

Greetings

May 2026

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

Dear Friends

How many people enjoy watching sports on TV? Certainly there will be a lot of opportunities this year to watch many different sports. We have already had the winter Olympics and the Paralympics and the World indoor Athletics championships were held back in March and very recently it was the London Marathon..

Still to come is the Football World Cup in America, the Commonwealth Games which are being held in Scotland, the European Athletics Championships in Birmingham and of course there will be Wimbledon, Golf, Rugby, Snooker, Formula One and of course Cricket to mention a few. (Apologies if I've forgotten your favourite sport).

Lots to watch and I wonder what sports (if any) you will be watching on TV this summer. I wonder if we have any keen golfers in our midst and if we have do they realise Golf is Flog spelled backward. The dictionary definition of Flog, in case you were wondering, is "To beat or strike hard and repeatedly with a cane!"

I enjoy watching football on TV but what always amuses me about footballers is the way they celebrate after they have scored a goal. Some players do a special dance. Others may jump up in the air giving "high fives" to their team mates. Most hug one another! Many goal scorers run around with their finger up in the air so that everyone will know that they are number one! Their team may be behind by 3 goals to 1 but in that moment they are number one!

Do you know what I think? I think that is one of the problems in our world today. So many people think, or would like to think, they are number one and the most important thing in life is their own happiness.

It reminds me of the time when Jesus was asked which of the commandments was the greatest. He said that the most important thing was to love God with all your heart.

He didn't tell us to love ourselves I'm sure he knew that we would do that without being told, because he then added that the next most important thing was to love our neighbour as we love ourselves.

Perhaps we can take note of some illustrations about sports when we think about that. For example there are lots of team sports where members have to work together, and in relay races one player often completes part of a race and when they reach one of their teammates, they then very quickly hand over the baton so that their teammate can run and complete the next part of the race. Seeing life as part of a team is a great example to follow.

But, of course life is often compared to a marathon, not a sprint. I am sure we all want to finish the race well but life can at times seem like a hard slog to the point of becoming tiring, difficult, and sometimes even painful. In a marathon, you have to pace yourself and get past that wall you hit after a certain number of miles.

I am aware that there are often people in our church who hit a difficult point in life. To them I'd say it's not only footballers who hug one another, the church family is there to give you a hug—we are also a team—there for each other and there to help when the going gets tough.

With love and best wishes

Liz



We offer a very warm welcome to everyone!

What's on in May

Sunday 3rd May	10.45am	Family Worship and Holy Communion led by Elisabeth Sweeney-Smith
Tuesday 5th May	7.30pm	Deacons meeting
Friday 8th May	10am-11am	Zumba / Pilates
	2pm-4pm	Table Tennis Social Group
Saturday 9th May	10.30am	Congregational Federation National Assembly in Sheffield.
Sunday 10th May	10.45am	Church Anniversary Service led by Rev Foday Kamara followed by a Faith Lunch
Wednesday 13th May	7.30pm	'All for Jesus' Course—introductory session
Friday 15th May	10am-11am	Zumba / Pilates
	2pm-4pm	Table Tennis Social Group
Saturday 16th May	10.30am	NW Area Congregational Federation Spring Assembly at Inglewhite Congregational Church
Sunday 17th May	10.45am	Family Worship—"Songs of Praise" led by Rev Liz Dean and joined by Springhead Congregational Church
Friday 22nd May	10am-11am	Zumba / Pilates
	2pm	Book Club. This month's book. "The Ladies Midnight Swimming Club by Faith Hogan. Everyone welcome
	2pm-4pm	Table Tennis Social Group
Sunday 24th May	10.45am	Pentecost—Family Worship led by Rev Liz Dean Followed by Quarterly Church Meeting
Friday 29th May	10am-11am	Zumba / Pilates
	2pm-4pm	Table Tennis Social Group
Sunday 31st May	10.45am	Family Worship led by Rev Frank Wroe

Flowers For Church

May 3rd	Shirley Vickers
May 10th	Margaret Fowler
May 17th	Carol Bayliss
May 24th	Peter and Mary Butler
May 31st	Rodney Smith
Flower Steward	Gillian Knowles

Church Anniversary Faith Lunch

Following our Church Anniversary on the 13th of May we hope you will stay and share in a 'Faith Lunch'. If you are able to stay please add your name to the list on the notice board and indicate what you would like to bring for the lunch.

A Faith Lunch is when people bring enough for themselves and share it with everyone else!

Church Membership.

It was a pleasure to welcome Gillian Knowles into church membership on Easter Sunday. If anyone is interested in becoming a church member please speak to one of the deacons.

Date for your diary.....

Saturday 13th June **A Murder Mystery Evening** "The Great British Baking Shock"
Tickets £8 including supper. In aid of Cystic Fibrosis.

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