

St. Saviour's Parish Church, Great Moor



**Church Magazine
New Year Edition**

January and February 2026

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Worship

Sundays 10.45 a.m. Sung Eucharist ~ Modern Language
Healing Service on the 2nd Sunday of every month at 10.45 a.m.
Baptisms take place on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 12.30 p.m.
Wednesdays 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (with candles 1st Wed.)

Church is open for quiet reflection, prayer or lighting a candle
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 11 a.m. until 12 noon

The Vicar Writes:

Dear friends

As we step into a new year, I'm always struck by how January offers us both a pause and a push: a moment to reflect on what has been, and an invitation to imagine what might yet be. After the brightness and busyness of Christmas, these winter months can feel quieter and more subdued. Yet, in the rhythm of the Church's year, this is a season that brims with possibility.

In January we celebrate the Epiphany, the moment when the light of Christ is revealed not just to a few, but to the whole world. The wise men arrive late to the party, reminding us that God's timing is rarely our timing—and yet his welcome is always open. As we follow the star into a new year, perhaps we too might ask: Where is God leading me now? What new horizons might he be inviting me to notice?

February then brings us towards Lent, a season often misunderstood as sombre or heavy. But at its heart, Lent is a spacious gift—an opportunity to take stock, reset our bearings, and make room for God again. Whether through a simple daily prayer, joining a study group, serving in a new way, or carving out a few moments of silence each day, Lent invites each of us to draw nearer to the One who first drew near to us in Christ.

My prayer for our parish this year is that we would become increasingly attentive to God's quiet movements: the small nudges, the unexpected encouragements, the opportunities to bless and be blessed. May we be people who notice, respond, and carry the light of Christ into the places where it is most needed.

With every blessing for the months ahead,

Reverend Jess

Advent and Christmas at St Saviours 2025

Looking back at the events and celebrations of the Advent and Christmas season at St Saviour's.

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair was held on Saturday 29th November and was a huge success. We welcomed many people from our local community into church and raised an incredible £5431 for the work of our church here on Great Moor. Throughout the day the fair was a busy, festive hub of people enjoying the various stalls.

Alongside the various tombolas we had cakes and chutneys and of course our famous Christmas gift stall. The raffle had some amazing prizes including a case of wine, hampers and vouchers donated by some of our local businesses.



A highlight of the fair for children and their families was the opportunity to visit Father Christmas in his grotto. It was wonderful to see the happy faces of the children who each received a gift from Santa.



In the church hall our amazing catering team worked tirelessly to provide an array of hot food, cakes, teas and coffees. Customers were treated to a performance of Poynton Veterans Brass Band playing a variety of Christmas favourites.

Thank you to all who helped in any way to make our fair such a success. As one lady said "You made everyone feel welcome and festive"

Christmas Experience

We welcomed the Year 3 children of Great Moor Junior school into church for our Christmas Experience. The children took part in an interactive journey through the Nativity story visiting five stations set up around church.

Each station depicts part of the Christmas story including the lighting of the Advent crown, the Angel's message to the shepherds, the journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus in the stable at Bethlehem.



For the final station the children gathered together in the stable at Bethlehem and reflected on the visitors who came to see the baby Jesus. As part of the activities the children created pictures of their gift for Jesus. They were invited to leave their drawings at the manger as a sign that Jesus is the greatest gift of all.

Christingle

Our annual Christingle service took place on December 14th. We welcomed over 200 people into church including children and their families from Great Moor Junior School. The service was a joyous celebration of beautiful music and singing including a moving performance of 'Silent Night' performed by Great Moor Junior school choir. Everyone received a Christingle to take home reminding them that Jesus is the light of the world.





To everyone who helped in any way to make our Christmas Fair and Christmas services a success!

A special thank you to the local businesses who supported our Christmas Fair

The Bakehouse

An independent family owned business
specialising in home baked cakes and lunches

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SPOTLIGHT ON



Finding out more about the people and organisations that are part of our church community here at St Saviour's.

St Saviour's Community Café

Established over 15 years ago St Saviour's Community Café was set up by the church to provide an outreach into the local community. A place where people could socialise and connect. Every Wednesday from 11am until 1pm in the Church Hall you can expect good food, friendly faces and a very warm welcome.



The café relies on a team of volunteers working on a rota basis. Without this team of volunteers the café could not run. The volunteers run the kitchen producing an array of delicious home cooked food, sandwiches and cakes, all for the amazing price of just £4 including a drink.

Chris one of the volunteers at the café

On the day I visited I was treated to a bowl of homemade broccoli and stilton soup followed by a slice of homemade cake. But of course the café is so much more than delicious food. Two regular volunteers are Trisha and Aly. Trisha runs a monthly raffle and takes care of admin tasks. Aly as Parish Nurse Assistant is there each week to offer advice and provide a listening ear to those who might need it.

Many people who attend the café are regulars and one gentleman told me it was the highlight of his week. Pat and Thelma both regulars at the café explained that they look forward to a chat and getting to know new people on Great Moor.



Keith and Fred two more regulars spoke about the importance of keeping active and getting out of the house. Fred explained that he started coming after he lost his wife and finds it great company. Mary, Pat and Sybil enjoy coming each week and as Mary says it's great to meet up with friends and share a lovely lunch.



Some of the café regulars enjoying their lunches.

I spoke to Julie and Lou who regularly volunteer at the café. They told me that having recently retired they were looking for an opportunity to volunteer in the community and they enjoy the social connections that the café brings. The café is always looking for volunteers to join their amazing team. If you think you could give some time please contact Rev Jess.

Article by Cathy Finney

My Favourite Hymn

We asked St Saviour's Sacristan, Chorister and Parish Nurse assistant Aly Tuft about her favourite hymn.

The Day Though Gavest, Lord, is Ended John Ellerton (1870)

Aly explains that she was brought up attending the Methodist church with her Grandma and this hymn reminds her of those times when she accompanied her Grandma to church. As a child, Aly remembers that she found the music made her sad but didn't know why. Now as an adult she can appreciate the beautiful words and music and it reminds her of those special times with her Grandma.



The hymn was written by John Ellerton in 1870 as an evening hymn and sang to the tune of St Clement composed by Rev Clement C Scholefield. It was most notably sung at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 1897. It was also among the pieces of music chosen for the state funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on 19th September 2022.

It remains a popular hymn with many people finding comfort in the words that suggest worldwide fellowship and unity and an unbroken offering of prayer and praise to God.

Article by Cathy Finney

Get Ready for the Big Garden Bird Watch 2026



Garden Birdwatch 2026 is coming on 23-25 January! Sit back, relax and watch your garden birds for an hour.

Every year the RSPB invite us to spend an hour watching the birds in our garden or local area and record what we have seen. All you have to do is choose an hour between 23rd and 25th January and count the birds you see in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park. Hundreds of thousands of people take part including schools and the results enable the RSPB to build a picture of the state of birdlife across the country. Last year 9.1 million birds were counted during the Big Garden Birdwatch with the House Sparrow being the most sighted bird followed by the Blue Tit.

If you would like to get involved you can register by visiting the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch website www.rspb.org.uk

During the Winter months there are ways you can help our bird population. The RSPB suggest providing extra food, fresh water and shelter. Leaving seed heads in place enables birds to find their own natural food and not cutting plants back too much so there are plenty of berries to eat and places for birds to perch and stay safe. A source of fresh water is also essential for birds to thrive. A bird bath or shallow bowl can provide a place for birds to drink and bathe. The RSPB recommend changing the water regularly and keeping the area clean to keep free from disease.

Poetry Corner

Just a Moment

Mum in the kitchen and washing the dishes
Grandpa is dancing with the baby and wishes
For time to stand still now to enfold forever
This moment he knows his old age will soon sever

The children are shrieking and laughing with glee
Their Grandma is kind to them and they can both see
That she loves to play with them endlessly
Because they're our extended family

Spencer Rogers

Spencer Rogers was a member of our church community and a chorister. His wife Sylvia published a collection of his poetry entitled ' Blessings'. Copies are available to purchase from Sylvia with all proceeds going to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Earth and Seasons

Lord of the elements and changing seasons, keep me in the hollow of Your hand. When I am tossed to and fro with the winds of adversity and the blasts of sickness and misunderstanding, still my racing heart, quieten my troubled mind.

Bring me at last through the storms and tribulations of this mortal life into the calm evening of Your unchanging love; and grant that in the midst of my present perplexities and confusion I may experience Your peace, which passes human understanding.

Brother Ramon, member of the Anglican Society of St Francis

A Recipe for the New Year



Jean Jones a member of our congregation shares a favourite family recipe.

AUNTIE BLOD'S BARA BRITH

Ingredients

12 oz	Mixed Dried Fruit
8oz	Demerara Sugar
	Half a pint of cold tea
1lb	Self-raising Flour
	Pinch of Salt
2oz	Butter
1	Beaten Egg

Method

- 1 In a large mixing bowl mix the dried fruit and sugar together. Cover with the cold tea and leave overnight.
- 2 Sift the flour and salt into another bowl and rub in the butter.
- 3 Add the beaten egg and soaked fruit mixture until evenly mixed.
- 4 Turn into a greased loaf tin and bake at 160C/325F/GM3 for approximately 1.5 hrs or until well risen and golden brown.

Jean finds that there is enough mixture for a very large loaf tin and that double the mixture makes 3 "normal" sized loaves. The loaves freeze very well.

Jean notes that Guinness can substituted for the tea!

Quotes

Our love for God is the root; our love for others is the fruit, expressed through patience, kindness, courtesy, humility, unselfishness, good temper, gentleness and sincerity. - *UCB Word for Today*

Let us make God the beginning and end of our love, for He is the fountain from which all good things flow and into him alone they flowback. Let Him therefore be the beginning of our love. - *Richard Rolle*

It is not so much of our time and so much of our attention that God demands; it is not even all of our time and all our attention; it is our selves. - *C S Lewis*

Write your own Valentine this year

If you are going to send a Valentine this year, why not write your own?

Most poetry – and especially romantic poetry – comes from the heart. It is a way of expressing your emotions, often saying things that you would otherwise be too shy to say. And if you've ever felt the need to write a poem about something you feel deeply – you've already crossed the starting line!

So – how do you start? Inspiration may come from looking at the world around you, in scribbling down your initial thoughts about your loved one... and then mixing them all together. For instance, a rock is solid, dependable, weathered, even! Does that remind you of your loved one? On the other hand, a flower is fragrant, delicate – and fleeting. Does that remind you of your someone?

All in the month of January

It was...

200 years ago, on 30th Jan 1826 that the Menai Suspension Bridge was first opened. It links the island of Anglesey to mainland Wales, and was the world's first major suspension bridge.

125 years ago, on 1st Jan 1901 that the Commonwealth of Australia was established when the six British colonies of New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia were federated.

Also 125 years ago, on 22nd Jan 1901 that Queen Victoria died, and was succeeded by her son, Edward VII.

100 years ago, on 13th Jan 1926 that Michael Bond, children's writer, was born. He created the characters Paddington Bear and Monsieur Pamplemousse.

90 years ago, on 18th Jan 1936 that Rudyard Kipling, writer and poet, died. Best known for *The Jungle Book*, *Kim*, *If*, and many more. Winner of the 1907 Nobel Prize for Literature.

Also 90 years ago, on 20th Jan 1936 that King George V died and was succeeded by his son Edward VIII, who abdicated that December.

80 years ago, on 8th Jan 1946 that Elvis Presley received his first guitar on his 11th birthday. (Apparently, he would have preferred a bicycle.)

Also 70 years ago, on 31st Jan 1956 that AA Milne, writer, poet, humourist and playwright died. Best known for his stories about Winnie the Pooh.



Parish Registers

“In sure and certain hope of the resurrection”

John David Beeley, died 7th November 2025, aged 85

Barbara Ann Clarke, died 27th November 2025, aged 89

“May their families find comfort and strength in the assurance of life eternal and may the souls of John and Barbara rest in peace and rise in glory.”

100 Club Winners – October

1st Prize ~ Rev Jess

2nd Prize ~ Jean Jones

3rd Prize ~ Rev Diane Cookson

November

1st Prize ~ Sue Warner

2nd Prize ~ Cathy Finney

3rd Prize ~ Nora Lamb

Congratulations!

January 2026

Sunday 4th January Feast of the Epiphany

10.45 am Sung Eucharist

Wed. 7th January

10.30 am Holy Communion with votive candles

11 am - 1 pm Community Café in the hall

7 pm START Course

Friday 9th January

7 pm Choir Practice

Sunday 11th January Baptism of Christ / 1st Sunday of Epiphany

10.45 am Healing Eucharist

Mon 12th January

7.30pm P.C.C. Meeting at the Vicarage

Tuesday 13th Jan.

7.30pm MENSSA - The Crown

Wed. 14th January

10.30 am Holy Communion

11 am - 1 pm Community Café in the hall

7 pm START Course

Thurs. 15th January

12.30pm Mothers' Union Post Christmas Meal

7.30 pm Bible Study at 4 Lisburne Lane

Sunday 18th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

10.45 am Sung Eucharist

Wed. 21st January

10.30 am Holy Communion (Traditional)

11 am - 1 pm Community Café in the hall

7 pm START Course

Friday 23rd January

7 pm Choir Practice

Sunday 25th January Conversion of St. Paul /Epiphany 3

10.45 am Sung Eucharist (100 Club draw)

Wed. 28th January

10.30 am Holy Communion

11 am - 1 pm Community Café in the hall

7 pm START Course

February 2026

Sunday 1st February Candlemas / Epiphany 4

10.45 am Sung Eucharist

Wed. 4th February

10.30 am Holy Communion with Votive candles

11 am - 1 pm Community Café in the hall

7 pm START 5

Thurs. 5th February

7.30 pm Bible Study at 4 Lisburne Lane

Friday 6th February

7 pm Choir Practice

Sunday 8th February 2nd Sunday before Lent

10.45 am Sung Eucharist

10th February

7.30pm MENSSA Chinese Meal

Wed. 11th February

10.30 am Holy Communion

11 am - 1 pm Community Café in the hall

7 pm START 6

Sunday 15th February Sunday Next before Lent

10.45 am Sung Eucharist

Wed. 18th February

10.30 am Holy Communion (Ash Wednesday)

11 am - 1 pm Community Café in the hall

7.30 pm Ash Wednesday Holy Communion

Friday 20th February

7 pm Choir Practice

Sunday 22nd February 1st Sunday of Lent

10.45 am Sung Eucharist (100 Club Draw)

Wed. 25th February

10.30 am Lent Holy Communion

11 am - 1 pm Community Café in the hall

Thursday 26th February

7.30 pm Lent Bible Study at 4 Lisburne Lane



**Here at St. Saviour's we welcome all legacies, however large or small and we promise to use your gift to make a difference to parish life. For further information on how you can leave a gift in your will, please contact me on 439 0371.
Thank you. Roger Salt (Treasurer)**

We now accept online donations!



It couldn't be easier to make a donation to church funds. Scan this QR code using your smartphone, enter a donation amount and input your card details. Please don't forget to Gift Aid!

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<https://donate.myдона.com/pcc-of-st-saviours-great-moor>



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