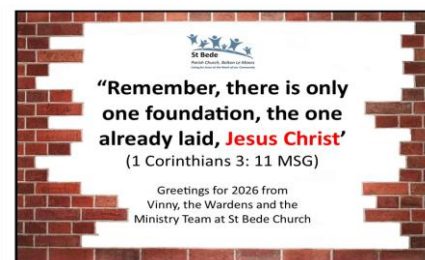


5th July 2026



Editorial

5th Sunday after Trinity

Reading: Ephesians 2 v 1-10

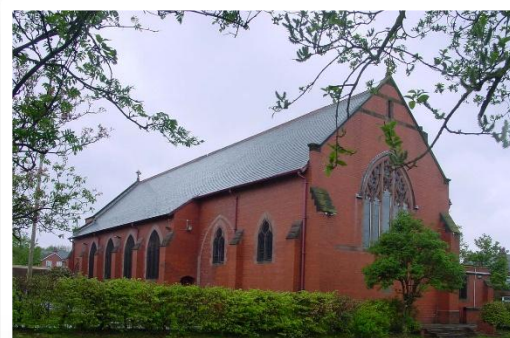
Ephesians 2:1-10 pivots from the tragedy of spiritual death to the triumph of grace. We were once dead in our transgressions, trapped by worldly patterns. Yet, God's mercy and immense love rescued us, saving us not by our own efforts, but as a free gift. This ultimate act of grace shifts our focus from boasting in our own achievements to embracing our new identity in Christ. Ultimately, we are God's handiwork—created anew to walk out the purposeful, good deeds He prepared for us long ago.

Before encountering Christ, our lives were characterized by spiritual stagnation and disobedience. Paul's diagnosis is clear: without God, humanity is lost. But the true turning point of the text lies in the opening words of verse 4: *"But because of his great love for us, God..."*. This decisive intervention replaces our hopeless condition with a profound spiritual resurrection.

Verses 8 to 9 contain the core of this editorial message: salvation is entirely a gift. It is not something we can earn, manufacture, or boast about. By explicitly removing human effort from the salvation equation, the passage levels the playing field. Our standing with God is securely rooted in His unmerited favour, not our performance.

Because we are saved by grace, our lives aren't meant to sit idle. Verse 10 reminds us that we are God's—His masterpiece or handiwork. This new creation is intricately designed and specifically purposed for a life of good deeds. These good works do not earn our salvation; rather, they are the natural expression of it, carefully prepared by God for us to walk in.

Rev Malcolm



Please Pray for...

Minti R	Emma H
Lynne 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	Sophie W
Samantha W	Re-Ordering Project
Ben B	WoW & Beyond WoW
Ethan's family	Pause Café

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



This week at St Bede

Sunday 5th July

10am Family Communion Service

Join us for our all-age service as we continue our series 'How God Sees Us'. This week we reflect on how God empowers us in our lives and helps us to see that 'We Are Able' to do all things.

Tuesday 7th June

7pm Pause Café

Our monthly PAUSE Café returns this week. PAUSE is a safe place where people can talk and support one another. All are welcome.

Wednesday 8th July

6.15pm WOW (Worship on Wednesday)

Join us for our all-age service this week as we think about how we show love to one another as we conclude our series 'Christian Commitments'. Our youth group Beyond WOW also meets this week.

Sunday 12th July

10am Morning Service

Worship with us as we continue our series 'What God Knows About Us'. This week we are exploring how we are gifted in God's eyes. Our children's ministry group 'Church Rocks' meets this week for the final time before the summer break.





St Bede Charity Partner 2026.



COLLECT

Almighty God, send down upon
your Church the riches of your
Spirit, and kindle in all who
minister the gospel your
countless gifts of grace; 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

Or visit our website
www.st-bede.org.uk

11 CHRISTIAN PLAYERS TO WATCH AT THE WORLD CUP

The 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup is upon us. Featuring 48 teams and 104 matches, fans will be hoping the bigger-than-ever-before tournament will bring excitement, drama, and dreams of their team lifting the trophy.

One certainty is that faith will be present on the field, as players across many competing nations have proudly shared their Christian beliefs.

Over the next few weeks, I will be highlighting eleven of those players who look to glorify Jesus' name when they step onto the pitch. Here are the next three;

Alisson Becker - Brazil

A shot-stopper on the pitch, Alisson has been sharing the gospel with his teammates in the changing room. "I'm still speechless to describe Jesus' love!" he said, after **baptising Liverpool teammate** Roberto Firmino and Monique Salum, wife of compatriot Fred. "God is love" and the Bible verse John 3:16 make up his bio on social media accounts. The 33 year-old faces tough competition to start in goal from Ederson, a fellow Christian in the Brazilian team.

Christian Pulisic - USA

Captaining the United States at a home tournament, Pulisic has long spoken about how Jesus keeps him grounded and gives him strength. The 27 year old values his cross necklace, gifted by his mother, as one of his most prized possessions. Captain America, as he is nicknamed, is known for leading team Bible studies, sharing annotated scripture with his *Instagram* followers.

Jeremy Doku - Belgium

Having been open about his journey with Christ, Doku was baptised in December last year. It was after a win with Manchester City in the Premier League, when he told reporters that it was already a "victory day" as he explained the meaning of what he was about to do. Days before the tournament, the 24 year old shared a Bible study video from Acts 12 about Peter being set free from prison, a passage that spoke to him as he navigated identity as a professional footballer.

🌱 MEET JUDE – OUR RESIDENT PLANT WHISPERER! 🌱

Are your houseplants looking a little sad, scruffy, or in need of a TLC boost? Fear not—Jude is here to help! ✨
She's kindly offering to *spruce up, revive, and "re-plant-ify"* your leafy friends. Simply bring them along to church, and Jude will work her magic to bring them back to their former glory—all for a small donation to the church.



🌱 Bonus treat!

Jude is also selling *Mother of Thousands*—a fascinating succulent that produces tiny baby plants along the edges of its leaves. It's super easy to care for, loves a sunny spot, and comes with a lovely idea: when the baby plantlets fall off, you plant them... and pass them on! 🌍

👁️ Pop into the Community Room to find out more, or have a chat with Jude directly. Your plants will thank you! 🌱



11/07/26
FUN DOG
SHOW
12pm Registration



HANDSOMEST BOY
PRETTIEST GIRL
CUTEST PUP
JUNIOR HANDLER
BEST VETERAN
FANCIEST DRESS
JUDGES CHOICE
WAGGIEST TAIL
MOST APPEALING EYES

St Bede's Church
36 Chilham St,
Bolton BL3 3QX

£2 per category

for more info email
friendsofoverhulton@gmail.com





Pause...

A LOCAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP
EVERYONE WELCOME

Need to talk about something, feeling alone
or down? Come along and chat with others
looking for some support or company.

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

1ST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH
7PM - 8.30PM

ST BEDE'S CHURCH COMMUNITY ROOM
MORRIS GREEN BL3 3QR

for more information please contact
pausebolton@gmail.com





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.

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Chair of Governors – Tony Whitehead Vice Chair – David Almond

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