

Greetings

to each other, all our
neighbours - and everybody
whose eye this leaflet meets!

August 2026

Dear Friends

Summer is here and as I write this at the end of July we are already being told that this is one of the hottest and driest summers ever!

The summer is always a quieter time at church with some of the usual activities not being held because people are on holiday but come September and hopefully everything will be in full swing.

What will there be to look forward to in the coming months? I suppose to answer that is a bit like looking into a "Crystal Ball," Although when we talk about crystal balls I get this image in my mind of a gypsy-type person, dressed in colourful garb, with a turban on her head, doing some abracadabra kind of chant while gazing into a crystal ball.

When we think of a crystal ball, many people often think that staring into it really can reveal the future. In fact, people do many things in order to try to figure out just what tomorrow might hold.

It seems a lot of people like reading their horoscope. I have to admit that I occasionally glance at mine in the paper, but once I've looked at it, I realise what is written could be said about anyone of us, at sometime or another, especially when it comes to some of the gimmicks that claim to be able to predict what lies ahead.

In Matthew's gospel Jesus addresses the worries that so many people of his day had about what the future might hold. He spoke to the people who worried about what they would have to eat and drink. To this worry, Jesus says: "Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow."

The answer to dealing with our concerns about the future, according to Jesus, is quite simple: Trust God. His *plan* is perfect. His *timing* is perfect.

Jesus said this because he understood something that many of us don't, and that's that worry is a useless activity. Most of the time, the things we worry about never come into being, and things we could never have predicted or dreamed of rarely occur. .

Almost always, the things we worry about are never quite as traumatic and serious as we imagine them to be. So often the future seems to scare us but we must refuse to dwell on the past and focus positively on the future.

Walt Disney was fired from a job because he was told that he lacked imagination. If he had focused on what he was told, there would be no Disney Corporation or theme parks today.

JK Rowling's first Harry Potter book was rejected by 12 publishers and then the 13th said yes. The publisher decided to take a chance and the rest is history.

Steve Jobs and Apple started small and now Apple iPhones ipads and computers are everywhere and they have grown and expanded.

Thomas Edison invented the light bulb and said 'I never once failed at making a light bulb. I just found out 99 ways not to make one'

So yes, we must focus on the future—not just our own future but also the future of the church. Let's not focus solely on the past but let's focus on the future and let's be—like those people above—positive.

Let us enjoy the summer and when life gets back into full swing let's trust God and move forward with Him.
Every Blessing

Liz



We offer a very warm welcome to everyone!

What's on in August

Sunday	2nd August	10.45am	Family Worship and Holy Communion led by Rev Liz Dean Including infant baptism
Friday	7th August	10am-11am 2pm-4pm	Zumba / Pilates Table Tennis Social Group
Sunday	9th August	10.30am	Family Worship led by Rev Alan Kennedy
Weds	12th August	7pm	All For Jesus Course
Friday	14th August	10am-11am 2pm-4pm	Zumba / Pilates Table Tennis Social Group
Sunday	16th August	10.45am	Family Worship led by Peter Butler followed by quarterly church meeting
Friday	21st August	10am-11am 2pm-4pm	Zumba / Pilates Table Tennis Social Group
Sunday	23rd August	10.45am	Family Worship led by Rev David Ireland
Weds	26th August	7pm	All For Jesus Course
Friday	28th August	10am-11am 2pm-4pm	Zumba / Pilates Table Tennis Social Group
Sunday	30th August	10.45am	Family Worship led by Rev Barbara Bridges



Church Flowers

2nd August	Muriel Booth
9th August	Rowena Bairstow
16th August	Margaret Fowler
23rd August	Hazel Heywood
30th August	Roger & Andrea Hindle

Flower Steward

Joy Dean

THE CHURCH MEETING

On Sunday the 16th of August we will be holding our quarterly church meeting. Just as our worship services are important parts of the life of our church so too are our church meetings.

The Church Meeting is seen as an expression of worship in action. This is the Meeting at which the decisions affecting the life of our Church are made.

For example, the Church Meeting elects Deacons and Officers; accepts applications for membership; arranges events in the life of the Church; provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and suggestions; calls people to serve the church. There is no hierarchy in the church meeting—all members have an equal say.

The deacons discuss the day to day running of the church but it is the church members who make decisions on the life of the church.

If you are a member please come along and if you're not a member you're welcome to attend and participate but only members are able to vote,

Coming Up - A date for your diary

On Saturday 19th of September 2026 there will be an 'Open Day' at Greenacres Community Centre and alongside of this we will invite people to come and take a look around church and learn a little of our history and our church today. Please listen out for more details

It will be great if a number of people are willing to come along and welcome people into the church.

GREENACRES CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Galland Street, Oldham

Enquiries please contact Joy Dean on 0161 785 0638 or 07971560289

Or on www.greenacrescongregationalchurch.co.uk

Or Facebook Greenacres Congregational Church

If you have any items you wish to include in the next issue of Greetings please let Liz Dean have them
lizdean503@gmail.com or 0161 620 2141 or in person at church