



Welcome to our August 2026 Newsletter which contains:

- *Mission Support - A pilgrimage of Welcome, Friendship & Faith*
- *Mission Update - Mission in Action in our churches*
- *Mission On The Move - Bags of Hope - Almost there...*
- *Mission Opportunities - Is God Stirring a New Idea in Your Church?*
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A Pilgrimage of Welcome, Friendship & Faith

This July Elaine had the privilege of joining St Peter's, Crabbs Cross, on their annual pilgrimage to Walsingham.

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We worshipped together, joined the rich pattern of prayer as we wished, enjoyed wonderful accommodation and food, and shared unforgettable conversations with pilgrims from across the UK and beyond, including one from the Greek Orthodox Church.

There was even time to visit the beautiful Wells-next-the-Sea.

Elaine returned with a much deeper understanding of St Peter's, lasting friendships, and a renewed appreciation that we are united in Christ despite our different traditions. The pilgrimage is open to everyone, and she would wholeheartedly encourage anyone who has the opportunity to experience it.

For details of the 2027 pilgrimage email mowattdiane@hotmail.com or david68griffin@gmail.com

Mission Opportunities

.Is God stirring a new idea in your church?

Every church has its own gifts, traditions and opportunities to serve its community. If your church has an idea for reaching out beyond its walls but needs the right venue to bring it to life, our Kingfisher Centre Mission Hub is available for churches across the Redditch Mission Area to use.

Whether you're planning a one-off event or a regular community activity, the Mission Hub offers a welcoming town centre space where your vision can flourish. The venue is available free of charge from 23 August until November, and support is available if it would be helpful. If your church has an idea you'd like to explore, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Elaine at elaine@cofe-redditch.org.uk to discuss your plans, check availability and see how, together, we can help your vision become a reality.



We're Nearly There!

Bags of Hope is almost here, and we'd love a few more helping hands.

If you can spare even an hour to welcome families, help children choose their school essentials, or assist behind the scenes, you'd be making a real difference. Every hour given helps a child start the new school year with dignity, confidence and hope.

If you can help, however briefly, please get in touch with Jana or Elaine or click the link below to sign up:

<https://doodle.com/sign-up-sheet/participate/4120df0d-fdde-4fed-ab5e-6cff382eebad/select>

Redditch Mission Area August 2026

Mission in Action - August

Across the Redditch Mission Area, August is another month full of opportunities to serve, welcome and share God's love.

From family activities and community hospitality to prayer gatherings, trips and outreach events, our churches continue to find creative ways of serving their neighbourhoods. Here is a flavour of what is happening during August...

The month begins at **St John the Baptist, Feckenham**, with Messy Church on Saturday 1 August. Children and their families are invited to enjoy activities, music, worship, refreshments and plenty of fun in a relaxed and welcoming setting.

St John's Greenlands welcomes Christians from across the town for Prayer4Redditch on Tuesday 4 August. This monthly gathering is an important expression of shared mission, bringing people from different churches and traditions together to pray for Redditch, its people and its communities. (Usually held at St Stephen's Redditch).

Families are also at the heart of the free Summer Fun Programme being offered jointly by **St Laurence, Alvechurch, and St Leonard's, Beoley**. Family films, creative activities, food and hospitality are helping provide affordable opportunities for children and their carers during the long school holiday.

At **St Stephen's, Redditch**, a special family day on Wednesday 12 August will run from 9am until 4pm, ending with a celebration for the whole family. The day offers children an opportunity to enjoy activities, friendship and Christian community in the heart of the town centre. St Stephen's is also exploring the Psalms during its summer Sunday services, discovering how the Bible speaks honestly into both the joys and difficulties of life.

The Holy Oaks churches of **St Philip's, Webheath, St Bartholomew's, Tardebigge, and St Mary's Lower Bentley** are taking hospitality beyond the church building through a series of community coach trips. The first travels from St Philip's to Weston-super-Mare on Tuesday 11 August. Open to everyone, whether or not they have any connection with church, these outings offer companionship, new experiences and an important response to loneliness and isolation.

At **Christ Church Matchborough**, the church's community-facing ministry continues through worship, hospitality and opportunities for local people to meet. Its Sunday afternoon FunDays have been created especially to bring people together through games, food, conversation and friendship, while Community Missioner Jana Harvey is beginning to listen to residents and explore how the church can serve Matchborough more effectively.

Throughout August, **St Peter's Ipsley** is opening its doors every Tuesday afternoon from 2.00–4.00pm for Summer Tuesdays. With games, puzzles, crafts, refreshments and, of course, ice cream, these relaxed afternoons provide a welcoming space for people of all ages to spend time together, make new friends and enjoy the warmth of Christian hospitality. Sometimes mission begins simply by creating a place where everyone knows they are welcome.

All 12 churches will come together in the Kingfisher Centre on Saturday 22 August for Bags of Hope. Working alongside the School Uniform Bank, volunteers from our churches will help children choose backpacks, stationery and other school essentials so that they can begin the new academic year with dignity, confidence and hope.

Alongside these special events, the quieter work of mission continues at **St Peter's Crabbs Cross, The Bridge at Headless Cross, St Matthias and St George in Astwood Bank**, and throughout all twelve churches: welcoming visitors, caring for neighbours, offering prayer, providing refreshments, supporting community organisations and creating places where people know that they belong.

What is striking isn't that every church is doing the same thing—quite the opposite. Each church is responding to the needs of its own community in ways that reflect its own tradition, gifts and calling. Together they paint a wonderful picture of the Church at work across the Redditch Mission Area: serving with generosity, welcoming with hospitality and sharing the hope of Christ in countless different ways.

If one of these activities has caught your eye, why not pay a visit? You can be assured of a warm welcome.

Another Mission Opportunity:

Every month we'd love to celebrate the wonderful ways our churches are sharing God's love across the Redditch Mission Area. Whether it's a community event, family activity, coffee morning, outreach project, concert, holiday club, prayer gathering, fundraiser or simply something that is making a difference in your neighbourhood, we'd love to hear about it.

If your church has something coming up, or a story to share afterwards, please send the details to Elaine (elaine@cofe-redditch.org.uk). We'd love to feature as many of our churches as possible and help people discover all that's happening across our Mission Area.

And if you're planning something and could do with an extra pair of hands, a sounding board or some practical support, please do get in touch with Jana or Elaine. We can't promise to be available every time, but where we can, we'd be delighted to come alongside you and support your church.

Let's celebrate one another, encourage one another and share the many different ways God is at work through our churches.

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