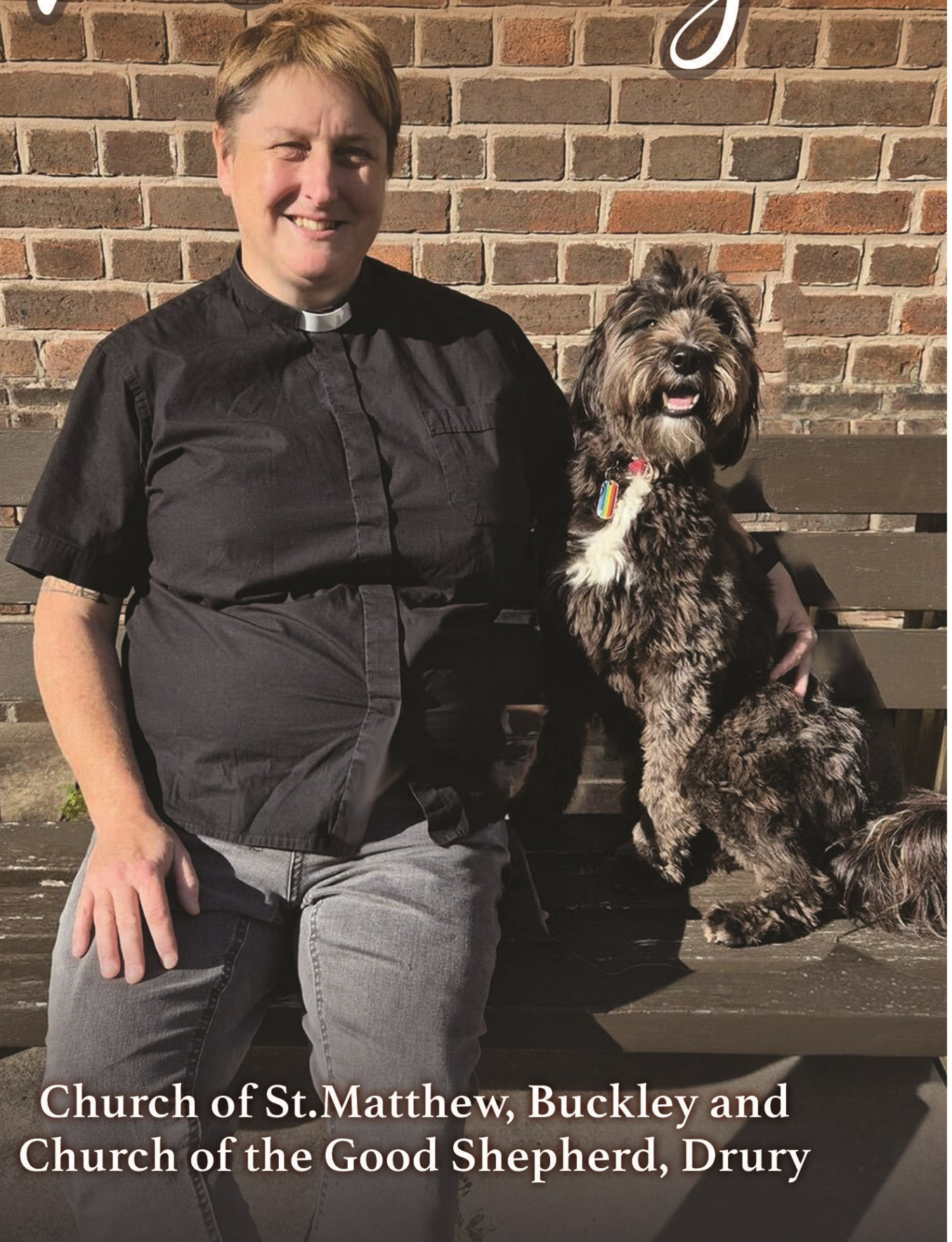


September 2025

The Messenger



Church of St. Matthew, Buckley and
Church of the Good Shepherd, Drury

I'm delighted to be writing my first letter as your new Priest in Charge. First of all, I would like to thank each and every one of you for making me feel so welcome in my first few weeks with you. A special thank you to all the church friends and extended family who came to celebrate my licensing on the 19th of June.

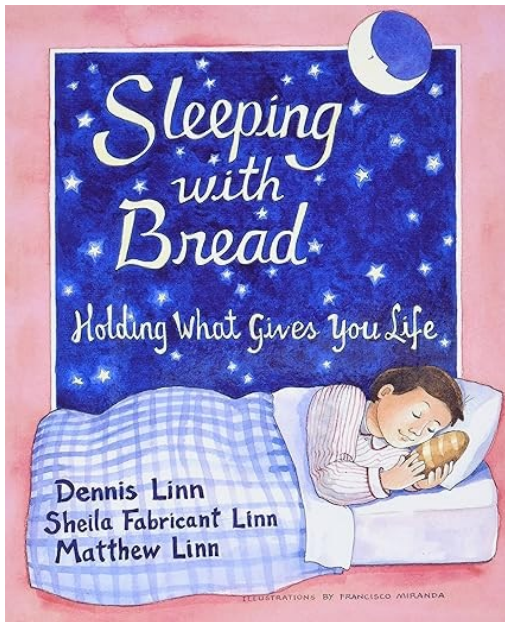
One of the unexpected joys of moving to live in St Matthews Vicarage here in Buckley has been the garden. My first joy came at the size of the garden – and the fact that it is securely enclosed. My dog, Pippa, loves spending time outside, and it is a delight that I can now let her wander freely in and out as she pleases. The garden is large enough that we can play fetch with the ball and she can run zoomies to her hearts-content.



The second great joy of the garden has come in the unexpected produce I can now harvest and enjoy. Earlier in the season I enjoyed rhubarb, blackcurrants and gooseberries, and now I am enjoying a bumper harvest of apples. From talking to many of you, I know that some of you are also enjoying a bountiful harvest from fruit trees.

As I talk about my garden I am reminded of the blessings we enjoy from God. Although not all the world we experience is safe and secure, God offers us all places of sanctuary where we can rest and reenergise, where we can be free from demands upon us and we can simply be ourselves.

For each of us, those places will be different. They may be our homes, or another place we enjoy. They may be somewhere in solitude or in the company of others. Wherever that place is, it is important to not just enjoy and make the best use of the sanctuary, regularly allowing ourselves to be renewed there, but also to be thankful.



The spiritual practice of thankfulness was introduced to me by a tutor at theological college, who gave me a copy of this book. Despite the cover it is not a children's book, although it does begin with a story about some children. In WWII many children were left orphaned or homeless. Due to the trauma many were unable to sleep, until someone had the idea to give them a piece of bread to hold. The bread meant that they could sleep securely knowing that they would be able to eat tomorrow.

The book goes on to describe the spiritual practice of thankfulness - also known as the Examen. In essence, the practice of the examen is to spend a few minutes each night before sleep, recalling the part of the day you are most grateful for, and then to recall the moment you are least grateful for. We then consciously experience the gratitude for the blessings we have received, and look for where God was at work.

As we think about the blessings we are given, the moments of sanctuary we have and about being consciously grateful for them, we must also remember those who do not have sanctuary, or have much less to be grateful for. In the week that I write this, I think of the famine declared in Gaza, with an estimated 40,000 people starving, and also of many disabled people in this country living with the insecurity of not knowing if their PIP payments will continue - to name just two examples.

Friends, we have much to be grateful for. Whether the practice of the Examen suits you, or expressing your gratitude to God in another way, gratitude is an important spiritual discipline to practice.

with blessings
Rev Jenny

The History of St Matthew in Art

Throughout known history of man, humans have created art. From the earliest cave paintings depicting human and animal figures, to modern street art, people have formulated ideas and expressed their beliefs in the created image. As one of the most influential belief structures in the world, Christianity is the basis and subject for millions of works of art.

To celebrate the patronal festival of St Matthew, I took a look through the history of St Matthew as depicted in art. The earliest depictions of St Matthew were not in fact depictions of a man at all, but of an angel. These were depictions of the four Gospel writers as the winged creatures of Revelation (Rev 4:2-8) surrounding Christ.



Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, Ravenna, Italy.
Artist Unknown. c450



All four evangelists are depicted as winged creatures, with the one having **the face of a man** representing Matthew. Other depictions show the four creatures surrounding the Trinity, or as a tetramorph—the four figures merged into one unified image.

As time went on, the Evangelists, as well as other depictions began to be more realistic, representing them as individuals. These individual representations continued to lean heavily on symbolism to identify the individuals and to highlight their attributes or achievements.

The most commonly depicted saints are Peter and Paul, with their respective symbols of crossed keys and sword. Matthew nevertheless retains an important position as one of the four evangelists and also an apostle. St Matthews most common symbols or attributes depict him with a small angel, often by his left foot - symbolising his role as gospel evangelist, a sword - said to represent the manner of his death, **with book and stylus writing his gospel**, and occasionally with a bag of money - representing his earlier profession.



Crypt of the Cathedral of Santiago
de Compostela, Spain
Master Mateo of Compostela late 12th



Contarelli Chapel, San Luigi dei Francesi, Rome
Caravaggio, c1600

One of the most famous depictions of St Matthew is by the artist Caravaggio, depicting the Call of Matthew. It is housed alongside two other depictions of Matthew by the same artist which depict the Inspiration of Matthew and the Martyrdom of Matthew. The trio are baroque paintings, the Calling

of St Matthew being the most lauded. In it, Christ on the left points towards Matthew, the hand reminiscent of the 'Creation of Adam' from the Sistine Chapel. The bearded man, third from right, and commonly thought to be Matthew is looking at Christ, and **pointing to himself** as if questioning whether it is really he whom Christ is calling. Of the others around the table, some notice Jesus in their midst, while others do not, reminding us to be attentive to the presence of Christ, even in the most unlikely places.

A New Sanctuary Lamp Bracket



Doreen Aston on the sanctuary steps

My Mum (Doreen Aston) died in June 2023. Her funeral was, of course, at St Matthew's and we decided that any monies given in her memory should be donated to the church. Father Neil Kelly suggested that the bracket holding the sanctuary lamp did not accord with the rest of the furnishings

around the altar, and so this proved an ideal project for which to use the funeral contributions.

The new bracket will enable us to remember my Mum and Dad (Don Aston) in a tangible way, one which reflects their contributions to, and life within, St Matthew's. It seems particularly appropriate to us that the bracket will be in the sanctuary, because one of the photos I found when going through Mum's things was of her, sitting on the steps near the altar, not far from the sanctuary lamp, busy mending the carpet during a flower arranging session! The lamp is always burning, of course, so I think that that symbolises our belief that although they're not here, we'll see them again in due course. Malcolm has adapted the design of the side curtain hangers attached to the retable into that of the bracket, in order to reflect the altar furnishings of 1901. Mum and Dad would be very touched by his interest and engagement in this project.



Side curtain hanger on which the new bracket design will be based

The 1901 work, on which the bracket will be based, was designed by the Chester artist Robert Hilton (1852–1939). Hilton's earliest known artistic works are landscape paintings, but by 1892 he was a proficient wood carver, and by 1895 was working in copper, silver, leather and enamels. It is as a metalworker and enameller that he is best known.

In 1899, following sojourns in London, Paris, north Wales and Somerset, Hilton returned to his native city, establishing a studio where he worked in metal, wood, leather and enamels. Towards the end of 1904 he was offered the post of director of the Keswick School of Industrial Arts (KSIA), one of the most successful and longest lasting of the schools of handicraft set up at the height of the Arts and Crafts Movement. Hilton was to remain at Keswick for the next seventeen years, before retiring in 1921.

Robert Hilton was a deeply religious man, and his principal interest was in ecclesiastical art. Chalice, patens, ciboria, flagons, font covers, font ewers, crosses (altar and processional), altar candlesticks, altar desks, litany desks, lecterns, bishop's chairs, prayer desks, alms dishes, warden's wands and at least one episcopal pastoral staff all feature amongst his designs. His works are widely distributed across Britain and beyond.



View of the sanctuary showing the Robert Hilton artefacts - candlesticks, candlestick pedestals, altar cross and retable.

Hilton's 1901 work for the new chancel of St Matthew's included the retable, the altar cross and candlesticks, an altar desk, the candlestick pedestals, and the hymn board. The following year he gave a prayer board of his own design and manufacture to the church. These artefacts represent his first substantial commission in the field of church art and comprise one of the largest collections of his work in one place.

After two years of to-ing and fro-ing with the business of obtaining a faculty, we are now at the stage where we have commissioned Steven Gillard of Poplars Forge to do the work. So at some stage, perhaps later this year, the new piece will be installed, and, we hope, be dedicated by Rev. Jenny.

Malcolm and Anne Hislop



**St Matthew's
Patronal
Festival
2025**

**Sunday
21st
September
11 am**

**We celebrate St Matthew,
one of the 12 apostles of Jesus and
give thanks for our Christian
community here in Buckley.**

Followed by a cuppa in the Church Hall

**All Welcome
St Matthew's, Buckley**



Our new website at St Matthews launches soon!

Notice will be given in church when it is
live (in the next few weeks).

The website address is
www.stmatthewsbuckley.church



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2025



22nd September – 5th October



Tea is the most popular drink in the world after water – an estimated 70,000 cups are drunk every second.

Tea is produced on large plantations or estates and picked by employed workers. It is also grown on small plots of land (in Africa these plots are often less than half the size of a football pitch) by small-scale farmers who sell their freshly-plucked green leaf to plantations or tea factories where it is processed into black tea.

Small-scale tea producers in countries such as Kenya and Sri Lanka are most at risk from fluctuating prices and pressure in supply chains controlled by large companies. Tea growers earn a fraction of the price paid in shops.

Tea production is extremely labour intensive and physically demanding. The majority of 'pluckers' are women who often experience back pain and are at risk of exposure to pesticides and extreme weather conditions. Discrimination and harassment are widespread, and the women often work longer hours for lower wages than men.

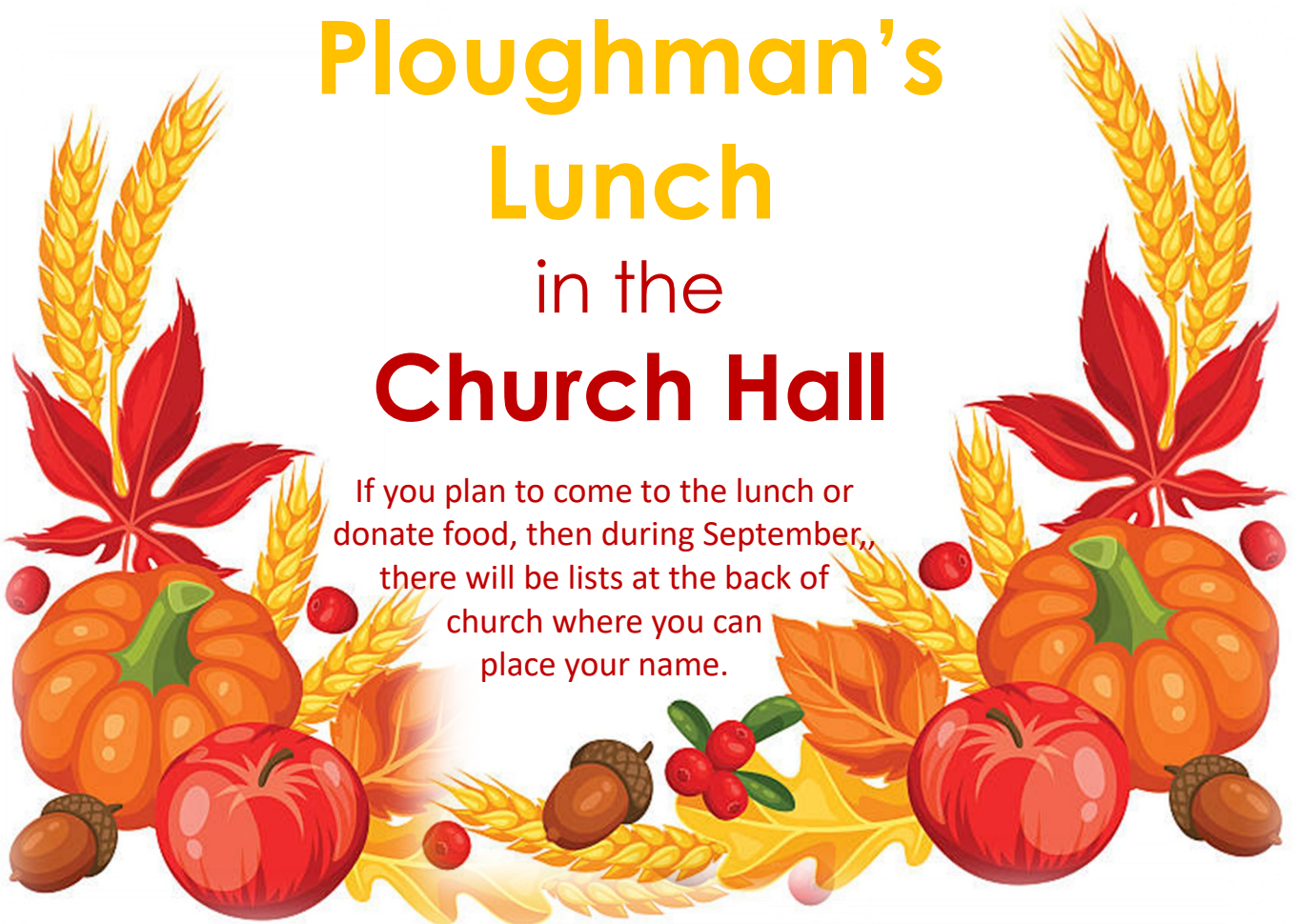
By complying with Fairtrade Standards, both tea plantations and self-governed small farm organisations can become Fairtrade certified. In the case of tea, these standards include an origin-specific minimum price as well as the payment of an additional Fairtrade premium which producers can invest as they wish. They could focus on improving farming methods or invest in education, clean water or health care.

By buying Fairtrade tea you are giving farmers and workers greater security and equality and enabling them to improve the lives of their families and communities.

So, however you make your cuppa, make sure it's Fairtrade.
Fairtrade tea available locally from M & S, Co-op and Lidl.

St Matthew's Church, Buckley
warmly invites you to our
Celebration of Harvest
Sunday 5th October
with
Sung Eucharist
at
11am
followed by a
**Ploughman's
Lunch**
in the
Church Hall

If you plan to come to the lunch or
donate food, then during September,
there will be lists at the back of
church where you can
place your name.





Save the Children

Help Save
Children in
Gaza and
Worldwide



Famine is confirmed in Gaza. At least 132,000 children are at risk of death from acute malnutrition. Conflict, climate change, poverty have pushed 2.3 million children under 5 in South Sudan into life threatening malnutrition.

We are running primary health clinics, providing therapeutic food to children and mothers.

Donations for SAVE THE CHILDREN via our World Mission Plate throughout The Harvest Season.

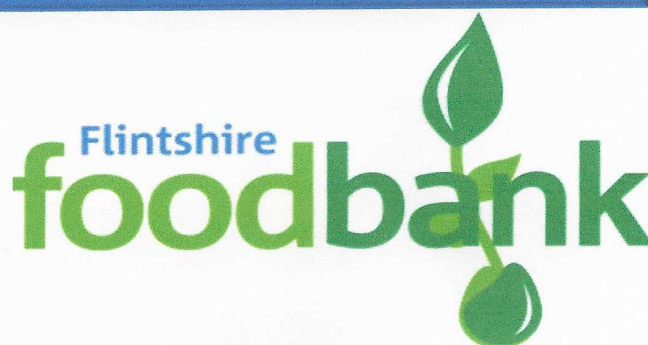
This HARVEST '25

**Let's boost our support
for our local Foodbank
and for local families in
crisis!**

Please place donations in the
boxes at the back of church
throughout Sept/Oct!

*Our MU collect and deliver your
donations regularly to the
Buckley Foodbank.*

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families



St Matthew's Church, Buckley

Knit and Natter Group

Tuesday afternoon
1.30 – 4pm

All welcome

Tea and biscuits



We can provide needles,
yarn and patterns... and
help, if you need it!

We have been meeting for
almost 10 years, initially
making blankets for Syrian
refugees, with lots of items
being sent to Greece.

Currently, we donate items to
refugee families, Syrian and
Afghan, being housed in the
Wrexham area.





St Matthew's Church

Cake & Coffee Event

In aid of

Buckley Jubilee

Tuesday 21st October

2pm – 4pm

St Matthew's Church Hall

Cake stall and raffle





Nostalgic Jumble Sale at Good Shepherd Church Drury

Nostalgic jumble sale just like "back in the day".

Saturday September 13th – 11am to 3pm

Bric-a-brac stalls

Cakes (including vegan and gluten free)

Tombola

Raffle

Having a clear out? Stalls cost £10.

Come and support us, clear your unwanted items and make some cash too!

To book a stall contact Sophie 07590663896 or go to eventbrite



News from the Church of the Good Shepherd



On Saturday 9th August Rev. Jenny was asked to draw a raffle at Florence's shop, which is to be found behind Lester's farm shop.

Lynda Williams had a beautiful hanging basket to raffle off for the Good Shepherd church.

We raised £150.
A huge thank you to Lynda and Lester for your support.

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Drury

Advent Bible Study

led by Sophie

7pm

Tuesday

25th

November

Advent Carol Service

3 pm

Sunday

7th

December



Ladies Pop-up Shop & Fun Fashion Show!

Saturday 29th November 2025

The Good Shepherd Church

St Matthews Church Hall, Buckley, CH7 3JN

Doors open 1.30pm, show starts 2pm

Tickets: £10

includes a mince pie and a glass of fizz, mulled wine or a soft drink

Raffle: FABULOUS prizes to be won at the show!

PAYMENT BY CASH & CARD (subject to a mobile signal)

Colours. [FUN]DRAISING
FASHION SHOWS



SHOP YOUR FAVOURITE HIGH STREET BRANDS AT UP TO 70% OFF!



St Matthew's Church, Buckley

All Soul's Service

4 pm

Sunday 2nd November 2025

A service to
remember our loved ones who have died,
to light a candle, give thanks for love shared and
seek God's comfort.



If you wish your loved one to be remembered at this service,
then you may contact Rev Jenny by email or phone.

JennyClarke@cinw.org.uk mobile no. 07901 862010

Alternatively you can place their name/s on a list at the back of church.

The Buckley Civic Service of Remembrance

**The Church of St Matthew
Buckley**

10.30am

Sunday 9th November 2025

We will remember them



St. Matthew's Church and the Church Army



In the Parish Magazine of March 1943 an article appeared which discussed the idea that 'The ancient Parish of Hawarden', (which comprised the three parishes of Hawarden, Buckley and Shotton), should raise money to provide a mobile canteen for the Church Army for its work in the Middle East.

"...What a thrill those three names on the canteen would bring to those members of our congregations who might see it coming to them across the sands of North Africa."

This canteen would bear the names of the three parishes. A temporary committee was set up of which Miss Catherine Gladstone was the president, Mrs. H.E Simmons of Buckley was the honorary secretary and a Mrs. Price of Queensferry the treasurer.



Ideas from this committee were considered by the Buckley Churchwardens and the Church Council and in the April edition of the magazine it was reported that they had voted unanimously to support this scheme. In January 1944 the magazine reported that the Church Army was now equipping our Canteen. In July an extract from a letter was published in our church magazine. This was written by A.E Reffold, the Financial Organising Secretary and it describes the mobile canteen in some detail.

"....Built on 3 ton Bedford chassis they carry all the usual supplies, more than ever necessary to men on active service in the field. Five 5 gallon and one 3 gallon urns will enable over 500 men to be served straight off with tea and coffee and there are reserves of 160 gallons of water in storage tanks, raised by means of a semi-rotary pump. An oven is carried with pressure heating to supply hot pies, etc. there are two 2-gallon water boilers, special containers for biscuits, tea and sugar, and all the usual drawers, cupboards and shelves. There is also accommodation for the personal luggage and bedding of the two operators.

The letter continues to say that the canteen “**..will meet the special needs of the men now embarked on the great adventure of the invasion of Europe. We shall do everything to soften the rigours of their task and gifts like your own will be invaluable in their worth.**”



The magazine of December 1944 published another letter to Mrs. Simmons from A.E. Reffold in which he stated that the canteen was playing a very useful part indeed in the work going forward with the Liberation Ar-

mies. His letter stated that the canteen was now near Paris.

..Some of the men served by the canteen were survivors of the Arnhem battle, evacuated by air from the forward zone. On another occasion it made an emergency journey to serve a party of 19 Indian soldiers who had escaped from the enemy and were sadly in need of refreshments. It found them camped along with 400 United States soldiers whose canteens had been unable to reach them for several weeks, and speedily distributed its entire stock amongst them.

The letter continues to say that the canteen “**..will meet the special needs of the men now embarked on the great adventure of the invasion of Europe. We shall do everything to soften the rigours of their task and gifts like your own will be invaluable in their worth.**”

"In January 1945 a letter, written by a Miss G.E. Holbrook, was published in the magazine. She was serving with the canteen, and her letter suggests that they were in Paris.

"..We have been to so many of our boys who have not had tea for days; they look at us when we arrive as if we were not real; indeed they tell us 'Often we thought you were a mirage,' and they just stare and stare at us and cannot think of what they want to buy; and then they realise we are the same canteens they had at home, a smile breaks over their face, and they say 'So we are not forgotten after all.'

"We give them tea and their 'groceries' in the morning and leave them tea and sugar for a brew at night and for breakfast, and how they bless us, and how we bless you for putting the stores on our van. One of our greatest joys was a van load of our R.A.F. boys shot down and harboured in French villages for months, who came to us on the way home. How they crowded round for a cup of 'hot, sweet tea,' biscuits and chocolate which we gave them free with the Church Army's love. Yesterday we went many miles to serve a famous unit in the heart of Maquis country and how happy they looked when we drove into their unit. We have an empty meat tin vase with flowers on the counter, and how they appreciate that touch of home."

In July 1945 a letter addressed to Mrs. Simmons and dated 28th May, was published in the magazine.

"...The mobile canteen given by the Parishes of Hawarden, Buckley and Shotton has remained at work around Ghent all through the stirring events of the last weeks of the war in Europe.... Our mobile canteens in Belgium have been tremendously busy meeting aircraft bringing in released allied prisoners-of-war. The men are flown back to Belgium and there refitted prior to being flown onto England and all our vehicles in Belgium have taken turns to provide this deeply appreciated service of free refreshments and cigarettes."

The Church Army was founded in 1882 by Wilson Carlile. Its aim was to take the church out to those people trying to survive on the edges of society. It was active during both world wars at home and overseas. Today it is a worldwide organisation that offers support to vulnerable members of society through its evangelical work. Locally it runs a mission centre in Wrexham.

A.E. Reffold whose letters appeared in St. Matthew's magazines during WW2 worked at the headquarters of the Church Army for 50 years from 1904. When he retired he was Literary Secretary. He wrote the book 'Wilson Carlile and The Church Army.'

Many thanks to Captain Neil Thomson C.A. (Chaplain) for sending us the photographs of Church Army mobile canteens representative of the one provided by the ancient Parish of Hawarden and for giving us permission to reproduce them. Photographs used with permission of Church Army.

KM

The Church of the Holy Spirit, Ewloe
extends a warm invitation to everyone to their

Weekend of Celebration

Heritage Open Day

10.30 am - 3 pm

Saturday 13th September

Please come to see the displays
and beautiful flowers.

Light refreshments
will be available until 2.30pm

A Service of Celebration

for the

87th Anniversary

of the dedication of the church

10 am

Sunday 14th September

Refreshments will be served after the service

News from the Church of the Holy Spirit, Ewloe

Harvest Festival

10am

Sunday 5th October

Donations of dried, tinned and long life foods will be gratefully accepted for Flintshire Food Bank in lieu of fresh produce

Autumn Fair

1 pm - 4 pm

Saturday 11th October

Stalls include Crafts, Cakes, Tombola, Children's toys, Christmas gifts.
Light refreshments will be available.
Entry free

A Coffee Morning is held every Thursday
at 10.30 for the Community.

Come along for social company and a chat.

Mothers' Union

meets on the 1st Monday of the month at 2 pm.
All are welcome.



St Matthew's

Christmas Bingo



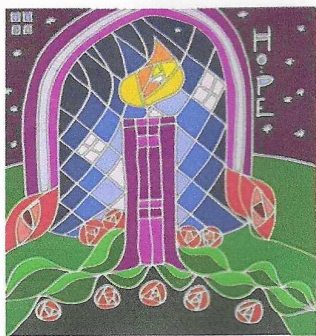
Saturday 22nd November

Doors Open 7pm

Eyes Down 7.30pm

St Matthew's Church Hall

£2 entry includes raffle and refreshments



MU Advent Carols

Our Branch will be hosting...

The MU 'Family Group' Advent Service

St Matthew's Church

Monday 1st December at 2pm

Worship led by Rev Jenny

*We will be joined by MU members from across the
Mold, Deeside and Rhos a Mynydd Mission Areas*

Everyone Welcome!

Coming soon!

Our Autumn Coffee Morning!

**A great get together raising funds for
St Matthew's and our MU work locally!**



St Matthew's Church warmly invites you to

An Advent Carol Service

of readings & music as
we enter the season of Advent

6 pm

Sunday 30th November

Followed by light refreshments

O Come, O Come Emmanuel!



An Advent Quiet Day

of led reflections and worship
led by Rev Jenny

10 am - 4 pm

Saturday 6th December
St Matthew's Church Hall

*Prepare yourself for the journey of
Advent as we look forward in
anticipation to the birth of Jesus.*



During the day, there will be a programme of led input activities followed by opportunities to reflect on them in a variety of ways, including guided spiritual practices, arts and crafts, reading, music and quietness.

No charge but donations gratefully received towards the cost of the materials.

Hot drinks and snacks provided but bring your own packed lunch.

Please book by emailing or phoning Rev Jenny.

Contact details: JennyClarke@cinw.org.uk or 07901862010

Rotas September & October 2025

Date	Welcomers	Flowers	Churchyard duties	Readers	Intercessions	Refreshments
September 21 st Patronal Festival	Sally Merrick & Meriel Tibbett	Patronal Festival Parochial flowers	Graeme Aldcroft	Val Aldcroft	Barbara Shone	Barbara Shone & Cheryl Rambaldi
September 28th	Simon Griffiths & Tony Garrett	Flowers remain	Steve Tibbett	James Shone	Val Aldcroft	Jean Wood/ Helen Andrew-Griffiths
October 5th Harvest Celebration	Val Aldcroft & John Slawson	Harvest Parochial flowers	..	Meriel Tibbett	Graeme Aldcroft	Barbara Shone & Cheryl Rambaldi
October 12th	Anne & Malcolm Hislop	Flowers remain	Tony Garrett	Gail Roberts	Eirlys Jones	Jean Wood/ Helen Andrew-Griffiths
October 19th	Barbara Shone & Geoff Parting	Sandra Stevenson	..	Barbara Shone	Duty Priest	Barbara Shone & Cheryl Rambaldi
October 26th	Andrew & Andria Walton	Flowers remain	Dave Maxwell	Liz Gladman	Kevin Glynne - Davies	Jean Wood/ Helen Andrew-Griffiths

Rotas for November 2025

Date	Welcomers	Flowers	Churchyard duties	Readers	Intercessions	Refreshments
November 2 nd All Souls	Gerald Shone & Clayton Hollins	Mary Jones	Dave Maxwell	Graeme Aldcroft	Val Aldcroft	Barbara Shone & Cheryl Rambaldi
All Souls Service 4pm St Matthew's Church						
November 9 th Remembrance Sunday	Sally Merrick & Meriel Tibbett	Parochial Flowers	James Shone	Buckley Civic Remembrance Service		Jean Wood/ Helen Andrew-Griffiths
November 16 th	Simon Griffiths & Tony Garrett	Caron Hay	..	Anne Hislop	Graeme Aldcroft	Barbara Shone & Cheryl Rambaldi
November 23 rd	Val Aldcroft & John Slawson	Flowers remain	Graeme Aldcroft	Ceri Olier	Eirlys Jones	Jean Wood /Helen Andrew- Griffiths
November 30 th Advent Sunday	Rhos a Mynydd Mission Area Service Bistre Emmanuel 11 am					
	Anne & Malcolm Hislop	Advent Carol Service 6pm St Matthew's Church				
						Barbara Shone Cheryl Rambaldi

Service Times

From the beginning of September, service times are changing.
See below for the new monthly pattern.

Sundays

	St Matthews	Holy Spirit, Ewloe	Good Shepherd
1st Sunday	11am Eucharist	10am Eucharist	9am Eucharist
2nd Sunday	8am Eucharist 11am Eucharist	10am Eucharist	No service
3rd Sunday	11am Eucharist	10am Eucharist	9am Eucharist
4th Sunday	8am Eucharist 11am Eucharist	10am Eucharist	No service
5th Sunday	Joint mission area service - see notices for location		

Midweek

	Good Shepherd	St Matthews
1st Thursday	10am	
2nd Wednesday		10am
3rd Thursday	10am	
4th Wednesday		10am