

inspire

May 2019

Your life at St. Chad's



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A huge thank you to Pat and others who've, once again, contributed so much to make this magazine and prayer journal such a great read. May is part of the the fifty days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost (9th June). During this period Jesus appeared many times to his disciples, and in the book of Acts it says, he taught them about the Kingdom (Acts 1:3). This was his theme throughout his teaching before the cross as well. The Kingdom of God is everything. The King has come. Those of us who have made Jesus our King are in his Kingdom. We need to go on learning about what it means and being obedient to the King. Between Ascension (30th May) and Pentecost our archbishops have introduced 9 days of prayer under the banner 'Thy Kingdom Come'. Let's continually pray that the reign and influence of Jesus will come in greater and greater power in our church and in the community of Handforth in these weeks of May.

Revd Steve Burmester Vicar, St Chad's Church



Sitting there, on Sunday morning, congregations in their pews,
Read their magazines, informing them of all the latest news.
All save one who sits there smiling, she knows that journal very well
Having spent a month compiling – she knows what those pages tell!

She it was, who deadlines facing got those varied items in
Phoning, asking, pleading, chasing, each a battle she must win!
Though she earns no princely wages, she gladly gives her time
Every month she fills those pages choosing pictures, prose, and
rhyme

So she sits, her rest deserving for this month her duty's done
Maybe she's just strength conserving – soon she starts another one!

**Pat Grange
Editor**



Devotional - *"it is no longer I that live"...*

Steve Burmester

I write this just a day after the devastating fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. One of the photographs that has been captured and was in the newspapers and on social media is the picture of the interior after the fire. As the smoke and ash were beginning to settle the clear image of the cross shone in the midst of the darkness. What a powerful picture of all that the cross means to us. In the midst of the darkness of this world, Jesus' death on the cross brought light to our lives and it is the one thing we must hold on to every day.

But what does that mean in reality? Paul writes to the Galatians; 'I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. The life I live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.' (Gal 2:20). Three things.

I have been crucified with Christ. What Paul is saying here is hugely important. On the cross of Calvary, Jesus didn't purchase general savability. No, Jesus took names to the cross. He specifically died for you and me. His death was just as effective for us as if we had died ourselves. Because he died as our representative, his death satisfied God's anger against us, so that we face it no more.

It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. This is radical and hard to grasp, but important to think through. You and I died with Christ so that he could live within us now. When his Holy Spirit comes into our hearts it is his power that now animates, motivates and propels our spiritual life. This



means we are never alone. He is always with us. And because he is always with us we are never left to our own limited resources, our own wisdom, strength and righteousness. When God looks on us he sees Christ in us and loves us with the same love and pride he has for his own son.



The life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I place my faith in the fact of his death for me and his life within me, and I live on that basis. I live with peace, hope, and courage because I've been blessed by God. Whatever comes he will never leave us or forsake us.

Getting to know you

Colin & Ikekie



In the early 80's in the course of his work with the Baptist Housing Association in Manchester Colin met Roy Worthington.

At about the same time, unknown to Colin,

Ikekie Poh, a student from Singapore was studying in Manchester. However by 1989 God had called both Colin and Ikekie, separately, to work in Turkey with a Christian company.

A little later Roy and Pat were on a Master Sun

Holiday in Turkey when surprise, surprise, who should come to talk about what God was doing there but Colin! With further holidays in Turkey, Roy and Pat kept in touch at first just with Colin but then following their marriage, with both Colin and Ikekie.

In 2011 they both stayed with the Worthingtons and met others from

St. Chad's over breakfast. Colin and Ikekie, based on the Mediterranean coast at that time, were helping migrant farm workers in their area who were living in very basic conditions. Prayer and practical support for them from St. Chad's grew out of these contacts and was strengthened by further visits to St. Chad's.

By 2014 Colin and Ikekie were living in South East Turkey and four of us from St. Chad's were able to spend a week sharing in their life. So much has changed since 2014 in England and especially for Turkey and neighboring countries but

through the changes a fellowship of prayer has grown. On the second Monday each month a group meet to pray for Turkey and Colin and Ikekie, who

have valued

this support. When they visit us this month (Breakfast 18th and Bring & Share Lunch 19th) they will be able to tell us much more about what they are doing, along with the joys and uncertainties of life in Turkey in these turbulent times. Do come and meet them.

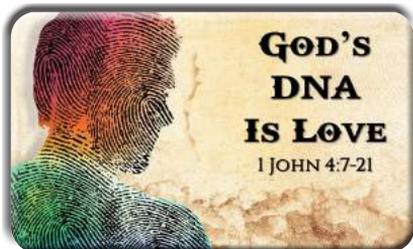
by Pat Worthington & Jim Lethbridge.



Love Me To The Moon?



Do you know the story of little Nutbrown hare? His father cared for him so much that the only thing big enough to describe his love was the enormous distance between the Earth and the Moon – and back again. It's a wonderful story, but it pales into insignificance compared to the love that the Creator of the entire universe has for each one of us.



When Paul wrote to the Ephesians, he said that he prayed they would be able “to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge”. So what sort of scale could you use to capture the size of a love like that?

I have heard professional astronomers say it is impossible to keep the enormous scales of our universe in mind all the time and keep functioning normally. But every now and again it is worth trying to wrap our heads around these distances, and feel a sense of awe at our smallness compared to the vast distances of space. One way to connect more personally with astronomical scales is to consider the total amount of DNA in our bodies. This long thin chemical carries all the instructions needed for building and maintaining each cell – every tiny building block – in your body. A human cell contains two metres of DNA, coiled up very tightly.

If it were possible to take this long thin molecule out of every cell, unroll it, and line up every piece end to end, how far would it reach?

The average adult has about 3 trillion (3,000,000,000,000) DNA-containing cells in his or her body. Multiplied by two metres, that makes around 6 billion kilometres of DNA, which is immense compared to the distance to the moon. The sun is around 150 million kilometres from earth, so our DNA could take us there and back many times.

Pluto is approximately around 6 billion kilometres away from Earth, so with our string of DNA we could take a one-way trip to the very edge of the solar system.



God is the Creator of the vast spaces of the universe, but when Jesus described how God cares for us He said that ‘even the very hairs on your head are numbered’. You could also say that He knows every molecule of DNA in your body.

Jesus’ death on the cross showed that His love for each one of us is more unbreakable than the love of a parent for a child. So what might He say in today’s language – I love you to Pluto and back?

Sunday 5 May

🕊️ **The Muslim fasting month, Ramadan, begins tomorrow.** In 1993 a number of Christians began a movement praying specifically for the Muslim world over the 30 day fasting period. As this prayer movement has grown over the past 25 years there have been huge changes in the Muslim world and more Muslim have become Christians than ever before. This month we are invited to join in **30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World**. Give thanks for this work of the Holy Spirit and be encouraged as we join in. 🏠 Pray for those who will come to Cheadle Mosque particularly over the next month. Give thanks for the positive contact which Jacob Devadasan, the new Vicar of Heald Green, has had with the Mosque and pray for on-going contacts which he (and we) can have with the leaders there. † As we worship together this morning, pray for a unity of vision and purpose in all we do at St Chad's.

Joyce Holland

Residents of Delamere Road

Monday 6 May

🕊️ Chester Diocese prayer today is for the Cathedral, pray for the Dean, Tim Stratford, who is responsible with the Canons for its day to day working; for a building up of the regular congregation and positive interaction with the City and County. † Think of any Muslim people with whom you have contact; neighbours, friends, shopkeepers - pray for them. 🏠 The Hope Centres in Handforth and Lacey Green are open for those of all faiths or none, Pray that any Muslims who come will be touched by the love of God.

Gene Holt

Residents of Derwent Drive

Thursday 9 May

🕊️ Burofaye Christian School in Senegal gives essential support for the children of families working in west Africa. Give thanks that new Principals have been found. Pray for them, for other new staff needed, for the children and for the School's impact on the neighbouring district. † Pray for Sue Thompson and the families who come to Rhymetime. 🏠 Give thanks that restrictions on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals are now in place but pray that gamblers can be protected as Betting Firms find other ways to draw them into addiction.

Jenny Ithell

Residents of Eastham Way

Tuesday 7 May

🕊️ Pray particularly this month for God's work within the 10/40 Window, the region across north Africa and south Asia where 90% of those who have never heard the Good News of Jesus live. Islam is the major religion in most of these countries. † Pray for our Mission Committee. Give thanks for the many links we have with God's work, local, national and around the world. As a Church, how do we decide where to focus our prayer and our giving? 🏠 Give thanks for the many 'Social Workers' whose personal commitment to helping others goes beyond 'just doing a job'. Pray that God's love will sustain them when they feel over-stretched and drained of energy.

Margaret Holt

Residents of Dinglebrook Grove

Friday 10 May

🕊️ **Acts 13** is a movement across Africa and South America which is drawing many Christians from these continents into cross-cultural mission. As we give thanks for this changing and growing face of Mission pray that the practical difficulties faced by 'sending churches', financial and cultural, may be overcome. † Pray for all who come to Aroma Cafe today. May they know that the service they receive is a reflection of God's love for them 🏠 Pray for those in our community who feel isolated and vulnerable. May they find the support they need.

Marjorie Jackson

Residents of Edelstone Grove

Wednesday 8 May

🕊️ Pray for Emma, Jill, Josh, Sarah, Jen and Trudi, the Christians in Schools workers. This term there will be a focus on Yr 6, Primary School leavers. Pray that many schools, including those in Handforth, will book them to take 'It's Your Move' leavers Assemblies. † Christ Church's Wednesday Club is popular with many children on Colshaw Farm. Pray for the children and the leaders who are 'feeling their age', and so for new helpers. 🏠 Pray that the consciences of those tempted to try shop-lifting or fare-dodging will make them think again.

John & Denise Horrocks

Residents of Dunham Road

Saturday 11 May

🕊️ This week-end Christians in Marple will be welcoming some 50 mainland Chinese who, with families, are studying in Manchester. Pray for smooth practical organisation and the long term impact of the visit. † Pray for Carole Harding and her team and the children who come to Sunday Club. 🏠 Give thanks for the, now annual, Charity Concert being given at St Chad's this evening by members of Wilmslow Symphony Orchestra. Pray for an enjoyable evening and a generous response in support of East Cheshire Hospice.

Jim & Pat Jones

Residents of Elm Grove

Sunday 12 May

☺ **Christian Aid Week - More Happy Birth Days** Still today simple ante-natal care can make the difference between life and death for both mother and child in too many countries. Pray that this week's CA focus will make us more aware of the way we take such care for granted and that the money raised will enable more Health Clinics to be set up in countries like Sierra Leone so that pregnant mums can have health checks and their babies safely delivered. † On **Vocations Sunday** Lord give us the vision that from our youngest members to oldest we will have a sense of your purpose for our lives including Christian Ministry. 🏠 From Athletics Clubs to Zumba pray that Christians in the many local Clubs and activities will be salt and light for the Lord, by joining in, through friendship and, where appropriate, by leadership.

Jonathon & Cheryl Jones, Daniel & Eleanor

Residents of Elton Close

Monday 13 May

☺ On **Mental Health Awareness Day** give thanks that mental health issues are now more openly discussed. Pray that this openness will lead to a breaking down of barriers so that those who need it will be able to access the help they need. † Pray that at St Chad's those struggling with mental health issues will be able to share their problems without shame or guilt. 🏠 Give thanks for the work of The Samaritans. Pray that their Counsellors and others working in Mental Health will themselves be supported and may have the love and the wisdom needed as they relate to the individuals they meet.

Liz Kelly

Residents of Elworth Way

Thursday 16 May

☺ Pray that national advertising in Christian Aid Week and the street collections will be effective, not just in raising money but also in bringing the 'Christian' basis of the Week into focus. † At the APCM it was pointed out that the Vicar, Steve, often ends up doing 'odd jobs' because there is no one else available. Give thanks that there are those who do also help but pray for others to join them. 🏠 Give thanks and pray for Weston Park Care Home, the staff, residents and their families.

Carole Kenyon

Residents of Finney Close

Tuesday 14 May

☺ Pray for Cheshire East Council and particularly for members elected for the first time, that they will be a breath of fresh air to revitalise a Council which has faced much criticism in the running of the Borough. † Pray for the members of the PCC as they meet officially for the first time since the APCM. Pray for the right people to be on each of the sub-committees which do much of the day to day work. 🏠 Pray for our newly elected Handforth Parish Council.

Cathleen Kennedy

Residents of Fairywell Close

Friday 17 May

☺ Colin and Ikekie have both worked with Operation Mobilisation, OM, for 30 years. Give thanks with them for God's faithfulness to them, not least in bringing them into a married partnership for the Gospel there. † If we are to be a church together then good communication is vital. Pray for Pat Grange and others who have this responsibility. 🏠 Give thanks for the positive use of social media, sharing information to build up community in Handforth .

Ann Kerr

Residents of Finney Drive

Wednesday 15 May

☺ Pray that enough helpers will be found for the Christian Aid bucket collection at Tesco/M & S on Saturday and for a positive interaction with shoppers. † As we look forward to the visit of Colin & Ikekie to St Chad's this week-end, pray that our Together at St Chad's, TASC, programme will have a fuller meaning through the times we spend together with them. 🏠 Give thanks that banking and other services are still available in Handforth through the Post Office. Pray for the staff.

Denise Kennedy, Kirsty & Amy Residents of Fern-dale

Saturday 18 May

☺ Christians like Colin and Ikekie are linked together in Turkey in a cOMpany. Pray that members of the company will be granted the residence permits they need and will be able to keep in good standing with Turkish authorities. † Colin and Ikekie value our prayer support. Pray that this week-end will deepen our commitment to them. 🏠 Pray for those holding the Christian Aid buckets at Tesco/M&S and that shoppers will both get the message and give.

Sue Kershaw

Residents of Finsbury Way

Sunday 19 May

☺ Give thanks for the increasing number of enquirers for the Bible Correspondence Courses, BCC, in Turkey. Pray that those who follow up the enquiries will have wisdom and sensitivity in their contacts particularly when direct personal meetings are arranged. Give thanks and pray for Turkish Christians now taking on leadership roles in BCC and local churches. † Pray that as Colin and Ikekie share more details of their life in Turkey with us today, at our services and at Bring and Share Lunch together, we will have an increasing sense of being partners in their work. 🏠 Pray for any contact we might have with Muslims from Turkey or other countries who live or work around us. Half way through Ramadan, fasting month, they may be open to talk about the faith, their hopes and fears.

Jill & Steve Kimber

Residents of Foden Walk

Monday 20 May

☺ *Open Doors* is highlighting the double vulnerability of millions of women persecuted because of both their gender and also their faith. Pray that their campaign *See. Change* will bring this persecution into the open and result in real change † Give thanks for a healthy financial report at the APCM, yet regular giving has decreased whilst our on-going support for an additional worker will need increased giving. Pray! 🏠 Pray that effective controls can be introduced to protect children using the internet.

Sally Kingsford

Residents of Frodsham Way

Tuesday 21 May

☺ **Norbury Parish Church**, Hazel Grove, is a large and active church but currently without a Vicar. John and Roey have agreed to their request for help at this time (active retirement for John!) but their gain is our loss. Pray for Norbury Parish, for John and Roey - and for St Chad's. † Pray for members of our Worship Committee as they review both the pattern and style of our different Services. How do we hold together unity in diversity? 🏠 Pray for all who live and work in Styal Prison.

Revd. John & Roey Knowles

Gawsworth Way

Wednesday 22 May

☺ Amongst all the sad and negative news from countries such as Honduras, give thanks that there are active Christian groups in their universities announcing the good news of salvation despite mockery. † Pray that it will be possible to bring together in witness to our village, Christians who worship in local Churches and those who travel outside Handforth to worship. 🏠 Give thanks and pray for positive activities in Styal Prison, the Clink Training Restaurant, Chaplaincy services, Sycamore Tree, and other activities such as gardening.

Feriel Lu Labebedi *Residents of Goodrington Rd.*

Thursday 23 May

☺ Rampant opium addiction and armed conflict with central government are just two of the difficulties faced by Bible translators working with ethnic groups in S E Asia. Pray that teams will know God's power and protection. (Wycliffe) † This summer Jane officially retires from her Fulani language work with people in West Africa but God has opened doors for other work from her home in Dawlish. Pray for a good closure and God's continued leading. 🏠 Give thanks and pray for our local Police Officers and CPSO's Gareth Harding and Kerry Hancock.

Jane L.

Residents of Goostrey Close

Friday 24 May

☺ Pray that God will protect and sustain Tearfund partners in Mali, giving thanks that they are bringing light and hope. Drought and climate change, internal conflict and refugees from violence in Lybia and Nigeria have resulted in chronic food shortage, whilst disease is widespread. † Give thanks and pray for our Rainbows and Brownies, and for local Guides and 1st Handforth Scout Group. 🏠 Give thanks and pray for Adlington Manor, the staff, residents and their families.

Joan Lawrence

Residents of Gowy Close

Saturday 25 May

☺ Central African Republic is another country torn apart by war and violence. With funding from the British Government Tearfund partners are leading a women's empowerment project which is lifting families out of extreme poverty. Pray. † A Prayer Walk around Handforth is planned for this morning. Join if you can, still pray if you can't. Give thanks that we have seen answered prayer and God at work in our village. 🏠 Pray for the staff of local take-aways and restaurants and their customers. Lord make us all more thankful for the variety and abundance of food we can enjoy,

Margi Lawrence

Residents of Grangeway

Sunday 26 May

☪ **Rogation Sunday** is traditionally the time to ask for God's blessing on land and crops. In a world where crop failure is becoming increasingly common, pray that we may not take the productivity of our land for granted or undervalue our agricultural industry. Pray for our farmers and for those working in the department for environment food and rural affairs, particularly as they deal with the uncertainties caused by Brexit. † Everyone can take some responsibility for the environment. How 'green' is St Chad's? Pray that our PCC will find time to consider broader issues such as our care for the environment. 🏡 Give thanks for the way Transition Wilmslow continues to challenge residents to improve our environment, encouraging home energy efficiency, community gardens and pressing for a 'plastic free' Wilmslow.

Sue & Sandy Livingstone, Gregor, Fraser, Laura & Douglas

Residents of Grason Avenue

Monday 27 May

☪ Flooding in the south of Nepal has caused extensive damage. This is an area where Bob and Debbie work. Pray for them and for all those who bring physical relief and Gospel hope to such stricken areas. † Pray for Vicar, Steve, to have wisdom and energy for 'out of church' work, Chair of Governors for Handforth Grange School, Donut Club at Wilmslow High School and other community activities. 🏡 On-line pornography can be accessed 'in two clicks' pray that those who are tempted may have the will to resist 'clicking'.

Jackie Lawton

Residents of Green Drive and

Thursday 30 May

☪ **Ascension Day** Archbishop Welby's call for ten days of prayer for our Nation and the world - *Thy Kingdom Come* - has continued to grow. Give thanks for this and pray with expectation that we will increasingly see visible answers to this prayer. † Pray for those who choose the music we use in our services so that well chosen songs build us up together rather than divide us over style. 🏡 Give thanks that local fitness centres can encourage a healthy lifestyle. Pray that users will also take care for their mental and spiritual health.

Janet Lewis

Residents of Hallwood Road

Tuesday 28 May

☪ Food insecurity is a major problem in Malawi but *Foundations for Farming and Self Help Groups* introduced by Tearfund partners have transformed scarcity into surplus for many villagers. Give thanks for this and pray for wider use of the techniques being introduced. † As active members of St Chad's grow older and less able, give thanks for new helpers and pray for more. 🏡 Pray that all the residents of Gwyneth Morley Court will benefit from the good community spirit there.

Jim & Avril Lethbridge

Gwyneth Morley Court

Friday 31 May

☪ As Ramadan fast continues many Muslims will set aside time tonight, *their night of power*, to seek God in a deeper way. Pray that through dreams, visions or contact with Christian friends and media many will find in Jesus the fulfilment of their searching. † Give thanks and pray for the Managers at Aroma Cafe. Particularly on busy Fridays they need wisdom and patience as they work with the client helpers and deal with customers' orders. 🏡 Give thanks for the service provided by Abbeyfield House Care Home and pray for the carers, residents and their families.

Anne Long

Residents of Hampson Crescent

Wednesday 29 May

☪ Pray for Howie Pickering, Pastor and Chair of God's Garage Christian bikers. Give thanks for the support now received through the Jacob's Well Trust. Pray for safety for the bikers in their travels and witness over the coming busy summer season. † Pray that 'fellowship' at St Chad's may have a deeper meaning than meeting together after services. 🏡 Pray that as residents move into the new housing at the end of Hall Road they will be welcomed and integrate into Handforth.

Lenny Leonard

Residents of Hall Road

Saturday 1 June

☪ *Thy Kingdom Come* Lord, thank you that in Iran there are many signs of your coming Kingdom. Give us the faith and vision to pray for this in other Muslim countries even Saudi Arabia and Yemen. † As we worship together as one congregation tomorrow, pray that our Sidespeople will see the important part they play in welcoming everyone and enjoy the contact with those new to them. 🏡 As the population of Handforth grows through new housing pray that the managers of schools, medical centres and other services will have the resources to meet their needs.

Rachel & Charlotte McDowell

Handforth Court

Still Life

By Adriaen Coorte 1703

The 6th Sunday of Easter is traditionally Rogation Sunday, when we give thanks for the fruits of the earth and pray for all who work on the land. Rural churches often celebrate nature's cycle from seeds sown to crops harvested with Plough Sunday, Rogationtide, Lammas and Harvest.

Jesus in His teaching pointed out the miracle of that cycle in the seed - sown in the soil, but springing up to new life; a small beginning that becomes a great plant; a single seed that is multiplied.

This month of May marks two seasons in that growth: the harvesting of asparagus and the gathering of strawberries.

They are two signs of the fruitfulness of nature depicted in this beautiful, intimate painting 'Still Life with Strawberries, Gooseberries and Asparagus' that was given to the National Gallery two years ago by the Dutch collector, Willem van Dedem. It was painted in 1703 by Adriaen Coorte.

We know little about him apart from the fact that he lived in Holland and has left us a garland of canvases, all displaying what has been called 'a wondrous tenderness'.

This painting is an ordinary, unpretentious scene. There is no moral lesson here, no symbolism: simply a depiction of the beauty of creation in miniature. The bowl of strawberries and the bunch of asparagus lie on a stone ledge with some gooseberries and a plum. Each a gift of nature to enjoy and share, and to find there a token of God, the giver of all good things.

'For everything there is a season,' and in this month of May with Adriaen Coorte, we give thanks for this bounty of the earth and we pray for farmers and agricultural workers.

However, more than that - as the hymn tells us;

'We thank thee then, O Father, for all things bright and good'.



I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

Smile Lines

An Email From Heaven

One day, God was looking down at Earth and saw all of the rascally behaviour that was going on. He decided to send an angel down to earth to check it out. So he called one of His angels and sent the angel to earth for a time. When he returned, he told God, "Yes, it is bad on earth; 95% are misbehaving and 5% are not"

God thought for a moment and said "Maybe I had better send down a second angel to get another opinion". So God called another angel and sent him to earth for a time too.

When the angel returned he went to God and said, "Yes, it's true, the earth is in decline; 95% are misbehaving and 5% are being good". God was not pleased so he decided to email the 5% that were good, because He wanted to encourage them, give them a little something to help them keep going. Do you know what that email said?

No?

Oh, so you didn't get one either?

The Lord's Prayer

I had been teaching my three-year-old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer for several evenings at bedtime.

She would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer:

"Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us from E-mail."



**Why do we have to sit here?
couldn't we just sell these cookies
online?**

May Services

Wednesday 1st

10.30am Talk

Sunday 5th

10:00 am All Age Worship
and Holy Communion

Wednesday 8th

10.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday 12th

9.00 am Morning Prayer
10.30 am All Age Worship
and Holy Communion
6.00 pm Rhema

Wednesday 15th

10.30 am Morning Prayer

Sunday 19th

9.00 am Holy Communion
10.30am All Age Worship
and Holy Communion

Wednesday 22nd

10.30am Holy Communion

Sunday 26th

9.00 am Morning Prayer
10.30 am All Age Worship
and Holy communion
6.00 pm Rhema

Wednesday 29th

10.30am Outing

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