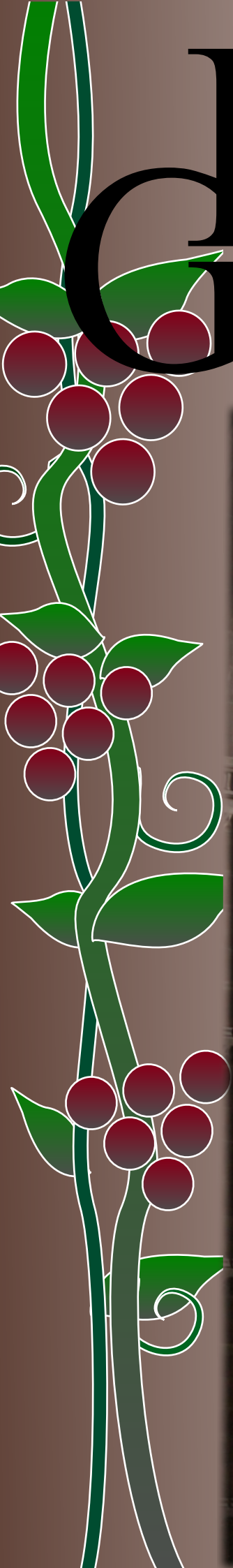


# Parish Grapevine

A monthly round-up of  
news, views, events  
and services at  
St George's, Heaviley,  
SK2 6NU,  
and St Gabriel's, Adwood  
*in the*  
*Parish of St George, Stockport.*  
[www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk](http://www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk)



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

<b>Vicar</b>	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall <i>vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</i> 456 9382	<b>Praise and Play</b>	Parish Office 480 2453 For 0-4s and their carers. Meet every Monday in term time, 9-11 in church. Story time at 10am.	<b>Choir</b>	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.
<b>Assistant Curate</b>	Rev. Dr Janine Arnott <i>rev.janinearnott@outlook.com</i> 612 1048	<b>St Gabriel's</b>		<b>Church Cleaners</b>	Meet on 1st Tuesday of every month 9.30-12 noon.
<b>Reader</b>	Peter Hall 456 9382	<b>Messy Church</b>	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall 456 9382 For children and their parents. Meet occasionally, usually Saturday mornings.	<b>Church Flowers</b>	Marjorie Lees 483 3676 Jean Hayden ( <i>donations</i> ) 483 2367
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Andrew Regan 440 0408 Hazel Jenkins 483 4679	<b>Uniformed Groups</b>		<b>Church Gardeners</b>	Walter Stead 430 2449 Meet on Tuesdays 9.30-12.30.
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Andrea Webb Reilly 07400 883938	<b>with connections to St George's</b>		<b>Coffee Mornings (Weds)</b>	Olwen Smith 483 6548 Wednesdays from 10.30am in the Parish Room.
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	contact via: <i>treasurer@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</i>	<b>Rainbows</b>	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.	<b>Cursillo</b>	Usually meet on last Wednesday of the month. 7.30pm at different venues.
<b>Parish Office</b>	Marion McCall 480 2453	<b>Brownies</b>	Rachel Lockett 775 2755 Voni Walker 07956 674 241 For girls aged 7-10. Meet Thursdays 6.30-8pm in the Parish Room.	<b>Handbells</b>	Andy Clark 483 3703 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.
<b>Magazine Editor</b>	Richard Parr 439 8644	<b>Guides</b>		<b>Linen Guild</b>	Pat Rigley 487 1999 Maintain the church's linen.
<b>Safeguarding co-ordinator</b>	Will Hesson 480 0630	<b>Beavers</b>	Bill Frith 439 3232 For boys and girls ages 6 and 7 Meet Fridays 6-7pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church.	<b>Magazine Editorial Group</b>	Richard Parr 439 8644 Meet monthly to plan future issues.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk">www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk</a>	<b>Cubs</b>	Bill Frith 439 3232 For boys and girls ages 8-10½. Meet Fridays 7.15-8.45pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church.	<b>Mothers' Union</b>	Pat Durnall 483 4837 Meet on 2nd Monday of the month in church at 2.15pm.
<b>Webmaster</b>	Peter Hall 456 9382	<b>Scouts</b>	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.	<b>Singing Group</b>	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.
<b>St George's Primary School</b>		<b>Other Groups and Activities</b>			
<b>Headteacher</b>	Deborah Grindrod 480 8657	<b>St George's</b>			
<b>St George's</b>		<b>Bell ringers</b>	Anne Mayes 485 6477 Practise Mondays 7.45-9pm. Ring on Sundays 9.45-10.15am. Meet in the tower.		
<b>Deputy Wardens</b>	John Hardy 01663 764 462 Will Hesson 480 0630	<b>Bible Reading Fellowship Notes</b>	Janet Neilson 483 9025 Notes are ordered on request.		
<b>Verger</b>	Ian Staley 456 3093	<b>Bible Study Groups</b>	<i>contact the clergy</i> Study groups and courses are arranged from time to time.		
<b>Director of Music</b>	James Hibbert 07365 519207 <i>actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</i>	<b>Chancel Guild</b>	Meet on 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9.30-12 noon to care for the chancel.		
<b>Bookings for Parish Rooms</b>	Parish Office or 480 2453 Judith Swift 483 8681				
<b>St Gabriel's</b>					
<b>Secretary</b>	John Sutcliffe 286 2301				
<b>Bookings</b>	Parish Office 480 2453				
<b>Children's Activities</b>					
<b>St George's</b>					
<b>Children's Corner</b>	Available for children (and parents) during services. Equipped with books, crayons and soft toys.				
<b>Sunday Club</b>	Louise Clark 483 3703 For children of nursery and school age. Meet during the 10.15am Parish Communion service most weeks during term time.				
<b>Junior Choir</b>	James Hibbert 07365 519207 Practise 6.30-7.30 on Thursdays in the vestry; sing on Sundays for 10.15am service.				

### Front cover photo

The east window at St George's,  
photographed on  
the last day of February  
(photo by Andrew Regan)

**Services and events  
in March:  
see page 6**



## From the Editor:

Dear Readers,

IN LAST MONTH'S editorial I mentioned the 60s song, *Deck of Cards*, which tells the tale of a young American soldier in serious trouble with his commanding officer. He was caught during a church parade apparently playing cards. Facing a court martial, he explained that as he had no Bible or Prayer Book, he used the cards to replace them, with each of the cards symbolising an important aspect of his Christian faith. The Ace, for example, he used to remind himself of the existence of the one true God. I explained up to the number 7 card, and wondered how many of the rest you could guess?

If you did, very well done! The soldier told the marshal that the 8 represented the 8 members of Noah's family saved from the Flood, and the 9 remembers that 9 of the 10 lepers Jesus healed never came back to thank him. The 10 is an easier one - the Ten Commandments - and the Jack suggests the devil. The Queen represents the Virgin Mary, Queen of Heaven, and final card, the King, again symbolises the God who rules over heaven and earth.

The record is perhaps a little too sentimental for the hip-hop era, but its symbolism does work! I'm writing this on Ash Wednesday, at the beginning of Lent, and remembering the Ash Wednesday packs made available in church to help us reflect and pray during this period before Easter. Ashes, of course, have traditionally been a symbol of repentance: the king of Nineveh, for example, when he heard of Jonah's call for the city to repent, immediately

dressed himself in sackcloth and sat on a heap of ashes to replace his gorgeous robes and beautiful throne. For many centuries, Christians have received the sign of the Cross in ashes traditionally made from the burning of the previous year's Palm Sunday leaves. The warning from Genesis spoken during the ceremony, 'For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return,' is now often replaced by the more positive, 'Repent, and believe in the Gospel.'

The symbolism found in the ceremony of Ash Wednesday can be a profound reminder of our need to remember, or perhaps even accept for the first time, how God's love for us all offers everyone the opportunity to welcome and respond to the Good News of his mercy and forgiveness, thanks to the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ.

As a postscript, I couldn't help being amused this morning by the story in the paper of the Catholic priest who was pulled over by the police in Cumbernauld and asked to explain why he had bags of ashes in his car. Apparently, the bags he was using to transport the ashes are the kind used by drug dealers to carry their wares. If you didn't read the article, you can probably guess the word the headline writer put before 'Wednesday'!

Keep safe and well.

God bless!

Richard Parr.

Editor.



Palm Sunday is on 28th March

See page 7 for services in Holy Week and Easter

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| Response                          |                                      |                                       |



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Approximately 300 copies are printed each month. The current rates per issue are:

Full page: £50    Half page: £30    1/3rd page: £20    Quarter page: £15    1/6th page: £10

We can assist with the design of your display, if necessary, and make no charge for this.

Interested? Contact the Editor: e-mail [ricmar77@gmx.com](mailto:ricmar77@gmx.com) or tel. 0161 439 8644.

## 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](http://www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk)



## Janine writes: From Pixar to the Psalms

This is one of my favourite times of year. Spring is in the air. The days are getting a little warmer, the evenings are a little lighter, and the sky is a little bluer and brighter. Spring flowers have suddenly appeared around Davenport. Patches of grass that were muddy thoroughfares only a few days ago are now covered with crocus, daffodils, and snowdrops. It feels like we are emerging from a long, dark winter and we can look forward to sunnier times.

It isn't just the changing season that puts a spring in my step. We still have a long way to go in beating the virus that has kept us at home for the last 12 months but there is hope. Infection rates are beginning to decline; the pressure on the NHS is beginning to ease; and the vaccine programme has been rolled out in what is undoubtedly an unprecedented effort by pharmaceutical companies and the NHS. Never before has a programme of this scale been achieved in such a short space of time.

There is good reason to be optimistic.

So, how are you feeling?

How are you really feeling?

Optimistic?

OK?

Sad?

Confused?

Angry?

Fearful?

Maybe you don't know what you are feeling or why. That isn't surprising. Our world has been turned upside down. Our normal coping strategies don't work anymore. The unwritten rules of life have been rewritten and our priorities have been reordered. Life is the same but different. It is no wonder we are confused! Emotions are strange things that are difficult to understand at the best of times.

Pixar's animated film, *Inside Out*, may be able to help us out here. The movie follows five emotions that guide

the life of Riley Anderson. Eleven year old Riley moves from Minnesota to San Francisco with her family. As Riley comes to terms with her world being turned upside down, we see how Joy, Sadness, Fear, Anger, and Disgust react to Riley's circumstances and how that reaction forms memories. The star of the show is Joy. Joy is charged with keeping Riley happy, and Joy likes to keep Sadness inactive. When Joy and Sadness are both knocked out of place and fall into Riley's long-term memory, Anger, Fear, and Disgust have free rein, with unfortunate consequences. As Joy and Sadness struggle to get back into Riley's mind, Joy realises the importance of Sadness. Flicking through memories, Joy realises that Sadness acts as a beacon for help. When Sadness is allowed to show, people respond with kindness, turning sad memories into happy ones.

Many of us will be feeling mixed up right now. Maybe we are feeling guilty about feeling sad when the world around us seems more positive. Yes, sadness has its place in our range of emotions and it is important to recognise and respond to all those emotions. But what do we do when we can't even understand what we are feeling, when our emotions seem out of synch with our thoughts and nothing makes sense?

The Psalms can help us out here. They span every human emotion. They can help us order our thoughts when we don't understand our feelings. They can give us the language to express our emotions when we are lost for words. And they give us comfort in the knowledge that whatever we are feeling, we are not alone. More than anything, they remind us that God is with us even in the most challenging times and that God will bring us through this. In the meantime, it is OK to be sad, confused, angry, or fearful. God can understand our emotions, even if we can't.

Psalms 42 and 43 ask those difficult 'why me?' questions and call on God for help in times of despair.

Psalms 23 offers us comfort in times of trouble.

Psalms 121 reminds us of God's love and protection

Psalms 126 allows us to praise God for restoration and happier times ahead

Psalms 150 allows us to offer God unbridled praise.

Why not try meditating or praying your favourite Psalm this week?

## Parish News Roundup

### Holy Baptism

None last month

### Holy Matrimony

None last month

### Funerals

1st Feb Rafale Drummond

4th Feb Jean Bull (at the Cypress Chapel)

Samuel McLean (at the Rowan Chapel)

18th Feb Michael Thabo Banana

### Communion Flowers were sponsored as follows:

7th Feb Barbara Lee-Wood, for loved ones.

14th Feb for all those we love.

21st Feb in memory of Edna and Norman Tootell

28th Feb from Kate Stephenson and family, remembering Barry and all our loved ones.

### Saturday morning Lent Breakfasts

*What has Covid Done for Me?*

Lent Breakfasts will continue in March, and will be held online via Zoom. So please do join us on your computer, tablet or phone. Sessions will be from

## Parish News Roundup

10am for about one hour. The individual sessions will be as follows:

6th Mar: *Positives and opportunities* (Elaine)

13th Mar: *Maintaining mental health* (Jonathan Lloyd, counsellor)

20th Mar: *What has Covid taught us?* (Chris Dawson)

Please contact Chris Dawson to book a place and to receive the Zoom link: christopher.dawson4@ntlworld.com Bring your own croissants and coffee to the screen!

### Geoffrey Oldham

We are very sad to report the death of Geoffrey Oldham on 10th February, after a short illness. On behalf of all the church family, we send our condolences and love to Janet and the family.

### Grapevine Dates

As most of you will know, Grapevine is normally available to readers on the first Sunday of each month. This was true for the normal printed magazine, and is also true for our current digital issues.

It would be helpful if any events taking place on the first Sunday of the month,

## Parish News Roundup

or on any days before that Sunday, could be advertised, wherever possible, in the previous month's magazine, so that everyone is aware of them.

Please, therefore, if you wish to have such notices published, could you please ensure that they are included by the deadline dates for the magazine, that are always printed in Grapevine, both in the Parish News pages and on the back page.

Many thanks.

Richard Parr.

### Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings:

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

### April 2021

#### Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Fri 19th Mar**

Committee meeting: via email

## Services at St George's in March/early April

Please note that our services will continue to be online, without a congregation present, for most of March.

We plan to re-open for congregational worship for some services, starting on **Sunday 28th March**. Please see opposite page for details.

Please see our Facebook page and website for the latest information.

### Live-streamed services and events

**Mondays to Fridays:** Morning Prayer at 9.30am

**Every Sunday:** Holy Communion at 10.15am  
Compline at 9pm

**Friday 5th Mar:** Messy Church Bake Off at 1pm

**Saturday 6th Mar:** Messy Church Craft/Outdoors at 1pm

**Sunday 7th Mar:** Story Time at 5pm

**Sunday 28th Mar:** Choral Evensong at 4pm

### Online events during Easter weekend:

**Good Friday 2nd Apr:** Messy Church Bake Off at 1pm

**Saturday 3rd Apr:** Messy Church Craft at 1pm

**Easter Sunday 4th Apr:** Story Time at 5pm

### The church will be open for individual private prayer in the Chapel as follows:

**Wednesdays and Sundays:** 11am to 12 noon

**See opposite page for full details of services during Holy Week and Easter at St George's**



# Holy Week and Easter at St George's



We expect to be open for congregational worship for some services in Holy Week and Easter. Others will be live streamed only, as indicated below

## Palm Sunday 28th March

- 10.15am Parish Communion (with congregation *and* live streamed)  
4pm A service of readings and music for Holy Week (live streamed only)  
9pm Compline (live streamed only)

## Monday 29th March

- 7.30pm Taizé-style service (live streamed only)

## Tuesday 30th March

- 7.30pm The Way of the Cross. A said service: journey with Jesus to the cross (live streamed only)

## Wednesday 31st March

- 9.30am Morning Prayer (in church *and* live streamed)  
10am Said service of Holy Communion (with congregation) (BCP)  
7.30pm Tenebrae Service – a reflective service in candlelight, following the journey of the cross (live streamed only)

## Maudy Thursday: Thursday 1st April

- 7.30pm Sung Service of Holy Communion (with congregation)

## Good Friday: Friday 2nd April

- 2pm Good Friday Liturgy. A service with music, prayers and reflections (with congregation)

## Easter Eve: Saturday 3rd April

- 7.30pm A Sung Service of Light and renewal of baptism vows (live streamed only)

## Easter Day: Sunday 4th April

- 8am Holy Communion (*with congregation*) (BCP)  
10.15am Parish Communion (with congregation *and* live streamed)  
4pm Choral Evening Prayer (live streamed only)  
9pm Compline (live streamed only)

## 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 .....

## Letter from Tril to Rosie in February 2021

LOVELY TO GET your last letter, and sorry if I have been dilatory (is that a word?) about replying. Lots of news from you as always.

I am so glad you have started your vaccinations and will have protection. As far as I know they haven't started here yet. Being such a great age I expect to hear once the system is working.

I hope you aren't having too severe a winter, with mention of snow and flooding. We are in the middle of summer which is very pleasant and not too hot.

Cara and Bali [daughter and son in law] are in Wellington for a few days. Bali has been helping a new Labour candidate prepare his maiden speech. He [the Labour candidate] also was 'married' to his male partner in the Beehive (our Parliament building) and Cara and Bali were invited to both. The partner gave him a feather cloak, worth a fortune, and he wore it for the speech.

You will realise I have a love/hate relationship with this machine which does just as IT pleases. I have just

interrupted Graham in the middle of a lesson by accidentally pressing the wrong things.

We are getting back to more or less normal here in our village, and are going to a matinee at the pictures tomorrow. To see Ammonite. I think I have read the book.

We have been fortunate over the Covid 19. There are a few cases each day, but they are in the controlled quarantine system and we are all expected to keep close record of everywhere we go (such as church) in case it gets out into the public again. Specially the new mutations.

Cara and Bali take such loving care of me and I am so grateful. But, of course, I miss Graham. We phone every Sunday but haven't seen him for over a year.

Take good care of each other. Lots of love and thoughts, and special thanks for the Grapevine, which I read from beginning to end. Please remember me to all my friends at church. Happy memories of all our group activities.

Tril xx

## Tril's Garden in New Zealand





## Garden Gnomes

THE RECENT MONTHS have been difficult for the gardening team. Throughout most of last year our activities were greatly impeded by the Covid restrictions. Then 2021 started with the imposition of tighter lockdown controls, and some very harsh weather which has severely limited our regular weekly sessions.

Although not much has been growing, apart from the occasional weeds, there are still tasks requiring attention – tidying up litter, collecting up the many twigs (and sometimes branches) which have accumulated as a result of the recent periods of high wind, and keeping control of the moss on the paths, which never gives up trying to take over.

Hopefully, we may have seen the end of the icy weather. The temperatures are starting to rise and there are signs that Nature is coming back to life again. Although the snowdrops may have been a bit slow to emerge, they have been quickly followed by the crocuses, and, if the spinney next door to where we live is anything to go by, it will be a bumper display this year.

Miniature daffodils are in bloom, and the shoots of the larger varieties, and tulips, have appeared. The team have planted 500 bulbs in the North Avenue garden, so we hope to have a good display of colour there very soon. It's all a welcome reminder that March is the beginning of the gardening year.

Our thanks are due to those Gnomes who have been able to attend on Tuesday mornings, for keeping the gardens looking tidy and cared for, and for their groundwork for the coming spring and summer displays.

Over the next few weeks, the range of activities in our own gardens starts to increase significantly. However,

caution is needed for some tasks in case the weather turns cold again with the risk of frost.

Here are one or two suggestions to get you started:

Firstly, check out your gardening equipment after the winter lay-off.

It is now time to aerate the lawns with a wire rake, and apply spring fertiliser.

Prepare the ground for planting dahlias, and chrysanthemums.

Plant gladioli, sweet peas and heathers now.

Rose trees can be pruned and pruning of other shrubs to remove dead growth can also be done. It's an opportune time to complete hard pruning of old hedges. As a general rule, pruning of plants that bloom in the summer and into autumn should be done in this late winter to early spring period when the sap isn't rising. There are some plants which have copious amounts of sap when in active growth and they are best pruned in late winter, before the spring growth starts, or in late summer to avoid bleeding.

So – plenty to get us back into the swing of things.

In conclusion, the team would like to place on record our sadness at the loss of our good friend and colleague, Jean Bull. Amongst her many roles at St George's, we will remember her as a special part of the 'Gnome' team – keeping us fed and watered every Tuesday at our tea/coffee break, and always being there for helpful advice when we had questions that needed answering. Her warm and caring personality will be greatly missed by us all, and we thank God for her friendship over so many years.

*Novice Gnome*

## Are you a Seenager?

I HAVE JUST discovered my age group! I am a Seenager (senior teenager). I have everything I ever wanted as a teenager, only 50–60 years later.

I don't have to go to school or work and I get a monthly allowance. I have my own place to live and don't have a curfew. I have a driving licence and own my own car.

I don't need ID to get into bars or the wine store and the people I hang around with are not afraid of getting pregnant. And I don't have spots. Life is Good!

Also you will feel much more intelligent after reading this if you are a Seenager. Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts

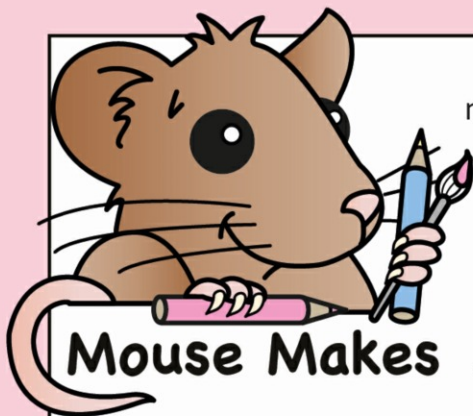
because they have so much more information in their brains. Scientists believe this makes you hard of hearing because it puts pressure on your inner ear.

Also, older people go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand still wondering what they came for. It is not a memory problem but nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

So there!

I have more friends I should send this to, but at the moment I can't remember their names. So please pass this on to your friends; they may be my friends, too.

*Kate Stephenson*



## Mouse Makes

**Who is my mother?**

Look up the Bible verses then find the mother's names in the word search

**CAIN and ABEL**  
*Genesis 4:1-2*

**JOSEPH**  
*Genesis 30:22-24*

**ISHMAEL**  
*Genesis 16:15*

**TIMOTHY**  
*2 Timothy 1:5*

**RUBEN**  
*Genesis 29:32*

**GAD**  
*Genesis 35:26*

**SAMUEL**  
*1 Samuel 1:20*

**OBED**  
*Matthew 1:5*

**ISAAC**  
*Genesis 21:3*

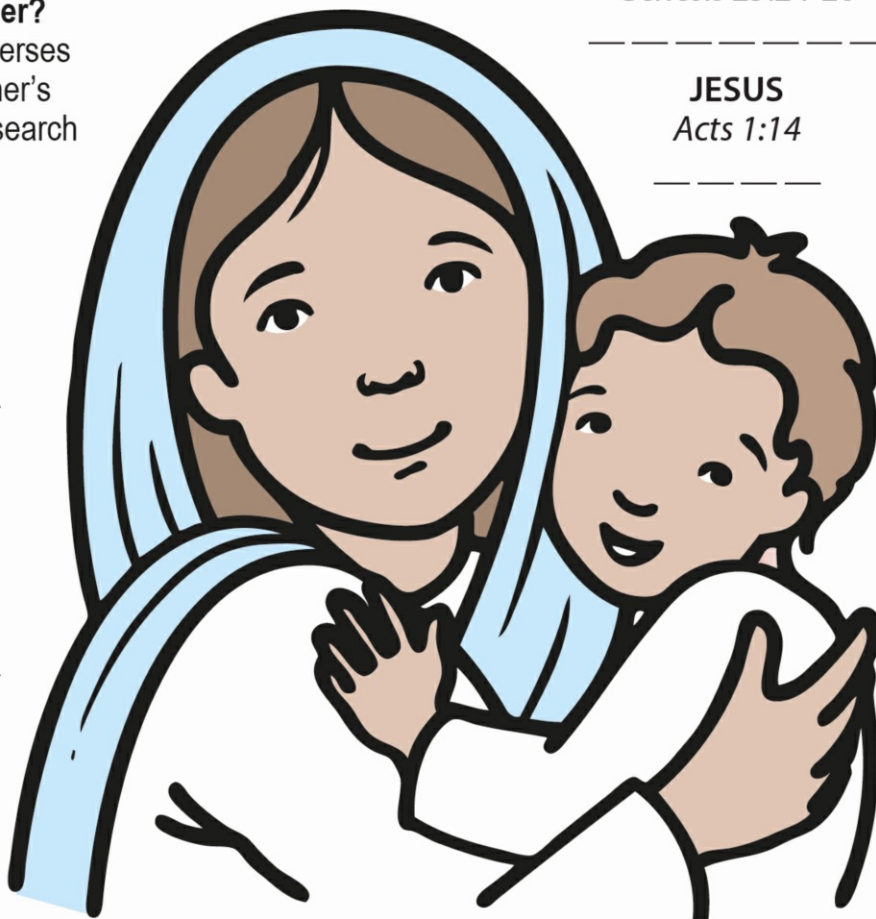
Jesus was **loved** by his mother Mary, she looked after him, worried about him and prayed for him. She **cuddled** Jesus when he was born, **cried** when he died and **rejoiced** when he rose from the dead.

**SOLOMON**  
*1 Chronicles 3:5*

**JOHN**  
*Luke 1:57-60*

**ESAU and JACOB**  
*Genesis 25:24-26*

**JESUS**  
*Acts 1:14*



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

There are two other words in the word search, can you find them?

# The Government's Roadmap out of Lockdown: March and April

STEP 1 8 March		29 March		STEP 2 No earlier than 12 April	
				At least 5 weeks after Step 1	
<b>EDUCATION</b>		<b>EDUCATION</b>		<b>EDUCATION</b>	
<b>8 MARCH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools and colleges open for all students</li> <li>Practical Higher Education courses</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As previous step</li> </ul>	
<b>SOCIAL CONTACT</b>		<b>SOCIAL CONTACT</b>		<b>SOCIAL CONTACT</b>	
<b>8 MARCH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exercise and recreation outdoors with household or one other person</li> <li>Household only indoors</li> </ul>		<b>29 MARCH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rule of 6 or two households outdoors</li> <li>Household only indoors</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rule of 6 or two households outdoors</li> <li>Household only indoors</li> </ul>	
<b>BUSINESS &amp; ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>BUSINESS &amp; ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>BUSINESS &amp; ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>8 MARCH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wraparound care, including sport, for all children</li> </ul>		<b>29 MARCH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organised outdoor sport (children and adults)</li> <li>Outdoor sport and leisure facilities</li> <li>All outdoor children's activities</li> <li>Outdoor parent &amp; child group (max 15 people, excluding under 5s)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All retail</li> <li>Personal care</li> <li>Libraries &amp; community centres</li> <li>Most outdoor attractions</li> <li>Indoor leisure inc. gyms (individual use only)</li> <li>Self-contained accommodation</li> <li>All children's activities</li> <li>Outdoor hospitality</li> <li>Indoor parent &amp; child groups (max 15 people, excluding under 5s)</li> </ul>	
<b>TRAVEL</b>		<b>TRAVEL</b>		<b>TRAVEL</b>	
<b>8 MARCH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stay at home</li> <li>No holidays</li> </ul>		<b>29 MARCH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise travel</li> <li>No holidays</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic overnight stays (household only)</li> <li>No international holidays</li> </ul>	
<b>EVENTS</b>		<b>EVENTS</b>		<b>EVENTS</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funerals (30)</li> <li>Weddings and wakes (6)</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funerals (30)</li> <li>Weddings, wakes, receptions (15)</li> <li>Event pilots</li> </ul>	

## The Church of England's Response to the Coronavirus Reopening Roadmap

FOLLOWING THE Prime Minister's statement to Parliament, the Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who chairs the Church of England's Coronavirus Recovery Group, has issued a statement on behalf of the Church.

"I am grateful to the Prime Minister for sharing these proposals to ease the current restrictions in a way which gives us all some clarity and enables people to begin to plan.

"We will study the details and, working with Government Departments, refine our own advice for local churches in the weeks ahead. We all look forward to being able to meet in larger groups again later this year and today's announcement will be especially encouraging for couples planning weddings, among others.

"When the first lockdown was introduced last year, we were – as we are now – in the midst of Lent, a time of preparation and self-reflection for Christians as we look forward with hope to Easter and its promise of new life in Jesus Christ.

"This has been an incredibly testing time for the whole world – most of all the loved ones of those who have died. The financial cost of the pandemic has been enormous, and we will never truly know the cost of separation and loneliness on individuals and society.

"But we have also seen remarkable signs of hope. The rapid development and distribution of vaccines has been a phenomenal achievement and I want to thank everyone involved in the process.

"The way in which people have reached out to others has been inspirational.

"Our churches have loved and served their neighbours perhaps like never before and found ways to meet and worship God together we would not have imagined just a year ago.

"As we look ahead to the prospect of easing of restrictions we know it is still a long road. Yet Easter reminds us we always have hope."



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## Annual Subscription reminder

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

Thank you.

### Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

### Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 23)



### 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 The earth is one (6)
- 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)
- 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
- 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth(Luke 2:1) (8)
- 9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus'(Philippians 2:5) (8)
- 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this(Luke 8:16) (3)
- 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)
- 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
- 19 Where the Gaderene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
- 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
- 25 The Venerable — , eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)
- 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
- 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)

#### Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)
- 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
- 3 Gospel leaflet (5)
- 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18)
- 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
- 6 To put forth (5)
- 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
- 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
- 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel'(Genesis 25:26) (5)
- 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha'srequest (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
- 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times thatyou know me' (Luke22:34) (4)
- 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
- 18 'When I — , I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)
- 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
- 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
- 22 Does (anag.) (4)
- 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this(Genesis 41:19) (4)

# Service to celebrate the life of Jean Bull

8th October 1941 – 13th January 2021

The service took place in the Cypress Chapel at Stockport Crematorium, on Thursday 4th February, and was conducted by the Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall.

Elaine began by saying that Jean had held a special place in the hearts of her family, members of St George's church, her friends and her many charities, and all would mourn her passing. Jean was always ready to help and she did it with complete humility with no expectation, or desire, for reward.

Jean's brother, Garry, spoke of their early life, living in Rose Hill, Marple, and attending Ludworth CP school in Marple Bridge, using a special twice-daily school bus from Rose Hill. Then Jean attended The Willows SM school in Marple and Garry went to Grammar School, and their lives began to separate somewhat then.

After the war, family holidays took them to Blackpool, Morecambe and Colwyn Bay, and in 1954 their younger sister, Trudi, was born. After she left school, Jean worked at Boots, M&S and eventually at Battersby's hat factory, where she met her future husband, Bill Bull. They married in 1967 and moved to 17 Woodbine Crescent, where she lived for the rest of her life. They had four children, Karen, John, Gary and Anne and later Jean pursued her voluntary work with charities, The Children's Society, Beechwood and Debra, well into her seventies.

They had regular contact with Bill's family in Marple Bridge and Compstall, but Jean's family were in Salford, a difficult and tiresome journey by buses, so visits were much less frequent. A family event which brought them all together was a cousin's dinner party, held in October 2019, which Jean enjoyed enormously, renewing connections and family roots which went back a lifetime. Sadly, for some this was the last time they saw Jean. She bore her final illness with calm acceptance and huge courage, and Garry will miss his dear sister with her lovely smile and warm personality.

One of Jean's neighbours, John New, spoke of his memories of Jean. They had been neighbours and good friends for 54 years. Jean and Bill led a life of simplicity and raised four children in a small terraced house, which couldn't have been easy. Jean was always cheerful, humble and very generous with her time and energy within the church community. John's abiding memory of Jean will be of her with the ubiquitous shopping bag, walking to either Bramhall Lane, Davenport or Castle Street, Edgeley, and stopping many times on the way to

chat to the many friends she always met. He and his family had many memories, but John ended by saying thank you to Jean for making the world a better place because of her presence in it.

There were also words from John Bull, one of Jean's sons.

He spoke of the fact that apart from being a mother to the four children, she was also a sister, an aunt, confidante, advisor, counsellor, carer and also a mover and shaker in the local community. She did voluntary work for almost 30 years in various charity shops around the town, gained a Queen's Award for voluntary service for her work, and was much loved and appreciated by all.



She enjoyed her time at St George's, the children in the school, and chatting with the Garden Gnomes, many of whom sent kind words about her. He thanked friends, neighbours, St George's, extended family and the funeral directors for their cards and good wishes. Jean's happy place was the Roman Lakes, in Marple, which is where her ashes will be scattered. May she rest in peace.

Elaine continued her address by saying that, even if Jean didn't aim to be noticed, she was, and there were many recollections from her friends at St George's paying tribute and appreciation of her presence amongst them. The Garden Gnomes and Tuesday cleaners had particular affection for Jean, for it was her call of 'Kettle's boiled! Coffee's ready' at 11am that brought welcome relief from the morning's work. Everyone settled in the vestry to enjoy the coffee break and chocolate biscuits. In fact, several people made a special effort to come in on a Tuesday, just for the coffee and biscuits and chat. Jean loved being part of St George's and being able to do her bit. She always cleared everything away too, saying she didn't need any help. Tuesday mornings will never be the same.

Ian Staley, the vergar, commented that it was hard to think of a time that Jean was not around St George's. Ian was normally at church doing something or other, seven days a week, and Jean was usually around, even on Sundays. If a party had been held in the Parish Rooms on the Saturday, Jean would come in to see that everything was ok for the Play Group and After School classes on the Monday.

Every Saturday morning Jean cleaned the Parish Rooms and kitchen and toilets, and she and Ian would remove all the rubbish from both there and the church. Then Jean would make coffee for anyone in the vestry,



flower ladies and visitors, before going to the charity shop on Bramhall Lane to sort things out for them, and would also do her own shopping whilst she was out.

Once or twice over the years, Jean took a holiday with a friend. They would go with National Holidays for a five-day coach tour, and, on her return would show us brochures of the places she had visited.

These are just a fraction of the memories that people have shared, but Jean will be remembered by all of us as a generous-hearted, quiet, busy lady, a jewel in the community. Most of what Jean did was for the love of helping others. In the Gospels, Jesus urged us to 'love one another' and that's what Jean did in so many different ways. Elaine gave thanks to God for Jean's life and her time with us.

*Rosie Stead*

## Bishop's Council approves Eco-Diocese target

THE DIOCESE OF CHESTER will aim to become an Eco-Diocese following a unanimous decision by Bishop's Council to agree to work towards that target. Eco-Diocese is an initiative from the Christian environment charity, A Rocha.

Speaking at an event to break the ground of a community garden at St Andrew's, Grange, Bishop Mark said: "We took an important decision that we're going to aim to be registered as an Eco-Diocese. That matters to me at a personal level, as well as at an institutional level as a Church.

"The scientific evidence that we are doing damage to our ecology, I think, is just really clear, and we have a responsibility to work together to leave a good planet for those who come after us. Wherever you are, there are little things you can do which invest in the environment, and, together we can do really big things."

The proposal to become an Eco-Diocese was put forward by the Archdeacon of Macclesfield, Ian Bishop, who has a passion for environmental matters. He says: "I have come to see the earth as a precious and amazing gift

of God. As with any gift, we need to receive it above all with thanks, and use it as the giver intended. We've made such a mess of that gift and the time has come to clean it up, repair it and start using it as was intended. I hope resolving to aim toward becoming an Eco-Diocese can be a small but important step on the journey of repair."

Eco-Diocese is an initiative from the Christian environment charity, A Rocha. It is a way to encourage and promote local church participation in the Eco-Church scheme.

To reach Eco-Diocese status, a diocese must have completed a number of activities.

### How to become an Eco-Church

In order to reach Eco-Diocese status, a percentage of churches within any diocese must gain Eco-Church status. Eco-Church is A Rocha UK's award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the Gospel is good news for God's earth. If you are ready to take the step towards becoming an Eco-Church, take a look at the A Rocha [website](#) for all the details.

## New bishop for the environment

THE BISHOP OF NORWICH, Graham Usher, has accepted the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury to lead the Church of England's Environment Programme with a charge to lead bold, deliberate, collaborative action across the Church to tackle the grave existential crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Bishop Graham will work with the Mission and Public Affairs department of the Church of England to lead the Church of England's Environment Programme, including the commitment to net-zero carbon impacts across the Church of England by 2030 set by General Synod in February 2020.

Making the announcement, The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: "The crises of climate change and biodiversity loss are the most grave and existential we face: as human beings, as a Church and as a global community. We welcome Bishop Graham and his long expertise as he steps into the role of Lead Bishop for

the Environment. May we pray for him, and the vital work of the Environment Programme."

The Diocese of Chester is a fervent supporter of environmental and sustainability issues. We have our own environment forum which looks at how the diocese can improve awareness and also advise on how we can change our habits to make the world better for all. Last month Bishop Mark joined other faith leaders, campaign groups, businesses, and academics in writing to Boris Johnson to introduce legally-binding targets to cut plastic pollution.

### Lent 2021

The environment is also the focus of the season of Lent in the Diocese of Chester. Led by the diocesan Environment Forum, 40 individuals from around our diocese are each reflecting on God's word and God's world. They each delve into Scripture and share inspiring personal stories about the small ways in which they are moved to cherish the gift of life.

## Former Stockport Grammar pupil takes the literary world by storm

Former Stockport Grammar pupil Abigail Dean has hit the Sunday Times bestseller lists with 'Girl A', her shocking debut novel about siblings who flee abusive parents.

In the summer of 2018, successful lawyer Abigail decided to take time off work ahead of her 30th birthday, and spent three months at Dulwich library in London writing her novel. Then, in October 2019, her dream came true as HarperCollins won a nine-way auction to publish 'Girl A.'

This debut novel follows the story of successful lawyer, Lex Gracie, who was the subject of national news as a child for her escape from a family of religious fanatics. When her mother dies and leaves Lex and her siblings the family home, Lex realises she can't run from her past and must come to terms with her childhood.

Abi has had a passion for writing since her days at Stockport Grammar and the novel includes a thank you to the school's English department and her teacher Mr Howson. After leaving Stockport Grammar, Abigail studied English at Cambridge University.

She said: "I'm so excited to be working with the fantastic team at HarperCollins to introduce Girl A and the Gracie family to readers across the world. The whole process has been dreamlike, and I'm in awe of my agent, Juliet, who has worked tirelessly to make all of this happen.

"There is lots of excitement and a fair dose of nerves, but I'm so thrilled that people are going to get to meet the characters. I keep remembering all of the books that have made me feel stuff over the years, and I just hope that's what Girl A does too."

In addition to the novel, Sony pictures have acquired the screen rights with renowned Emmy-winning music, television and film director Johan Renck leading the negotiations.

Abigail continues to work as a lawyer for Google and is already writing her second novel. But even with her busy schedule, this SGS alumni will be taking time to talk too and inspire the school's current pupils.



*photo: Nicola Thomson Photography*

### Some words of Mother Teresa

**Quoted by the Archbishop of York at a General Synod on 27th February**

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centred. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.



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## Winters clock is getting a facelift

IN THE 19th century Little Underbank was probably the finest shopping street in Stockport. All the needs of the town were available on Little Underbank from its 30 shops – hosiers, milliners, through to \*curriers – all plying their trade.

Its prestige encouraged Jacob Winters to set up a jewellery shop, in 1890, at number 23. Outside, he installed a superb automaton clock with soldier, sailor and Old Father Time, marking the time. His ingenuity did not finish with the clock. By harnessing the power of water, he made a device for lowering and raising the window display, which could be lowered into the basement for safe keeping.

Over the years, the building has operated in many guises, including an optician, jewellers, a restaurant and, most recently, as a pub, managed by Manchester brewery, Joseph Holt. The good news is that Winters clock will soon chime again, as work gets underway to transform the much-loved building into a French restaurant.

The Grade II-listed building is being restored to its former glory by a family-run, Manchester-based,

contractor, H.H. Smith and Sons Co. Ltd., and will see construction students from Stockport College work alongside its team to gain experience in heritage techniques.

All the renovation works will be carried out in compliance with the Government's Covid-19 guidelines during the current lockdown and beyond. The restoration is part of the council's wider programme of work to restore and improve buildings such as the award-winning White Lion and the Produce Hall. Significant funding and support from the Heritage Lottery Fund is helping the restoration of buildings in the Underbanks. This build programme aims to complete by summer 2021.

*All information obtained from [rediscoveringtheunderbanks.co.uk](http://rediscoveringtheunderbanks.co.uk) and the Stockport Express 24 February 2021*

*Rosie Stead*

*\*curriers*

*definition – person who curries leather*

*historically – to treat (tanned leather) to improve*

## 100 years of the PCC

*The Ven. John Barton considers a beloved national institution.*

IT'S A HUNDRED years since parish churches gained the power to run their own affairs, separately from what we now regard as local government.

The religious affairs of a parish, as well as its secular business, had been controlled by a single committee which met in the church and was known as the 'Vestry'. Then, in 1894, Parish Councils were formed to deal with secular matters; the Vestry continued to oversee church affairs until 1921, when Parochial Church Councils (PCC) were established. People still get confused by the two.

Churchwardens have been around since the 13th century and legally 'own' the movable contents of the church. They are meant to maintain order in the church and churchyard, with the assistance of their staves, if necessary. In the event of serious disorder today, a mobile phone might be a safer instrument, with staves reserved for ceremonial occasions! Churchwardens are now chosen by parishioners, though the incumbent (i.e. vicar or rector) has a limited right of veto.

Today, anyone on the Electoral Roll of the church (sorry, this is another confusion, for the secular Electoral Roll is

entirely separate) can attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which elects the PCC. The incumbent is an ex officio member, as are other licensed clergy and churchwardens, members of the Deanery Synod, plus any member of the Diocesan Synod and General Synod who lives in the parish or is on the Roll. The Incumbent chairs the PCC, which elects a Vice-Chair and appoints a Standing Committee to transact business between meetings.

The purpose of a PCC, which must meet at least four times a year, is to consult together with the incumbent "on matters of general concern and importance to the parish", and that includes the "whole mission of the Church". Did you know that changes to the forms of service, or the vesture or the minister, can only happen after consultation?

Inevitably, money and building maintenance take up a lot of room on the agenda, though we all know they are less important than mission. It's a real challenge for every PCC member to pray for non-churchgoing parishioners and to find imaginative ways of introducing them to Christ and his Church.

If you've got this far and are a member of your PCC – congratulations – you are a hundred years old this year!

## Little old lady seeks handsome young man

AN ADVERT appeared in a student newspaper of a university: "Sweet little old lady wishes to correspond with good-looking university student – especially a six-footer with brown eyes, answering to initials J.A.D."

It was signed: "His mother."

## Recipe of the month: Ginger and Carrot Cake

200g/7oz plain flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda  
2 tsp ground ginger  
¼ tsp fine sea salt  
175g/6oz soft light brown sugar  
2 large free-range eggs, room temperature  
200ml/7fl oz vegetable oil, plus extra for greasing  
200g/7oz carrots, peeled and coarsely grated  
100g/3½oz walnut pieces, roughly chopped, plus extra for decorating  
75g/2½oz crystallised ginger, finely chopped, plus extra for decorating

### For the icing:

100g/3½oz unsalted butter, softened  
100g/3½oz icing sugar, sieved if lumpy  
1 tsp cornflour  
100g/3½oz cream cheese  
1 tbsp coarsely grated fresh root ginger

Preheat the oven to 170C/150C Fan/Gas 3½ and grease the sides and line the base of a 20cm/8in springform cake tin with baking paper.

Mix the flour, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda, ground ginger and salt together in a bowl.

Beat the sugar, eggs and oil in another large bowl until they are completely mixed together, then gradually add

the flour mixture. At this stage the mixture may seem alarmingly stiff, but the carrots will loosen it up. Beat in the carrots and then fold in the walnuts and crystallised ginger, until everything is evenly combined.

Spoon into the prepared tin. Smooth the top and bake for 45–55 minutes. When it's ready, the cake will be set and golden brown on top, beginning to shrink away from the edges of the tin and a cake tester will come out with just a few crumbs stuck to it. Transfer to a wire rack and leave to cool in its tin.

Meanwhile, to make the icing, beat the butter and icing sugar together and when combined, beat in the cornflour, followed by half the cream cheese. Once that's incorporated, beat in the remaining half. Be careful not to over-beat or the icing will get too runny. Squeeze the juice from the grated ginger into the bowl and mix in, discard the ginger flesh. Cover with cling film and place in the fridge.

When the cake is completely cold, take the icing out of the fridge for about 20 minutes. Beat briefly to make sure it's smooth. Remove the cake from its tin and place on a plate or cake stand. Spread the icing on top, swirling it a little, then sprinkle some chopped walnuts and crystallised ginger on top.

*Pamela Ferguson*

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## Football club takes faith to the airwaves

*Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the CofE, has a football story to tell...*

Thousands of BBC local radio listeners across England recently tuned in to an unusual sporting-themed church service.

It wasn't broadcast from a typical place of worship, a church or a cathedral, but from Wycombe Wanderers FC – a football club in the Championship, the second rung of English soccer.

Four of the team's leading players joined the Buckinghamshire club's chaplain Benedict Musola for the special act of worship broadcast across the country's 38 BBC local radio stations.

Professional footballers, Adebayo Akinfenwa, Jason McCarthy, Alex Samuel and Cameron Yates, spoke of their Christian faith during the 30-minute service broadcast in January.

Chaplain Benedict Musola explained how the team prayed on the pitch before matches and held regular Bible studies at their training ground.

He told listeners: "I am grateful for the opportunity to serve God in this role, which uniquely combines my passion for God and my passion for football."

The service featuring Wycombe Wanderers underlined the close links between football and faith.

In 'Thank God for Football,' (SPCK, 2006), author Peter Lupson featured chapters on the Christian roots of soccer clubs including Aston Villa, Barnsley, Birmingham City, Bolton Wanderers, Everton, Fulham, Liverpool, Manchester City, Queen's Park Rangers, Southampton, Swindon Town and Tottenham Hotspur.

Last December, League Two side Bradford City FC hosted an online carol service with Bradford Cathedral.

It included readings and contributions from City manager, Stuart McCall, and players, Billy Clarke, Clayton Donaldson and Richard O'Donnell. The service was streamed across all the Yorkshire club's social media channels.

A spokesperson for the club explained: "An online carol service has been a possibility for a while now, and 2020 presented the perfect opportunity to do so.

"This year has been far from straightforward in every sense, but we hope our service brought some much-needed festive cheer as we approached a 2021 full of promise and positivity."

The Wycombe Wanderers service is one of a series of Christian acts of worship broadcast on BBC local radio stations at 8am on Sundays since the onset of the pandemic last March.

The services have included speakers and musicians from a wide range of denominations and have won praise for easing feelings of loneliness and isolation.

The Sunday services have formed part of the important role played by local media during the series of lockdowns.

Callers to BBC local radio stations – often older people – have been expressing their thanks for keeping them in touch and raising their spirits during the pandemic.

Commenting on the church services, Chris Burns, Head of Local Radio for the BBC, said: "We know from personal testament just how important these broadcasts have proved to be. They have played an important role in bringing communities together virtually so no one need feel they are on their own.

"We expanded our religious programming on the first weekend of lockdown in March and will continue to broadcast services and reflections until life returns to normal."

## Chocolate: Food of the Gods

THE BOTANICAL NAME for the cocoa bean is Theobroma – which means 'food of the gods.' Millions of us obviously agree – half a million tons of it are consumed in Britain each year alone.

Chocolate makes us feel better. The chemicals it contains trigger the release of endorphins similar to those we naturally produce when we fall in love.

But nutritionists warn against using chocolate as a pick-me-up, especially in the evening. Chocolate eaten before bedtime can cause blood glucose levels to plummet during the night, which will disrupt your sleep. Chocolate eaten in quantity every day can lead to mood and energy swings, weight gain and poor immunity. If you have had

cravings for it, you could have a problem with blood sugar, or a deficiency in magnesium, copper, zinc or iron.

But occasional consumption of cocoa can provide medical benefits. Chocolate containing 60 per cent or more cocoa solids is rich in essential trace elements and nutrients such as iron, calcium and potassium, and many vitamins. Cocoa is also the highest natural source of magnesium.

Good as all this may be – most of us enjoy chocolate simply because of its high sugar and caffeine content. Chocolate simply gives you an instant sugar hit, providing a sudden burst in energy, unfortunately followed by a slump and the desire for another sugar fix.



## Why Easter will never go away

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man did rise?

At the end of St Luke's Gospel we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24.4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then, suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different: excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: 'You crucified Jesus, but God raised him up!'

How did they know this? Because of direct personal experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But of course, each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue his good name. So, did they pretend they had seen him?

This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, but we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds? That he recovered in the tomb, and then escaped? That the disciples nursed him back to health? But Roman soldiers knew when a man

was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus all along, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life-changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital, present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: "He came to those men who knew him not. He speaks to us the same word: 'Follow thou me,' and sets us to the tasks which he has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in his fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who he is."

Have a joyful – and a challenging – Easter.

## 'Zoomed Out?'

*The Revd Canon Paul Hardingham considers the need to stay connected.*

'You're still on mute!' If you've used Zoom over the past year, you'll be familiar with this cry! After a day on Zoom, the last thing we often want to do is use it for a chat with friends or a church service on Sunday! Now this reveals a wider problem that we face. We know that staying connected in the pandemic is hard. When we're tired and busy, it's easy to stop connecting with others, which would encourage our faith or wellbeing. This might also include not sending a text, Facebook comment or phoning somebody up.

Remember what Paul says: 'For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.' (Romans 7:15). It's often easier to avoid connecting with God and others, when this would be good for our sense of value, purpose and identity. Certain patterns of behaviour can make us feel

safer, but in reality they prevent us from living our lives fully as God intends.

Paul adds: 'What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!' (Romans 7:24,25). Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we have the freedom to act differently. Lent is an ideal time to develop new habits, especially when we are tired or anxious. It may involve spending less time on Facebook, turning the TV off to call a friend who we need to catch up with, or getting up a bit earlier to spend time in Bible-reading and prayer.

Let's keep reminding ourselves that 'God is bigger than Zoom' and make sure that we don't get disconnected! Let's be committed to doing the right thing, rather than simply the easier thing.



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

Due to the current circumstances this music scheme may be subject to change at short notice

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March – The Third Sunday of Lent</b>	
10:15am – St. George's Service	4:00pm – Service currently suspended
<b>Setting:</b> A New People's Mass – Murray	
<b>Hymn:</b> 301 God is here! As we his people...	
<b>Hymn:</b> 211 We love the place, O God	

<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday</b>	
10:15am – St. George's Service	4:00pm – Service currently suspended
<b>Setting:</b> Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne	
<b>Hymn:</b> 253 For the beauty of the earth (Tune: 83)	
<b>Hymn:</b> 362 Tell out, my soul,	

<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March – The Fifth Sunday of Lent / Passion Sunday</b>	
10:15am – St. George's Service	4:00pm – Service currently suspended
<b>Setting:</b> A New People's Mass – Murray	
<b>Hymn:</b> 499 Lift high the cross	
<b>Hymn:</b> 108 Glory be to Jesus	

<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday</b>	
10:15am – St. George's	4:00pm – Service of readings and music for Holy Week
<b>Setting:</b> The Addington Service – Shephard	See special Order of Service for details
<b>Hymn:</b> SP51 Make way, make way...	
<b>Hymn:</b> 112 My song is love unknown	
<b>Hymn:</b> 129 Ride on, ride on in majesty!	

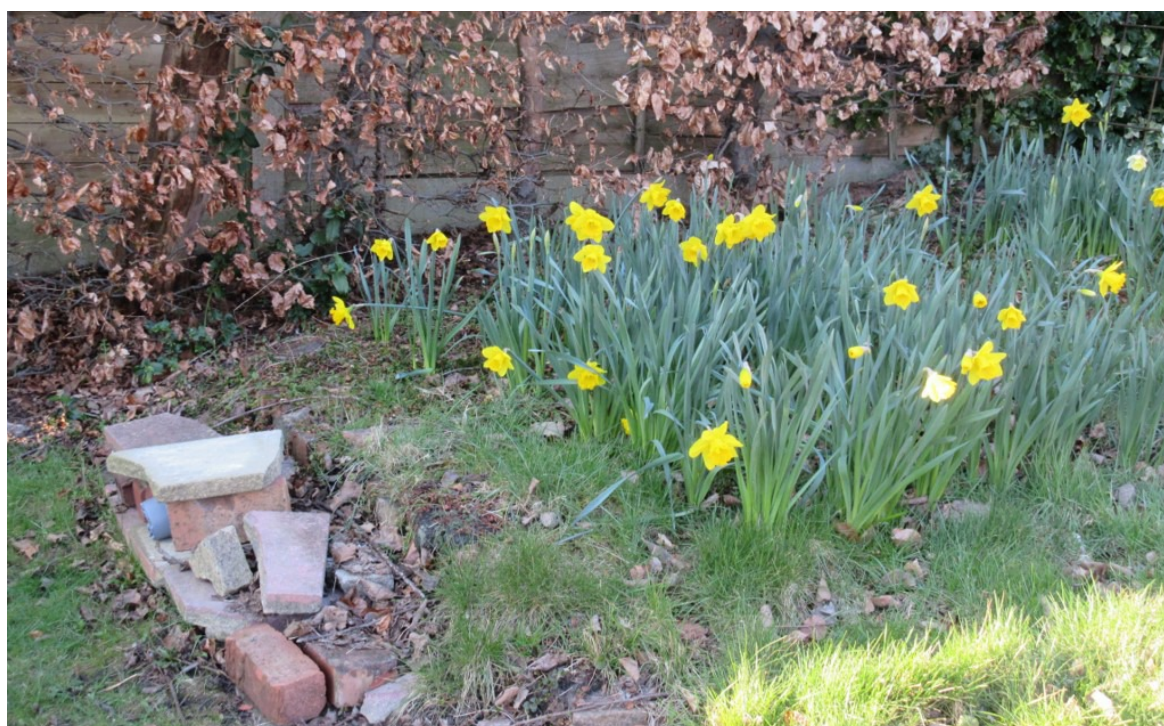
Director of Music – Mr James Hibbert *FGLO FSCO*

Vicar – Rev Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall *MTh*

### Look away now!

If “a thing of beauty and a joy for ever” describes your garden, please spare yourself, turn the page really quickly and never look back! This household, we tell ourselves, aims for Eco-friendly family involvement, hence a bug hotel built by the children in a carefully neglected corner of the hedge!

*Angela Foulkes*



# My Computer has a Chequer111

Eye halve a spelling chequer, it came with my pea sea;  
It plainly marques four my revue, miss steaks eye kin not sea.

Eye strike a quay and type a word and weight for it to say  
Weather eye am wrong oar write – it shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a miss steak is maid, it noes bee fore two long  
And eye can put the error rite, its rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it, I am shore your pleased two no  
It's letter-perfect awl the weigh – my chequer tolled me so!

*contributed by Peter Pilbeam*

## Archbishops in the Spectator: Church in changing times

THE ARCHBISHOPS of Canterbury and York have recently written an article for the Spectator magazine, responding to the recent media coverage asking: 'Where is the C of E?'

The archbishops say: "Let us offer an answer. The Church of England has been a bedrock of faith, love, hope and compassion in this country for centuries – through wars, plagues and pandemics — we still are, and we will go on being just that.

"You can imagine our shock, then, when we read in the media about what is supposedly happening. That the parish system, with its beautiful vision of serving every inch of the country and every person in it, is being systematically dismantled. That clergy are being made redundant. That there are plans to somehow centralise everything and for services, even beyond Covid, to be online rather than in person.

"So let us try to set the record straight. There are no plans to dismantle the parish network. We are committed to our calling to be a Christian presence in every community.

"Yes, there are hard decisions currently being made across many dioceses. Overall some stipendiary posts will be lost. But the aim is to make each parish and each Christian community sustainable. If that doesn't happen, there really will be no Church of England.

"There are rascally voices around who want to undermine the Church — it was ever thus. But the real story is that we so believe in that vision of serving every inch of the country, and every person in it, that we are having to expand what it is to be the Church."

## Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword

P	L	A	N	E	T		R	U	G	G	E	D	
A		D			R		I		U		X		
T	R	U	E			A	U	G	U	S	T	U	S
H		L			C		I			T		D	
	A	T	T	I	T	U	D	E			B	E	D
S		E		R		R		S		L		E	
P	A	R	T	I	C	I	P	A	T	I	O	N	
E		E		S		E		U		N		Y	
W	A	R		H	I	L	L	S	I	D	E		
	W		O		D		Y			N		L	
B	A	L	D	H	E	A	D			B	E	D	E
	K		E		A		I			S		A	
C	E	N	S	U	S			A	R	I	S	E	N

## We are reading more books

MORE THAN 200 million print books were sold in the UK last year, according to an estimate from the official book sales monitor Nielsen BookScan.

It was the first time since 2012 that the volume of physical books sold has exceeded 200 million, and it was the biggest volume rise in the books market since 2007, says The Bookseller magazine.





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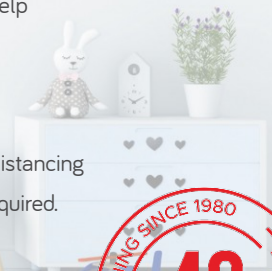
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