

Contact

SEPTEMBER 2026



Dear Friends,

I hope you've all had an enjoyable summer and managed to enjoy the lovely British weather!

Activities and social events at church have been fairly quiet over the summer months whilst everyone has had a much needed rest. However, planning continues behind the scenes and we can look forward to activities returning this month.

When I was younger my mum was rather fond of the phrase, 'when one door closes, another one opens'. She always produced the phrase when the occasion called for it, reassuring me that if God said 'no' to one opportunity, I could be sure that he had another one for me in the queue!

You may also be familiar with the phrase 'when God closes a door, he opens a window'. Versions of the phrase exist in different places and times. It is most popularly attributed to the musical, *The Sound of Music*. The phrase is spoken by Maria when she hears of the Captain's broken engagement. "Reverend Mother says when the Lord closes one door, somewhere he opens a window," she says.

Of course, this phrase did not originate with the musical. Both Helen Keller and Alexander Graham Bell are also credited with very similar statements about life's doors closing and opening - however, neither included a direct reference to God.

Regardless, it's the version popularised by *The Sound of Music* that has become a prominent Christian cliché, and a powerful reminder of God's faithfulness and provision even in the midst of difficult circumstances.

Have you ever experienced a time when it felt like God had closed a door in your life, only to later realise that he had opened a window instead?

Life is full of uncertainties, and sometimes, we find ourselves at a crossroads, unsure of how to proceed. In these moments, the phrase 'When God closes a door, he opens a window' resonates with many and reassures us that although we may face rejections or failures, God always provides us with new opportunities.

The assurance that when one door closes, another opens

can be a source of comfort and inspiration for those facing difficult times and challenges. Whilst this phrase is not directly found in scripture, the sentiment behind it reflects themes of faith, trust, guidance and provision in times of trouble that can be found in various passages throughout the Bible.

One of the most well-known verses that conveys a similar message is found in Isaiah 43:18-19: "*Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*"

This passage reminds believers that God is constantly at work in their lives, bringing about new opportunities and blessings even in the midst of challenging circumstances.

Another relevant verse can be found in Romans 8:28: "*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*" This assurance from the apostle Paul serves as a reminder that even when doors seem to be closing in our lives, God is ultimately working for our benefit.

Additionally, Proverbs 16:9 tells us that "*In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.*" This verse emphasises that whilst we may face closed doors and unexpected obstacles, ultimately it is God who directs our paths and opens up new opportunities for us.

When God closes a door, it typically signifies that he is preventing us from going down a certain path or pursuing a particular opportunity. This closure is part of God's plan and may be for our protection, to redirect our focus, or to teach us a valuable lesson. And sometimes we just need to keep on knocking on God's door. Sometimes the door is open a little and God just wants us to continue in prayer and reflection. When the time is right he will fully open the door.

The phrase 'When God closes a door, he opens a window' is a powerful reminder of faith, hope and reassurance, together with the belief that God is always present, guiding us through life's challenges and providing us with strength, hope and a way forward, even when things may seem bleak.

With all good wishes - Liz

DIARY – September 2026

Sunday 6th September	10.30am	Songs of Praise service featuring live music from Serpents Lunch
Monday 7th September	7pm	Deacons
Wednesday 9th September	12 noon	Scoffs
Saturday 12th September	10am – 4pm	Prayer Group Away Day at Mossley Methodist Church
Sunday 13th September	10.30am	Family service led by David Lewis Cake Sale
Saturday 19th September	2pm – 4pm	Open Day at Greenacres
Sunday 20th September	10.30am	Family service led by Liz Dean Communion Ploughman's Lunch
Saturday 26th September	6.30pm	Quiz Night
Sunday 27th September	10.45am	Harvest service at Greenacres led by Alan Kennedy

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

July - £238.95

August - £272.87

Standing orders - £1,794

Total £2,305.82

Other Income

Bottle Stall - £181.00

Saddleworth Village Books - £35

Hall Hire - £400.00

Flower Rota

SEPTEMBER 2026

6th September - Cath

13th September – Sharon S

20th September - Val

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Harvest at Springhead 2026

Sunday 4th October

This year we will once again be supporting Oldham Foodbank by collecting urgently needed items to support people in the local community. A list of specific items required will be available shortly and your support would be very much appreciated.

Jumble Sale

Friday 16th October

Any jumble can now be brought up to church and left on the stage.

Christmas Fair 2026

Saturday 5th December 2026

We are now starting to collect items for the fair including:

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

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

As you are aware, the Christmas Fair is our biggest fundraiser of the year, but its success depends on your support, contributions and donations, in whatever capacity.

Gill and Cath will shortly be speaking to members of the congregation and all help will be much appreciated.

SONGS OF PRAISE

Sunday 6th September at the usual time of 10.30am featuring live music from Serpents.

The service will be followed by lunch when meat and potato or cheese and onions pies will be available for a small donation.

SCOFFS

The lunch club will be back this month after the summer break. The next meeting is at 12 noon on Wednesday 9th September.

All welcome to join us!

CAKE SALE

The next cake sale is following the service on Sunday 13th September.

Any donations of cake would be gratefully received.

PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH

On Sunday 20th September we will be having a Ploughman's Lunch after the service.

Everyone is very welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

QUIZ NIGHT

Join us for a Quiz Night on Saturday 26th September 2026.

Entry fee £5 per person including supper, maximum of 6 per team. Please let Justine know if you can make it for catering purposes on 07956 916505

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