We have held many charity events in September and October at St. John's, Hindley Green, which have been hugely supported by our congregation and community.

We started September with our usual Macmillan Coffee Morning. This is always very well supported by Hindley Greeners and they didn't disappoint. Our parish hall was buzzing with activity. As well as the usual bake stall, we had a craft stall, books, plants and hand sewn and knitted goods stall. All our ladies did themselves proud in setting up this event which was led, as always, by Christine Taylor, one of our stalwarts. Doreen Bennett (who has been know to sell sand to the Arabs!!) was on duty to sell her excellent hand sewn and knitted goods. Well over £1400 was made at this event for the very worthy cause. We are certain that Christine will continue to improve in this excellent result in future years.

Continuing in September, steadfast members of our church family, Barend Anthon and members of his family, joined in the final 'Sleep Out' at Manchester Cathedral to highlight the plight of homelessness in our corner of the country. Barend came straight from his night 'sleeping rough' to our church service on 20th September, to tell us of his experience and to highlight the problems that many of our community suffer. He and his family have raised a lot of money over the years for the Booth Centre and although this was the final 'Sleep Out' the problems continue and the Booth Centre welcome support at any time. They are committed to help those in need.

Also in September, Justin Craig, member of one of our largest and committed church families, had his lengthy locks cut off (about 18" I believe) to support the Little Princess Trust which makes real hair wigs for children who have lost their hair due to cancer and other illnesses. He was sponsored in this by many of his family, friends and, of course, his church family who have been very generous to this cause. Well done Justin.

During September and October, our congregation and community have been supporting the appeal, Operation Christmas Child, set up by Corsey Road Chapel in Hindley, to fill shoe boxes with toys, essentials and treats for children. We have been doing this for many years and have been rewarded by the reports of how well these small boxes of treats have been received by needy children both in this country and in other parts of the world. Long may this venture go on.

On 4th October we had our Harvest Thanksgiving Service and were absolutely overwhelmed by the generosity of our community. Our church was beautifully decorated for the occasion by our usual crew, *you know who you are*, and the gifts just kept on coming. On 7th and 9th October our two local schools came in to celebrate the Harvest and each of them were accompanied by many parents and carers, needing extra seating to be brought in. We felt it important that the children were aware of what happened to the produce of our harvest after it was dismantled in church, and we are grateful to Carol from St. Nathaniel's, Platt Bridge, who provided us with a powerpoint presentation to send to our schools which illustrated what happens when the foodstuff is sent to The Pantry at Platt Bridge, through to its distribution.

Also in October our community supported a church family who was raising funds for the British Heart Foundation in memory of their husband/father. The congregation were most generous in their support and enabled the event to raise £1150 for this very worthwhile cause.

We are currently preparing our church for Remembrance Sunday on 8th November. Our Social and Craft Groups have been very busy getting together past and new displays to decorate our church to its best advantage to honour those who have fallen. This is a very difficult time for those who still remember family members who lost their lives to warfare and we always try to honour them in the most sensitive way. It is not meant to be a way of 'decorating' the church, but rather recognising

the sacrifices that were made. Our Parade Service starts at 10.00 am with an Act of Remembrance at 11.00 am.

In the evening we have our Bereavement Service where we remember those who have passed in the last year along with those who are still remembered.

On 3rd November, we are to have a Coffee Morning to raise funds for Wigan and Leigh Hospice. This is a bi-annual event, organised by Maureen Shaw, and is always excellently supported. Again it is joined by what we now call our 'Mini Market' which includes: Bake stall, book stall, plants, hand made goods & crafts. All are very welcome to join us at this event which starts at 10 am until around 12 noon.

Maureen's
COFFEE MORNING
& MINI MARKET
(in aid of Wigan & Leigh Hospice)
Tuesday, 3rd November, 2026, 10.00 am
In St. John's Parish Hall
Home bake * Books * Hand made items
Entrance: £2 (incl. a drink and a cake)
EVERYONE WELCOME

On Saturday, 21st November, we will have our Christmas Fair, with all the usual stalls and games, and with a special appearance of Father Christmas. See attached poster.

During the last week of November we will be preparing our church for the Christmas Displays which, this year, instead of the usual Christmas Trees we will be displaying The Hand Crafted Bible. Each of our church groups, organisations and schools will be giving their interpretation of a Bible Story. These will be individually created: cardboard cut-outs, plasticine models, knitted, sewn, coloured and pasted, etc. etc. to portray various stories of the bible. These will be accompanied by a short narrative explaining the story. There will be opportunities for everyone to experience these displays during December.

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On our social side, we have a Social Evening planned on 28th November (Poster attached):

Christmas Cabaret



Saturday, 28th November, 7.30 pm
TICKETS: £15 – Including supper
(BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS)
*Dancing * Raffle * Bingo*
WITH POPULAR VOCALIST
DAVE BELL

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FROM ELSIE PORTER: 708954 OR 07788497342

We also have one of our very popular afternoon Tea Dances arranged for Monday, 14th December (poster attached):

St. John the Evangelist Parish Hall
Atherton Road, Hindley Green

Monday, 14th December, at 1.00 pm



CHRISTMAS



TEA DANCE

TICKETS: £7.00 ***(incl. sandwiches, cakes & tea/coffee)***

Christmas services will include:

Carols by Candlelight: We celebrate this with a service of carols and readings followed by festive refreshments in the parish hall. Date to be confirmed.

An adult nativity performance: Not yet finalised.