

DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH AND CROSS STREET CENTRE ST ALBANS



MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2026

Free

Minister: Mark Welch

Church Secretary: Chris Penn

Finance Deacon: Trevor Oakley

Property: Ray Saunders

Site Manager and Caretaker: David Hobbs

Cross Street: 01727 846891

Bookings: bookings@dsbc.org.uk

Charity Registration Number: 1127791

FREE CHURCH SERVICES ***St Albans Cathedral***

This service is celebrated monthly on the first Wednesday of every month at 11am with our Free Church Chaplain and other ministers.

For further information:

Contact: Rev Simon Carver
simoncarver@btinternet.com



In the entire circle of the year there
are no days so delightful as those of
a fine October - no days so calm, so
tenderly solemn, and with such a
reverent meekness in the air

Alexander Smith

OurMindfullife.com

OCTOBER SERVICES

4th October	‘Securing Salvation’ Mat 7:13-23 Rev Mark Welch
14th October	“Wonderful Earth” All Age Family Service The Team
18th October	Church Anniversary Service Rev Dr Helen Paynter Fellowship Lunch and Seminar
25th October	Service led by Megan Thompson and Paula Iddiols



Dear Friends

In October, we will celebrate our Church Anniversary Service and will have a lunch to celebrate. This year Rev Dr Helen Paynter is our speaker.

As you may well be aware, one of the previous Ministers of this Church, Rev Dr Mourice West, went to be the Principal of Bristol Baptist College after serving here. Hence, it's fitting that Helen is the Director of the Centre for the Study of Bible and Violence and is also on the Staff of Bristol Baptist College.

The Centre for the Study of Bible and Violence sounds like a rather strange name, but it has two functions.

Firstly, the Centre explores the difficult texts in the Bible known as "Holy War" texts. I'm sure that many of us once sang songs. Like "Joshua fought the battle of Jericho" in Sunday School without ever even recognising that the text contains a command to commit genocide. The Centre for the Study of Bible and Violence encourages us to think more deeply about these problematic Biblical texts and formulate a more considered approach about how we engage with them.

The Centre also helps churches to counter the narrative of the far right, so-called "Christian" Nationalism (which is not Christian at all).

In our morning Church Anniversary Service on 18th October, Helen will be preaching on Acts Chapter Two, a passage often titled "The Birthday of the Church." Though I'm sure she will have something much more illuminating to say.

After we have enjoyed a lunch together, she will be speaking for 40 minutes about "Countering the Far Right after which there will be 20 minutes of questions and answers.

George Frideric Handel

October 2026

This will be a really interesting and informative event, and I encourage you to attend if you can.

With much love to you all,

Mark.



FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

Please put your name down for the lunch on 18th October on the sign up sheet which will be in the Link.



THINKING OF VISITING OUR CHURCH?

The following information is specifically for those planning a visit, so that you know, beforehand, what to expect on a Sunday morning.

Where and When

We meet at the Church Building for our Sunday Service starting at 10:30am. For your first visit, we recommend arriving 10-15 minutes early to ensure you find somewhere to park, and find somewhere to sit before the service begins. When you arrive, you should be greeted by someone on our Welcome Team who will be wearing a Welcome lanyard.

Accessibility: There is wheelchair access, and a sound loop for anyone who needs it. Please let one of the Welcome Team know on your arrival and they will help you to get set up. There are disabled toilets and a lift.

Our Service

The main service begins at 10:30am with a warm welcome from one of our team members. Then follows a time of songs and hymns, prayers, Bible reading and a sermon. Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Sometimes there is an opportunity to receive prayer at the end of the service.

After the service we serve tea, coffee, squash and biscuits in the Cross Street Centre. It is a great way to meet people, or simply take time to find your bearings. All refreshments are free. What about my kids?

We have a great programme lined up for kids of all ages:

- **Creche** (0 months to 3 years). Children under 6 months are welcome but must be accompanied by their parent/grown-up at all times.
- **Junior Church** (4-11 years)

- Children stay with their parent or grown-up for the first part of the service. They then go to their groups. The children's group activities vary depending on the age but usually there is a friendly welcome, bible stories, praying, music, craft, drama, fun games and free play. Please pick your children up as soon as the service finishes.



Get in touch with us to plan your visit

If you would like to come and visit the church beforehand you are more than welcome! Get in touch and we can arrange a time that suits you.





PASTORAL TEAM

The members of the Pastoral Team are always happy to make appointments to visit, talk or pray with you. This can take place in your home, at Cross Street or at our homes at your convenience and at mutually convenient times.

Martin Taylor (07787 555730), Marjorie Jones (01727 422930), Jill Potter (07779 797928), Liz Blight (07884 431051) and Alison Ashmore (01727 867335), are active members of the Pastoral Team.

The team hope you will notify them of anybody who you think may be ill, lonely or who needs help.

Mark Welch



October 2026

PASTORAL NEWS

At the time of writing we are more than halfway through September and everything is back to working order. Cross Street was really missed but all is under way now with Lauren's lovely cakes and such friendly help and service. Also lovely to see many more faces in church too with the various music groups and all age worship. We look forward to Harvest Festival at the end of September.

I have received a letter from a friend of my late husband, Leslie Jones. He used to come occasionally to Dagnall Street but was limited by his wife's poor health. His name is David Rose. He informs me that his wife has died on the 1st September and there will be a service for her on 30th September at Chipperfield Crematorium, conducted by Simon. A few people have sent condolences and he is aware that there may be others in our church family who would like to know. He realises that the date will have passed but would like to thank those who have contacted him. He would like to add these words. "He holds the key to all unknown and I am glad if other hands should hold the key or if He trusted it to me....I might be sad."

Please can we remember David in our prayers and we hope that he may be able to join us one day.

There are other people too who need our help and prayers:

Olly Branch and family, Velma, Tom and family, John Peters Elizabeth and Bill Allen, Jack and Brenda Passmore, Krisztina Schreiner, Jenny Johnson, Veronica Willans, Val Urban.

***I know not why Gods wondrous, grace,
To me has been made known.
Nor why unworthy as I am***





***He claimed me for his own.
But I know whom I have believed
And am persuaded that He is able
To keep that which I've committed
Unto Him against that day.***

James M. Granahan

Marjorie Jones



Cross Street Centre Café

Congratulations and well done to
Chloe and the Cross Street team of
staff and volunteers for retaining our
Five Star ***** status after a recent
unannounced Inspection.



*Somebody needs you.
yes, you!*

Volunteer to work at the Cross Street Café in central St Albans.

Basic café work, with every opportunity to share your time with all sorts of customers, some just wanting a quiet place to eat, some with needs and some wanting a chat with a sympathetic listener.



Talk to Chloe, the manager of the café, if you are interested. Her phone number is 01727 846891



Birthday scheme



Be a blessing on
your birthday.
Transform a life.

Join your church's Birthday Scheme today to change lives with BMS World Mission. Go to www.bmsworldmission.org/birthday to find out how your birthday can make a difference.

Your Birthday Scheme Co-ordinator is:

LINDA WILLIAMS

Photo: Each year, gifts to the Birthday Scheme save lives at Guinebor II Hospital in Chad.

The Baptist Missionary Society: registered in England and Wales as a charity number 1174364 and a company limited by guarantee number 10849659.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

16th—Mike Rowley

A Prayer from Mexico

***I am only a spark,
Make me a fire.***

***I am only a string,
Make me a lyre.***

***I am only a drop,
Make me a fountain.***

***I am only an ant hill,
Make me a mountain.***

***I am only a feather,
Make me a wing.***

***I am only a rag,
Make me a king.***

I wish that everybody who has a birthday this month has one as happy as mine was.

Linda Williams

Dear Donor Friend

Manipur Christian Trust

At our recent meeting of our Trustees, Joanne Kipgen, Emmanuel School's Principal and the daughter of the school's founder Dr Kai Kipgen, reported on a number of good things that have been happening in the school this year. Two choirs have begun under the leadership of a new music teacher. There are ten new computers and these are used to give extra lessons to students. A store has been set up selling branded stationery and school wear. Alongside all of these positive developments, there remains the backdrop of tribal and state-encouraged violence. A number of local Baptist pastors have lost their lives and there is a climate of fear amongst staff and students. A number of students left the school last year because of the troubled situation.

The staff and students value your ongoing prayer support for an end to the violence and for the appointment of a new Principal who can be permanently based in Haipi village. There is one other way in which we are asking for support. This is that we need to buy a new all-road vehicle in order to collect students for school in the uncertain current situation. This will be of particular benefit for younger students which is an area of growth. This vehicle is a much cheaper purchase than would be the case in the UK and we have estimated that the sum of £15,000 would enable such purchase to be made locally.

If you are able to help us reach this target – via a donation or a loan – or would like further information please contact me or Joanne Kipgen.

Thank you

Simon Carver
Chair of MCT
simoncarver@btinternet.com

Joanne Kipgen
Emmanuel School Principal

October 2026

DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH ST ALBANS, AL3 5EE



ALL AGE FAMILY WORSHIP

**Come and join us on
Sunday, 14th October
10.30 a.m.**

“Wonderful Earth”

**All are welcome to any of our services and activities
Do just come along, we would love to see you
There are activities, crafts and games for
children at all our
services**



**Our Cross Street Café is open for everyone
Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 2pm**

Serving a range of drinks, meals and delicious cakes

Dagnall Street Baptist Church and Cross Street Centre Magazine

DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

ST ALBANS, AL3 5EE



TODDLERS

Wednesday mornings at 9.45 am

(Maximum limit of 30 Adults)

£2 donation per family; Refreshments provided

**Meeting every Wednesday during term-time
in the Lower Hall**

Entrance via the church car park

***We will be closed for half-term on
Wednesday, 28th October***

**All are welcome to any of our services and activities.
Please come along and join us**



**Our Cross Street Café is open for everyone
Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 2pm**

Serving a range of drinks, meals and delicious cakes

DAGNALL STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
ST ALBANS, AL3 5EE



Who Let the Dads Out (WLTD0)

Meets on the Second Saturday of each month

**£2 donation per family; Refreshments provided
For Dads, Grandads, Uncles etc..**

Taking place in the Lower Hall

Entrance via the church car park

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON
Saturday, 10th October
10-11.15am**

**All are welcome to any of our services and activities.
Please come along and join us**



**Our Cross Street Café is open for everyone
Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 2pm**

Serving a range of drinks, meals and delicious cakes

What are the magic words?

Words have a life of their own, scrambling all over the place, spreading delight, mayhem sometimes, bemusement often. How about you unleashing the magic words "Welcome to Dagnall Street". You can be part of a team that does just that. Calm words, giving reassurance, friendship, and a gentle welcome. Do you feel you would like to be part of the team of stewards, being on duty perhaps about every four weeks or so on Sunday mornings?

Talk to Mike Plant if you're interested.





MISSION NEWS

Baptist Union Prayer Diary October 2026

5th Oct: This year marks the 39th anniversary of Black History Month (BHM) in Britain. BHM gives an opportunity to celebrate contributions, teach a fuller history, promote inclusion, address inequality and inspire future generations. Churches Together are encouraging a theme of “Standing on the Shoulders of those of Faith” looking at Hebrews 12:1-3. Please pray as we consider God calling to us to continue to build communities rooted in love rather than division. www.ctbi.org.uk/resources/black-history-month-2026-resources-for-churches

11th Oct: Prisons Week begins today, and we are invited to join in praying for those across the criminal justice system: victims of crime; offenders and those in custody; families of all affected; those administering care and justice in communities; those working in probation, prisons, police, courts; and for chaplains. www.prisonsworld.org

18th Oct: Baptist Union Council meets this week. Please pray for the members of Council as they look to set the broad strategic direction for Baptists Together. www.baptist.org.uk/council

25th Oct: This week we pray for the South Eastern Baptist Association, seeking to be a community of God’s people praying and working together to see an outpouring of God’s Spirit in South East England. www.seba-baptist.org.uk





I've just been reading the latest issue of Christian Aid Magazine. You can sign up for a hard copy or google 'christian aid magazine' to read it on-line.

It contains a wealth of interesting and challenging articles, including an introduction to the new chair of Christian Aid, Archbishop Thabo Makgoba who is head of the Anglican Church in southern Africa. His story is both fascinating and inspiring, growing up and living through the worst of apartheid in South Africa, being mentored by the wise and witty Desmond Tutu who later became Archbishop of Cape Town, and learning deep lessons in spirituality and the healing gift of forgiveness from Nelson Mandela.

His hope for Christian Aid is simple - that we will keep our eyes on those the world has displaced and that we'll stand alongside them, not above them. He goes on to say, "Keep the urgent questions alive. Hope is not a feeling you wait to arrive, it is a practice. And on the days that you do not feel hopeful, act anyway. Give, speak out, show up, because hope is built by doing. And to do it together is critical, because courage is contagious, and a voice joined to others becomes impossible to ignore."

Campaigning is not something that sits comfortably with many of us, but it is what Precious Kalombwana challenges us to through Christian Aid's Restore campaign.

From a young age Precious was driven to solve problems. Hearing about the climate crisis at school she planted trees. After leaving secondary education, she moved to an informal settlement in Lusaka, Zambia. Faced with flooding, poor sanitation and air pollution, she resolved to do something about it.

Along with other activists she approached the Zambian Government

for support. But there were no funds. The group soon discovered why: the country's debt burden.

Zambia is one of 23 African countries that spend more on external debt payments to private lenders than on health care and education combined.

Precious is now a passionate climate and debt activist, dedicated to raising awareness of an injustice that's trapping millions of our global neighbours in poverty. In April, Precious joined CA in London to support their Restore campaign, bringing together supporters, churches and activists to call on the UK Government to take action.

May I encourage you to read the articles in full, simply google 'Christian Aid magazine'.





HARVEST GIFT DAY
“Change Agents” of Sierra Leone
One church. Three women.
Countless stories of transformation
(Written by Sarah Stone of BMS World Mission)

It's in the high 30s and what feels like 100% humidity when we arrive at New Harvest Manjama Church in Bo District, Sierra Leone. Although this area is rich in diamonds and gold, over half its population live in poverty, struggling to access the things most of us take for granted. Education. Healthcare. Three meals a day.

We're welcomed into the church by its lead pastor, Feima Fefegula. It's still early, but at least 15 people are already sitting in the church hall. Waiting for us. Ready to tell us how they've transformed their own lives through the training they've received here.

The training, known as the Church and Community Mobilisation Process (or CCMP for short), is more exciting than its name suggests. It's an empowering, potentially poverty-ending tool for those who take it to heart. It has taught the members of New Harvest Manjama Church to understand the root causes of the poverty they're experiencing, recognise their God-given skills and resources, and then use them to transform their own stories. "We now know that we can make use of the little that we have and make something big out of it," says Rev Feima.

Whether it's starting a small business or building a school in the back garden (yes, Feima has actually done this!), change that started in this church is rippling out into the community. And it's beautiful to see.

Deborah has a smile and warmth that puts you immediately at ease,

so it's surprising when she says that before the CCMP training, she was so reserved she wouldn't even say hello to people in her community when they greeted her. It was the training, she says, that helped her understand how to relate to herself, to God and to her community. It also helped her find a way to make a living and support her family.



Deborah used to make beaded bags at home but never thought she could use this skill to improve her life. Through CCMP her mindset changed. Now, she makes and sells beaded bags and tie-dye shirts – and she is training others to do the same. Empowering the people she used to ignore on the street to earn a living.

“There is a Bible study that talks about when Jesus fed the 5,000, and that really changed my life,” says Deborah. “It opened my eyes to do more and to help people. I am very happy because of what I'm doing. Learning this skill has helped a lot of people, and now they are also earning money. I feel joy because I'm impacting lives. So, I'm very happy to see that.”

Rev Feima has also taken inspiration from the stories of Jesus' ministry. How he saw a need (hungry people), took something small (five loaves and two fish), and did something huge with it (fed 5,000). The need Feima saw? Education for disadvantaged children in her community. They needed a school. So Feima built one. “I didn't have a big piece of land or a building to start a school, but CCMP taught me that we can make use of the little that we have,” she says. So she built a small, four-classroom building in her back garden and started a school with 15 children. Three years later, there are 80 children at the school, many on scholarships. Feima is trusting God for a bigger piece of land, but she didn't wait for it. She started with what she had.

Not only has CCMP improved the economic and educational oppor

tunities of people inside and outside New Harvest Manjama Church, the training has also grown the faith, prayer life and number of members worshipping at the church. Before the training, Feima says her church members thought prayer was for the church leaders. Now, they know prayer is for everyone.

“Whether I’m there or not, they will mobilise themselves and come together to pray. For the church, for the disciples, for the community, for the lost souls, for the country,” says Feima. “And now evangelism is part of the church.”

This passion for prayer and evangelism, alongside all the practical ways the church is involved in the community, is leading people to Jesus. “Two weeks back, we baptised up to 13 people from the community,” says Feima. Some of the new believers came to the church through Deborah’s skills training programme. “I’ve brought many people to learn, and as a result of this process, we have three people who are now believers in Christ because I gave them scholarships to learn how to make these bags...” says Deborah. “Now they are part of the church here.”

Every member of this church – new and old – is important to God, and Isata’s story demonstrates that beautifully. Isata felt that she couldn’t fully engage in church because she never had the opportunity to learn to read or write. That meant that she didn’t have the confidence to share her testimony, and the idea of leading a Bible study felt impossible. How could she lead a study on something she couldn’t even read?

The training has changed that. Rev Feima was equipped to teach the oral version of CCMP as well as the traditional version. The oral version uses simple language and symbols that the church comes up with together to help them remember key parts of the training – Bible stories and the church’s mission statement, things like that. It means everyone can actively engage in the process, whatever their level of education. That was really important for Isata.

“I was ashamed to stand before people, to give testimony,” she says. “But the process has given me the boldness to do Papa God’s work.

It helped me to stand before people, to give testimonies, to lead a discovery Bible study. Now I can do all of that.”

It's still boiling when we leave New Harvest Manjama Church, but we're leaving richer than we arrived. Our imaginations are full of these stories of transformation. Of how much is possible when a church is empowered with the knowledge that they can change their own lives, and the skills to start now.

You can help bring this training to other communities in Sierra Leone by supporting the BMS World Mission Harvest appeal – Change Agents in Sierra Leone. Find out more at:

www.bmsworldmission.org/change-agents

Gift Day contributions can be made via the donation envelopes in church on Sundays 27 Sept. and 4th Oct.





Church and Community Mobilisation showed me that God cares for me.

- Ruth



Pray for Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone is a beautiful country, yet it's also one of the poorest in the world. But churches there are changing that, using a training process called Church and Community Mobilisation (or CCMP), which empowers them to lead their communities out of poverty.

Pray for provision

Over 60% of people in Sierra Leone live below the poverty line. Pray that families will have enough food to eat and that children can go to school.

Pray for participants

Pray for those currently taking part in CCMP, striving to break out of poverty. Pray that each participant would see what God wants for them. Pray for boldness and perseverance to pursue it, whether it is a new business, course, ministry, community project, or renewed relationships or habits. Pray they would grow closer to God as they step out in faith.

Pray for more training

Thank God for the lives changed so far. Pray for more trainers, more churches and more participants. Ask God to multiply this work to reach every community across Sierra Leone.

Pray for churches

Pray for the churches working with their communities on improvement initiatives. Pray for favour as they invite neighbours and leaders to workshops. Pray for insight while identifying community needs. Pray for good teamwork on projects that take years, like petitions, buildings and schools.

Pray for new faith

Pray that many people would come to know Jesus as they see the churches in their community work to break cycles of both material and spiritual poverty.

Pray for yourself

Ask God to show you how you can be a change agent in the world and in your local community through your prayers, your talents and your resources.

If you'd like to give and support BMS World Mission Change Agents then head over to www.bmsworldmission.org/change-agents or scan the QR code in the corner.



Pray for Change Agents

Pray for the change agents in Sierra Leone who, having been trained in CCMP, have gone on to bring transformation to their own lives and that of their local community. Thank God for their skills and talents. Pray that they will continue to inspire others around them. Ask God to bless their work and their families.



Ruth

- Thank God for Ruth, for her skills and her determination.
- Pray for blessings over her business and her future as a CCMP facilitator.



Rev Daniel John

- Pray for Rev Daniel, that his farm and church would grow.
- Thank God for his denominational leadership and desire for change in Sierra Leone and West Africa.



Monday

- Thank God that Monday has discovered her skills as a gardener.
- Pray that Monday's family and crops thrive.



Deborah 'Debbie'

- Thank God for Debbie's creativity and talent and pray blessing on her future and family.
- Pray for opportunities for the young women she is training.

Scrabble Club



DSBC Scrabble Club is on the ***first and third*** Tuesday of the month from ***14:30 to 16:30***.

Tuesday 6th & 20th October

All are welcome.

So come along to the Cross Street Centre and give it a try.

Speak to me for further information.

Colin Owen

October 2026

FOODBANK

Can you add one extra thing to your weekly shop?

There is even more need for food bank donations in the St Albans area. All DSBC food donations are now sent to the St Albans and District Foodbank run by the Trussel Trust Charity whose depot is in Redbourn, who also collect from the Foodbank baskets placed in many of the local supermarkets and the Town Hall and the Verulamium museums.

You can now access the shopping list needs on a free app called 'Bank the food', however, it seems that the most urgent needs are:

LONG LIFE JUICE
LONG LIFE MILK
MULTI SURFACE CLEANER
LUNCH BOX SNACKS
TINNED CUSTARD
TUNNED FRUIT
TINNED MEAT

If you want to see the full list but cannot get the app speak to me.

If we just add one item to our shopping list we can bring it with us on a Sunday and I can ensure it is taken to a collection point.

Many thanks

Diane





MAGNA EST VERITAS

*With my looks I am bound to look simple or fast I
would rather look simple
So I wear a tall hat on the back of my head that is
rather a temple
And I walk rather queerly and comb my long hair
And people say, Don't bother about her.
So in my time I have picked up a good many facts,
Rather more than the people do who wear smart hats
And I do not deceive because I am rather simple too
And although I collect facts I do not always know
what they amount to.
I regard them as a contribution to almighty Truth,
magna est veritas et praevalebit,
Agreeing with that Latin writer, Great is Truth and will
prevail a bit.*

Stevie Smith





Autumn Equinox Acrostic



Use the letters in AUTUMN EQUINOX to write words or phrases that describe this special time of year.

You could write about:

-  the changing season
-  nature
-  the weather
-  day and night
-  the Earth and the Sun
-  autumn colours
-  how it makes you feel
-  anything else you can think of!



A time of balance, change and new beginnings...



Autumn Equinox

Facts for Kids



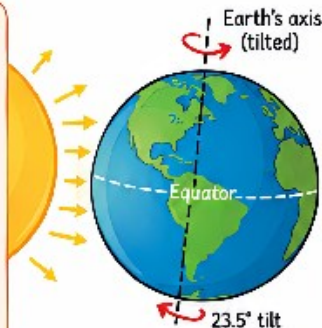
Have you noticed the days getting shorter, the leaves beginning to change colour and a chill in the air? The autumn equinox is a special moment in our journey around the Sun and marks the astronomical beginning of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere.

What is an equinox?

An equinox happens twice every year, once in March and once in September.

At an equinox, the Sun is directly above the Earth's equator, and day and night are nearly equal in length.

The September equinox usually takes place on 22nd or 23rd September.



At the equinox, the Sun is directly above the Earth's equator.

Why do we have seasons?

The Earth travels around the Sun once every year, but it doesn't sit completely upright – its axis is tilted.

As the Earth travels around the Sun, different parts of our planet tilt towards or away from the Sun. This changes how much sunlight they receive and gives us our four seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter.

What happens after the autumn equinox?

After the autumn equinox in the Northern Hemisphere, the days continue to get shorter and the nights get longer.

The Sun appears lower in the sky, temperatures begin to fall and we see more signs of autumn around us. Eventually we reach the winter solstice, when we have our shortest day and longest night of the year.



What happens in the Southern Hemisphere?

While the Northern Hemisphere is beginning autumn, the Southern Hemisphere is beginning spring.

The seasons are opposite because when the Northern Hemisphere is tilted away from the Sun, the Southern Hemisphere is tilted towards it.



Northern Hemisphere
Autumn begins



Southern Hemisphere
Spring begins

Did You Know?



The word equinox comes from Latin words meaning "equal night".



There are two equinoxes every year – one in March and one in September.



Day and night are nearly, but not exactly, 12 hours long on the equinox.



The September equinox marks the beginning of spring in the Southern Hemisphere.



The equinox happens at a precise moment, not throughout the whole day.



After the autumn equinox, the nights become longer than the days.

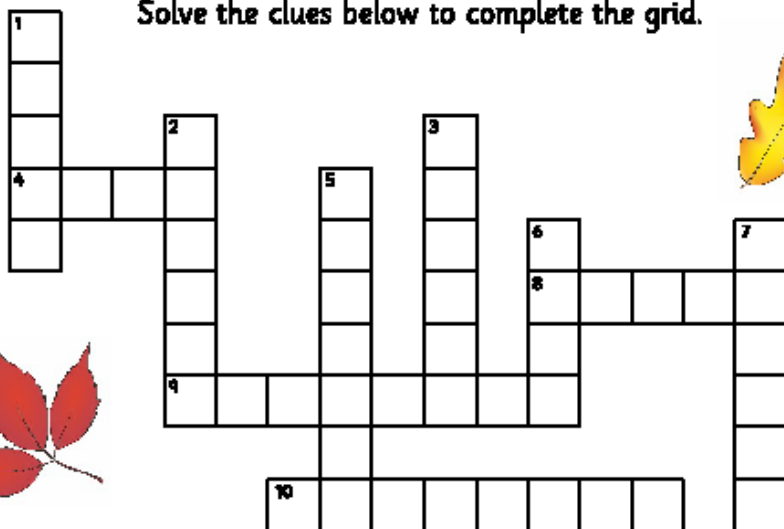
Go and Explore!

Head outside and look for signs that the seasons are changing. Can you spot changing leaves, seeds and berries, migrating birds or longer shadows? Keep an Autumn Equinox Nature Journal and record what you discover!



Autumn Crossword

Solve the clues below to complete the grid.



Across

4. Use one of these to tidy up fallen leaves.
8. Orchard fruit.
9. Furry animal with a bushy tail.
10. Spiky animal who can roll into a prickly ball.



Down

1. The seeds of oak trees.
2. They fall from the trees in autumn.
3. They fall from horse chestnut trees and are fun for games.
5. You might light one of these to burn leaves and twigs.
6. Another name for autumn.
7. One of the colours you might see autumn leaves change to.

Autumn Scramble

Can you unscramble the Autumn words below?



1. vhtsear _____
2. aveesi _____
3. cesowrrac _____
4. lowlye _____
5. binrefo _____
6. prae _____
7. aker _____
8. racon _____
9. isrqeulr _____
10. alppe _____
11. nagreo _____
12. lfal _____
13. rde _____
14. owbm _____





Church Website

Do you use the Dagnall Street church website – dsbc.org.uk? The new look website has been operational for about 9 months. Do you like it, or are there things you find missing or frustrating? In case you are not familiar with the layout, the main menu consists of: Home; About Us; New to Church; Church Life; What's On, and Resources. Depending on the device you are using, these are either shown along the top of each page, or accessed using the 3 horizontal lines in the top right.

Most information is fairly static. Things which get updated regularly are the Church Calendar, Church Notices, Latest News and Minister's Blog, all under What's On. Under Resources we have Service Recordings, Sermon Videos and Church Magazine. There are also links to these items on the home page. There is a Members Area, which has some rotas available to view. If you need the logon details to access this, or if you have any comments or suggestions about the website, please email: website.admin@dsbc.org.uk

Bill Tromans



ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



Let's remind ourselves of the items we can undertake as a church.

Food Bank

A list of items we can give to support this are listed in the church magazine.

Any items can be taken to the Town Hall (11am to 5pm, please check times)

TWAM -Tools with A Mission.

Any items of hand and machine tools to support people in overseas countries to help them be self-sufficient. Any tool items can be taken to Marshalswick Baptist Free Church, Sherwood Ave. St Albans, on any Thursday afternoon.

TWAM leaflets are in the leaflet rack in the Centre, or if you require further details contact me.

Emmaus; who recycle old furniture as well as supporting people who are homeless.

Used Postage Stamps for local charity. Please leave in the box on the link table

Due to circumstances, I will no longer be attending Car Boot sales, so any items can be taken to your local Charity shop of choice.

We can all play our part with environmental issues in protecting God's planet.

Recycling you can undertake at home:

Recycle Paper - Cardboard Tin – Glass and Plastic with the council waste collection.

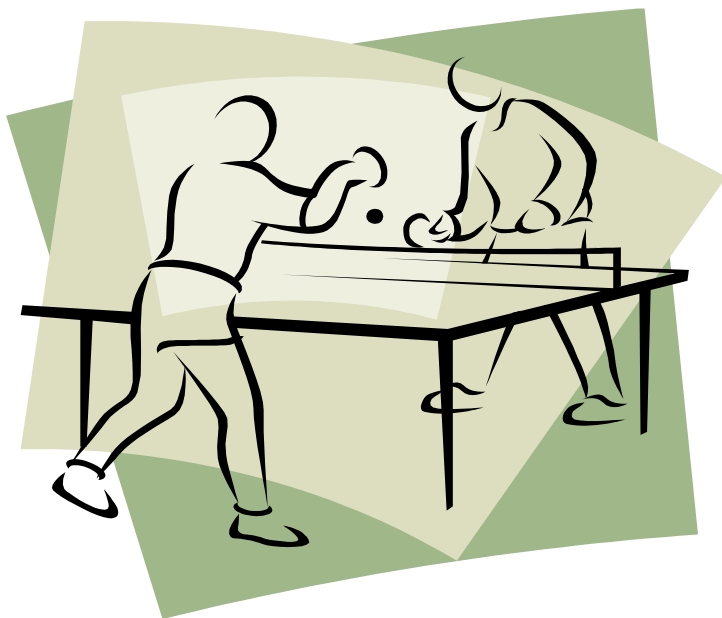
Recycle food waste and plants in a compost bin, if you can.

Many thanks in anticipation

Trevor Oakley



Table Tennis – Snooker – Pool and other Indoor Games



Every Monday at:
Dagnall Street Baptist Church, St. Albans
In the Hall from 10.30am till 12noon.

*Come along and join us for a time of
Fun and Fellowship
All Are Welcome*



PHOTOGRAPHY

You may have noticed bright yellow signs placed in areas of the church and Cross St café. These are a reminder to us all that any photos taken on our premises are for personal use only and **must not** to be shared on social media or in any form of publicity, **unless** permission has been granted by those being photographed, or in the case of children, by their parents or carers.

There are consent forms available if needed.

For further information please contact:

LINDA ROBERTS on 01727 858869 or FRANK IDDIOLS on 07939 287785 (both responsible for Safeguarding) or CHRIS PENN on 07770 334339 (Church Secretary)

Thank you.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE CHURCH

As we all know our household bills are rising and the cost of heating and lighting the church is no different to the energy costs at home. Our church relies on raising its own income. Some of this comes from hiring out our rooms, but the majority comes from congregational giving. There are various ways in which this can be done. There is a plate by the door of the church for cash and offering envelopes.

We now also have a contactless offering device which accepts card or phone payments of specific amounts and this is also by the main church doors on Sundays. These donations are completely anonymous.



We are happy to receive bank transfers and standing orders and the details are below:

Deacons of Dagnall Street Baptist Church
60-18-11
42087783

If you decide to make an offering in this way, it is helpful if you are able to email our Finance Manager, Liz Blight, lizblight@gmail.com, so that she can connect up the entry on our bank statement.

Thank you for your generosity!

The Deacons



‘Share St Albans’ is a ‘library of things’ where we lend DIY, garden, kitchen, party items or something for your home. Set up for St Albans and district to borrow not buy. Whether you want to loan a gazebo or DIY equipment we are here to share and reduce our collective environmental footprint and have a collaborative community.

By borrowing something for a small fee you can save yourself money, save on space needed for storage and help to save the planet.

Locations:

The Green House, 46 London Road, AL1 1NG
Sandridge Parish Council Car Park, The Ridgeway AL4 9TU

Please log onto the site to see opening times at these locations



BARBARA CASTLE

The Labour MP Barbara Castle was born in Chesterfield on 6 October, 1910. Castle was one of the most dogged and longest serving MP's of the 20th century. She was elected as the Labour MP for Blackburn in the historic Labour 1945 landslide, having only been included on the shortlist when women of Blackburn Labour Party threatened to resign if there were only male candidates! The world was changing and women wanted to be part of it.

Tireless, and always true to her principles, Castle serves as Minister of Transport, First Secretary of State (the first woman to hold the post), Secretary of State for Employment, and for Health and Social Security. Castle introduced many measures we take for granted today— such as speed limits on British roads, compulsory seat belts and breathalyser tests as well as measures that made a huge difference to the lives of women and girls. But trouble was brewing.

In 1969, when she was Secretary of State for Employment and Productivity, Castle tried to take on the trade unions and limit their power with her 'In Place of Strife' proposed legislation.. Britain was brought to its knees by strike after strike, but Castle faced opposition from within her own party as well as from union leaders. One of the proposals was that unions would have to ballot their members before a strike was held.

Castle stepped down at the 1979 election and was elected to the European Parliament instead. She served as an MEP from 1979 to 1989, then became a member of the House of Lords.

She remained active in politics until her death in 2002, at the age of ninety-one.

Feminist History for every day of the year
Kate Mosse

October 2026

Disclosure Day



Steven Spielberg has directed two of the most successful films that have focussed on the possibility of extra-terrestrial life – *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*. His latest dive into the mystery of whether or not we are alone in the universe is *Disclosure Day*. It is closer in tone to *Close Encounters*, but the warmth for which Spielberg is known also comes through here.

The 'disclosure' in the title is the plan to reveal to the world the truth behind what is known as the 'Roswell Incident' in which a farmer found wreckage of what is alleged to have come from an alien spaceship. Since then, there have been many conspiracy theories which suggest that the US Government has spent decades covering up their experimentation on extra-terrestrials.

The two leads are Margaret, a TV weather reporter, (Emily Blunt) and Daniel, a whistle-blower, (Josh O'Connor) who had been working for the company carrying out the experiments. Both Margaret and Daniel had been contacted by aliens when they were children.

The background to all this is that the world stands on the edge of World War III and Spielberg's message seems to be that we should listen the voice of aliens who can show us how we might better live together.

The bare bones of the plot are fairly straightforward with Margaret and Daniel being hunted by the experimenters before they could spill the beans. However, the viewer needs to focus to follow the twists and turns. The two leads – and especially Emily Blunt – are excellent and carry the film. This may not be quite up there with Spielberg's earlier similar films, but it's still pretty good!

Along the way, we hear from a convent's Mother Superior who speculates that there is almost certainly life outside our solar system and that our God has worked to redeem them too. This is an interesting discussion point, but one that is outside the scope of this review.

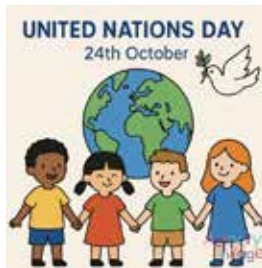
What we *can* be sure of is the importance of truth and that it was Jesus who came to disclose the truth of the Gospel, which is that God has sent his Son so that we might know him just as we are known. The message of the film could be like others in this genre that 'we are not alone', but Christian people know that, with God, we never were.

Simon





Mary Anning (1799-1847) was a famous English fossil hunter and collector. Despite her poor background and limited education, she was the first to discover and identify many important pre-historic fossils. She lived at a time when women were rarely taken seriously in science. During her lifetime she received little recognition for her work, despite helping to change our understanding of ancient creatures and evolution.



UNITED NATIONS DAY

United Nations Day, celebrated on **24th October** each year, marks the anniversary of the day the United Nations (UN) officially came into being in 1945. After the Second World War, countries around the world came together to form the UN as a way to promote peace, cooperation, and friendship between nations. Today, almost every country in the world is a member, working together to make the planet a safer, fairer, and kinder place for everyone.

“One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world.”

Malala Yousafzai



National Honey Day, celebrated on **21st October every year**, is a sweet way to celebrate the hardworking honeybee and the golden treat it produces. It's a lovely opportunity to explore nature with children, learning where honey comes from, how bees help our planet, and even tasting different varieties of honey! Perfect for class-rooms, home learning, or a fun weekend project, this day reminds us to appreciate bees and the vital role they play in pollination and biodiversity.

Interesting Honey Facts:

- A single honeybee produces only about 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.
- Honey never spoils. Archaeologists have found edible honey in ancient Egyptian tombs!
- Bees communicate through a special “waggle dance” to show each other where flowers are.
- There are more than 300 types of honey in the world, depending on the flowers bees visit.
- Bees pollinate about one-third of the food we eat, including fruits, nuts, and vegetables.
- Honey has natural antibacterial properties and has been used in medicine for thousands of years.



Autumn Scramble

Solution

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1. vhtsear | <u>h</u> <u>a</u> <u>r</u> <u>v</u> <u>e</u> <u>s</u> <u>t</u> |
| 2. aveesl | <u>l</u> <u>e</u> <u>a</u> <u>v</u> <u>e</u> <u>s</u> |
| 3. cesowrrac | <u>s</u> <u>c</u> <u>a</u> <u>r</u> <u>e</u> <u>c</u> <u>r</u> <u>o</u> <u>w</u> |
| 4. lowlye | <u>y</u> <u>e</u> <u>l</u> <u>l</u> <u>o</u> <u>w</u> |
| 5. binrefo | <u>b</u> <u>o</u> <u>n</u> <u>f</u> <u>i</u> <u>r</u> <u>e</u> |
| 6. prae | <u>p</u> <u>e</u> <u>a</u> <u>r</u> |
| 7. aker | <u>r</u> <u>a</u> <u>k</u> <u>e</u> |
| 8. racon | <u>a</u> <u>c</u> <u>o</u> <u>r</u> <u>n</u> |
| 9. isrqeulr | <u>s</u> <u>q</u> <u>u</u> <u>i</u> <u>r</u> <u>r</u> <u>e</u> <u>l</u> |
| 10. alppe | <u>a</u> <u>p</u> <u>p</u> <u>l</u> <u>e</u> |
| 11. nagreo | <u>o</u> <u>r</u> <u>a</u> <u>n</u> <u>g</u> <u>e</u> |
| 12. lfal | <u>f</u> <u>a</u> <u>l</u> <u>l</u> |
| 13. rde | <u>r</u> <u>e</u> <u>d</u> |
| 14. owbrn | <u>b</u> <u>r</u> <u>o</u> <u>w</u> <u>n</u> |



***THE NEXT DATE FOR COPY WILL BE FOR
THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE
AND WILL BE DUE ON THURSDAY,
15th OCTOBER***

And here we are in the month of making Christmas cakes and Christmas puddings! It doesn't seem possible especially as the weather is still rather nice.

I've finished cleaning my house! Back to normal cleaning!! I am now in the garden. I've cleaned and bleached the stone patio and sorted all the pots and replaced them where they came from. I am now working my way around the garden to tidy up the bed of perennials and get them weeds. I have had some huge nettles this year. Obviously like the heat. I've got bulbs to put in—in the garden and in pots. I mowed my grass this week as it has turned green and had grown quite tall—must admit it is mostly weeds, but it is green. Worry about the weeds next spring.

My Australian family are coming for Christmas. It will be a two centre stop for them—Basingstoke and Arlesey, but lovely to see them. They are coming at this time because Christmas is the long (summer) holiday for them and there will be no problem for the children missing school.

Had a bit of a catastrophe last week. My 25 year old bread maker stopped working. It has probably made two loaves a week for the last 20-25 years. Really does not owe me a penny. I am making bread by hand at the moment. My word it's a good workout for my arthritic thumbs!

Glynis
glynis.griffiths1@gmail.com
01462 733665
07517 877601

What, When and Where October 2026

The church is open for services at 10.30am each Sunday. There are activities, games and crafts for children during every service on a Sunday.

After service coffee is served in the Cross Street Centre.

All Age Family Service 11th October, 10.30am. "Wonderful Earth"

No Church in the Café scheduled for October.

Tea Chat and Prayer will not be going ahead for the present time.

Scrabble Club is held on the first and third Tuesday of each month, 6th & 20th October, 2.30-4.30pm.

Toddlers is held every Wednesday during school term time from 9.45—11.15am. There will be no meeting in half-term week, Wednesday 28th October.

Who Let the Dad's Out . Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month. The next meeting will be on Saturday, 10th October, 10-11.15am.

Monday table tennis/games club 10.30am to 12noon.

The fourth Tuesday of each month the Prayer and Share Group meet in the Cross Street Centre at 7.30pm.

First Saturday of the month Prayer Hour at 10am in Cross Street.

The Cross Street Café opens weekly from Wednesday to Saturday, 10am to 2pm. .

Newsletter by email, weekly.

You can view this magazine in colour on our website.

<https://www.dsbc.org.uk/>
Carnegie Museum of Art