

Contact

MAY 2026



Dear Friends,

This month, with kind permission from Joan Thompson, I am reproducing an extract from a book of short stories entitled 'Your arms remind me of pork luncheon meat' written many years ago by Joan.

The book is an extremely amusing collection of stories outlining the many adventures of the Thompson family over the years and a highly recommended read!

Church Outing.

We attend our local Congregational church, the members of which are our extended family.

One particular Sunday we were to go on a trip about 30 miles away for shopping, a picnic tea and an evening service at another church.

We cheerfully alighted the coach at church and stopped off to shop at a pretty little village. We then proceeded to have our picnic in the newly decorated vicar's house. The old vicar had left and the new one hadn't yet arrived, so whilst the building was empty, it was considered to be a good idea to newly wallpaper the house and paint it with white emulsion paint.

It was lovely when we arrived. Our minister had decided that she would be organised for once. A dangerous decision those that knew her felt. She'd seen how the organised people had brought other things in their packed lunches apart from sandwiches and had proceeded to pack a tin of salmon, a tin of fruit and some cream - but unfortunately not a tin opener!

She and her husband then had to scrounge their dinner from everyone else. I surpassed myself by producing Pot Noodles and I was an instant heroine until one of my children dropped his. I can honestly say, with hand on my heart, that I have never seen a Pot Noodle go so far. It splashed up the newly decorated white wall. Everyone gasped and there was a pregnant pause. Everyone laughed at the sight of the brown red splash marks that had managed to cover about 40% of the wall. "What are we to do?" I asked hubby, looking at him for his usual flash of inspiration. He replied, "You might as well go and get a can of red aerosol paint and spray 'we rule OK'. Silly man!

Later on we entered the quaint, old fashioned church for the evening service. You know the kind I mean. It had wooden enclosed family pews. Me, my hubby and five children managed to fit in one. By now the younger ones

were tired and fed up and the last thing they wanted to do was attend an evening church service, especially when they had already been to church earlier in the day. We settled them down and the service began. The minister stood before the congregation. "Before we start the service I would like you all to bow your heads in prayer to think about a treasured church member who has died today. A lifelong member and a tireless worker of this community, our friend Gerty Shaw." No! No!

Our toddler, who liked Basil Brush then piped up, "Dirty Gerty from number thirty". It was his new party trick and he thought that this was an appropriate place to say it. We were biting our hands and stuffing things in mouths - anything to wipe out the mounting hysteria and laughter. I am sure Gerty Shaw would not have minded.

Happy days...

CHRISTIAN AID 2026

During the month of May, we will be donating the proceeds from our themed lunch and cake sale to Christian Aid, so please give generously.

Christian Aid Week is our shared moment to come together – across churches, communities and households – to stand alongside people living in poverty. For one focused week, thousands of people across Britain and Ireland give, fundraise, pray and act together.

NEW TO YOU - THURSDAY 7TH MAY 10AM - 7PM

SUNDAY 3RD MAY

Help is needed before the service to put tables up and also after the service to begin sorting

MONDAY 4TH MAY

Sorting will continue at 10am

THURSDAY 7TH MAY

Volunteers are needed between 10am - 7pm to man the stalls and the café

FRIDAY 8TH MAY

Volunteers are needed at 7pm and further help is required at 8pm to take tables down

Thank you for your continued support - it is very much appreciated

DIARY – May 2026

Sunday 3rd May	10.30am	Family service led by Vicky Bunn Lunch Begin sorting New to You
Monday 4th May	10am	Continue sorting New to You
Thursday 7th May	10am – 7pm	New to You
Friday 8th May	7pm	Jumble Sale
Sunday 10th May	10.30am	Family service led by Stuart Paulley Cake Sale
Wednesday 13th May	12 noon	Scoffs
Friday 15th May	7pm – 9pm	Junior Disco
Sunday 17th May	10.45am	Family service at Greenacres led by Liz Dean
Sunday 24th May	10.30am	Whit Sunday service led by David Lewis
	12 noon	United service at St Thomas' Leesfield
Sunday 31st May	10.30am	Family service led by Ali O'Brien
Monday 1st June	7pm	Deacons

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

29th March - £114.98

5th April - £56.70

12th April - £62.54

19th April - £78.90

26th April - £51.70

Standing orders - £903.00

Total £1,267.82

Other Income

Tea/Coffee - £11.65

Palm Sunday Lunch - £115.00

Raffle - £70.00

Cake Sale - £35.00

Toddlers Donation - £100.00

Scouthead & Austerlands

Community Donation - £160.00

SUNDAY 17TH MAY

Unfortunately we have been unable to secure a preacher for Sunday 17th May, so we have been invited to attend worship at Greenacres, where Liz Dean will lead the service at 10.45am.

Everyone is very welcome.

WHIT SUNDAY 24TH MAY

We will hold our own service in church at 10.30am led by David Lewis before making our own way down to Lees for the Churches Together United Service at St Thomas' Leesfield at 12 noon.

Everyone is welcome to join us - please let us know if you need a lift.

SONGS OF PRAISE SERVICE

If you would like to request a favourite hymn for a future songs of praise service please let either Liz or Justine know as soon as possible.

Flower Rota

MAY 2026

3rd May - Gill

10th May – John

17th May - Gill

31st May - Karen

THEMED LUNCHES

The next themed lunch is following the service on Sunday 3rd May when potato hash will be available for a small donation.

Everyone is welcome to stay and join us for lunch and then help to sort out the new to you!

CAKE SALE

The next cake sale is following the service on *Sunday 10th May*. Any donations of cake would be gratefully received.

JUNIOR DISCO

Friday 15th May

7pm – 9pm

Any additional volunteers would be very welcome.

BOTTLES

Just a reminder that we are still collecting bottles to hold another stall at the Scouthead and Austerlands motor show on Dawson's Field in July. All proceeds are for church funds so any donations would be appreciated.

Springhead Congregational Church Radcliffe Street Springhead Oldham OL4 4QP

www.springheadcongregationalchurch.com

springheadcongregational@yahoo.co.uk

Secretary Liz Hill 07932 750436 lizhill4@sky.com

Treasurer Justine Lewis 07956 916505 justinelewis1@gmail.com