th August 10.00am Holy Communion with prayers for healing

23rd August 10.00am Café Church
food served from 9.45am

11.30am Holy Communion, a said service in traditional language

6th September 10.00am Holy Communion
Festival of Christ in Creation

13th September 10.00am All Age Holy Communion

20th September 10.00am Holy Communion with prayers for healing

27th September 10.00am,Café Church
food served from 9.45am

11.30pm Holy Communion, a said service in traditional language

Harvest Festival
Sunday 4th October 10.15am at Abbey Leys Farmers market

5pm Holy Communion

Recycling candles is back!

If you have candles you would like to recycle please leave them in the box in the church porch. They will be recycled into new candles by Recycled Wax (https://recycledwax.co.uk)

Magazine editor needed!

We are very grateful to Angela Franks for all the work she has done over the years putting our magazine together and printing it. Angela is retiring and the October/November issue will be her last one.

PCC will be thinking about the magazine and how we keep everyone connected and aware of what is going on. If the magazine is going to continue we will need a new editor.

If you have thoughts about what you would like or can offer to help please contact me or a member of the PCC. Rev Clare

Cleaning Rota

August	Trish & Mary(S)
September	Elaine & Pauline

Advance notice

AFTERNOON TEA

SATURDAY 17TH October
In the Church Room at 2.00 pm

Michelle Higginbottom will be speaking on the Women of the Special Operations Executive in France during World War 2

Tickets £18.00 from
Elaine 01925 753111 *or*
Nick 07554 343133

WEEKLY TELEPHONE SERVICE

This is a short Compline service for anyone who wishes to join us.

7.00pm on THURSDAY evenings
(dial in any time after 6.45pm)

Please **check with your landline or mobile phone provider that calls to 03 numbers are free - they usually are. If you would like to join:**

1 **DIAL THIS NUMBER: 0333 0164 757**

2 **You will be asked to enter the CONFERENCE ROOM NUMBER followed by the HASH KEY #358 104 39 #**

3 **You will then be asked to enter the PIN NUMBER followed by the hash key #** ***Please contact Chris or Stewart for the PIN number***

We can then speak to each other.
Please say the **words in bold** and try to ensure that there is **no background noise.**

Please contact Chris Stanisstreet on **01925 755559** or Stewart Jackson on **07835 249835** for further details, a service booklet and a hymn book.

High Legh Diary for August & September 2026

All meetings in the Church Room (unless otherwise stated)

Every Monday	9.30 am – 12 noon	Little Acorns
Every Monday	2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	We're Hooked
Every Wednesday	9.00 am - 10.00 am	Prayers
Tuesday 11th August	2.00 pm	Coffee, Create & Chat
Thursday 13th August	7.30 pm	High Legh Community Observatory
Wednesday 19th August	12.30 pm	Community Lunch (Please book with Elaine Jones)
Tuesday 8th September	2.00 pm	Coffee, Create & Chat
Thursday 10th September	7.30 pm	High Legh Community Observatory
Wednesday 16th September	12.30 pm	Community Lunch (Please book with Elaine Jones)

SERVICES AND ROTAS FOR August and September 2026

02/08/2026	9th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 13)	1000 Holy Communion	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Chris Stanisstreet	**Genesis 32.22-31** Psalm 17.1-7,16 (EV: 1-7,15) [or 17.1-7] Romans 9.1-5 Matthew 14.13-21	Marilyn Ridler	Stewart Jackson	Brian Green
09/08/2026	10th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 14)	1000 All Age Communion	Rev Clare Leal	Chris Stanisstreet	Chris Stanisstreet	Genesis 37.1-4,12-28 Psalm 105.1-6,16-22,45b [or 105.1-10] Romans 10.5-15 Matthew 14.22-33	Dave Leal	Rev Trish Cope	Elaine Jones
16/08/2026	11th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 15)	1000 Holy Communion (healing)	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Liz Whimpanny	Genesis 45.1-15 Psalm 133 Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15.[10-20]21-28	Liz Whimpanny	Joanne Jarvis	Marilyn Rider
23/08/2026	12th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 16)	1000 Café Church 1130 Holy Communion	Joanne Jarvis and Dave Leal Rev Trish Cope	Rev Trish Cope	Rev Clare Leal	Exodus 1.8 - 2.10 Psalm 124 Romans 12.1-8 Matthew 16.13-20	n/a Dave Leal	n/a Stewart Jackson	n/a Stewart Jackson
30/08/2026	13th Sunday after Trinity	1000 Holy Communion	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Liz Whimpanny	Exodus 3.1-15 Psalm 105.1-6,23-26,45b or Psalm 115	Chris Stanistreet	Liz Whimpanny	Leslie Walton

06/09/2026	14th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 18) **Feast of Creation in Christ**	1000 Holy Communion	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Chris Stanisstreet	Isaiah 55:12-end Colossians 1:15-20 John 1:1-14 (or Matthew 8:23-27)	Marilyn Ridler	Chris Stanistreet	Elaine Jones
13/09/2026	15th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 19)	1000 All Age Communion	Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Liz Whimpanny	Ezekiel 47 :1-12 John 4:1-15	Elaine Jones	Dave Leal	Leslie Walton
20/09/2026	16th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 20)	1000 Holy Communion (healing)	Rev Trish Cope	Liz Whimpanny	Liz Whimpanny	Exodus 16.2-15 Psalm 105.1-6,37-45 [or 105.37-45] Philippians 1.21-30 Matthew 20.1-16	Brian Green	Joanne Jarvis	Brian Green
27/09/2026	17th Sunday after Trinity (Proper 21)	1000 Café Church 1130 Holy Communion	Dave Leal and Stewart Jackson Rev Clare Leal	Rev Clare Leal	Liz Whimpanny	Exodus 17.1-7 Psalm 78.1-4,12-16 [or 78.1-7] Philippians 2.1-13 Matthew 21.23-32	n/a Stewart Jackson	n/a Dave Leal	n/a Brian Green

Regular happenings in the Church Room

WE'RE HOOKED

Our lovely group of ladies continue to meet every Monday afternoon in the Church Room at 2pm. Lots of laughter and chat as we catch up on the weeks events. Lots of individual projects taking place. We would welcome anyone who wants to join us beginners or seasoned crocheters. Cake, coffee and tea always completes a pleasant afternoon. Come and give it a try.

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month

The Community Lunch takes place in the Church Room on the third Wednesday each month, the next ones being on the 19th August and the 16th September. We continue with Arthur's delicious ham, with salad and new potatoes, followed by lots of cakes, coffee and tea. Anyone is welcome to join us. All you need to do is book in with either Arthur on 01925 752481 or Elaine on 01925 753111, or sign up in the Church Room. We meet at 12.00pm for a 12.30pm start. You are very welcome.

Coffee, Chat and Create

This small group meets on the second Tuesday each month in the Church Room at 2pm. There are lots of diverse skills. We enjoy a friendly afternoon, catching up with each others news, and eating biscuits with tea and coffee. There is always lots of laughter! Do come and give it a try. You would be very welcome.

Mothers' UNION

The weather was fine for both days of the Cheshire Show again this year and 297 families took advantage of the facilities, the donations came to £221.61.The team were presented with a rosette for their kindness and a much needed service. Once again " Thank you" to Shaun Harrison for all his help setting up the marquee on the Monday.

We all enjoyed the Strawberry Sparkle in July. It was a chance to sit and chat which we all appreciated. Thanks to Enid and Rhian for organising it.

The next meeting will be a quiz on Tuesday 1st September at 2pm, it will be an open meeting so anyone can join us. Tea/Coffee and Biscuits £2

Looking forward - at the next meeting on Tuesday 6th October we'll be organising the coffee morning on Saturday 24th October 10.30 - 12. Fund raising for our charities.

The annual lunch will be on Tuesday 27th October at 12 noon, at the Barn Owl.

C.Gibbon

Children welcome!

Children are welcome every Sunday at St John's.

Most months there is an All-Age service (2nd Sunday of the month) and Café Church (4th Sunday of the month). The other Sundays have a Sunday School for primary aged children.

The Sunday School takes place in the Church Room, running alongside the service in church. We have an enthusiastic team of volunteers who have been safely recruited.

For pre-school children and toddlers there is an area at the back of church with toys, books and colouring.

HLC
High Legh Community Observatory

http://www.highlegh-communityobservatory.com/
https://www.facebook.com/groups/highleghlco/

Our Meetings are held at 7.30 on the second Thursday of every month at
St John's Church Room, The Avenue, High Legh, WA16 6ND

Please note that the observatory is open on Friday nights every week if the sky is clear.
We start at 8 pm or dusk whichever is later.
All are welcome and admission is free, but donations are appreciated!

High Legh Prayers

Every Wednesday morning
9-10am in the Church Room

Open to all of faith or no faith

If you have a prayer need feel free to come along or contact the Churchwardens who will ensure you are prayed for.

On the first Saturday each month we have a church gardening morning from 10.00 until 12.00. Any help would be appreciated. Tea, coffee and biscuits supplied!

Home Communion

We rely on people letting us know when church members or neighbours are unwell, in hospital or experiencing other difficulties. The ministry team are happy to visit and/or take communion to individuals.

Please contact:
Rev Clare on 01925 407996 or 07342 840194
Chris on 01925 755559
Stewart on 07835 249835
Rev Trish on 01925 754787 or 07703 470101

It Won't Happen to Me… Until It Does

"It won't happen to me. I'm very careful…" Well, it did.

A few weeks ago, I was having lunch in Altrincham. I had paid for on-street parking, but before my time was up, someone told me that I had been issued with a parking ticket. I spoke with the attendant, who could not rescind the fine but advised me that I needed to contact Trafford Council to get the matter sorted. Fortunately, this was resolved on the same day.

A couple of days later, I received an email regarding an outstanding parking fine. I opened the email, which took me to what appeared to be a '.gov' website. It was very convincing. At first, I thought it related to the incident in Altrincham; however, it referred to an incident in Cheshire East. I remembered having been in Holmes Chapel on the day in question, so I put it down to bad luck and started to enter my details in order to put the matter behind me.

It was at that point that I realised the car mentioned was not the one I had been using on that day. By then, I had already begun entering my bank card details, but I did not press 'send'. I suddenly realised that this was, in fact, a scam. I deleted the information and decided not to pursue it any further. As a precaution, I asked my bank to replace the card.

A few days later, the bank queried a couple of transactions, so I spoke with their fraud team. This was easily resolved, but as a sensible precaution they disassociated any unrecognised suppliers from my account to protect me. The following week, several other transactions were stopped. Once again, I contacted the fraud team, who reviewed a number of transactions with me. Two of them did not relate to me. Someone had obtained my card details and used them through Apple Pay, even though the physical card had never been present.

Once again, the bank protected my financial interests. As an additional safeguard, my card was cancelled and replaced, and all previous transactions linked to recognised suppliers were re-established to minimise the risk of any recurrence.

I consider myself to be fairly diligent, but it is clear that today's scammers are far more sophisticated than I had given them credit for. They must have been able to harvest my information in real time. The lesson I have learned is always to take the long way round when trying to resolve a matter. By that, I mean do not respond directly to an email. Instead, go online to find bona fide contact details, look for a previous letter, or simply pick up the telephone and speak to someone. Do not rely on the contact information that has been sent to you. It may take a little longer, but it can save considerable loss, anxiety and embarrassment.

I thank God that, on this occasion, I have been extremely fortunate. I am choosing to share this experience because it could happen to any one of us, in some way, at some time.

Nick Whimpanny

Age UK have some very useful information about scams on their website www.ageuk.org.uk. Look under 'Information and Advice' then select 'Money and Legal', then 'Scams and Fraud'.

You can also phone their advice line 0800 678 1602 (8am – 7pm, 365 days a year)

Some of their top tips:

- Just because someone knows your basic details doesn't mean t they are legitimate. These details could include your name, address, your mother's maiden name even your Direct Debits.
- Your bank will never call you and ask for your PIN or for you to give your card to courier or to transfer money.
- Never click on a link in an email or open an attachment from someone you don't know. Some scammers will disguise their email so it looks genuine, always check. If you hover your mouse over a link you can see the email address or website it is attached to.
- Don't be embarrassed to hang up, say no or ask someone to l eave.

External repairs and redecoration

One of the features of our distinctive church building are the ‘black and white’ areas. The black beams are made of oak and most of it is original. It has been on the church since 1893 when the church was re-built following a fire which destroyed the previous church on the site.

As with any wood exposed to the elements it needs maintaining and we are now at the stage where the oak needs redecorating and in places, repairing.

The Church is a Grade 2 listed building, therefore some of the more complex repairs, and high-level work will require a specialist contractor. However, we plan to do some of the lower-level decoration ourselves following the instructions our architect has provided and once the necessary permission from the diocese has been received.

The estimated cost for the entire work is £35,000. We will be applying for grants but in order for our applications to be successful we will need to have raised a significant proportion of the overall cost.

If you can spare sometime to join one our work-party sessions preparing the surfaces and painting please contact Nick Whimpanny for more details. Nick is also the person to contact if you would like to make a donation towards this work.

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