

Contact

OCTOBER 2024



Dear Friends,

I am sure you are all familiar with lighthouses and have probably even visited one at some point or other. I used to work with a chap who holidayed in one each year!

But solitary towers at the edge of a harbour are not a recent invention. The Egyptians were known for the Pharos of Alexandria, one of the tallest structures in the ancient world. On the top of the tower was a bonfire that helped ships navigate the port at Alexandria. It is believed that this lighthouse became the prototype for all other lighthouses after it.

The lighthouse is a universal symbol of safety and guidance that has helped mariners find their way home since ancient times. It is typically a tower or building designed to emit light to serve as a navigational aid for ships and vessels at sea or on inland waterways. Lighthouses mark dangerous coastlines, hazardous shoals, reefs, rocks, and help to show safe entries to harbours by safely guiding ships. Although they are gradually outliving their usefulness, they are still epic monuments to human ingenuity and their own resilience.

A lighthouse is often thought to be an excellent metaphor for Christian life as its primary purpose is to shine the light that is already within it. Not only does a lighthouse have a purpose, but as symbols of Christianity, lighthouses have a special meaning. They represent the guiding light of the Holy Spirit and they are beacons of hope, humanity, and safety. They guide us and show us where we need to go, just like God does. Jesus said, *'I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'* - (John 8:12).

At the same time, while it is true that Jesus is the 'light of the world,' Jesus also referred to his disciples using that same term. *'You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house'* - (Matthew 5:14).

Whilst the word 'lighthouse' itself doesn't appear anywhere in the Bible, this particular passage reflects a similar concept to a lighthouse and explains how Christians and the church are called to be a light for all to see. In life, there are often times in which the darkness of the world begins to flood around us. Storms and trials may head towards us and we know that the situation is rough, and navigating this water will not be easy.

But as Christians we are filled with the light of Jesus and we are given the task of bringing that light into the world and shining it into the darkness.

The lighthouse is a beautiful structure, one that has always given comfort to Christians trying to navigate the sea of life and in today's changing world, its symbolism means more than ever before. God is our lighthouse, our guiding light. He is steadfastly present, in good times and bad. If we think of him daily, he can shine his light and let us know where we should go.

With all good wishes - Liz

CHRISTMAS FAIR 2024 SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER 11AM TO 2PM

We are now starting to collect the following items for the Christmas Fair: -

Teddies for the teddy tombola, raffle and tombola prizes, candles, toiletries, chocolate for the chocolate tombola, wines and spirits, items for the hampers and any festive items for the Christmas stall.

Any donations can be left in the boxes in the Fellowship Room or given to Gill or Cath.

Thank you for your continued support.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

On Saturday 2nd November, we are hosting a Family Fun Night on behalf of Oldham Community Wardrobe Oldham with games, live music, dancing and entertainment for all the family.

Adults £4.00 and Children £1.00 including supper.
Tickets are available from Sue.

All proceeds are in aid of Our Community Wardrobe Oldham.

DIARY – October 2024

Sunday 6th October	10.30am	Harvest Service led by Mary Jones Lunch
Monday 7th October	7pm	Deacons Meeting
Wednesday 9th October	12 noon	Scoffs
Sunday 13th October	10.45am	Family service at Greenacres led by Peter Butler
Friday 18th October	7pm – 9pm	Junior Disco
Sunday 20th October	10.30am	Family service led by John Pollitt Cake Sale
Friday 25th October	7pm	Jumble Sale
Sunday 27th October	10.30am	Family service
Saturday 2nd November	7pm	Family Fun Night in aid of Our Community Wardrobe Oldham
Sunday 3rd November	10.30am	Café Church

Regular Activities

Sunday

Toddler Sundays 10am – 11.30am

Monday

Exercise Group 2pm

Wednesday

Scoffs 12 noon (2nd Wednesday)

Thursday

Rainbows Toddler Group 9.30am

Friday

Badminton 6pm

Offertories

1st September - £54.22

8th September - £68.24

15th September - £51.50

22nd September - £72.90

Standing orders - £830.00

Total £1,076.86

Other Income

Lunch - £46.20

Afternoon Tea - £55.90

Royton Trust - £653.39

Donation in memory of Derek

Lewis - £500.00



Flower Rota

October 2024

6th October - Liz

13th October - Kay

20th October - Justine

27th October - Judith

HARVEST APPEAL 2024

Just a reminder that during our Harvest Service on Sunday 6th October we will once again be supporting Our Community Wardrobe Oldham by collecting donations of new toys suitable for 3 to 4 year-old children.

Your support for this worthwhile cause would be very much appreciated.

Following the service, lunch will be available for a small donation. All welcome to stay and join us!

CHRISTMAS CAKES

Christmas cakes are now available to order costing between £7 - £20 depending on weight. If you would like to order a cake, please contact Ingrid on 0161 626 0854 as soon as possible. Cakes are available with or without icing. Please state your preference when ordering. Many thanks.

LUNCH

The next themed lunch is after the Harvest service on *Sunday 6th October*. All welcome to stay and join us

SUNDAY 13TH OCTOBER

Please note that there will be **NO** service at Springhead on Sunday 13th October.

Worship will take place at Greenacres at **10.45am** where the service will be led by Peter Butler.

Everyone is welcome to join us – please let us know if you need a lift as soon as possible.

JUNIOR DISCO

Friday 18th October 7pm – 9pm

All additional volunteers would be much appreciated.

CAKE SALE

The next cake sale is following the service on *Sunday 20th October*. Any donations of cake would be gratefully received

JUMBLE SALE

FRIDAY 25TH OCTOBER

Any jumble can now be brought up to church and left on the stage. Help is needed on the day to set up at 10am and clear up at 8pm.

If you can distribute any flyers, please see Joan.

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