

St Thomas', Trowbridge and St John's, West Ashton Monthly News November 2025

**St Thomas
Trowbridge**

**St John's
West Ashton**

Kingfisher



**Holy Trinity
Trowbridge**



"The legacy of
heroes is the
memory of a great
name and the
inheritance of a
great example."
Benjamin Disraeli

November

Well, it's somehow November already, and the autumnal stalwarts of Strictly and Bake Off are in full swing – I have my favourites and hope you do too!

This time of year can be tough, as the nights draw in, and both the leaves and temperature drops. We have All Saints Day and Remembrance before we get to the new church year and Advent. Many of our youngsters will have a series of exams too.

Into this time, we hear the words of Paul in 2 Timothy 4 v2...

be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable;
convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience

Be persistent, be patient. We know that in the yearly cycle, Jesus is coming - a light shining in the darkness that the world can't deny, that the darkness can't overcome. Spring will come, the victory is won, at times we just have to hold on.

A few weeks ago, in the lectionary readings, there was the parable of the persistent widow (Luke 18.1–8). This amazing woman, with no money, power, or



authority, convinced a corrupt and unjust judge to give her justice.

Reminding us that although we often may feel like we come with very little, persistence pays off. So, in these short days and long nights, let's

be persistent. Persistent in prayer, persistent in drawing into the God of all hope and love, patient and persistent in caring for those around us.

The message today is to hold on, to remember whose we are. God is with us, and He is full of grace, love and mercy. Just remain faithful, remain in Him, keep focussing on the coming light... by the way I am *always* very excited about Christmas!

Every blessing,

Simon.

GRAND PARENTS 

Afternoon Tea

Saturday 8th November
2.30 - 4.30pm
St James' Church

with guest speakers
Martyn & Angela Thompson
Topic: Praying for your Grandchildren

Contact Nick Lambert to book:
nick@stjamestrowbridge.co.uk
Or scan the QR code



ST JAMES' CHURCH
TROWBRIDGE

St John's Update

Winter is fast approaching - leaves are making good compost and the dark nights are creeping in more and more. Will I get another cut of the churchyard in before the mower goes in for its annual service?

On 5th October, Revd Ivor Hughes ministered an excellent Harvest Festival Service, then on the 6th October the village school visited St John's for their Harvest Celebration - the children delivered a meaningful service. All donations of tinned/packet food/toiletries have been delivered to the Trowbridge Foodbank - see separate photograph. On Tuesday, 7th October, we had the funeral of Daphne P. Daphne was a stalwart member of St John's. She came from York and was married and had three sons. The family moved to Trowbridge where her husband died. Daphne was a talented gardener and flower arranger. She was a member of many organisations and loved knitting and knitted a wonderful nativity scene which is used in a window at St John's at Christmas time. Daphne has had links with West Ashton for nearly two decades - she loved the countryside and peaceful rural life. Her care for animals and interest in bees and butterflies was a passion; as too was her love of children - a very caring lady. Although coming from an urban background, she became a Wiltshire Country Lass. She will be missed by many.

We head into Advent at the end of the month - St John's Christingle Service will be on 30th November at 4pm, with the Carol Service on the 14th December.

See separate posters.

Advent emphasizes hope, peace, joy and love. The hope we have in Jesus brings joy into our heart. When we know the love of God, His peace He will impart.

Jean Robertson



Harvest Festival goods donated by St John's Congregation and West Ashton School Children - a wonderful array of colour and variety of food.

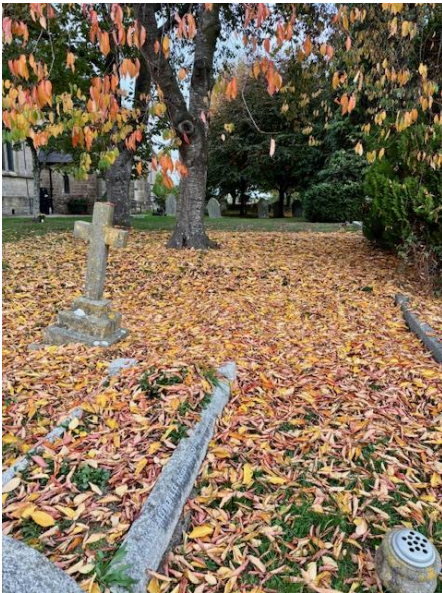
All donated to Trowbridge Foodbank.







Daphne Peat



St John's Autumn Carpets - A Kaleidoscope of Colour

The Wright's Fundraiser

Simon and Lyndsey are having a

Charity Coffee Morning

Sat. 8th Nov

10am-1pm.



We are having this coffee morning for our friends Paul and Elaine Little and the work they do in Mexico. We have known them for over 30 years. I asked them to write a piece about their work.

Originally from Bath, Paul and Elaine Little have been living in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico, for the last seven years. Inspired by their Christian faith, they live in and serve the rural community of Leona Vicario, by building homes for families living in poverty. The community is one hours drive west of the popular holiday resort Cancun. In the state of Quintana Roo, 47.5% of families live in poverty (10.6% extreme poverty) with many living in inadequate shelters made of wood gleaned from the jungle, tarpaulin, plastic advertising sheets, tin and anything else available. Living in inadequate shelter can cause major stress for a family and this can lead to separation of parents and children, child institutionalization, or in some cases child abandonment. Parents want to provide homes for their family, and some are able to buy a small plot of land over many years. However, they are often on low incomes (approx. £20.00 per day) so due to the cost of repaying the loan on the land, and the high cost of building materials, they cannot afford to build a concrete home. Through generous donations received from some churches in the UK and friends, Paul and Elaine work alongside the local Mexican church to provide homes for families. A secure dry home, concrete floor and

locking front door provides the safety and stability that can keep a family together and decreases the risk of families being separated and vulnerable to traffickers. It also protects families from the extreme heat, tropical storms and hurricanes, as well as dramatically lowers health risks. When families are healthier, they are more likely to attend work and school. With children attending school, this enhances their chances of a good education that could break the whole family's cycle of poverty. Providing someone with a home really does improve their lives and takes pressure off a very limited resource pool, allowing a family to begin to move from dependence on charity into independence, boosting self-esteem and hopes for the future. The homes we provide are 4m x 4m, made of concrete with hammock hooks, a reinforced concrete roof and concrete floor, in addition, we provide a 2m x 2m bathroom and safe electrics. The cost of building a home is £4250.00 (subject to currency exchange fluctuations).



The coffee morning will be donations in the pot all money going to their work. So come and join us and enjoy a piece of cake and hear more about their lives in Mexico. Hope you can make it.

Simon and Lyndsey W

Deadline for December's magazine 25th November

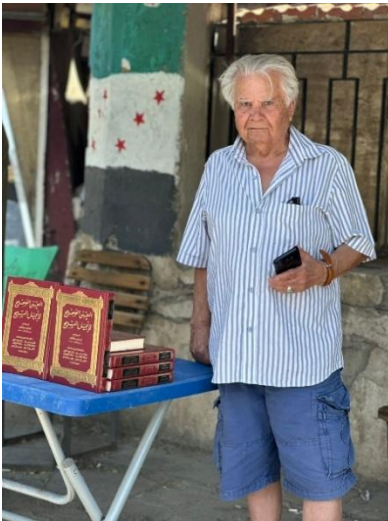
News from Syria

What did you get given when you left school? When I left school in Scotland, I was given a 'Leaver's Bible'. That was some 50 years ago, and I wonder if there are any schools around the world still doing that. Perhaps readers will let me know.

In the city of Salamiyya in Syria there are a couple of schools which wanted to give copies of True Meaning (Gospels and Acts) as graduation gifts. This was a unique opportunity to influence the lives of around 750 Muslim young people.

We heard later that only a handful of students refused to accept this gift. Some have approached our director, Mazhar, at his book table in the main square to thank him. Pray that every book will be read by the graduate and others in their families.

Returning to your hometown can be daunting. Will you be honoured or shunned? Jesus said that a prophet was without honour in his hometown. Paul longed for the salvation of his people, the Jews. All of us would most wish for those closest to us to know Christ.



It takes courage to stand for Christ in a town where everyone is assumed to follow the religion of their family, of the majority of people in the country. For the last few weeks Mazhar has been manning a book table across from the main mosque, engaging the curious in conversation and selling or giving away copies of True Meaning, which you can see displayed on the table.

Since the overthrow of the Assad regime earlier this year, Syria has been taken over by Islamic fundamentalists. It remains to be seen how

the new government will protect religious minorities. Thus far there have been some disturbing events, with Druze, Christian and Alawite (the branch of Islam the Assads are from) minorities being targeted. Hundreds have been killed.

Salamiyya is a religiously mixed city, with three different sects of Islam represented. Its people have a reputation for being open-minded. Mazhar is taking no chances, making friends with the men with guns.



In Arab societies, as with many others, the concept of honour is very powerful. In returning to his roots Mazhar is honouring his people. The local women's association invited him to talk about his spiritual experiences. They enjoyed it so much they asked him to speak again.

If you would like to pray for the work of Al Kalima in the Arab world, drop an email to me, Ed Greening Edmund.greening@gmail.com

CATA Annual Celebration
‘Seeking Unity in Christ’
Guest speaker Philip Bromiley
Bishop’s Ecumenical Adviser and Team Rector
Sunday 16th November
6:30 pm
St James’ Church, Trowbridge
All welcome!



Love God
Love Others



The Salvation Army's Christmas Present Appeal

The planning for this year's Christmas Present Appeal is well under way and here is information for and a request to the churches of CATA and their congregations.

The Appeal will run from 10th November until 31st November.

The following locations have agreed to act as collection points:

Tesco Extra, County Way – normal shop opening hours

The Shires Management Office – open Monday – Friday 8am-5.30pm and Sunday 10am-4pm

Morrisons Westbury – normal shop opening hours

Morrisons Warminster – normal shop opening hours

We will also be opening The [Salvation Army hall](#) in Castle Street to receive donations at the following times:

Friday Nov 28th – 4.30pm-6.30pm

Saturday Nov 29th – 10am-2pm

We will also be holding a Toy Service at The Salvation Army on the first Sunday in Advent **SUNDAY 30th NOVEMBER**. You are welcome to attend and bring your gifts. Or why not hold your own service? Please contact me to arrange the delivery of your collected toys.

Your gifts should be brand new, unwrapped toys, books, games, toiletries, accessories, etc for children from new-born to age 18. We cannot accept any second-hand items, home-made items, or food.

If anyone wants to make a financial donation to the appeal that is also possible via our JustGiving page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tsa-community-support-000382 or in person at one of the drop ins (cash or cheque made payable to The Salvation Army).

We'd be so grateful if you could announce/publicise the appeal as much as possible in the lead up to the launch on **10th November** and through to the conclusion on **Sunday 31st November**. To that end, if you are also able to display our posters on church and community noticeboards that would be **really helpful** and greatly appreciated. Please contact me if you would like any or let Gill know at your next meeting.

We also need your prayer support – please pray for the appeal as a whole, for those who will donate, for the recipients, for the social workers working with the recipient families, for those who will be volunteering to help get the gifts to the hall and the parcels made up.

Talking of volunteers...

We need help with packing gifts. We will be doing this during the week commencing 1st and 5th December. We anticipate being at the hall Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. The work is quite physical – walking, lifting, bending, carrying, and you need an idea of what children of different ages like! If you would like to help, please contact Paula Bartlett in the first instance – paula.bartlett@salvationarmy.org.uk

Thank you in advance for your help and support. Let's do all we can to make Christmas 2025 special for those most in need in our local communities.

Paula Bartlett, Christmas Present Appeal Coordinator, The Salvation Army, Trowbridge



**COME TO ST JOHN'S CHURCH
TO CELEBRATE A
*FESTIVE CONCERT***

With the



Musical Director : Denise Drew

On : FRIDAY, 5 DECEMBER, 2025 -7.30pm

Tickets : £6.00 To Include Mulled Wine & Mince Pie

Contact : Jo Watkins : (01225 753196)

Jean Robertson (01225 760368)

Please Join Us For An Evening Of Celebration & Joy



*St. John's Parish Church
West Ashton*



*Warmly Invite You To Rejoice In The
Following Services :*

*Experience The Magic Of The Candlelit
Christingle Service*

Sunday, 30th November 2025 4.00 pm

*Commemorate Our Saviour's Birth
And Join Us For*

St John's Carols And Readings

Sunday 14th December 2025 10.30am

Celebrate Christmas Eve Holy Communion
Wednesday, 24th December 2025 10.30am

*The Miracle Birth Of Jesus ~ Christmas Day
A Family Service At St Thomas Church
Trowbridge*

Thursday 25th December 2025 at 10.30 am





Come & Join Us

At

St John's Church, West Ashton

For A Family

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

On

SUNDAY, 30th NOVEMBER, 2025

At 4.00pm

The Christingles are made up as follows :

An Orange, which represents the World that God made.

A Red Ribbon tied around the Orange, represents the Blood of Christ.

A Lighted Candle representing Jesus Christ, shining in the world.

Four cocktail sticks, representing the four seasons.

And some dried fruit, nuts and sweets representing God's gift to the world.