



ST ANNE'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

<https://www.stannesonseaurc.org.uk>

Facebook: Stannesurc

Registered charity number 1128043



MAGAZINE

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2025

MINISTERS OF LANCASHIRE WEST MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIP

The Reverend Janet Calderley

Email janet.calderley@btinternet.com

Telephone 01253 896056 or 07713 573622

The Reverend Jim Williams

Email revjimwilliams@hotmail.com

Telephone 01253 896371 or 07484 221809

CHURCH SECRETARY

David Croall

CHURCH TREASURER

Elizabeth Fleming

PASTORAL CARE COORDINATOR

Sheila Howarth

SERVING ELDERS

May Bishop

David Croall

Jackie Dell

Elizabeth Fleming

Peter Melvin

Chris Phair

Joyce Phair



PRAYER FOR OCTOBER 2025

Dear Lord,

In this autumn season, when the harvest is gathered, we thank You for Your provision for us. We have so much, and yet we see terrible images of starving children on our televisions and smartphones and in our newspapers.

Lord, prompt us to do what we can to change things, whether that is by writing a letter or email to someone with influence, or by contributing in some way to aid agencies.

Lord, we ask You to touch the hearts of those leaders of nations whose decisions cause such hunger and suffering. Soften those hard hearts, Lord. Fill them with Your compassion. May there be a new harvest of love - and a kinder world.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Daphne Kitching

THURSDAY CLUB

The new session of Thursday Club begins on **Thursday 2 October 2025** at 2.30pm in the hall when we welcome Judy Beeston as our speaker.

Her talk is entitled 'An afternoon with Edith Rigby, Preston's most famous suffragette'.

Thereafter, meetings continue fortnightly as follows:

16 October Jackie Dell entertains at the Wurlitzer in the Church

30 October Protect Yourself from Fraud - Roger Hussey

13 November Life as a Member of Parliament - Mary Robinson

27 November My Time in the Lifeboat Service - Roy Turner

Do come and join us if there are topics of interest to you.

Margaret Hughes

CRAFT GROUP

Craft Group resumed after the summer break on Thursday 11 September 2025 and continues to meet fortnightly from 1pm to 3 pm, alternating with Thursday Club. All are welcome.

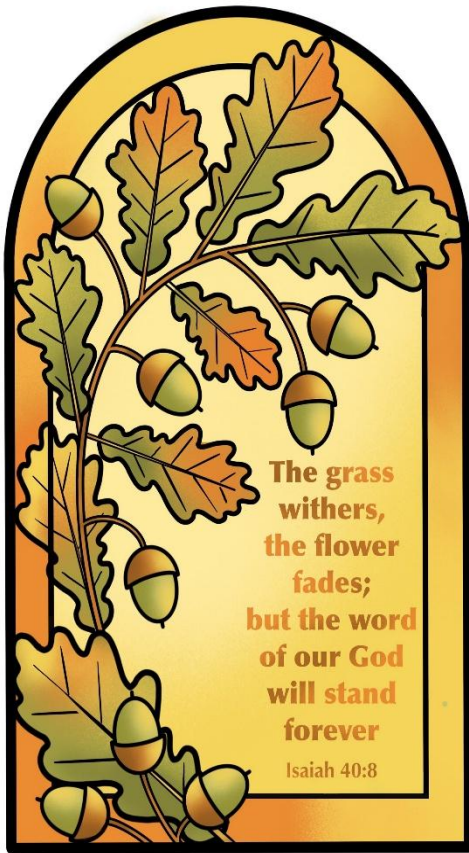
Sue Melvin

SALES

It is getting harder to find a courteous person who isn't trying to sell you something.

A MESSAGE FROM THE REVEREND JIM WILLIAMS

THE BLESSING OF AUTUMN: A SEASON OF RENEWAL IN CHRIST



As the air turns crisp and the leaves blaze in hues of gold and crimson, we are reminded that God has written His goodness into every season.

Autumn invites us to pause, to reflect, and to give thanks for the harvest — both of the land and of the spirit.

The falling leaves speak to us of change, of letting go. Just as the trees release what they no longer need, we too are called to lay down the burdens that weigh us down. The Apostle Paul urges us in Ephesians 4:22-24 to "put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life... and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."

Autumn reminds us that in Christ we are continually renewed, shedding what is past so that something beautiful and lasting can take root.

It is also a season of gathering. Farmers bring in their crops, and families gather around tables to share in the blessings of provision. Jesus, in John 4:35, spoke of a harvest far greater than wheat or grapes: "Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Just as the earth yields its fruit in season, so, too, the Kingdom of God is bearing fruit in our midst—through lives transformed, relationships restored and hope rekindled."

Finally, autumn teaches us gratitude. In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul writes: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." The shorter days and cooler nights draw us into moments of quiet reflection, where thanksgiving becomes the posture of the heart. Whether in times of abundance or in seasons of waiting, we are invited to trust that God's faithfulness endures.

As we walk through this season, may the colours of autumn point us to the beauty of God's creation, may the harvest remind us of Christ's call to labour in love, and may the rhythm of change deepen our trust in the One who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Rev Jim

THURSDAY SHOPPERS' SERVICES AT 10AM IN THE HALL

2nd October	Leader - Linda Lunn
9th October	Communion led by Doug Clements
16th October	Leader - Margaret Russell
23rd October	Leader - Stuart Gay
30th October	Leader - Stephanie Johnson
6th November	Leader - Eileen Garfitt
13th November	Communion led by the Reverend Jim Williams
20th November	Leader - Margaret Russell
27th November	Leader - Rene Kendall

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10.45AM IN THE CHURCH

5th October	Communion led by Pastor David Grimshaw
12th October	Leader - Margaret Russell
19th October	Leader - Eileen Garfitt
26th October	Leaders - the Reverend Martin and Phyllis Graham
2nd November	Communion led by Peter Melvin
9th November	Remembrance Sunday. Leader - Stuart Gay
16th November	Leader - the Reverend Jim Williams
23rd November	Leader - Andrew Barratt
30th November	Joint service with Fairhaven URC at St Anne's Leader - the Reverend Dr Peter Colwell

Note: unexpected events may necessitate late changes to the list of leaders.

FLOWERS

5th October	Sarah and David Croall
12th October	Sum Cheung
19th October	Church flowers
26th October	May Bishop
2nd November	Avril Cook
9th November	Marion Stott
16th November	Church flowers
23rd November	Margaret Russell
30th November	Church flowers

ANIMAL WELFARE SUNDAY - 5 OCTOBER 2025

This year, Animal Welfare Sunday falls on Sunday 5 October, which is the nearest Sunday to St Francis' feast day on Saturday 4 October. It is a good opportunity to thank God for the animals, and to consider how we might help them.

Christians have been involved in animal welfare reform throughout history. For example, even the RSPCA - the first animal protection society - was founded by an Anglican priest - the Reverend Arthur Broome. But many well-known Christians such as C. S. Lewis, John Wesley and William Wilberforce also spoke out against animal cruelty.

As the Psalmist says in Psalm 148, animals in their amazing variety of species were all created for the glory of God and to praise His name. They were not created for our exploitation and domination.

But, sadly, Creation has been abused, and it continues to be abused today. The economics of providing us with low-cost chicken, pork, beef and milk can too often result in cruelty towards millions of animals.

These days, The Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals works to raise awareness of animal welfare issues within the Anglican Church and the wider Christian community.

If you want to help the welfare of animals in some way, please visit: www.aswa.org.uk

19 OCTOBER BRINGS HEALTH AND CARE SUNDAY 2025

Health and Care Sunday is an initiative of Christian healthcare organisations in the UK and Ireland. It aims to give local churches an annual opportunity to affirm and support the work done by the members of their congregation and local community who work in health and social care.

Most churches include someone who is a doctor, nurse, care assistant, social care worker, occupational therapist, hospital administrator, porter, cleaner, ward secretary, laboratory staff or chaplain, as well as people serving in many other roles.

This is an opportunity for our church to pray for them and encourage them as they work in health and social care in our community.

Health and Care Sunday is sponsored by the Christian Medical Fellowship (CMF) and held on the Sunday closest to St Luke's Day which falls on 18 October.

More information at: <https://www.cmf.org.uk/health-and-care-sunday>

IF YOU UNDERSTAND IT.....

When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.

THE FRIEND AT MIDNIGHT

As we remember St Luke, whose feast day is 18 October, let's note that one of the major themes in his gospel is prayer. Jesus tells the *Parable of the Friend at Midnight* (Luke 11:5-8) in the context of teaching His disciples to pray (verse 1 of the chapter).

Pray Shamelessly:

In the parable a man approaches his friend at midnight asking: *'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'* (verses 5-6). Despite the hour, the rules of hospitality mean that this is not an unreasonable request. Jesus says, *'though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will rise and give him whatever he needs'* (verse 8). Jesus is telling us to approach our heavenly Father in *'shameless boldness'* with our needs. As adopted children we should have no hesitancy in coming to talk with our Father. It is not God who is reluctant to answer, but we to ask. Do we pray with shameless boldness?

Pray Persistently:

Like children we should be persistent in our requests: *'Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.'* (verse 9). All three verbs indicate a continual habit: *'Keep on asking...seeking...knocking'*. We will not be content simply to ask once and then move on. Jesus tells us to bring our prayers to God persistently. Do we give up too easily in prayer?

Pray Expectantly:

'For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.' (verse 10). Are we expectant in our prayers, believing that God delights in meeting our requests? Why not begin this adventure of prayer today!

Canon Paul Hardingham

STARFISHES

September arrives, along with autumn, and the Starfishes new year begins.

Each week, we start with a welcome and registration. We sit there, ready, hoping that the children, parents and carers remember where we are. But, along they come, many renewing their visit, others coming nervously for the first time. Very soon they are all integrated, playing, singing and having a healthy breakfast. Then it's story-time and a linked craft. Concerned about numbers? We were busy, greeting and catching up. The summer break is over, and the new season has started.

We continue to meet weekly at 9.30am on Mondays in the hall except for Monday 27 October 2025 which falls in the week of half-term.

Doug Clements, on behalf of the Starfishes team

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church began the new term with a seasonal favourite - harvest. Our families have been busy over the summer months nurturing their plants during one of the driest springs and summers on record, so their watering skills have been put to the test and have been rewarded with strawberries, tomatoes, courgettes plus salad leaves and herbs. So, the celebration of harvest is very special this year.

The team look forward to sharing many more crafts and themes over the next sessions, which take place in term time from 3.30pm on the third Friday of the month in the hall.

Jane Randles

FUNDRAISING

I want to say a huge thank-you to Jackie Dell for volunteering to play our church organ and Wurlitzer, as a sponsored musical event, to raise money towards our fundraising project for the new church heating system. She has achieved what she set out to do, maybe not in the order she intended as she had a setback with a few days in hospital, but she was keen to carry on. By the time you read this Jackie will have completed her task. Very well done to her and to all who supported her. The final total she has raised will be announced shortly when Elizabeth has counted all monies. Watch this space. Many, many thanks to Jackie.

As I write we are looking forward to our harvest weekend which will include a coffee morning and our Jacobs Join lunch. On **Saturday 25 October from 10am - 3pm** we will be holding another of our popular craft fairs. No doubt lots of items suitable for Christmas gifts will be on sale. We will have a full hall with a variety of stalls including some of your favourites. The cafe will be in full swing selling appetizing food and will close at 2pm.

Following on, in November, we will hold our annual Christmas Fair. This will take place on **Saturday 29 November from 10am - 2pm**. Again, there will be a full complement of stalls, and definitely a Christmas theme. Do come along and pick up your Christmas gifts. The cafe will again be in full swing selling seasonal goodies for you to have with your tea and coffee. There will be a Christmas raffle and lots of other surprises. Our Fair will also coincide with the switching on of the town's Christmas lights in the Square later in the day providing a wonderful lead up to the festive time of year.

There is one advance date for your diaries: we are holding a Christmas concert in Church on **Saturday 13 December 2025 at 2pm**, to be given by the Dream Team Singers. We will give more details nearer the time.

Thank you for your support, which is appreciated.

Avril Cook, on behalf of our hardworking fundraisers

PRAYER FOR NOVEMBER

Remembrance Sunday this year is 9 November



WORDS TO REMEMBER

(Jn16:33)

"We will remember them"

The years of remembering go by,
Accumulating name after name
As wars and conflicts continue
In a world, deaf to the lessons of history.
But through the negativity of November
A different remembering brings hope and meaning.
Words of the world's Creator,
Words to make sense of chaos
And bring order and peace in the end.

"In this world you will have trouble,
But take heart!
I have overcome the world."

Words of Jesus.
We will remember them.

Daphne Kitching

AN OBSERVATION ON EVERYDAY LIFE

Interest does not tie nations together; it sometimes separates them.
But sympathy and understanding do unite them.

Woodrow Wilson

ECO-CHURCH

Autumn is a time of new academic beginnings and also a time of remembrance, so I will start this piece in that vein.

Eco-church was started by a group of foresighted, environmentally aware members, including, in particular, the Reverend Glyn Eatock. Glyn had to convince a sceptical congregation to see the environmental benefits of pulling up an easy-to-mow, luscious green lawn in the north part of the garden and create a meadow in its place. The eco team worked hard to make this dream a reality, creating planting beds and pathways through the woodland area. This area is now serviced by benches dotted around the meadow. It provides a welcome glade of coolness in the heat of summer and is now regularly visited by the general public and holidaying tourists when the church gates are open.

Dorothy Tatton was one of the founding members of the eco-church group and, through her regular contributions to the magazine, has provided many eco tips for all to make use of. It is now a privilege for me to follow on from Dorothy and the work of the eco team, which included not only Glyn but also Aud Rose, Doug Clements, Julie Reeman and all those who have tended the meadow garden.

One of the first things I did, in my new role as coordinator of eco-church, was to create a wildflower, seedhead garland and place it in the bug house. The bug house was created in 2016 and is still in its original position, overlooking the meadow with an imposing view of the Church. The garland is a response to the latest findings of the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch, to create feeding environments by using dried flower seedheads and to create a habitat for overwintering insects. The bug house can be viewed by taking a stroll through the church garden and, in doing so, you can enjoy the autumn sunshine in a peaceful meadow glade.

Jane Randles

BOOK REVIEW

A Good Old Age - An A to Z of Loving and Following the Lord Jesus in Later Years.
By Derek Prime, 10Publishing, £7.99.

Old age often gets a bad press. Associated with grumpiness, aches and pains, loneliness, and isolation it's not something we particularly look forward to or relish when we're there.

Pastor and bible teacher, Derek Prime, writing in his 80s, shows us that there is another way to view old age. He guides us through 26 Christian priorities that we should hold to in later life.

With biblical wisdom and practical advice, Prime helps us to navigate the unique challenges and joys that old age can bring. This is a book to dip into, meditate on and read prayerfully as you let the truths it contains gently transform the way you live your old age.

Editors: David Pickup, a solicitor, offers some general advice on what to do when you are not happy about something...

COMPLAINTS - HOW DO YOU MAKE THEM EFFECTIVE?

I cried unto the LORD with my voice; ... I poured out my complaint before Him; I shewed before Him my trouble. (Psalm 142:1,2 KJV)

Perhaps it is a British thing, but we do not like to complain, do we? But the psalmist was not British, so he did not mind complaining - even to God, we are told. Nowadays, most large organisations, especially public bodies, want us to complain if something is wrong, because good service standards are important. They have well-designed complaints systems and independent ombudsmen to oversee it all.

The first thing is to try to resolve an issue informally. If this has not worked, use the proper procedure. You can probably find how to on the company's website.

Be precise about what you are complaining about. Be clear - use account numbers, references and dates. Put in the names of persons involved, if you know them. Do not leave it too long because most procedures have deadlines.

Keep it short, simple and to the point. Ask a friend to look at it first, to make sure they understand what you are complaining about. Be firm but polite and business-like - you are more likely to be listened to. It may be helpful to use numbered points, in date order. Keep a note of dates. Be reasonable. It may be an apology will suffice, but do not be fobbed off.

Think about what outcome you want. Is it an apology? If so, get a genuine apology. If you are told "we are sorry you felt let down" that is not an apology; "We let you down" is. Perhaps you want the organisation to change their ways so something bad does not happen to other people.

And another thing: if you get a good service from someone, tell the company. It might make their day.

PLASTIC CARRIER BAGS

This year marks ten years since England introduced the 5p charge for single-use plastic carrier bags. The charge has had a dramatic effect - with a reduction of 98% in sales.

In 2014, 7.6 billion single-use plastic bags were sold in the UK. By 2023, 133 million single-use bags had been sold in the major supermarkets.

The average person in the UK now buys only about two single-use plastic bags per year.



A HELPING HAND

There is much we can do just to brighten
This world of all take and no give,
There's a great deal that we can contribute
Through the everyday lives that we live.

By supporting one's elderly neighbours
Or through lending a hand in some way
It's by taking a bunch of spring flowers
To someone to brighten their day.

It's by sparing a few precious hours
In the service of those most in need
It's all about setting a standard
And trying to give others a lead.

It's the way that we tend to treat others
And help and aid folks in distress
In the care and assistance we offer
That will set us apart from the rest.

The choice that we face is quite simple
The rewards plain for all men to see
As you did all of this to My brother
Then, said Jesus, you did it to Me.

Colin Hammacott

SEND YOUR LOVE WITH THESE FLOWERS

A flower used by Victorians when they wanted to send a 'hidden message' of love is making a big comeback. It is the aster. Its popularity in bouquets has quadrupled in two years. Sales at Tesco alone have soared by nearly 350 per cent.

And no wonder: asters are vivid, fast-growing, British flowers with a good vase life. They come in blue, purple, pink, dark pink, red and white - all with a bright yellow centre. They originally came from Japan and are related to dahlias and chrysanthemums.

The Victorians believed that asters symbolised love, patience, wisdom, elegance and grace. That made asters a sure winner for bearing discreet messages of affection.

More than five million were grown in the UK this year, so there must be a lot of love about!

INK CARTRIDGES

The most recent and full box of ink cartridges was sent off some weeks ago and I have now received notification that we raised a further £40 for MacMillan Local.

Any make of ink cartridges is acceptable, but we cannot accept toner cartridges. If an ink cartridge is not quite empty, it would be appreciated if the said cartridge was in a small plastic bag to prevent the ink from spreading everywhere.

Matthew Willey

DEATH

We commend to God's loving care George Cook who died on 27 July 2025. Please remember Avril, their family and friends in your prayers.

THANK YOU

Very many thanks for the lovely flowers and cards sent by the church to celebrate our 66th wedding anniversary. Special thanks to Chris who delivered the flowers.

Reverend Audrey and John Boon

Our heartfelt THANKS from the family of the late George Cook. We cannot put into words the love, compassion, sympathy and so much caring we have all received. It has been absolutely amazing and we cannot thank you enough for the cards, letters, phone calls and messages. It has helped us all through, what has been, our difficult time.

We were astounded when we walked into the Church on that beautiful, hot and sunny day to see it packed with so many people. Everything had been planned by George and Avril thinks we all did as he wanted. He would be so proud of not just the family but of everyone else as well.

Rene gave us a beautiful service, as we knew she would. She found it hard, as she and George had been friends for so many years, through drama and, also, Tom, Rene's late husband. Long before he became ill, George had said to Avril: "I would like Rene to officiate at my funeral " and he got his wish.

Love and blessings to you all.

Avril, David and Megan Cook

Items for the December/January edition of the magazine should be with the editors no later than **Sunday 16 November 2025**, please.