

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

December

January

2020

2021



Parish Grapevine

*A monthly round-up of
news, views, events
and services at
St George's, Heaviley,
SK2 6NU,
and St Gabriel's, Adswood
in the
Parish of St George, Stockport.*

£1

www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk



Who's Who in the Parish of St George, Stockport

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Vicar | Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall <i>vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</i> 456 9382 | Praise and Play | Parish Office 480 2453 For 0-4s and their carers. Meet every Monday in term time, 9-11 in church. Story time at 10am. | Choir | James Hibbert 07365 519207 <i>actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</i> Practise Thursdays 7.30-9pm in the vestry. Sing on Sundays at 10.15am and 4pm services. |
| Assistant Curate | Rev. Dr Janine Arnott <i>rev.janinearnott@outlook.com</i> 612 1048 | St Gabriel's | | Church Cleaners | Meet on 1st Tuesday of every month 9.30-12 noon. |
| Reader | Peter Hall 456 9382 | Messy Church | Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall 456 9382 For children and their parents. Meet occasionally, usually Saturday mornings. | Church Flowers | Marjorie Lees 483 3676 Jean Hayden (<i>donations</i>) 483 2367 |
| Churchwardens | Andrew Regan 440 0408 Hazel Jenkins 483 4679 | Uniformed Groups with connections to St George's | | Church Gardeners | Walter Stead 430 2449 Meet on Tuesdays 9.30-12.30. |
| PCC Secretary | Andrea Webb Reilly 07400 883938 | Rainbows | Trisha Brown 07403 353 175 Sue Kirkland 07854 101 918 For girls aged 5-7. Meet Fridays 6.15-7.30pm in the Parish Room. | Coffee Mornings (Weds) | Olwen Smith 483 6548 Wednesdays from 10.30am in the Parish Room. |
| PCC Treasurer | Lisa Darbyshire <i>treasurer@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</i> | Brownies | Rachel Lockett 775 2755 Voni Walker 07956 674 241 For girls aged 7-10. Meet Thursdays 6.30-8pm in the Parish Room. | Cursillo | Usually meet on last Wednesday of the month. 7.30pm at different venues. |
| Parish Office | Marion McCall 480 2453 | Guides | | Handbells | Debbie Heaton 07981 331 758 Play for All-Age and Taizé services, plus other special events. Ringers of all ages (with or without experience) always welcome. Rehearsals in church arranged around the ringers' availability. |
| Magazine Editor | Richard Parr 439 8644 | Beavers | Bill Frith 439 3232 For boys and girls ages 6 and 7 Meet Fridays 6-7pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church. | Linen Guild | Pat Rigley 487 1999 Maintain the church's linen. |
| Safeguarding co-ordinator | Will Hesson 480 0630 | Cubs | Bill Frith 439 3232 For boys and girls ages 8-10½. Meet Fridays 7.15-8.45pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church. | Magazine Editorial Group | Richard Parr 439 8644 Meet monthly to plan future issues. |
| Website | www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk | Scouts | Elizabeth Goodred <i>Elizabeth.goodred@stockportscouts.org.uk</i> For boys and girls ages 10½-14. Meet Wednesdays 7-9pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church. | Mothers' Union | Pat Durnall 483 4837 Meet on 2nd Monday of the month in church at 2.15pm. |
| Webmaster | Peter Hall 456 9382 | Other Groups and Activities | | Singing Group | James Hibbert 07365 519207 <i>actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</i> Sing about once a month at the All-Age Service, with one practice beforehand. All welcome. |
| St George's Primary School | | St George's | | | |
| Headteacher | Deborah Grindrod 480 8657 | Bell ringers | Anne Mayes 485 6477 Practise Mondays 7.45-9pm. Ring on Sundays 9.45-10.15am. Meet in the tower. | | |
| Deputy Wardens | John Hardy 01663 764 462 Will Hesson 480 0630 | Bible Reading Fellowship Notes | Janet Neilson 483 9025 Notes are ordered on request. | | |
| Verger | Ian Staley 456 3093 | Bible Study Groups | <i>contact the clergy</i> Study groups and courses are arranged from time to time. | | |
| Director of Music | James Hibbert 07365 519207 <i>actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</i> | Chancel Guild | Meet on 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9.30-12 noon to care for the chancel. | | |
| Bookings for Parish Rooms | Parish Office or 480 2453 Judith Swift 483 8681 | | | | |
| St Gabriel's | | | | | |
| Secretary | John Sutcliffe 286 2301 | | | | |
| Bookings | Parish Office 480 2453 | | | | |
| Children's Activities | | | | | |
| St George's | | | | | |
| Children's Corner | Available for children (and parents) during services. Equipped with books, crayons and soft toys. | | | | |
| Sunday Club | Louise Clark 483 3703 For children of nursery and school age. Meet during the 10.15am Parish Communion service most weeks during term time. | | | | |
| Junior Choir | James Hibbert 07365 519207 Practise 6.30-7.30 on Thursdays in the vestry; sing on Sundays for 10.15am service. | | | | |

Front cover photo

St George's Christmas Tree festival has gone online this year!

See page 12

(photo by Louise Clark)

**Services and events
in
December/January:
see pages 7 and 8**

From the Editor:

Dear Readers,

WELL, AS THE writer of Ecclesiastes put it, 'For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.' As I write this, it's still uncertain whether the second lockdown will be eased over the Christmas season, and celebrations with family and friends will be permitted. I did write in the November editorial that Margaret and I were uncertain whether we would be able to travel down to Devon and Somerset for a short holiday. We were, and we did, and were blessed with warm and mostly dry weather. We had two days in Wells, where we saw round the wonderful cathedral. We had it virtually to ourselves, which made the experience even more special. The cathedral staff had gone to great lengths to devise a safe, one-way walk through the building. I also enjoyed walking at night round the outside of the cathedral, which shone both with the floodlighting and the beautiful moonlight. It reminded me of the passage in Revelation where the writer hears the glorious cry:

"Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people! God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

For the rest of our trip, we stayed in a very remote hotel in a wooded valley on the edge of Exmoor, but within a mile of the sea. (See the photo). We were made very welcome, and the husband and wife owners had also gone to great trouble to ensure that their guests were safe. It was a lovely and very refreshing break, and we did manage one cream tea, even though Margaret refused to

let me bring back one of the lovely Exmoor ponies that I encountered on my moorland walks. (I argued that it would crop the grass for us, but no ...)

We also visited some of the isolated but beautiful churches in the area, although not all were open for visitors. In some cases, the parishioners must have to make a determined effort to attend worship, particularly in winter or in bad weather. I imagine that many of them might remember Psalm 121 in their travels – "I look up to the mountains – does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!" The last verse of the psalm is a lovely affirmation of our hope, and, I think, very fitting for our Christmas / New Year edition of Grapevine.

"The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and for ever."

As usual, I must thank all the hard-

working members of the Grapevine team for their hard work and faithfulness in what has been such a strange year. I have very much missed our monthly meetings where we plan the magazine, but thanks to the team, we have kept going via the wonders of the digital age. I must pay especial thanks to Andrew, who has masterminded all the technical wizardry that has been needed to keep Grapevine flourishing! As Mark Lane, our previous editor, whom we remember particularly during December, used to say, "Andrew can do anything!"

On behalf of all the team, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a very happy and safe New Year.

Richard Parr. Editor.



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GRAPEVINE would like to thank all our loyal advertisers

for their understanding and backing during this difficult period.

If you can, please continue to support them.

Grapevine magazine is in digital form

Please note: Grapevine magazine will be published in **digital form only** during the current coronavirus restrictions. Copies can be downloaded from our website at www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk



Elaine writes:

*Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
Will your anchor drift, or firm remain?*

This is the signature hymn for the Boys' Brigade, one of the biggest Christian Youth Organisations in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

My husband Peter had been a member in his youth and recalls happy times of BB camps around the country.

In the small spaces where travel was allowed, Peter and I took a few days out in Dorset, staying at an Air BnB apartment attached to a gorgeous, thatched cottage.

For the main part, we were blessed with fine weather and took a day trip to Swanage, one of the places where Peter had happy memories of a BB camp.

As is often the way, what we recall from childhood fades away in the midst of time, and what he was hoping to see couldn't be found. Nevertheless, we walked along the promenade, invested in a large ice cream each and sat down to look at the scenery.

After a while, it became evident that the ships we had been watching in the English Channel were not moving. They appeared to be cruise ships anchored in the channel, unable to come into port, with the crew presumably stranded on the vessel.

Ordinarily, each route is carefully planned out: timetables arranged so that each ship docks at the right time in the right place; each space in the dock vacant for an incoming vessel when the outgoing one sails out.

Now, they were all at sea – literally – stuck in limbo and with no real idea when things would start moving again.

I started to wonder how this most recent lockdown, and the associated restrictions, made us feel "all at sea".

We were in neither one place nor another. There were no guarantees as to what would happen next: no reassuring security which helped us to feel that our feet were on the ground; no familiar horizon or landmass which meant we were coming home; transition times with feelings of exposure, discomfort and fear.

Then I started thinking about the ships, and the crew who had been tossed and turned by the waves. What kept them feeling secure? Maybe good friends on board, familiar routines or something else?

The Boys' Brigade motto is "Sure and Stedfast" (although the spelling changed in recent years to "steadfast"). It is based on Hebrews 6:19 *We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain.*

What a great phrase: **this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul.**

Jesus, firm and unwavering, gives us the hope to withstand the storms of life: when we feel battered by the angry waves which threaten to overcome us; when the safe haven seems to be a million miles away; he is there for us.

Perhaps you have felt pushed around by the unrelenting storms, battered by the waves, or felt aimless and ungrounded during the coronavirus pandemic.

Perhaps you are at the point where you feel there is no end in sight, that the waiting for what might be is making you anxious and uncertain.

There is support around, but the anchor we so desperately need is Jesus, clinging onto him as he secures us and grounds us in faith and love.

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.

Pricilla J. Owens 1829-1907

Every blessing as we journey together.

Elaine

A Home Communion Set for Janine

THE CONGREGATION of St George's were delighted to be able to give Janine a present to mark her priesting and first celebration of Holy Communion in October.

This 19th century silver communion set in its original case will enable Janine to give Holy Communion to people in their homes during her ministry in the years to come.

Congratulations, Janine!



Parish News Roundup

Holy Baptism
None last month

Holy Matrimony
None last month

Funerals
None last month

Burial of Ashes

22nd Oct J Blakemore

18th Nov Olga Jones

Michael Coupe

Communion Flowers were sponsored as follows:

Main Altar:

1st Nov from the Garlick Family, in loving memory of Wilfred and Edith Garlick

from Margaret Sharrard, in loving memory of Gordon

8th Nov from Marjorie and Neville, in loving memory of Geoffrey and Cynthia
from Wendy Simpson, in loving memory of Cyril and James Hindley

Parish News Roundup

15th Nov from Janet Neilson, in loving memory of the Oldham and Gosling families

22nd Nov from the Choir, for St Cecelia's Day

29th Nov to celebrate our Virtual Christmas Tree Festival

St George's Treasurer

We should like to express grateful thanks to Steven Kelly for all the valuable work he has done for the church, over many years, while acting as church treasurer. His expertise, diligence and acumen have been of immeasurable value to us all, and we should like to wish him a very happy and peaceful retirement from a very difficult job.

We should also like to welcome our new treasurer, Lisa Darbyshire, and wish her every success in her new role.

Parish News Roundup

Hattie's 80 miles for Grandad – an update.

Hattie has now completed her 80 miles and has raised just over £2000 for Alzheimer's Research. Thank you to everyone who has supported her with such kind and generous donations.

Kate Stephenson

Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings:

Please contact the vicar
telephone: 0161 456 9382
or email:
vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk.

Annual Subscription reminder

A reminder for those of you who pay annually, in January, for the magazine – subscription will be due and is £10 as usual. Thank you.

February 2021

Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Fri 22nd Jan.**
Committee meeting: by email

Christingle

OVER THE YEARS, we have been enjoying gathering as a community for our special Christingle service. Sadly, in common with many other things, arrangements have to change this year, including the amount of people allowed to attend and how we organise the service.

This year we will be holding three services at 1.30pm, 3.30pm and 5.30pm.

As we have to reduce numbers, **entry will only be possible by obtaining an Eventbrite ticket.** This is free and can be obtained from <https://bit.ly/3lsqIEE>. Note that numbers include children as well as adults. Please bring the tickets with you to the service.

All money donated will go to the hugely important work of the Children's Society:

www.childrenssociety.org.uk

A collection will be made as people leave the building.

Please know that arrangements may have to change subject to Government direction. Please note communication details on our December worship pages.

If you aren't able to attend, perhaps you can try to make your own Christingle.

Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian Story.

The red ribbon or tape symbolises the love and blood of Christ

The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creation

The lit candle represents Jesus' light in the world bringing hope to people living in darkness

The orange represents the world.



Christmas Services 2020

As you can appreciate, all of these service arrangements are aspirational and very much dependant on the guidelines and direction that we are given from the government and the Church of England. For updates, please keep in touch via:

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 Website: www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk
 ACNY: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>
 Twitter: <https://twitter.com/stgeorgestckprt>

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Wednesday 2nd December | Holy Communion | 10am |
| Friday 4th December | Messy Church Bake Off | 1pm. Live stream |
| Saturday 5th December | Messy Church Craft | 1pm. Live stream |
| Sunday 6th December | Parish Communion | 10.15am |
| Sunday 6th December | Story Time | 5pm Live stream |
| Sunday 6th December | Compline | 9pm Live stream |
| Wednesday 9th December | Holy Communion | 10am |
| Sunday 13th December | Parish Communion | 10.15am |
| Sunday 13th December | Compline | 9pm Live stream |
| Wednesday 16th December | Holy Communion | 10am |
| Sunday 20th December | Parish Communion | 10.15am |
| Sunday 20th December | Carol Service | 6.30pm Live Streamed Only |
| Sunday 20th December | Compline | 9pm Live stream |
| Thursday 24th December | Christingle | 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm |
| Thursday 24th December | Midnight Communion | 11.30pm |
| Friday 25th December | Parish Communion | 10.15am |
| Sunday 27th December | No service | |

Please Note

- The Service on Sunday 13th December will include the collection of toys for the Refuge as part of the celebration. We will be pleased to receive **Brand New Toys and Gifts** for the children and their parents. They need not be wrapped. Thank you for your understanding.
- The Christingle service will be very reduced numbers this year for safety. Entry by Eventbrite ticket only. (See article on opposite page)
- We will be open for individual (private) prayer Wednesdays and Sundays from 11am to 12 noon apart from 27th and 30th December
- There will be no communion service on Sunday 27th December. The Bishops of Chester and Birkenhead have issued this permission.
- The Sunday Communion services will also be **live streamed**.

January Services 2021

Once again, these service arrangements are aspirational and very much dependant on the guidelines and direction that we are given from the government and the Church of England. For updates, please keep in touch via:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgeschurchstockport/>
 Website: www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk
 ACNY: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>
 Twitter: <https://twitter.com/stgeorgestckprt>

| | | |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Friday 1st January | Messy Church Bake Off | 1pm. Streamed |
| Saturday 2nd January | Messy Church Craft | 1pm. Streamed |
| Sunday 3rd January | Parish Communion | 10.15am |
| Sunday 3rd January | Story Time | 5pm Streamed |
| Sunday 3rd January | Epiphany Carol Service | 6.30pm Live Streamed Only |
| Sunday 3rd January | Compline | 9pm Live stream |
| Wednesday 6th January | Holy Communion | 10am |
| Sunday 10th January | Parish Communion with Confirmation service. Bishop Mark | 10.15am |
| Sunday 10th January | Compline | 9pm Live stream |
| Wednesday 13th January | Holy Communion | 10am |
| Sunday 17th January | Parish Communion | 10.15am |
| Sunday 17th January | Compline | 9pm Live stream |
| Wednesday 20th January | Holy Communion | 10am |
| Sunday 24th January | Parish Communion | 10.15am |
| Sunday 24th January | Compline | 9pm Live stream |
| Wednesday 27th January | Holy Communion | 10am |
| Sunday 31st January | Parish Communion | 10.15am |
| Sunday 31st January | Choral Evensong Candlemas | 4pm |
| Sunday 31st January | Compline | 9pm Live stream |

Please Note

- We will be open for individual (private) prayer on Wednesday and Sundays from 11am to 12 noon apart from 27th and 30th January
- Should anyone wish to be confirmed, please be in touch with Elaine as soon as possible.
- The Sunday Communion will also be **live streamed**.

St George's floodlighting – sponsorship request form (Please return to Steven Kelly, 5 Holly Road, Bramhall, SK7 1HH).



Name Phone no

Date of evening requested £10 or £..... donation enclosed (Please make cheques payable to St George's Stockport PCC)

Reason for request (if appropriate)

If you are a taxpayer and would like the church to reclaim the tax on your donation please also complete the following Gift Aid declaration: *I want to Gift Aid my donation of £..... to St George's Church, Stockport. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.*

Title..... First name or initial(s).....Surname.....

Home address:.....

Post Code Signature..... Date

Mothers' Union News

We had a very good start to 2020 with an enjoyable lunch at the Deanwater Hotel and then in February we met in church and played Beetle with much hilarity. In March Stuart Roughley came to speak about Public Transport in Stockport and also in March we raised £200 with a Pancake Event. This money has gone to MU 'Away From it All' holiday fund.

It seems strange not to meet as a group but we have tried to keep in touch by regular telephone calls which have worked well and we have enjoyed chatting.



FOM and MU provided funds for foam and fabric to make cushions and cushion pads for the coffee seating area. Also we have made cards using all kinds of bits and pieces, old photos, greeting cards, scraps of fabric, paper, embroidery, ribbon and silk flowers. An inset is prepared with sayings, quotes, poems and prayers. We try to do this every two weeks and so far between 350 and 400 have been sent out to our members.

The knitting needles have also been flying!

Praise and Play

WE WISH YOU a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year!

We hope you can all see the families you treasure so much, either in person or online.

There have been some lovely new babies born since March including a sister, Anneka, for Harris and Jonah Rochford and a sister, Marta, for Adam. It was lovely to see Adam and his family at a 10.15 service too!



When we were last together in March, we embarked on knitting squares to make up into 'Blankets of Hope' for refugee children and also a request came for cannula covers to be used in baby and child wards in hospitals. These are just a simple knitted tube about 8-9cms long. All this work was to be taken to the MU Council meeting at Hartford in June but, with the Covid restrictions, this meeting could not take place.

Thus the knitting carried on!

Finally, on October 24th, we sent six lovely colourful blankets, each one made up of 35 knitted squares, and 340 cannula covers to a collection point at Northwich for onward distribution.

A very big thank you to all who contributed in any way to this most worthwhile effort.

José Westwood

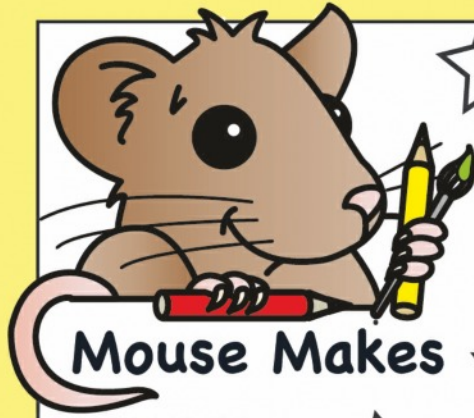
We hope to meet again when it is safe for everyone, and this may be a while off yet. Meanwhile it has been lovely to meet in the park/s and on walks around the area.

Keep safe, keep washing your hands and be aware of everyone's needs. What a celebration we will have when we can return to our familiar patterns!

O Lord hear our prayer.

Happy Birthday to Jesus on Christmas Day!!

Janet Neilson



Mouse Makes

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!
Read the Christmas story in Luke 1:1 - 2:21

"I bring you **good news** that will bring great **joy** to all people. The **Saviour** has been born today! ...

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased".

from Luke 2 vs. 10,11,14



A picture to colour for Christmas. Colour in one star each day as you count down to Christmas!

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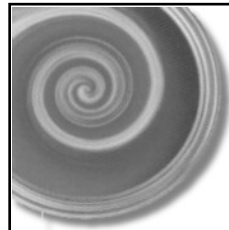
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Christmas Tree Festival 2020

HOPEFULLY THE FINAL note from me about this year's Christmas Tree Festival. After having several plans of how we could effectively run a reduced festival and then trying to organise an online one with current exhibitors, the Festival Committee have taken the inevitable but sad decision that it cannot happen in 2020. However, we're not that easily beaten and so are busy working on what they would call in the art world, a retrospective. We hope to create an online festival with montages of trees from previous years, interspersed with video clips from exhibitors telling viewers about their organisation or charity. There will also be an opportunity to donate online.

By the time you read this at the beginning of December it should be only a few days away from going live.

Additionally, when we are allowed to go back into church, we will put up our own big tree and hang the Christmas banners. Several of the church groups are hoping to put up a tree so that we can have trees around church to look more festive during the whole of the Christmas season. Hopefully we'll see you then.

Hazel Jenkins

PS the video is now here: https://fb.watch/293jC_p0WN/, or see St George's Facebook page.

A helping hand!

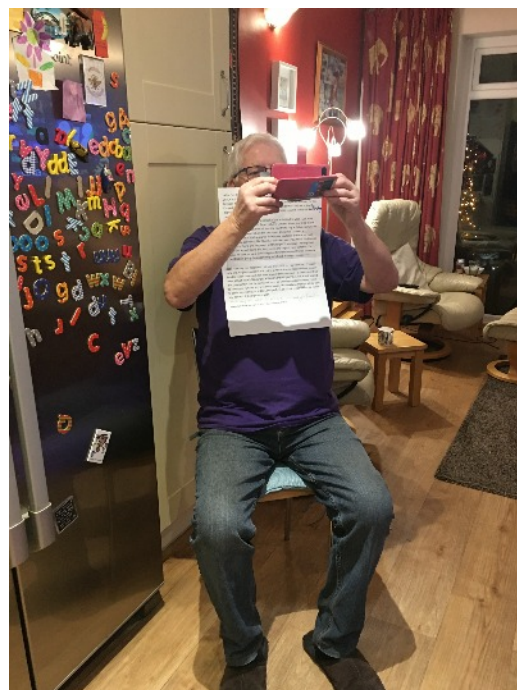
THE LENGTHS SOME people go to, to help us with our virtual Christmas Tree Festival!

The gentleman in the photo is John Murray, and his wife Rosemary is chair of the St Ann's Hospice choir who enter a tree every year. When we had to cancel the festival, we asked people who had entered trees if they would like to do a video clip for the virtual festival, to publicise their group or organisation, and you will see these in the finished event. Rosemary was keen to do this as the choir manages to donate around £10,000 per annum and of course has not managed to give anything this year.

The technical issues surrounding any of us now streaming and videoing things have been interesting: both Andrew Regan and I have managed to stream the Sunday morning service with Elaine lying on her back! However, the Murrays' solution to filming as well as providing access to a large print script was interesting and they were happy to share this with us.

I do hope you enjoy the virtual festival.

Hazel Jenkins



Face masks for Christmas

AFTER THE GREAT success of Penny Bisby's poppy face masks, we are now on a roll with making face masks for Christmas. Several members of the congregation have taken packs of fabric and elastic and returned the pack full of completed face masks, and as I write I know that there are more in production in various homes.

We're selling them for £3.50 each with all profits going to church funds. They are available now at the back of church if you visit for private prayer, and when we are allowed to resume services, of course they will be there. If you are not able to come into church at all, then just send an email to hazel.jenkins@stgeorgestockport.org.uk and we will organise a delivery to you.



Christmas and Poppy Face Masks



THANK YOU TO all who supported my efforts to raise money for St George's Church and the Royal British Legion, by buying my poppy face masks at the Sunday and Wednesday morning services. Altogether I made sixty-five masks, and a cheque for £65 has been sent to the Legion, while the donations for St George's Church reached £300.



This year we are unable to run the Craft Fair, and the Christmas Tree Festival will take place in a greatly altered form, which leaves our church without its usual, vital fundraising events. In an attempt to support the church financially, we are making festive Christmas face masks which will be on sale during private

prayer times, and at the services when the church reopens in December.

Hazel, Lois and I (and hopefully others) are toiling over our sewing machines as you read this. Please continue to support our fundraising efforts over the Advent and Christmas season and beyond.

Penelope Bisby

Shoe Boxes Teams4U 2020

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who took the time and trouble to fill a shoe box for some of the most disadvantaged children in our world, in this most difficult Covid year. We were delighted to collect 90 shoeboxes at St George's including many from Stockport Sunday School. Canon Elaine, who made this collection possible, blessed the shoe boxes in November during our morning communion service. The boxes were collected a few days later and sent to a checking point before beginning the journey to Bosnia or Rwanda.

We were grateful to a number of people who sent money towards transportation. There were many who were unable to fill a box due to self isolation in this difficult year.

Thank you all for a successful year with Teams4U Shoe Box Collection for 2020. Our boxes are on their way.

Marion Johnson and Pat Durnall



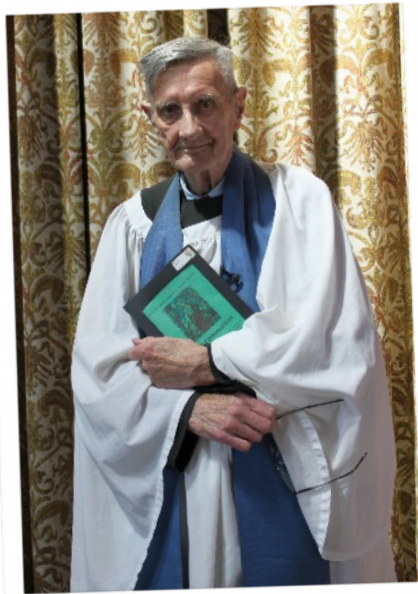
ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AT ST GEORGE'S AN



Aisa Alipour was baptised during a Wednesday morning service of Holy Communion in October. She is seen here with her parents, Atousa and Poursya, her godparents and Elaine (who is also a godparent).



Alireza Kalantari was baptised in July, and this was one of two baptisms at St George's this year. The number of baptisms and weddings was much reduced by coronavirus.



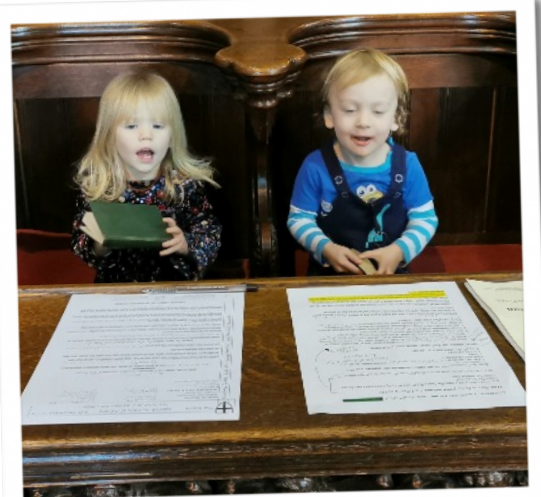
Mike Coupe, licenced reader at St George's for more than 60 years, died in September 2020.



Our assistant curate Janine's first celebration of Holy Communion took place on Sunday 4th October, following her priesting at Chester Cathedral the day beforehand.

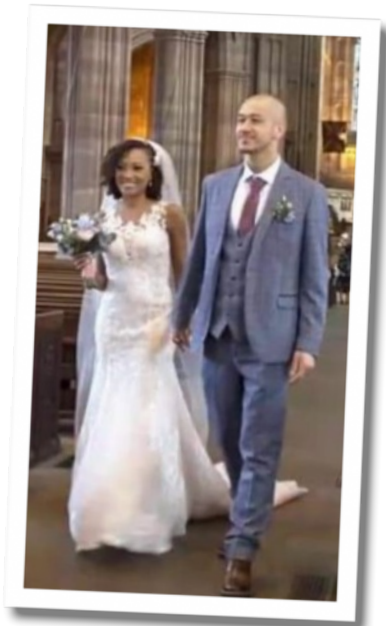


In spite of the restrictions due to coronavirus, we were able to go ahead with a broadcast service on Remembrance Sunday, together with laying of wreaths at the war memorial.



Hattie and Aneurin finding the Book of Common Prayer very interesting

ST GEORGE'S OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS



Claudia Spencer and Lee Kan Hai were married at the end of October, and this was one of three weddings at St George's this year.



Our intrepid churchwarden, Hazel Jenkins, passed with flying colours when undertaking the new training module for all PCC members!



Hazel and Dave were able to visit Tril on their holiday to New Zealand. She lives in a beautiful apartment on South Island and is happily settled, but still misses her many friends.



In April Elaine and Peter visited Frances Farrar in her new home. The staff have taken her to their hearts, one saying: 'I could take her home with me.'

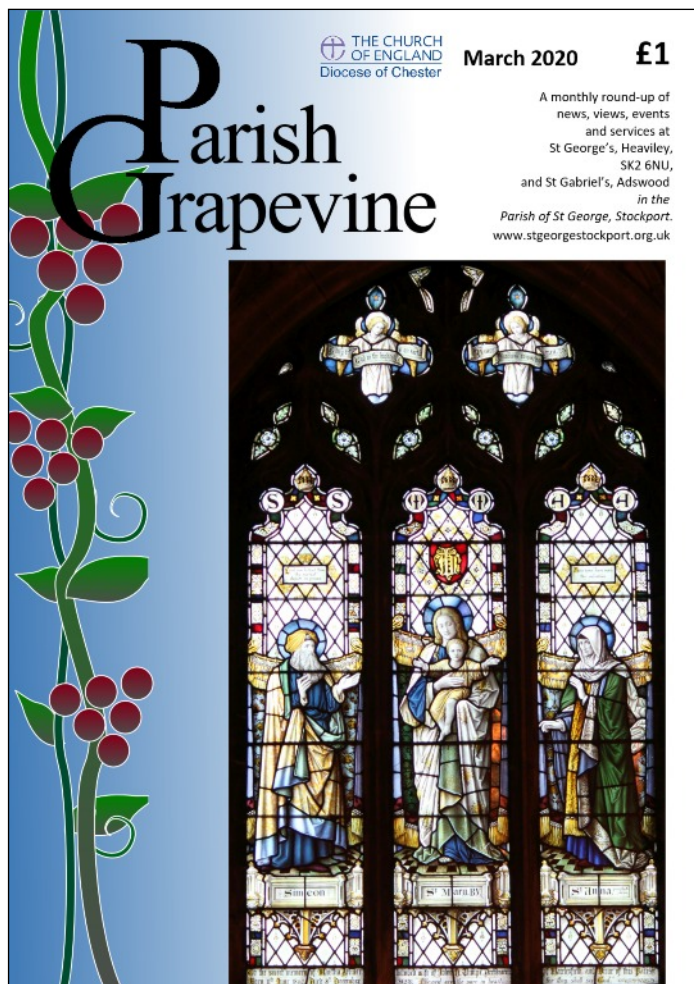
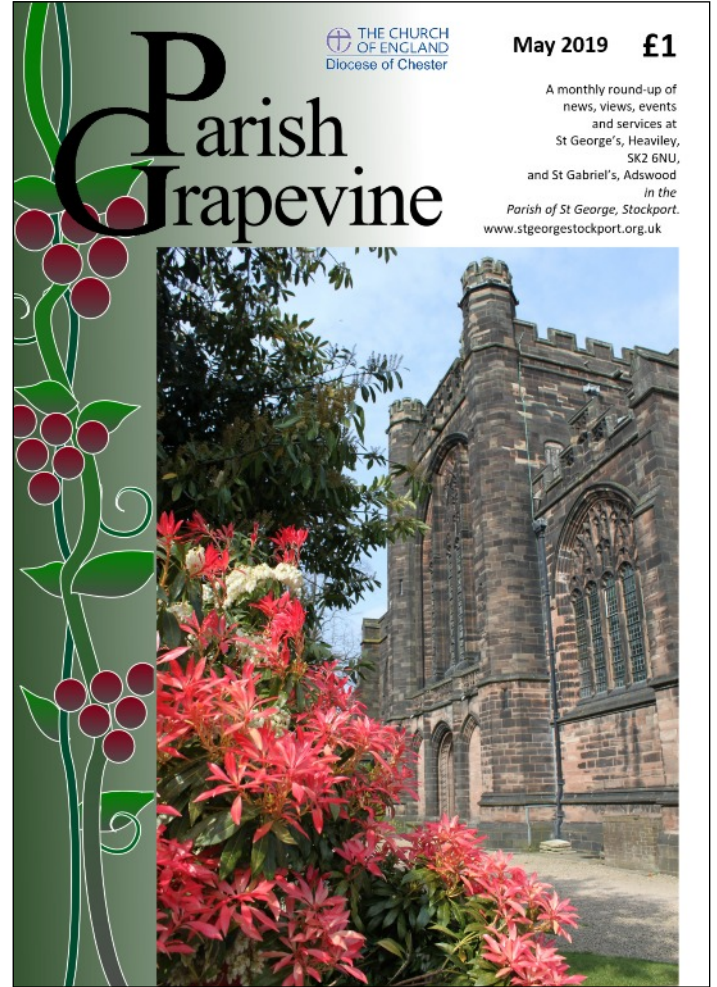


Hattie Davies wanted to raise £1000 to help cure dementia. She and her Mum, Ruth, decided to do an 80-mile walk, in honour of what would have been her grandad, Barry's, 80th birthday.



Aneurin and Elaine making Soul Cakes for Messy Church. Aneurin certainly kept it 'Messy' but he enjoyed helping.

A selection of previous Grapevine covers




August 2020 £1

Parish Grapevine

A monthly round-up of news, views, events and services at St George's, Heaviley, SK2 6NU, and St Gabriel's, Adswood in the Parish of St George, Stockport. www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk




July 2020 £1

Parish Grapevine

A monthly round-up of news, views, events and services at St George's, Heaviley, SK2 6NU, and St Gabriel's, Adswood in the Parish of St George, Stockport. www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk




September 2020 £1

Parish Grapevine

A monthly round-up of news, views, events and services at St George's, Heaviley, SK2 6NU, and St Gabriel's, Adswood in the Parish of St George, Stockport. www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk




November 2020 £1

Parish Grapevine

A monthly round-up of news, views, events and services at St George's, Heaviley, SK2 6NU, and St Gabriel's, Adswood in the Parish of St George, Stockport. www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk



Plans for the redevelopment of the St Thomas's hospital site

IF PLANS GO ahead for the redevelopment of this historic hospital site, it could become dozens of affordable homes and a new care facility. Ambitious proposals for the Grade II-listed building progressed to the 'detailed design' stage earlier this year. Now the project has taken another step forward after a full planning application was lodged for the Shaw Heath complex.

The plans include 68 new homes – a mix of apartments, mews houses and new-build terraces – as well as a 70 bed care home, dubbed The Academy of the Living Well. Plans also feature extensive landscaping, including a podium garden and a mixture of resident-only communal areas, pedestrian routes and semi-private yards. There would be 52 parking spaces with 16 disabled bays and provision for 44 bicycles. The affordable homes would be managed by Stockport Homes.

A far cry from what was once a Victorian workhouse, erected in 1841 to accommodate up to 690 inmates. It was known as 'The Grubber' – males lived on the north side and females at the south. Children's quarters and school rooms were located in cross wings at each end of the main block, with the area to the front containing boys' and girls' exercise yards.

In 1894, the British Medical Journal set up a 'commission' to investigate conditions in provincial workhouses and their infirmaries. On their visit to Stockport, the commission found that, due to a trade depression, inmates in the workhouse were 'packed like sardines in a tin'. The management of the hospital appeared to be 'completely without plan or method' and the female wards were 'comfortless and barnlike'. Many wards were so crowded as to present a serious danger in the case of fire. A new infirmary was built in response in 1905 – and the workhouse later became the Shaw Heath Hospital, before becoming St Thomas's.

St Thomas's Hospital closed down about 15 years ago, having treated thousands of elderly and psychiatric patients over the years, and has stood derelict ever since. If plans go ahead it will secure the long-term future of one of a number of listed buildings, which are of merit architecturally, as well as being important to the social history of Stockport's growth through the 19th Century.

*Edited version of an article in the Stockport Express
28th October 2020 by Nick Statham, Local Democracy Reporting
Service, and reproduced with his kind permission.
Rosie Stead*

News from Tril – November 2020

I HAVE RECEIVED a personal email from Tril, worried about us all in England and Europe in lockdown again, as winter draws on. She says to look after one another and know that we are in her thoughts and prayers. They are fortunate in New Zealand as it is an island and they have some control over who arrives there and what happens to them. But it is heartbreaking that many Kiwis cannot get home for Christmas because the quarantine places there are fully booked.

In Tril's village they are well looked after and rules are strictly applied as soon as they are issued. She misses her son, Graham's visits. It is two years since he was out there. But Cara and Bali (daughter and son-in-law) make contact every day.

Tril has created a little 'niche' for herself by becoming the 'Mend-it Lady', which she enjoys. It started with a frayed cuff on a favourite cardigan and latterly turning up the hems of miles of net curtains. The recipients wonder how she manages to get matching thread or wool to do the repair – she does it by undoing a seam, but she keeps that trick to herself. She is still knitting cardies for premature babies and must have made hundreds by now, based on a couple a week. She also knits pure cotton face/dish cloths – the proceeds going to a dementia society, which sells them at exorbitant prices.

Recently they were entertained by the local Morris Dancers, who had travelled overseas and joined other groups. Tril suddenly realised that one of the ladies was

trying to explain Styal Mill to her, telling her that 'Jerusalem' meant a lot more now that she had seen a working cotton mill and could imagine the 'dark, satanic' version. Tril and her husband, Wallace, had watched the restoration of Styal – from replacing the floors to replacing the waterwheel, and opening to the public.

Tril finished by wishing us all a happy, healthy Christmastide and may God bless us.



Sent to us by Brian Robinson, from Northern Ireland

Sudoku puzzle: easy

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | | 7 | | | | 3 | | 6 |
| | | | 4 | 9 | 6 | | | |
| | | | | | | 2 | 1 | |
| 2 | | 5 | | 8 | 9 | 6 | | |
| 4 | 8 | | 2 | | 7 | | 9 | 5 |
| | | 1 | 3 | 4 | | 7 | | 2 |
| | 2 | 8 | | | | | | |
| | | | 7 | 3 | 8 | | | |
| 3 | | 9 | | | | 8 | | 7 |

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Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 1 | | | 7 | | | | |
| | | | | 4 | 5 | | | 2 |
| | | | | 8 | | | | 3 |
| | 7 | | 8 | | | 9 | | |
| | | 2 | | | | 6 | | |
| | | 3 | | 2 | | | 8 | |
| 4 | | | | 5 | | | | |
| 1 | | 6 | 3 | | | | | |
| | | | | 4 | | | 9 | 7 |

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(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 27)



"Nice idea, Amelia, but I don't think that the Angel of the Lord Zooming with the shepherds would have the same dramatic effect."

Crossword

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|
| 1 | | 2 | | | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | | 6 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | 8 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 9 | | | 10 | | 11 | | 12 | | 13 | | 14 |
| 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | 18 | | | 19 | 20 | | 21 | | | | | |
| | | | 22 | | | | | | | | 23 | |
| 24 | | | | | | | | 25 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 | | | | | | | 27 | | | | | |

Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)

- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)
- 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)
- 18 Narnia's Lion (5)
- 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)
- 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)
- 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)
- 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

The Visitation – Revisited

SAINT LUKE IS OFTEN referred to as 'Luke, the physician', but he could equally well be known as 'Luke, the storyteller'. The Visitation, his account of Mary's journey to stay with her cousin, Elizabeth, is appealing, with the Magnificat arguably the most poetic text in the New Testament, but they form only part of the first great story of Luke's Gospel.

After Luke's dedication of his writings to Theophilus, the whole of the first chapter reads as a single story, and one which, ironically, could have been titled, "Visitations". It begins, not with Elizabeth or Mary, but with Elizabeth's husband, Zechariah, who is first to receive a visit from the angel Gabriel with a wonderful promise – a son, who will become a great man. Poor Zechariah! This is something he and his wife have been praying for all their married life, but his alarm and doubt stop him embracing it. His suspicious questioning of the angel's words shows clearly that he is unready for the momentous news that is on its way. His immediate loss of the power of speech would perhaps seem brutal, but it comes with the reassurance that speech will be restored when the prophecy is fulfilled.

In dramatic terms this is perfect – we are left to imagine his return home and his desperate efforts to explain what has happened to him. Then, Zechariah

leaves centre stage as Elizabeth comes to the fore. Receiving Gabriel's promise only at second hand and in this fractured way, she believes without any hesitation, and as her pregnancy becomes evident, thanks God for his goodness to her. The theme, the conflict between fear and trust, is set.

Gabriel's message for Mary begins with phrases describing her as blessed, as having found favour with God, words that she finds puzzling and disturbing, even before she

learns anything of her future role. As soon as she knows of the part she is to play, she is also told of Elizabeth's pregnancy. It is knowing the momentous news for them both that Mary expresses her acceptance of God's plan. One wonders whether knowing that the miracle is shared is a comfort to the younger woman.

The mutual support of the women is an essential element in the story. Mary's visit is not a brief social one: she has clearly come to help the older woman in the physically demanding last months of pregnancy. Elizabeth is shown to be fully aware of their roles. In the most striking phrase she uses after her baby 'leaps in her womb' at hearing Mary's voice, she refers to her cousin as 'the mother of my Lord'.

Mary's song of praise is not the last in Luke's story. Zechariah has clearly pondered Gabriel's message, and has ample confirmation that it reflected God's will for his family. After Elizabeth gives birth to her baby boy, he too remembers Gabriel's instructions: when Elizabeth at the naming ceremony gives the baby's name as 'John', everyone is surprised, thinking he should be named 'Zechariah', after his father. Still unable to speak, he writes the name on a writing tablet. Speech immediately returns, and Zechariah delivers his song of praise, which we know as the Benedictus.



One imagines that Theophilus must have been more than satisfied with Luke's storytelling!

Angela Foulkes

Progress at the site of the old vicarage

THIS IS the view of the site of the old vicarage in November, where it can be seen that the new houses are now nearing completion.

photo: Rosie Stead



Jean is always up for a spin on the dancefloor

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Garden Gnomes

MY WEEKLY TUESDAY mornings with the Garden Gnomes came to a halt after Tuesday 17th March 2020, with only Walter, James and myself turning up owing to the impending lockdown. For the next few months, the gardens at church were left unattended, except for Ross, our professional gardener, who resumed his duties of keeping the lawns cut after a break of a few weeks. Walter then got a few of the Gnomes to come on Tuesday mornings to keep the gardens in good shape, but some of us, because of age and health, had to stay locked down. The Gnomes that are working on Tuesday mornings are not permitted to use the church premises due to the coronavirus so they all need to bring their own tools, with the Gnomes' tools being locked away in the crypt.

My own garden has become somewhat overgrown except for an occasional trim of the hedge and cut of the lawn or keeping the weeds in the path at bay with the strimmer. For the first month or two I did not leave the house, having my food shopping done by my son and left by the front door, where he rang the bell to let me know he was there. My medical appointments were changed to phone consultations, but I did manage to keep in touch with friends on the phone and I learned how to use Skype with my granddaughter and watch her doing her school homework, as she was not able to attend school due to the pandemic. My youngest grandson, however, did get some schooling with five of his classmates and one teacher for two days a week.



London plane

Eventually I decided to venture out for a walk, and as I live near the cemetery, I made it my daily outing to walk around the inner perimeter, which takes me about 40 minutes, and you don't come across many people, except the cemetery gardeners and a few people doing the same as me. I have got to know the gardeners well and some of the people and some dogs too. One thing I tend to do



London plane leaves

while I am out walking is look at the floor as my legs tend to trip up over uneven ground and I always use a walking stick to help. This last month has caused me to take note of the fallen leaves, and I have been trying to identify the trees which they have come from. I think that I have identified over a dozen types of leaves; some are more easy to recognise than others. Some leaves, such as lime, birch, elm, poplar, beech, hazel and alder, have similar shaped leaves but may vary in size. Others appear to have three or five leaves or fingers in one, and many have several varieties, such as London plane, sycamore and maple. Maple varieties include Norway, field and silver.

The silver maple leaf has a spray of five midribs, each with a number of lateral veins from a single leafstalk, one of the prettiest leaves I have seen. Many leaves seem to have leaf shapes of their own, like ash, oak, horse chestnut, hawthorn, elder and willow, but even with my little book of trees and leaves I have had difficulty in identifying some.

I have been writing these notes at the end of October so by the time you are reading them most leaves will have been collected and, hopefully, put on the compost heap, and I hope that we are all in a better position than in another lockdown.

Shielding Gnome

Stockport Grammar School remember the fallen

STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL marked this year's Remembrance with virtual services shared across the Pre- Reception, Junior and Senior School.

The Senior School service was led by Headmaster Dr Paul Owen, with Upper Sixth Form pupils present for their final service in school.

Readings were given by Upper Sixth Form pupils Rebeeah-Nuur Mohammed, Henry Davies and Holly Buckley.

The Last Post was played by Patrick Owen, while the wreath was laid by Head Boy, Cam Wylie, and Head Girl, Grace Shropshire, during the two-minute silence.

Due to coronavirus restrictions, the Act of Remembrance was recorded and shared virtually with pupils across the school in their classrooms, as well as with alumni (Old Stopfordians) who would normally be present for the service.

Old Stopfordians were asked to share their school-time memories with the school and a selection of their

recollections was read by Upper Sixth Form pupils Cam Wylie (Head Boy), Grace Shropshire (Head Girl), Panashe Munaiwa (Deputy Head Boy) and Lydia Johnson (Deputy Head Girl).

A musical performance of Mozart's *Eine kleine Nachtmusik* (1st movement – Allegro) was played by the school's String Quartet, and Fifth Year pupil, Ella Moran, sang Handel's *Lascia ch'io pianga* alongside Director of Music, Mr Dow, on piano.

In the Junior School, Head Boy Finn R and Head Girl Charlotte U created a short video about Remembrance Day that was shown to the pupils, who then went outside for the Act of Remembrance.

When they were outside, the pupils – many of whom were wearing their personally-designed poppies – lined up in year-group bubbles and listened to Senior School musician Emily Edwards play The Last Post. The pupils impeccably observed the two-minute silence.



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Christmas Recipes

Orange and Grand Marnier Mousse with Limoncello Biscuits

I first saw this published as a Christmas suggestion but I tried it out in the summer and can tell you it was equally good then. I made it for my family and we all thought it was delicious.

Mousse

3 large eggs, separated
70g caster sugar
250g mascarpone, drained
zest of 1 large orange, plus extra for garnish
3 tabsps orange liqueur (eg Grand Marnier, Cointreau, triple sec)

Put egg yolks and half the sugar in large bowl and, using an electric hand whisk, beat until the yolks are thick and pale. Whisk in the mascarpone, orange zest and orange liqueur until well combined.

Place egg whites in another bowl and whisk with clean beaters on full speed until they form stiff peaks. Whisk in the remaining sugar 1 tablespoon at a time. Using a metal spoon or flexible spatula, gently fold in one third of egg whites into the mascarpone mixture until blended. Fold in the remaining egg whites in two stages. Spoon into individual dishes/glasses, cover with cling film and chill for at least 2 hours or until set. Decorate with a little grated orange zest before serving.

Limoncello biscuits

butter, for greasing
4 medium egg whites
350g caster sugar
350g ground almonds

grated zest of 3 unwaxed lemons
2 tbsps limoncello (lemon liqueur)
Icing sugar, sifted, to decorate

Preheat oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas 4. Line large baking sheets with baking parchment and lightly grease with butter.

Put egg whites in large bowl and whisk until stiff peaks form. Add sugar, then almonds and lemon zest, stirring between each addition. Pour in the limoncello and stir to make a smooth paste. Place heaped teaspoons of the mixture on the trays, spaced about 3cm apart to allow for spreading. Bake for about 15 minutes or until light brown.

Spiced Cranberry Punch

There is no need to push the boat out on an expensive bottle here as spiced rum is readily available, from a certain well known cut price supermarket. This makes about 2 litres, so is suitable for a group – if such a thing is allowed this year! Or you could reduce the quantities to suit the number of people.

700ml water
350g cranberries (fresh or frozen)
100g sugar
juice 1 orange
700mls spiced rum
1 litre spicy ginger beer

Simmer the cranberries in the water for 10 mins. Strain through a colander lined with muslin. Do not press down on the berries or the juice will be cloudy. Mix the juice with the sugar and orange juice and heat gently to dissolve the sugar. Cool. In a large bowl mix the cranberry juice with the spiced rum and ginger beer.

Pamela Ferguson

How long does it take to change a lightbulb?

THE EXTERIOR light bulb over the Parish Room doorway needed changing. This is the order of play:

First the bulb had to be removed and then we had to discover who sold them, ordered it by click and collect, waited for it to be ready, then collected it – fortunately only off Hillgate.

Got it back having parked next to John Atkinson (electrician) in their carpark, so asked for his advice.

Took it out of the box – it was cracked, so had to go back for an exchange.

Put the replacement in and it didn't work, despite cleaning the casing, etc.

We went to get a fuse for it, but when we came back it was working, because it turned out to be a photocell light fitting!

Put the ladders away – three hours later.

This is a taste of how hard our churchwardens are working during the pandemic – thank you, Hazel Jenkins and husband, Dave.

Christmas tree set-up



Our Christmas tree was set up and decorated on Advent Sunday by Akbar, Sareh, Peyman, Reza and Ali



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, STOCKPORT MUSIC LIST – DECEMBER 2020

| Sunday 6th December – The Second Sunday of Advent | |
|---|---|
| 10:15am – St. George's Service | 4:00pm – Service currently suspended |
| Introit: Adam lay y'bounden – Ord | |
| Setting: Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne | |
| | |
| Anthem: O thou the central orb – Wood | |

| Sunday 13th December – The Third Sunday of Advent | |
|---|---|
| 10:15am – The Toy Service | 4:00pm – Service currently suspended |
| Introit: The truth from above – arr. RVW | |
| Setting: A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening | |
| | |
| Anthem: Christ be our light – Farrell | |

| Sunday 20th December – The Fourth Sunday of Advent | |
|--|---|
| 10:15am – St. George's Service | 6:30pm – Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols |
| Introit: The angel Gabriel – Trad. Basque Carol | Live-streamed service |
| Setting: Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne | |
| | |
| Anthem: Lo, how a rose e'er blooming – Praetorius | |

| Thursday 24th December – Christmas Eve | |
|--|--|
| | 11:30pm – Midnight Communion |
| | Introit: All my heart this night rejoices – Ebeling |
| | Setting: The Canterbury Service – Barker |
| | Anthem: Infant holy, infant lowly – arr. Willcocks |
| | Anthem: Nativity Carol – Rutter |

| Friday 25th December – Christmas Day | |
|--|--|
| 10:15am – St. George's Service | |
| Introit: Joy to the world! – arr. Rutter | |
| Setting: Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne | |
| Anthem: Ding dong! merrily on high – arr. Wood | |
| Anthem: In dulci jubilo – arr. Stainer | |

| Sunday 27th December – The Second Sunday of Christmas | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 10:15am – St. George's Service | 4:00pm – No evening service |
| Pre-recorded (Online only) | |



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, STOCKPORT MUSIC LIST – JANUARY 2021

Sunday 3rd January – Feast of the Epiphany [Transferred]

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 10:15am – St. George's Service | | 6:30pm – The Epiphany Carol Service | |
| Introit: | Tres magi de gentibus – Lang | Live-streamed service | |
| Setting: | Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne | | |
| Anthem: | We three kings – arr. Hopkins | | |
| | | | |

Sunday 10th January – The Baptism of Christ

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 10:15am – St. George's Service | | 4:00pm – Service currently suspended | |
| Introit: | Upon your heart – Daley | | |
| Setting: | The Canterbury Service – Barker | | |
| Anthem: | If ye love me – Wilby | | |
| | | | |

Sunday 17th January – The Second Sunday after Epiphany

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 10:15am – St. George's Service | | 4:00pm – Service currently suspended | |
| Introit: | O come, ye servants of the Lord – Tye | | |
| Setting: | A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening | | |
| Anthem: | Do not be afraid – Stopford | | |
| | | | |

Sunday 24th January – The Third Sunday after Epiphany

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| 10:15am – St. George's Service | | 4:00pm – Service currently suspended | |
| Introit: | Christ is our cornerstone – Thorne | | |
| Setting: | Festive Eucharist Service – Rawsthorne | | |
| Anthem: | Christ is our cornerstone – Rawsthorne | | |
| | | | |

Sunday 31st January – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple [Transferred]

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 10:15am – St. George's Service | | 4:00pm – Choral Evensong | |
| Introit: | When to the temple Mary went – Eccard | Hymns: | 94 Hail to the Lord who comes 513 Lord, the light of your love is shining, |
| Setting: | Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne | Responses: | Smith |
| | | Psalm: | 122 |
| Anthem: | Lead me, Lord – Wesley | Canticles: | Evening Service in B minor – Noble |
| Canticle: | Nunc Dimittis in B minor – Noble | Anthem: | When to the temple Mary went – Eccard |

News from the choir

MEMBERS OF the choir have been asked to write a monthly article for the Grapevine. The first is from our Director of Music, James Hibbert.

I write this article as we reach the mid-way point of lockdown 2.0. By now you'll be aware that public worship has been suspended and the choir are unable to sing together again. However, it seems like a fitting time to look back over what has been achieved musically over the last few months since choral services resumed on Sunday 6th September.

I'd like to thank those choir members who have been able to return to singing in church despite all the rules and regulations we currently have to adhere to. We've managed to maintain a core group of between 10-16 singers at the majority of services, and I'm pleased that the standard of singing has continued to remain at a high standard despite us missing so many valued members of the choir. It's certainly important not to forget those members of the choir who aren't able to be with us at the moment. As a group we've all remained in contact in one form or another and I look forward to the day we can all sing together again.

Sadly, there's still no update on when congregational singing might resume. Accompanying congregational hymn singing is one of my favourite aspects of the job, and it pains me that we're still not allowed to do this. If I were in a position to point out the technical reasons behind this ban I would, but I'm as bemused by it as the next person.

I hope that the variety and quality of music the choir has sung since the resumption of services has done much to raise the spirits at our Sunday services. I'm grateful to those who have offered feedback and compliments regarding music at services.

On a personal level, I look forward to being able to work with the choir each Sunday with a sense of excitement, as I see it as the highlight of an otherwise dull week!

There have been several highlights so far for the choir in what has become an otherwise uneventful Autumn Term. For me, the most enjoyable services have been our three Choral Evensongs. I hope you've been able to tune in online to watch the live streams as they happen, or afterwards. Based on the viewing figures there's clearly an audience for these services, and I'm pleased they're being well received.

With just a few days to go before the start of the second lockdown period the choir came together at very short notice to pre-record the Advent Carol Service. This service will appear very different from our regular service as we've had to drop the various processions (and other aspects) that make this service so unique. Rest assured, it's still very much a traditional Advent Service. By the

Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 8 |
| 8 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| 4 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 5 |
| 9 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 2 |
| 7 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| 6 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 1 |
| 3 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 7 |

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 9 |
| 3 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 |
| 7 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| 5 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 4 |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| 9 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 |
| 4 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 1 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| 2 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 7 |

Crossword

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | E | P | E | N | D | | C | A | N | O | P | Y | |
| E | | E | | | R | | U | | U | | U | | |
| B | E | A | K | | | I | R | R | I | T | A | T | E |
| T | | C | | | | N | | I | | S | | I | |
| | Z | E | D | E | K | I | A | H | | | A | T | E |
| I | | A | | X | | S | | O | | T | | Z | |
| J | O | B | S | C | O | M | F | O | R | T | E | R | |
| O | | L | | E | | A | | F | | E | | A | |
| N | A | E | | | L | A | N | G | S | Y | N | E | |
| | S | | G | | B | | R | | | T | | L | |
| B | L | O | C | K | A | D | E | | | F | I | V | E |
| | A | | M | | N | | E | | | O | | A | |
| E | N | I | G | M | A | | | D | R | E | N | C | H |

time this article is published you'll be able to view the service on our various Church social media platforms.

Over the coming weeks we begin to turn our attention to Christmas. It's going to be quite a challenge to plan the music for this year's celebrations. Whether there is a congregation present will dictate the music offered. If the service is behind closed doors we'll be able to include all the traditional favourites. If a congregation is present I feel it'd be very unfair to include these, and expect no one to join in. It's a difficult decision that the clergy and I will have to take. I wish things were different!

You'll see elsewhere in the magazine that I have published a music list for December and January. Sometimes I don't know why I make the effort to put them together as inevitably the goalposts are moved and things change. I hope that they provide a slight sense of normality, and let you know what to expect from the choir each Sunday.

It's my hope that by the time we get to Easter we'll be able to sing together again. Keep praying that it's sooner rather than later!

Some positive news to finish with! A date to look forward to (hopefully far enough ahead in the future to still take place) is the choir's summer 'tour' to sing for services at Manchester Cathedral on the weekend of 28th/29th August 2021. I'm already beginning to look for some cathedral visits for the choir in 2022 as well.

James Hibbert Director of Music



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Please e-mail contributions to: ricmar77@gmx.com and also
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