



Christ Church  
Alsager with St. Luke's  
Oakhanger



Rev Toby May  
Vicar

# The Magazine

## September 2011

[www.christchurch-alsager.org.uk](http://www.christchurch-alsager.org.uk)

## Help, everything's changing!

Have you ever stepped off the top of a busy escalator and stopped?

I did it in the London tube when I was about 4. My mum quickly yanked me out of the way before I either got flattened or someone else got hurt in the melee! I learnt quickly that there are times when you have to go with the flow!

More recently, I've stepped off the top of an escalator at a station and followed the crowd for a few minutes, only to end up completely lost. At those times, I should have stepped out of the flow sooner and checked the map before getting carried along.

When things are moving fast, it's hard to know when to go with the flow or when to stop and take a different path.

Today, we live in a fast-moving, ever-changing culture. For many, the world is very different from when they grew up. For others this is what they're growing up with - it's the way things are. Whilst some love tweeting from their blackberries, others leave that to starlings!

Dictionaries are quickly out of date as language changes. People have to adopt obscure names on computers. Investments are no longer 'safe as houses' and 'jobs for life' are a distant dream. Just imagine the changes you would notice if you'd fallen asleep 50 years ago and woken up now. How would you cope?



Change is a fact of life today. So how do we follow God amidst this change? What relevance could the Bible have for handling change today - especially Old Testament events that happened over 2500 years ago? After all, the changes that we have to face are far greater than anyone did then, aren't they?

Not always! Imagine a group of well-off and intelligent young teenagers suddenly being captured by a foreign army who they had been taught were evil enemies. They are then marched about 1,000 miles to a very different country. There they are 're-educated'. They have to give up their familiar ways of life, learn a new language and customs. They are renamed after foreign gods. The worship of these gods shapes everything in the society. The teenagers are expected to give up worshipping their god (our God) and centre their lives on these new false gods.

What should they do? When should they go with the flow of the culture around them and when should they stand firmly against it? Should they blend in, hoping to influence change from the inside or resist heroically and risk dying as ineffective martyrs?

Tragically, today in the world, many Christians could still tell a similar story. Most of us will never experience such a huge and rapid change, but we can learn a lot from these stories for how to live as followers of Jesus today in the UK.

Over the next few weeks on Sundays and in our Growth Groups, we'll be following the adventures of Daniel and his friends in Babylon. As we struggle with them to figure out how to keep following God in an unfamiliar culture, we have the opportunity to ask ourselves what it means to follow God in times of change.

For you, this may be a familiar problem - but finding answers and putting them into practice is never easy, as Daniel discovered.

On the other hand, you may be unsure whether Christianity has any relevance in today's culture - in which case, do join us as we explore that question together on our Alpha Course starting this month.

## WHATS ON at CHRIST CHURCH, ALSAGER

| For CHILDREN  | For YOUTH   |
|---|---|
| Regular weekly events   | Regular weekly events   |
| Age 4 11 KIDS For GOD in hall<br>Sundays 11am<br>Babies+Preschool SEE and KNOW in church  | Years 7 9 PRO TEENS<br>Sundays 11am   |
| Age 0 5 CHERUBS Parent +Toddlers<br>Mondays 1.30pm 3pm  | Years 7 9 P2 (After School Fun)<br>Tuesdays 3..30pm 5pm   |
| Years 4,5 ,6 FUSION After School Club<br>Mondays 3.30pm 4.30pm  | Years 7 11 REVIVE ( Youth Club)<br>Fridays 7.30pm 9.30pm  |
| Easter Detectives and other children's<br>special events as advertised  | Years 10 13 YOUTH GROWTH GROUP<br>Tuesdays 8pm 10pm   |
| Year 6 About Life and Faith (ALF)<br>Sundays Summer term  |   |
| Contact Children's Worker, Hannah Martin<br>for more info about any children's events.<br><a href="mailto:christchurchfamilies@hotmail.co.uk">christchurchfamilies@hotmail.co.uk</a><br>872291, www.christchurchalsager.co.uk | Contact our Youth worker, Jonathan Masters<br>for more info about any Youth Events<br><a href="mailto:christchurchyouth@hotmail.co.uk">christchurchyouth@hotmail.co.uk</a><br>872291 or www.christchurchalsager.co.uk |
| For ADULTS  |   |
| Regular weekly events<br>SUNDAY SERVICES<br>9am Formal ,<br>10.15 Coffee and Doughnuts<br>11am Informal   | SOCIAL EVENTS as advertised for all ages<br><br>BANK CORNER PUB QUIZ 18<br>Thurs fortnightly<br>Contact Jonathan Masters/ Hannah Martin   |
| GROWTH GROUPS Fortnightly<br>For: Friendship, Bible study, Prayer, Socials<br>Contact Toby May to join one 6 groups either<br>Tue/Wed/ Thurs eve or Wed afternoon   | PARENTING COURSES Annually<br>Become a better parent! Regular Courses<br>Parents 0 - Daytime with Creche<br>Parenting Teenagers evening   |
| SPACE<br>Tues am 9.30 11.15am<br>Contact Helen May  | MENS LUNCH<br>Monthly: 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday 12.30pm<br>Contact Steve Bloor  |
| ALPHA Regular Courses to explore faith<br>Wed evenings 7.30 9.30pm/Mon lunchtime<br>Contact Helen May /church office for next<br>course info  | CRAFT GROUP Tues 1pm 3pm<br>Card making, Flower arranging etc<br>Contact Dilys Daniels, Joan Wilkes   |
| WALKING GROUP<br>Local Walks as advertised Sat am and other<br>Contact Andrea/ Geoff Chatterley<br>CRAFT GROUP Tues 1pm 3pm<br>Card making, Flower arranging etc<br>Contact Dilys Daniels, Joan Wilkes                        | BOWLING GROUP Tues 1.30pm 3.30pm<br>Indoor Carpet Bowls: Contact Harry Hackett<br><br>TRIPS OUT with lifts arranged as advertised<br>Contact Kath Morris  |
| PRAYER WORKS Sun 6.30pm As advertised.<br>Prayer Times for whole church<br>PRAYER MINISTRY All 11am Sunday<br>Services, some 9am  | COFFEE and COMMUNION<br>MONTHLY 3rd Thursday 10.30am 12noon<br>Service and Social<br>Contact Adrienne Whitby for lifts/ more info   |

# Whats On: Special events for September and October



## Oakhanger Update



### QUIZ AID

YOU DON'T NEED BRAINS  
BUT IT HELPS  
(especially after last year's  
questions – so move over  
Jeremy Paxman!)



Our phenomenally successful annual quiz enters its 5<sup>th</sup> Year with no one ever remembering who won last time round because it doesn't really matter that much – seriously it is far too much fun taking part to worry who wins.

Come one, come all – Children, Teens and Adults welcome. It's easy, a great night and everybody wins (at least a chocolate) and who knows we may raise a little spare cash for a great cause along the way?

**Church Hall 7.30pm Thursday 22 September**

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### Fusion Go-Kart Special:

Monday 19th September 3.30pm - 4.30pm.  
For young people from school years 4, 5 and 6.

### Harvest Family Service

11am Sunday 25 September

### Murder Mystery Evening 'The Reunion'

7.30pm Saturday 15 October. Free tickets available from church office.

**Light Night Party** 4.30pm - 7pm, Monday 31 October -an evening of fun and food for 5-11 year olds. Parents also welcome.

**Youth activities:** Treasure trail in Macclesfield Forest followed by a BBQ. 9.30am - 6pm Saturday 24th September. Contact Jonathan Masters to book your place.

**Alpha course** - an opportunity to explore the Christian faith - see page 4.

St Luke's Oakhanger is a partner in a joint Anglican-Methodist project with combined services and initiatives. This summer, the villagers hosted a series of community events including a History Weekend on 21st-22nd May. 'We were delighted to see so many interested visitors and were encouraged to organise a follow-up during the autumn,' said Pat Davies from Oakhanger.

Pat would also like to thank all those who supported the Annual Strawberry Tea on 26th June. A presentation was made to the Rev. Alan Smithson, the Methodist minister, in recognition of all his services to Oakhanger during his time at Wesley Place Methodist Church, Alsager. Alan and his family have now moved to Solihull where he has taken up a new position. We pray for God's blessing and guidance for them all.

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### Christ Church Walkers

A huge thanks to everyone who took part in the Christian Aid walk around Rudyard on 25 June. The lunch team joined us at the Hotel which made us 24 dining in total - not too sure whether we are a Walking Group or a Lunch Group some of whom build up an appetite beforehand! We raised £142.20 for Christian Aid so well done! Our next walks are planned up to Christmas are on the following dates (all Saturdays except the Christmas Walk):

1. September 17<sup>th</sup> - Shutlingsloe & Macclesfield Forest - 6 mile walk with lunch at nearby Pub.
2. October 22<sup>nd</sup> - 6 mile walk (4.5 optional depending on the weather) - lunch potentially at the Cheshire View.
3. November 26<sup>th</sup> - Flash - no not the saviour of the universe but a 6 mile walk around the works highest village. Lunch at the Travellers Rest in Flash.
4. Post Christmas excesses walk -off - Possibly 27<sup>th</sup> December (date to be confirmed) 5.5 mile walk in the Mannifold Valley.

We meet at 9.30am in the Church Car Park. Everyone welcome. Strong shoes or walking boots and a water-proof are recommended. Details will also appear on the Church notices and website.

*Geoff Chatterley*



*Partners in Bible Translation*

Wycliffe Bible Translators are one of several mission or relief agencies supported by Christ Church Alsager. June Bond has provided an insight into the importance of their work from a newsletter she has received from Ron and Joanne Krueger who work with Wycliffe from their base in the USA.

The Kruegers tell how Wycliffe workers Andrew and Anne Sims recently flew in to visit the remote Ketengban tribe in South East Asia where they had overseen the translation of the New Testament into the tribal language some years before. They were given an overwhelming reception with several hundred men and women wearing full celebratory dress - 'with feathered headdresses, some with bones in their noses, and plugs in their earlobes.' Brandishing bows and arrows, hooting, chanting and dancing, they swirled around the couple and honored them by draping ceremonial net-bags around their necks.

Yet off to the edge of the cheering crowd stood a small, sombre group of young men, covered in white mud from head to toe. They stood expressionless and silent, never moving nor joining in the celebration. The tribal elders explained: "Today we celebrate your return - you who brought God's words to us in our own language. But we don't want to forget what life was like before - so we asked these young men to cover themselves with mud and stand apart, silent and sombre. They represent our lives before we understood God's words to us. We were like dead men walking."

The elders said that the tribe had lived in fear and constant warfare and that having the scriptures in their own language had helped them find Christ and discover true freedom. Their children could not remember a time before they had their own Bible and so the sombre display was intended to remind them of what they had lost - and how much more they had gained.

Janice Mills has submitted this prayer composed by Joelle and Andrew Warren's Growth Group.

## A Prayer for Boldness

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Dear Lord,

**Help us not just to get out of the boat,  
but to leave it behind.**

**You know how easily fear makes us  
lose sight of you.**

**Thank you that you promise to remain in us,  
to never leave us and to be always  
by our side.**

**Give us a deeper faith, ears to hear your  
word and eyes that never waiver.**

**Teach us to grow in boldness  
to share your love.**

Amen

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If you have a prayer, hymn or song that you'd like to share with us then please send it to us for possible inclusion in The Magazine. It might be one you have written yourself, one that has meant a lot to you over the years or one you are familiar with from prayer or hymn books or one you have discovered for the first time. We'd love to hear from you.

Growth Groups meet informally for friendship, study, prayer and social events. If you are interested in becoming part of one, please ask Toby.

## **Congratulations!**

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### **To Paul and Rosemary Cumming**

Many of you will remember Paul, Rosemary and Esther Cumming from their time with us at Alsager. Paul was ordained curate at Chester Cathedral on 3rd July and is now serving in Poynton. Our prayers and best wishes are with them all.

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Christ Church invites you to:

**“IS THERE MORE TO LIFE  
THAN THIS?”**

**Wednesday 28th September**

**7.30pm in Christ Church Hall.**

What is the point of life? What happens when we die? Does God really heal today? Why does God allow suffering? Why did Jesus die? What relevance does Jesus have for my life today? Can I hear God speak today? How can I be sure of my faith? If you want to explore these kinds of questions then the Alpha Course could be for you. This evening is the introduction to The Alpha Course which will run for ten Wednesday evenings through the autumn. It's an opportunity to see if Alpha is for you.

Each evening we will have a meal together, watch a DVD and there will be plenty of time for discussion in small groups. No question is off limits and the atmosphere will be relaxed fun and friendly. People of all ages and backgrounds are welcome. The Alpha course is free to all participants.

We do need to know numbers for catering so please fill in a booking form and return it to Debbie (Church Office) or to me if you want to come or have a friend who does. There are plenty of forms available in the church porch/hall/ office these give a bit more information about the course too. [www.christchurch-alsager.org.uk](http://www.christchurch-alsager.org.uk) gives more information about Alpha at Christ Church or [www.alpha.org](http://www.alpha.org) for more of the national Alpha picture.

Please speak to Debbie (Church Office 872291) or Toby / me if you are confused and we will do our best to help!

**Helen May**



***Alpha***

**Rachel Griffiths  
Ministry Trainee**



Rachel will be working for St John's Church, Lindow in Wilmslow as a ministry trainee this coming year. She graduated from university this summer, and will mainly be involved with the children's and youth work, whilst also helping out with practical things for the church. One day a week Rachel will attend the North West Ministry training course to learn more about the Bible and how to share it with others. We wish Rachel every success and pray for God's blessing and guidance as she takes up the post.

# Churches Together Launch the Peace & Remembrance Centre

**Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 pm**



For two years planning has been under way to prepare this Centre. This is possibly the most significant undertaking Churches Together in Alsager (CTA) has ever done. It is significant because our vision is that it will be open to the entire Alsager Community - people of all faiths or of no faith. Different denominations have contributed to it, coming in the form of gifts. This is a place for private reflection and prayer but it is also a place that welcomes any group for a focused event. In particular we will be welcoming School groups who are exploring a variety of peace themes. We look forward to displaying some of their work.

This is a worthy enterprise for Churches Together but I wonder if we know of an historic ecumenical antecedent? In the summer of 1939, 1,200 young people from around the world had just experienced 10 unforgettable days together. As they dispersed they carefully placed in their Bibles a list of friends who had participated in this first Ecumenical Youth Conference in Amsterdam. It was just a simple list of addresses with the words "Christus Victor", and it led to a chain of intercessions reaching to the ends of the earth, for in September 1939 the frontiers of Europe were marked off by barbed wire, trenches dug and we were at war.

Just one year after the Youth Gathering a French and a German were interned in the same concentration camp. They recognized each other with the same list of names and from this a prayer cell was born in Gurs Concentration Camp, France. Later, this same list turned up in many countries including China, Japan and Korea - all showing signs of daily use.



A young French woman, Madeleine Barot headed up one of the teams of Christians which offered help in the Camps. "In these camps were every denomination and none, Communists, Jews - how could we refuse 14 Rabbis from joining our Bible Study? A director of the Camp, a Christian asked 'how could we refuse admittance to the Communion Table?'" So, said Madeleine, "we were completely turned over to the world and we learned the church belonged to non-Christians. Like the Lord, the church had entered into the world of humanity and suffering. In spite of intellectual and theological differences we were persuaded that the Churches should pray and witness together even when separated at Holy Communion". She represented their experience with, "once we worked together fraternally for victims of war, there was no turning back". Churches working together became an Ecumenical reality.

**It is in this same Spirit that we open Alsager's Peace and Remembrance Centre, with the prayer that we will share in the coming of peace to our community and our world.**

*Christ Church Alsager with St Luke's Oakhanger is a member of Churches Together in Alsager and works with Christians of all denominations across our region.*

**Bernice Halson**

From St Mary's Church, Alsager  
on behalf of CTA.

We are pleased to display adverts for local businesses and services. **Please note:** inclusion does not imply endorsement by the leaders or congregations at Christ Church Alsager and St Luke's Oakhanger.

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contact Debbie on 872291.

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# Christ Church services

Teaching series: 'Can I trust God ...'

**Sunday 4 September: '... When I'm misunderstood?'**

*Daniel Chapter 1*

9am Holy Communion

11am Informal service with children's activities in the Hall.

**Sunday 11 September: '... To speak up?'**

*Daniel Chapter 2:1-30*

9am Holy Communion

11am Informal service with children's activities in the Hall.

**Sunday 18 September: '... Under fire?'**

*Daniel Chapter 3*

9am Formal service

11am Informal communion service with children's activities in the Hall.

**Sunday 25 September: '... In the lion's den?'**

*Daniel Chapter 6*

9am Holy Communion

11am Family Harvest Service.

**Sunday 2 October: 'New series as we approach Advent: The Cost of Christmas'**

*Matthew 2:1-12, Luke 2:1-20. 'Worship Fully'*

9am Formal service

11am Informal service with children's activities in the Hall.

**Coffee & Communion** (an informal communion with social time afterwards)

10.30am on third Thursday of each month in Church Hall and second Tuesday of each month at Dennis Round Court (except August) 10.30am. Call Adrienne Whitby on 875072.

*Drivers needed - please see Adrienne if you can help.*

## Oakhanger services

**All services 6.30pm at St Luke's Church, Taylor's Lane (unless shown). Joint Anglican/Methodist.**

Sunday 4 September Communion service with Toby

Sunday 18 September Evening Worship with Michael Guy

Sunday 2 October Communion service with Michael Guy

**Harvest Thanksgiving**

6.30pm, Sunday October 16th in St Luke's.

**Harvest Supper**

7pm Friday October 21st in the Methodist Centre followed by an auction.

**Songs of Praise** 6.30pm Sunday 23rd October at St Luke's.

**Details of Oakhanger services:**

Bryan Davies 01270 872820

bryan.davies57@sky.com.

Michael Guy 01270 878226

mrg@dunnock.demon.co.uk



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## All Welcome

Everyone is very welcome at our services. Our 9am service is more formal with traditional hymns and our 11am service has a more informal style with contemporary worship-songs.

We hope you find a warm welcome at both.

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## CONTACTS

**Vicar:** Rev Toby May

Tel: 01270 873727

**Church Office**

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**Deadline for submissions for October 2011 Magazine:**

**Friday 23 September 2011**

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