

St Alban's Monthly News

The **FREE** monthly magazine of St Alban's Parish, Macclesfield
Online at www.stalbanmacc.org.uk

Issue No. 217



April 2022

We are a loving Catholic community in Macclesfield, assisted by prayer and the sacraments, living God's Word, proclaiming it to others, and serving those in need.

The power of the Passion and the hope of the Resurrection



Throughout Lent 2022, news headlines could not have illustrated more keenly the suffering and pain of the Lord's Passion in the most modern of human terms. Those daily frightening images of death and destruction and heart-breaking stories coming out of Ukraine heaped further misery on top of a world still reeling with the impact and grief brought about by the Covid Pandemic.

Closer to home, many will be suffering as the country faces the biggest drop in living standards since the 1950s. It can all become so overwhelming.

As the conclusion of Lent leads us into Holy Week and the celebration of the Resurrection we must redouble our efforts to be beacons of our faith and all that it stands for.

St Paul was inspired to write his first letter to the faithful of Corinth because there was much turmoil and pain amongst the Christian community so recently established. He begins his letter with a reminder that all are to be regarded "as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries" (4:1).

Then, in one of the most significant of all Pauline texts (chapter 13), the apostle explains to his fellow Christians that no gift of God—whether it be the gift of tongues, faith that moves mountains, or knowledge of mysteries—has meaning unless it is accompanied by love.

"As it is, these remain: faith, hope and love, the three of them; and the greatest of them is love."

1 Corinthians, 13:13

Our faith gives us hope which is a scarce resource in too many parts of the world today. Pray hard and with love for those who do not have security and shelter, who do not have access to a fair share of the world's resources, and for those who live without faith, hope and love, for their need is great.

If we continue beyond this Lent to use only what we need, give alms and pray, we will be actively living our faith with love, helping those in need and bringing hope for better times ahead.

Paul concludes his letter by affirming that Jesus' Resurrection is the foundation of the Christian faith.



First Saturday Devotion Saturday 2 Apr & 7 May 2022

No need to book - just join in Holy Rosary 10:30am, Consecration Prayer and Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, followed by Adoration of the blessed Sacrament and Confessions at 11am with Holy Mass at 12 noon.



HEALING
SERVICE

SUNDAY 1st May 2022

Our monthly healing service is the first Sunday of the month after the 6:30pm Mass

THE NEED IS NOW GREATER THAN EVER

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)

Our core work has been severely curtailed by the pandemic restrictions, whilst the need in our community has become even greater. Help us to help those in need. Donate. Volunteer. Pray.

**DO YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW,
NEED OUR HELP?**

Then contact Margaret on 07881 895540

Cheshire East Carers' Hub

Chat line Tel: 0330 022 5448 is open 24hrs 7 days a week 365 days a year

Cheshire East Young Carers Hub

This project supports young carers between 5 to 18yrs Tel: **0300 303 0208** Monday - Friday 8.00am - 6.00pm Saturday 9.00am - 12.30pm

Email: enquiries @cheshireeastcarershub.co.uk
www.cheshireeastcarershub.co.uk

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for April



Health Care Workers

We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

THE BOOK FOR April

Located in the Parish Library:
Spirituality 299



SERENITY

BY

W. Phillip

Keller

We all need the

presence of God in our

everyday life. From his own experience, the author of this book shows how we can obtain a peace beyond all human understanding. Making use of all that God provides, His Word, Son, Spirit and church, we will have a lasting serenity that nothing can take away. We will experience the joy of intimacy with God, in Christ.

If you would like to borrow a copy of this title please get in touch with Silvia:
silviagiampietro@hotmail.com

Keep up with St Alban's Parish life

Parish Website - www.stalbanmacc.org.uk

Parish Live Stream - www.stalbanmacc.org.uk/index_files/stalbanslivestream.html

Parish Facebook Page - www.facebook.com/stalbanmacc

Parish Twitter Page - www.twitter.com/stalbanpaul

Parish Council - for maintenance or other issues contact parishcouncil@stalbanmacc.org.uk

Monthly News Editor: Karyn Johnston

E: karynmjohnston@gmail.com T: 01625 501172
Contributions welcome from all groups and individuals in the Parish

Copy deadline: Last Monday of the month for inclusion in the following month's edition

Website: Editions of the Monthly News are available at www.stalbanmacc.org.uk



HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2022

**All services are in-person
and live-streamed**

Masks to be worn to allow more parishioners to attend safely in person. Hand sanitising on entry.

Passion (Palm) Sunday - 10 April 2022

Masses: 9:30am and 11am
6:30pm led by the Confirmation Group

Way of the Cross: 4pm

Action: Decorate your front door with greenery

Sacrament of Reconciliation Monday 11 April 2022

Mass: 9:30am
Penitential Mass: 7:30pm St Alban's, Macclesfield

Sacrament of Reconciliation Tuesday 12 April 2022

Mass: 9:30am
Penitential Mass: 7:30pm St Paul's, Poynton

Wednesday 13 April 2022

Chrism Mass: TBA

The Triduum

Holy Thursday - 14 April 2022

Mass of the Last Supper: 7:30pm followed by watching until midnight

Holy Hour: 11pm led by Deacon Gyorgy

Good Friday - 15 April 2022

Children's Way of the Cross: 11am

Passion and Veneration of the Cross Mass: 3pm

Way of the Cross, led by Confirmation Group 7:30pm, St Gregory's, Bollington

Holy Saturday 16 April 2022

Polish Food Blessing: 10am

Easter Vigil Mass: 8pm

Easter Sunday - 17 April 2022

Masses: 9.30am & 11am

Easter Monday 18 April 2022

Mass 9:30am followed by the Parish Ramble

Let's get the town talking about Holy Week!

From Palm Sunday to Easter festoon your front door with greenery. Every query will be an opportunity to talk about our Lord's Passion and Resurrection, and seeing how many houses of faith that are in our community will bring joy as we walk around the town.

Post your picture on our Parish Facebook page www.facebook.com/stalbanmacc or tweet about it using the hashtag #holyweek and mentioning @stalbanpaul



St Alban's 500 Club

Just £24 a year!

JOIN
TODAY



Prizes £250, £100, £50, £25

Four or more draws a year!

Help raise funds for our church projects

Standing order forms available on the parish website and at the back of church. For further details email stalbans500club@gmail.com

Parish Meeting

Everyone Welcome

Saturday 14 May 2022
after 6:30pm Mass

In the Parish Centre

**In person for the first
time in TWO years!**

Share table



St. Alban's Mini Vinnies, a small group from Year 5, in St. Alban's Primary School, organised a cake sale and other activities to help raise funds for Ukraine, turning concern into action!

Well done you raised the great sum of **£300.**

Many thanks to all who donated cakes and teddies, especially the unicorn.



Thank you to all who supported, by coming along, to buy the lovely goodies!

Come join the fun!

St Alban's Baby and Toddler Group Re-starts Tuesday 19th April 2022

Look forward to seeing you there!
Just £1 a family group, refreshments included.
All babies, toddlers and carers welcome!



All children are very welcome – come and join us!

Come along and join us at **St Alban's Little Church and Junior Church!**

The special children's Liturgy takes place during 9.30am Mass on Sunday mornings

Little Church is for ages 3-7 and Junior church is for ages 7-11 years

Look out for special events too!



St Alban's Little & Junior Church
*** Special Events! ***

- Palm Sunday 9.30am Children's re-enactment and service in the Parish Centre



- Good Friday 11 am Children's Stations of the Cross – volunteer readers needed!

LiveSimply Lent Calendar - April

April	5 Sustainably
Tues 5th	Take responsibility for your neighbourhood and pick up litter on your own or get family, neighbours or friends to help.
April	6 Sustainably
Weds 6th	Look at the labels on your clothes. Where were they made? Why were they made there? Who made them and did they get a fair wage?
April	7 Livesimply
Thurs 7th	Tell someone about your Lent activities, share them on the Parish Facebook, Twitter, website, Monthly Newsletter or even contact the local press!
April	8 Solidarity
Fri 8th	Work out how much cash you save by eating less meat and give that money to a charity. Many charities have suffered devastating reductions in their income during Covid-19.
April	9 Solidarity
Sat 9th	Make some biscuits or cakes with Fairtrade products and share them with a neighbour, friend or colleague. Also don't forget the Repair Cafe 10-2.00pm at the Senior Citizens Hall.

April	10 Palm Sunday
Sun 10th	Celebrate your faith Journey, those who have journeyed with you and spend time with the Lord.
April	11 Solidarity
Mon 11h	As we uphold the human right to food, clean drinking water and safe sanitation for all. Pray today for the people in the world who don't have access to these.
April	12 Solidarity
Tues 12th	Send an Easter card or message to thank someone who has helped you this Lent.
April	13 Livesimply
Weds 13th	Have a quiet and reflective day; give up some TV, phone or computer time.
April	14 Maundy Thursday
Thurs 14th	Jesus washed his friends' feet. How can you serve others today?
April	15 Good Friday
Fri 15th	As you pray before the cross, bring with you the poor of the world and the brokenness of our planet.
April	16 Holy Saturday
Sat 16th	As we watch and wait for Easter review your <i>Livesimply</i> reflections and actions during Lent. What changes do you want to make part of your life?

April	17 Easter Sunday
Sun 17th	Happy Easter! Alleluia! Take time to reflect on where you have found Jesus this Lent?



Livesimply challenges us to respond to God's call to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor.

As we continue to focus on how to live more simply and St. Alban's becoming a *livesimply* Parish let us take some time to reflect on what it means when we are beginning to *livesimply*.

This piece written by Jim O'Keefe, in February '09 and reproduced from the CAFOD website may help you link your *livesimply* Lent actions to God's plan for the world and each and every one of us.

***livesimply*...**

We know we are beginning to live simply when we glimpse that we are content with less; when we discover we don't have to compete with other people in relation to what they have or what they have achieved.

We know we are beginning to live simply when we find ourselves delighting in little things; when we can affirm the achievements of other people of any age and background; when we appreciate the gifts of others; when we find ourselves valuing the present moment and worrying less about tomorrow and its mysteries.

sustainably...

We know we are beginning to live sustainably when we acknowledge, mention and delight in the love of those who sustain us; when we commit ourselves long term to others or another; when we give ourselves to our fundamental purpose in life.

We live sustainably when we value what we have and need, not what others want to sell us. We recycle what is not needed, we do not recycle the relationships and commitments that underpin our very existence.

We know we live sustainably when we find ourselves increasingly sad about the destruction of the created world that has been given to us as a gift by God.

and in solidarity...

We know we are deepening our commitment to live in solidarity when we are increasingly hurt by the sheer lack of respect for our sisters and brothers

throughout the world; when we weep more easily as we appreciate the plight of others on whatever margin they live

We know we are deepening our commitment to live in solidarity when we don't just observe, don't just complain about or analyse problems, but find ourselves ready to commit to changing the circumstances and removing the obstacles to the fullness of life of our sisters and brothers – then we are beginning to glimpse 'living in solidarity'.

livesimply is not primarily about changing anyone else or anything 'outside' ourselves. It is to discover that I am indeed made in the image of God, I am sustained by God, I need nothing else.

This awareness will mean that I make different choices about what I need, what matters, who I care about, what I commit myself to. I will become more committed to relationships that contribute to the fullness of life – for me and others. I will delight more in the beauty of creation, music and art. It will lead me to new poets, mystics, prophets, Scripture passages and conversations.

This is a huge insight and a huge risk. But it is a wonderful idea!

May your Easter be more blessed by the *livesimply* actions you take each day.



Thank you for keeping in touch



It may not have been as arduous a journey as Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem to register their census, but at times it felt like it to the volunteers helping to update the new Parish database.

Hours of stuffing 784 envelopes, handing out the forms over two weekends after all Masses, walking and cycling 100s of miles to hand deliver over 600 letters to homes across the Parish. Volunteers we salute you for living your faith in this unique way, helping to reconnect our Parish family.

Thank you also to the 300+ parishioners who have already returned their forms.

If you received a letter, please return it as soon as possible so that the information can be updated as

soon as possible, or simply sign it to confirm we have the correct information.

If you or someone you know isn't registered with the parish, please fill in a Parish Registration Form and pop it in the secure red box, both available at the back of church.

If you'd like to get in touch with us, please email parishcouncil@stalbanmacc.org.uk

Many thanks,
The Parish Council Communications Pillar.

St Alban's Foodbank Collection

Silklife Foodbank were delighted to collect 150 bags of food from our weekend donation (12/13th March).

This was about 1.1 tonnes or 2200 lbs weight of food. About the weight of an adult Great White Shark apparently!

We also had several cheques donations to pass on from generous parishioners. So another great effort, especially with the cost of living rising for everyone and the very many calls on people's compassion and requests for support for others in need.

Thanks so much to the volunteers who helped move the donations to the garage and to all the parishioners who supported this collection.



SILKLIFE
foodbank
MACCLESFIELD

Silklife Foodbank: George Street, Macclesfield SK116HS
Open for drop off on Tuesday and Friday 9:30am -11:30am



Open Air Mass

celebrated by

Cardinal Vincent Nichols

followed by a **Parish Picnic**

Saturday 11th June 2022, 2pm

St Alban's Primary School, Keats Lane,
Macclesfield, SK11 8LB

Please note there will be no parking at the school

Suggested donation £5 per adult

all proceeds to the Church roof repair

Numbers are limited, entry by ticket only

Reserve your ticket by following the link on

St Alban's website from 11th April 2022:

www.stalbanmacc.org.uk

Tickets available for collection after Masses
14th/15th May and 21st/22nd May 2022

Who are CAFOD?



We are an international development charity and the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

We believe in a world where we can reach every woman, man and child so that they can flourish. We reach out to people living in hard-to-reach places, in war zones and those who are discriminated against. We are part of a global Church network with a local presence in 165 countries and territories. Together we make **one of the largest aid networks in the world**.

No one wants to live on handouts. That's why our experts provide **long-term aid** to equip people with the skills, tools and opportunities to live with dignity, support their families and give back to their communities.

Poverty. Conflict. Climate Change. Inequality. Right now, there is a child going hungry, a grandmother who is thirsty and a family without a home. It doesn't have to be this way. Together **with your support**, and the expertise of our local aid workers, we reach out to those that are excluded and give them the help they need.

We speak out for justice. When international bodies and governments make decisions that damage poor communities, we speak out.

Campaigning works – it can take years of effort or be as simple as signing a petition. Increased aid for water and sanitation, action on climate change, protection for human rights defenders, and a clamp down on corruption have all come as a result of taking action together.

Each year, tens of thousands of young people discover our work at school or in groups – from volunteers, teachers and classmates. **We reach out to young people** to be the change they want to see in their communities and worldwide.

We are trusted. The amount of money we receive and exactly how we spend it changes each year. But one thing stays the same – our commitment to spending it wisely. CAFOD is **committed to good fundraising practice** and is registered with the Fundraising Regulator.

You can read more the full CAFOD promise to its supporters by following this link:

<https://cafod.org.uk/About-us/How-we-work/Supporter-promise>

“CAFOD’s unique nature comes from the fact that it is part of Caritas which links it to church groups at the local level. There are not many religious-based organisations which have got the same reach, and which can reach the heart of communities at a local level in the way that Caritas can.”

Dylan Winder, previously Head of Humanitarian Policy and Partnerships, Department for International Development, UK Government



How have we at St Alban's supported CAFOD so far this Lent?

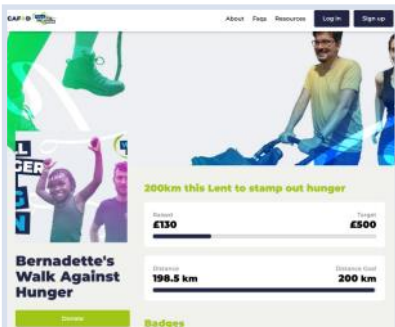
Lent Lunches resumed on Friday, 5 March after almost two years! It was decided that in CAFOD's 60th Anniversary Year all monies generated would be split equally between CAFOD's Lent and Ukraine appeals. To date £456.10

CAFOD envelope donations are less than they have been prior to COVID, but this isn't surprising as numbers in church have not yet returned to normal. In addition, during the pandemic more people chose to use cards, and online donations are popular and easy. Nevertheless £424.54 was through envelopes.

You can support specific CAFOD appeals here:
<https://cafod.org.uk/Give>

Both Bernadette Bailey and Jerome Johnston have taken up the challenge to **Walk Against Hunger** and have committed to walk 200km during Lent.

You can see their pages and support them throughout Lent at:



[https://
walk.cafod.org.uk/
fundraising/
bernadettes-walk-
against-hunger](https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/bernadettes-walk-against-hunger)

[https://
walk.cafod.org.uk/
fundraising/walk-
against-hunger502](https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/walk-against-hunger502)



Taken together, the support we at St Alban's are giving to CAFOD is as generous as ever, thank you.

St Alban's Ladies Group INVITES ALL LADIES of the PARISH & their friends to come and join us for our **Summer Programme**

APRIL

6th OPEN MEETING
– Easter Theme
Knit & Natter.

20th SPEAKER:
Alejandra Salmon Suarez
*'Grow Macclesfield' is a volunteer
run community gardening project
to help local people through
sustainable gardening.*

MAY

4th SPEAKER: Sister Mary
'Life in Tanzania'

18TH AGM

JUNE

1ST SPEAKER: Tony Bostock
*"History of Cheshire pubs
& signs*

*A look at some of the many
attractive Cheshire pubs and the
stories behind their signs.*

15TH STRAWBERRIES & CREAM
event

JULY

6TH SPEAKER: Laura Smith
*Town Clerk of Macclesfield Town
Council*

20TH END OF TERM SUMMER OUTING

AUGUST Summer Break - Resume 7th September -

THANK YOU TO MEMBERS OF THE PARISH
WHO ATTENDED OUR RETREAT AT
THORNEYCROFT HALL
YOUR SUPPORT WAS MUCH APPRECIATED.

We meet in the Parish Centre on an
alternate Wednesday at 2.00p.m.
Tea & Biscuits (inc. chocolate ones!)
are provided.

*For further information
please contact Gloria Hayhurst
on 01625 421214*



Historic
England

How Many Screws To Fix The North Nave Ceiling Panels?

Over 3, 000 screws have been used to reaffix the warped ceiling panels over the North Nave! This means that the internal scaffolding can now be dismantled according to plan during the last week of March. The contractors are now working on replacing the slates and rainwater goods over the north aisle roof (ie. the middle level) and will then use the remaining monies to re-roof parts of the cloister roof.

So far so good! But we have also been investigating a problem of dry rot in the cloisters and were shocked to discover just how extensive the problem was. We believe that this problem has been developing, undetected, for the last 20 years or so and think that it is caused by a collapsed drain which has caused some subsidence, thus allowing water to seep in over the damp proof course and then track, unnoticed, along the wall under the parquet flooring and up the plaster walls and timber frames. The area needs to be left to dry out and has been treated to prevent further spread and deterioration. We are awaiting the investigation report, proposals and costings from the timber contractor, so that we can decide how best to proceed.

The Restoration Work Continues....

After several years of discussions, we are thrilled to be able to confirm that we have been awarded a grant of £300, 000 from the Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation, which will allow us to complete the high-level re-roofing of both the South Nave and the Sanctuary. We are currently finalising drawings and quotes, obtaining approvals from the Historic Churches Commission and are hoping to start this

work in the next couple of months, so that we can finish before Christmas. We intend to provide more information in the next Monthly News, but for

AG

THE ALBERT GUBAY
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

now, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued patience and prayers, whilst we undertake these works.

We are extremely grateful to have been awarded such a generous grant from the Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation, which allows us to complete all the work on the high-level, expensive roofing and rainwater goods; restoration work which should outlast us all!

** Albert Gubay, (9 April 1928 – 5 January 2016) was a Welsh entrepreneur and philanthropist, who as a young, penniless man, made a promise to give half the wealth he created to the service of God. He went on to make his fortune with the Kwik Save retail chain and then property development. By setting up The Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation, he realised his dream of a of a substantial, privately funded charity, supporting Catholic, other faith and secular good causes*

In February 2011, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI bestowed upon Albert Gubay, the Knight Commander with Star of the Order of St Gregory the Great. This is an order which is given for conspicuous service to the Church and society. The award was bestowed for the philanthropic work he carried out over many years and in recognition of the establishment of The Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation.



What is more impressive; the superb quality of the slating work on the north nave roof or the fact that our parish priest is up there inspecting it all?

Seldom seen parts of the Church getting some TLC



Our stone cross also needed re-pinning as it had become unstable,



A rather unusual view of our crucifix figures and the Sanctuary,



Dry rot investigation work in the cloister.



All Hallows' Pupil Stars in Catenian Public Speaking Competition

In a competition in which past contestants have including Steve Coogan at Regional level and Rita Chakrabati at National level, All Hallows pupil, Bella Clayton, starred. She was edged into second place by the narrowest of margins.

Young people from Catholic schools and Colleges in Lancashire and Cheshire competed in the competition to win a place in the National finals in September and cash prizes for themselves and their schools. Organised in Manchester by Catenians from Provinces 1, (North Manchester and Lancashire), and Province 17, (South Manchester and North Cheshire), the standard of presentation was exceptionally high.

This year the competition was oversubscribed. Pupils from schools stretching from Bolton and Bury in the North to Northwich in the South, battled in front of a packed audience in the Manchester Conference Centre, to make the best presentation on the day. Judged on quality of speaking, subject knowledge and audience contact topics from, "Loneliness is a modern day scourge" to "The Media is to blame for societies ills", were explored. Contestants chose their topic from a list of twelve subjects supplied by the organisers.

The assessors were, Brenda Pozzoni, an examiner for the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, James Power, a television scriptwriter and editor of Catena, the

monthly Catenian magazine and the Right Reverend John Arnold, Bishop of Salford.

The result was extremely close and the assessors choice of winner was Zahra Ali of Holy Cross College, Bury. Bella Clayton came second with Jonathan Owen of Thornleigh Salesian College, Bolton, third.

Provincial Director, Mike Guerin commented, "The result was almost too close to call. I was not an assessor but, using the marking scheme supplied, I only had one point separating first and second".

The National finals will also take place in Manchester in September with winners from all the National Catenian Provinces participating.

Both the National and Regional Competition are funded by the Catenian Association and sponsored by the Emerson Group. Cash prizes come from a legacy left by local Catenian Tom Webster.



Journeying Together

St Alban's Discernment Prayer Group to run for the 2 years of the Synod (in person)

If you are interested in participating in a group such as this, please contact
Cecilia on 01625-422598

Prayer asking for the intercession of St Alban, patron saint of refugees.

Saint Alban, you gave us an example of hospitality by opening your home to one in need and, as a result of this encounter, were completely changed.

We ask that through your intercession we may be given the courage to offer help to those who are forced to flee their homes in search of safety.

We ask that in accompanying others as you did we may encounter God in a new way.

Saint Alban, Patron of Refugees, pray for us and all refugees around the world. Amen

Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

CAFOD



Generous God,
We thank you and we praise you,
for we are surrounded
by your abundant gifts.

The table you have laid is piled high,
and yet too many people
are turned away from the feast.

Work through us so that,
as the tiny acorn
becomes the mighty oak,

our small acts of love may grow,
bringing hope of a world transformed,
where all may eat their fill.

Amen.

Make a date for the April J&P Zoom Talk



On Tuesday April 5th a speaker from
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
will give a talk on an innovative
scheme made necessary by chronic
shortages of medical resources in
developing countries.

Details from Keith Taylor

Tel: 01625-429915

SKeithTayl2@outlook.com



St Alban's Parish Council



Karyn Johnston
Communications Pillar



Mavis Derbyshire
Fabric Pillar



Dariusz Baczynski
Communications Pillar



Josephine McGhee
Fabric Pillar



Fr Paschal Ihesiaba
Called to serve God and humanity



David Caldwell
Spiritual Pillar



Chris Loughran
Community Pillar



Paul Williams
Spiritual Pillar



Fr Peter Burke
Parish Priest



Jeannette Holt
*Parish Secretary
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Anna Hughes
*Local Missionary Area Rep
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Sallyann O'Dell
Community Pillar



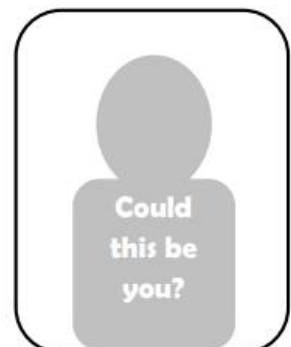
Kieran McKillop
Fabric Pillar



Deacon György Zörényi
Spiritual Pillar



Jane Cole
Community Pillar



If you want to support the Parish on the Council or by lending your talent,
email parishcouncil@stalbanmacc.org.uk

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