

17th May 2026



Editorial

Sunday after Ascension

Reading: John 17 v 1-11

The Ascension of Christ is often seen as a moment of departure, yet it is, in truth, a powerful declaration of hope and authority. As Jesus is lifted before His disciples, He is not abandoning them but completing His earthly mission and taking His rightful place at the Father's side. The Ascension reminds us that Christ reigns—not as a distant figure, but as an active Lord who continues to guide, intercede, and sustain His people.

For the disciples, this was a moment of both uncertainty and promise. They were called to remain, to trust, and to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit. In that waiting, they discovered that Christ's physical absence did not mean spiritual distance. Instead, His presence would be known in a deeper, more universal way.

For us today, the Ascension challenges how we understand faith and mission. As I covered in my sermon last week, we are not left alone; we are entrusted with carrying Christ's work into the world. It calls us to lift our eyes beyond the immediate and to live with confidence that Jesus reigns, even now, over all creation.

**Tony Whitehead, Licensed Lay Minister
(Reader)**



Please Pray for...

Minti R	Emma H
David V and family	Chloe
Barbara S	Rachael B
Brenda & Ken	John H & Debs
Betty	Sue S
Lee A	Vinny H
Stuart & family	Bishop David †
Jackie	Michael F
Isaac	Joanne
Jodie	Pauline G & family
Anne H	David P
Ross	Tania
Belinda K	Irene S
Phil & Sue B	Donna
Norma M	Peter C
Freda	Re-Ordering Project
Samantha W	WoW & Beyond WoW
Anna B	Pause Café
Ethan's family	

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



This week at St Bede

Sunday 17th May

10am Morning Service

Worship with us in this season of Thy Kingdom Come as we focus on the theme of prayer and Jesus' prayer for us his followers. Our children's ministry group 'Church Rocks' meets this week.

Wednesday 20th May

6.15pm WOW (Worship on Wednesday)

Join us for our WOW service as we continue our series 'Christian Commitments'. This week we will be exploring the theme of 'Service' and how we are called to serve others.

Our youth group **Beyond WOW** also meet this week.

Friday 22nd May

9.15am St Bede Academy Collective Worship

We welcome pupils from our church school to church this morning.

Sunday 24th May

10am All Age Service (Pentecost)

Join us for our all-age service as today we celebrate the Festival of Pentecost: when the Holy Spirit came and the early church was born. As this is an all-age service there is no 'Church Rocks' this week.





St Bede Charity Partner 2026.



COLLECT

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

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

visit our website www.st-bede.org.uk or scan the QR code below



THY KINGDOM COME PRAYER JOURNALS

Alongside the Thy Kingdom Come Events and Services across our Mission Community, we also have free Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Journals available at the back of church on Sunday.

The Prayer Journal has a reflection and prayer for each day between Ascension Day and Pentecost.

Please do take a Prayer Journal and use it at home.



FAREWELL SERVICE FOR ARCHDEACON RACHEL MANN

As Archdeacon Rachel prepares to retire from her role as Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton, all are invited to Manchester Cathedral for a special service of Evensong on **Sunday, 5th July 2026 at 5:30pm**. Please add this date to your diary. We hold Rachel in our prayers and look forward to gathering together to celebrate her ministry and bid her a fond farewell.

ARCHDEACONS' VISITATIONS

Each year, following the Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM), church officers take part in the Archdeacons' Visitations - an important moment in the life of our diocese.

These services mark the formal admission of newly elected churchwardens, who are only officially in post once they have been admitted by their Archdeacon. Sidespersons and PCC members also make declarations of commitment to support the mission and ministry of their parish. Visitations are both a legal and spiritual milestone, grounding the year ahead in prayer, encouragement, and shared commitment.

While historically they included reports on parish life and clergy conduct, today they focus on recognising and celebrating the vital ministry of churchwardens. They are also a valuable opportunity to gather with others from across the diocese, meet fellow churchwardens, Area Deans, and their Archdeacon, and be reminded that each parish is part of a wider community.

This year's Visitations will be especially meaningful, as they will be the final set led by Archdeacon Rachel before her retirement. These services are an opportunity to give thanks together for Archdeacon Rachel's support of parishes across the archdeaconries of Salford and Bolton.

The 2026 services take place on the following dates:

Archdeaconry of Bolton

7:30pm, Monday 1st June, St Mary Rawtenstall

7:30pm, Wednesday 10th June, St Peter w St Philip Bolton

7:30pm, Wednesday 8th July, Christ Church Walshaw

FAMILY PRIZE RACE NIGHT

5TH JUNE AT 7:00PM

Lots of competitive fun!
All the family welcome

at St Bede CoFE Primary Academy School hall



Doors open: 7:00pm
First race starts: 7:30pm
£5 per ticket – no concessions



Tickets available from:

• Church • DM Facebook • Email: fundraising@st-bede.org.uk

SUPPORT THE “WALK THE ST BEDE WAY” FOR ST BEDE

More than 10 members of St Bede Church have now committed to 'Walk the St Bede Way for St Bede' to raise money for our Community Room Reordering Project. Our aim is to raise at least £3,000 towards the project.

On **Saturday 16th May** we'll be following the footsteps of St Bede as we walk 12 miles from St Peter's Monastery Monkwearmouth to St Paul's Monastery Jarrow.

If you would like to support us, you can now sponsor us and donate to our sponsored event. You can do so by donating via our Just Giving page using the following link

[Walk the St Bede Way for St Bede - JustGiving](#)

or search for St Bede Church.

Alternatively you can sponsor us by writing your name, address and amount you would like to give on the sponsor form at the back of church. Also it's not too late to join us. If you would like to do the walk then please speak to Vinny.



WOW

Worship On Wednesday

Join us for our
new all-age
worship experience
at St Bede Church

Join us for fun, food, songs, games,
and activities as we explore faith and life together.

We meet every Wednesday
6.15pm-7pm
St Bede Church Community Room





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.

Contacts

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Church Wardens – Jean Philips – 01204 451676 Gill Blackburn – 01204 660396

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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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