



## Editorial

**14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**Reading: 2 Corinthians 9 v 6-15**

Today we begin a new Sermon Series on stewardship and giving. You received a leaflet to help you understand the need for good stewardship and giving as you came into Church, and I would encourage you to take this home and study the same.

It has always been one of those thorny subjects at many churches in my experience. There are many ways in which you can give monetarily and in modern society we are constantly under pressure with the cost of living and the cost of every day needs constantly rising but this is of course a fact of life, and for the life of the Church also as we live in the world. In addition to your weekly/monthly giving we are always in need of help through gifts and talents also and it is up to each person to give as their heart leads them in the many ways possible as well as your individual personal situations allow. The reading from 2 Corinthians 9 v 6 -15 gives us information on giving and Paul was of course referring to the early Christians in Corinth in his letter.

As the letter by Paul says I can only encourage you to give generously and cheerfully. The question is do we give generously and cheerfully in response to all that God has done in our lives. Remember as the reading says “God Loves a cheerful giver” and so again I encourage you to read the leaflet which contains a lot of information to enable you to prayerfully consider this subject in your own good time.

**Gill Blackburn - Church Warden &  
Authorised Lay Minister**



## Please Pray for...

Minti R  
David & Norma V  
Barbara S  
Brenda & Ken  
Betty  
Lee A  
Stuart & family  
Jackie  
Isaac  
Jodie  
Anne H  
Ross  
Belinda K  
Phil & Sue B  
Dean  
Norma M  
Freda  
Rebecca W  
Samantha W  
Jacqui  
Kathleen  
Emma H  
Chloe  
Alison H  
Rachael B



Remember, this list is for those who need our prayers, not just the sick or bereaved.

# This week at St Bede

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September

## 10am Family Communion

Join us for our all-age worship as we begin a new series 'The Art of Giving' and reflecting on how we can give back to God.

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

## 8.45am St Bede Academy Staff INSET Collective Worship

The whole Team at St Bede Academy will be coming to Church to worship before they set up for the academic year ahead

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September

## 12.30pm St Bede Luncheon Club

Our monthly Luncheon Club meets again this week. Come and enjoy a cooked 2 course meal with great fellowship. To book your place contact Elaine Almond

## 6.15pm Worship on Wednesday Leaders Meeting

Our WOW Leaders have a planning meeting tonight in the Community Room. WOW returns next week.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September

## 7pm Prayer at Seven

Join us for our monthly prayer meeting in the community room.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September

## 10am Back to School Sunday

Join us for our special Back to School Sunday with Communion as we pray for our children and staff as they begin a new academic year.





 **THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**  
Diocese of Manchester

**St Bede Charity Partner 2024.**



### COLLECT

Merciful God, your Son came to save us and bore our sins on the cross: may we trust in your mercy and know your love, rejoicing in the righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Church depends very heavily on fundraising as well as regular giving to keep our Church afloat.

We ask that you do continue to give by setting up a Standing Order from your bank. Please contact our Treasurer, Simon Brooks for further details – [brooks\\_simon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:brooks_simon@hotmail.co.uk)

visit our website [www.st-bede.org.uk](http://www.st-bede.org.uk) or scan the QR code below



### THE ART OF GIVING STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As part of our new series 'The Art of Giving' you should have received this morning a leaflet about how you can financially support St Bede's Church.

We are so blessed that so many of you already give very generously to St Bede in many different ways. Yet it costs £900 a week support the life and ministry of St Bede and we need everyone to play their part in generously supporting our church as we seek to live for Jesus at the heart of our community for years to come.

Please do take away and read our leaflet which explains why and how you can give to St Bede's Church and pray about how you might respond.

### BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY

As the school holidays draw to an end; we invite you to join us for **Back to School Sunday** on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 10am** here at St Bede.

Back to School Sunday is a special service where we pray for our children and staff as they go back to school.

We are delighted we will also be joined by staff from St Bede Academy as we pray for our church school.



### BL LUNCH PROJECT 2024

#### **Thank You!**

The BL Lunch Project has come to an end Thank you so much to the amazing team of volunteers at St Bede who have served packed lunches every day of the school summer holidays. On average we have had 10 children come for their lunch every day - meaning we've given out around 300 lunches over the summer holidays. What a wonderful example of 'Living for Jesus at the Heart of our Community'

### MISION COMMUNITY CELEBRATION SERVICE

We hope you will be able to join us for our Mission Community Celebration Service as we come together as the 14 churches in our Mission Community.

We'll be sharing stories from our recent Connect Mission and our Area Dean Rev'd Simon Cook will be preaching.



**Mission Community Celebration Service**  
**Sunday 8th September**  
**6.30pm at St Andrews Over Hulton**



Join us for this special service and be inspired as we celebrate and share stories of what God is doing across our 14 churches and as we work together across our Mission Community. Our Area Dean Rev'd Simon Cook will be joining us and preaching as part of this service.

# St Andrews Over Hulton Men's Breakfast



## 'Journey of a Bishop'

With Guest Speaker: Bishop Matthew  
(Bishop of Bolton)

Saturday 21st September

8.30am-10am St Andrews Church

£6 incl. Cooked Breakfast

To book your ticket (please book by 15th September)  
please contact Paul Braddock or Rob Walsh (07922  
134591) or message St Andrews on our Facebook Page



**ST ANDREWS CHURCH**  
OVER HULTON  
GROWING IN CHRIST, ROOTED IN LOVE  
EMPOWERED TO SERVE

### JOURNEY OF A BISHOP

### MEN'S BREAKFAST EVENT AT ST ANDREWS

Our friends from St Andrews are holding a Men's Breakfast with Bishop Matthew (The Bishop of Bolton) on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 8.30am - 10am.**

However the event is open to men at St Bede's so please do book your place and come along!

## INSPIRATIONAL CHRISTIANS

Continuing the lives of some inspirational Christians in alphabetical order, here is 'B'.

### B



Johann Sebastian Bach was born in 1685 and was part of a remarkable German musical dynasty. His world was shaped by the theology of Martin Luther, a great church reformer but also a man who saw music as a gift of God. Steeped in music from birth, Bach progressively mastered techniques and instruments until he became a composer and church music director. He also studied theology and, in his Bible, still preserved, we can see his careful annotations. After a number of short-lived appointments, he found a home in Leipzig where for thirty years he controlled music not just for the churches but also the court and society. He died in 1750 leaving behind an unparalleled legacy of music.

Of Bach the man we know little outside his music. The sparse correspondence we have preserved from him is typical of church musicians of every age and denomination: he defends his music, grumbles over standards and pleads for more resources. We know that Bach suffered many tragedies. He was orphaned as a child, returned from a trip away to find his beloved wife not only dead but buried, and twelve of his children died in childhood. When Bach's music touches on sorrow, you know he's been there.

Bach's music is awesome in terms of both quantity and quality. Quantity? Well, if you want a complete collection of everything he wrote – orchestral, keyboard, cello, violin, flute and the vast body of church music. Quality? Bach had an effortless technical mastery of every intricacy of music. Yet although he was capable of writing works of dazzling mathematical complexity, they are always music to be enjoyed and never simply a show of academic brilliance.

Approximately three quarters of Bach's music was written for the church. In the Lutheran church of his day, services (which could be up to four-hours long!) had a substantial musical composition – a cantata – in the middle. For soloists, often a choir and a range of instruments, the cantata was usually around twenty-minutes long; it reflected on the Bible reading and prepared the congregation for the sermon. The church calendar required cantatas for seventy occasions a year and, in one of the greatest sustained feats of creativity in history, for three years Bach created a new cantata every week. This meant that each week he had to set a German text to music (often writing parts for a dozen soloists and players), have the scores copied, rehearse the work and, finally, direct it on the Sunday.

Despite the obvious temptation, Bach rarely repeated himself and consistently generated fresh music of extraordinary impact and beauty.

But it was Bach's faith that drove so much of his work. In some ways Bach can be seen as a theologian and preacher who communicated in music. In writing a church piece Bach frequently began with the abbreviated prayer *J. J.* ('Jesus help') and ended with *S.D.G.* (*Soli Deo Gloria* – 'To God alone be glory'). Bach wrote that 'the aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul', and his intention to praise God and encourage his hearers is there throughout his music.

Of the many things that can be said about Bach, let me mention three I particularly appreciate.

First, I'm impressed by how Bach saw his work as worship. Yes, church music paid his wages but even when he was writing compositions every week there is no evidence that he was ever 'just doing his job'. He worked for God and God deserved his best. Many of us face the draining burden of having to do things repeatedly. May we stay as fresh and inspired as Bach.

Second, my heart is warmed by Bach's profound Christian faith. The fact is that Bach, following Luther, understood the heart of the gospel to be about how sinful men and women are made right with a holy God through Christ's death on the cross. We too must never lose sight of this truth.

Finally, as an evangelist, I am encouraged by the way that in his church music Bach doesn't simply describe the truth, he preaches it. He invites a response, seeking to draw his hearers from being merely spectators of the truth into being those who can claim the truth as their own. Over the years Bach's music has proved to be very dangerous for atheists.

In his final years Bach created a work that was meant to be his testament to the world; the B Minor Mass. Unusually, Bach chose a Latin text, probably so that his work might go out beyond Germany and into the world. The final chorus *Dona nobis pacem* is a prayer for God to grant us his peace. A very fine modern performance, done in a way that Bach would recognise, is available to [watch here](#). It's directed by the Japanese conductor and supreme Bach interpreter Masaaki Suzuki who, as a committed Christian himself, understands not just the music but the faith which created it. It is indeed for 'the glory of God and for the refreshment of the soul'.



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*St Bede's is a living Church, and its people are The Church. The Church's only financial support is its own Church family.*

*Please try to support our social and fundraising events as they are vital not only to the financial wellbeing of our Church but are great opportunities to get to know one another better.*

***Your Church thanks you for your gifts of money, time and talents.***

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## **Contacts**

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Reader Emeritus – Pat Bristow

Authorised Lay Ministers – Gillian Blackburn, Carol Hardman

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Chair of Governors – Tony Whitehead Vice Chair – David Almond

ST BEDE'S CHURCH, MORRIS GREEN, BOLTON-LE-MOORS

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