

March 2022 **£1.20**

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



Parish Grapevine



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

Vicar	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall <i>vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</i> 456 9382	Junior Choir	James Hibbert 07365 519207 Practise 6.30-7.30 on Thursdays in the vestry; sing on Sundays for 10.15am service.	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	Praise and Play	Lois Kelly 439 9458 For 0-4s and their carers. Meet every Tuesday in term time, 10-11 in church.	Church Cleaners	Meet on 1st Tuesday of every month 9.30-12 noon.
Readers	Peter Hall 456 9382 Rita Waters	St Gabriel's		Church Flowers	Jean Hayden (<i>donations</i>) 483 2367
Churchwardens	Andrew Regan 440 0408 Hazel Jenkins 483 4679	Messy Church	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall 456 9382 For children and their parents. Meet occasionally, usually Saturday mornings.	Church Gardeners	Walter Stead 430 2449 Meet on Tuesdays 9.30-12.30.
PCC Secretary	vacant	Uniformed Groups		Coffee Mornings (Weds)	Olwen Smith 483 6548 Wednesdays from 10.30am in the Parish Room.
PCC Treasurer	Andrew Regan 440 0408 <i>treasurer@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</i>	with connections to St George's		Cursillo	Usually meet on last Wednesday of the month. 7.30pm at different venues.
Parish Office	Marion McCall 480 2453	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.	Handbells	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.
Magazine Editor	Richard Parr 439 8644	Brownies	Rachel Lockett 775 2755 Voni Walker 07956 674 241 For girls aged 7-10. Meet Thursdays 6.30-8pm in the Parish Room.	Linen Guild	Pat Rigley 487 1999 Maintain the church's linen.
Safeguarding co-ordinator	James Hibbert 07365 519207	Guides		Magazine Editorial Group	Richard Parr 439 8644 Meet monthly to plan future issues.
Website	www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk	Beavers	Bill Frith 439 3232 For boys and girls ages 6 and 7 Meet Fridays 6-7pm 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	Cubs	Bill Frith 439 3232 For boys and girls ages 8-10½. Meet Fridays 7.15-8.45pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church.	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		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.		
Headteacher	Deborah Grindrod 480 8657	Other Groups and Activities			
St George's		St George's			
Deputy Wardens	John Hardy 01663 764 462 Will Hesson 480 0630	Bell ringers	Anne Mayes 485 6477 Practise Mondays 7.45-9pm. Ring on Sundays 9.45-10.15am. Meet in the tower.		
Verger	Ian Staley 456 3093	Bible Reading Fellowship Notes	Janet Neilson 483 9025 Notes are ordered on request.		
Director of Music	James Hibbert 07365 519207 <i>actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</i>	Bible Study Groups	<i>contact the clergy</i> Study groups and courses are arranged from time to time.		
Bookings for Parish Rooms	Parish Office or 480 2453 Judith Swift 483 8681	Chancel Guild			
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.				

Front cover photo

St George's on
a wintry Sunday afternoon
in January
(photo by Louise Clark)

Services in March:

see page 23

From the Editor:

Dear Readers,

LIKE MANY PEOPLE of a certain age, I very much enjoy music of the 1960s. I always find it interesting that at weddings and other celebrations, it's when the DJ plays 60s tunes that the dance floor really fills. (There might also be the occasional sound of creaking limbs, but never mind!) I often get up quite early on Saturday mornings to listen to the Tony Blackburn oldies show, "Sound of the Sixties", where the jokes are terrible, but the music terrific! It's a great start to the weekend, particularly as it's becoming a little lighter in the mornings now.

One morning recently, Tony played the song, "Everlasting Love", a hit for a band called Love Affair in 1968. It is, of course, a romantic love song, and no doubt will get a lot of plays again on this year's Valentine's Day. But I also thought that the title wouldn't be a bad one for a Sunday morning song of adoration! It really contains the heart of our Christian message, as well as summarising our human encounter with God throughout all time. The God who in the Old Testament reassured Jeremiah and all the people of Israel that, "I am with you and will save you", and who lovingly referred to them all as "My darling child", is still the same God, and always will be. Jesus uses similar imagery in Matthew's Gospel, when he tells his listeners,

"How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings".

We regularly pray to "Our Father", sometimes, perhaps, without really thinking about why we address Him so intimately. Yet, wonderfully, we can be sure that He is, like a loving and careful parent, always caring for us and watching over us. Even more wonderfully, He remains with us for ever, throughout every step of our journey through life, and we know that He will never abandon us. What great joy we can have in being sure that, in Jesus's words at the very end of Matthew, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." The great wonder as well is that we worship a God who in Jesus was also a man, who followed our human path from birth through life to death, and knows exactly who we are and what we feel, and what sometimes we suffer.

Like the shepherds from Bethlehem, whom I referred to in the February "Grapevine", and who excitedly told everyone of their encounters with the angels and the baby Jesus, we also have the opportunity and the reason to "sing praises to you and not be silent." Perhaps we might start with "Everlasting Love"!

God bless!

Richard Parr.

Editor.

**Lent begins on
Ash Wednesday (2nd March)**



What's Where...

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Brass Band Concert – Saturday 26th March – 2pm

WE ARE DELIGHTED to be welcoming SSBB (the Youth Brass Band for Stockport) and the renowned Leyland Band to St George's for a joint concert on Saturday 26th March.

Founded in 1946 in the heart of industrial Lancashire, England, Leyland celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2016. The band has forged a reputation for quality performance coupled with innovative and engaging repertoire, and its quality is reinforced with an impressive list of titles – British Open Champions, National Champions of Great Britain, five times Brass in Concert



Champions, All England Masters Champions – all achieved since its emergence on the national scene in the early 1980s. The band has also proudly represented England in competition at the European Brass Band Championships twice since the turn of the millennium.

The first half of the concert will be performances by each of the SSBB

bands, which will showcase the talented young musicians from across Stockport.

The second half will be Leyland Band followed by a massed band item with over 70 players joining to perform an arrangement of the beautiful hymn Deep Harmony (Sweet is the work, my God, my King).

Tickets will be available by scanning the QR code here or on the link:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stockport-schools-brass-band>



Tickets £10
 Concessions £8
 Children (5-15 years) £5
 Accompanying carers free
 Doors open at 1.30pm
 Concert starts at 2pm



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Elaine writes:

According to my Mum, who knows all things, I have been able to walk since I was 11 months old and, in common with a number of children, once I'd found my feet, I was able to access places previously not in reach.

It was easy to climb out of my cot, reaching over to my Dad in bed, exhausted after a hard day at work, and picking up his eyelids, asking, "Daddy, are you in there?"

As time went on, my perambulations allowed me to get around unaided, so it was easy enough to walk to the back of the rented Rediffusion TV – do you remember those? – and use it as a piggy bank, dropping the pennies down the slots with a satisfying clink unbeknownst to my Mum.

When the TV declined to work, she called out an engineer who proceeded to undo the back. Imagine her embarrassment when a steadily growing pile of money and other small objects, started to emerge.

I'm sure she was delighted. It's something she remembers even now.

Walking has a purpose: to get somewhere via a direct or circuitous route.

Beloved husband Peter is all for circuitous routes and many of you will have heard my thoughts on Peter's encouraging, "Come on, you'll enjoy this," or words to that effect.

We went on a walk to Bleaklow the other day, a place that, on this occasion, lived up to its name. On the one hand, it is an easy enough walk, a significant amount of it paved, but on the other, some people mistakenly, thought it would be a bit of a "walk in the park". We saw people who were obviously ill equipped to reach the top wearing pristine white trainers and socks even though the rain had caused the ground to be really boggy underfoot. It was very windy, especially in the exposed bits, and a conventional hoodie was not going to provide any protection.

At the beginning of our walk, it was raining and blustery, but visibility was reasonable. We hadn't gone

too far before we noticed the weather closing in and we had to consider our options

As we ascended, there were several times when it became very slippery underfoot with awkward areas of climbing. So, as we walked through the terrain, cold, windy and rainy with extensive views over thick fog, we were having fun. (Well, one of us was!)

To be honest, Peter has been an endless source of information, help and guidance as regards to **walking** as opposed to walking (the ordinary kind!) He has always impressed upon me the importance of having the correct equipment, the right protective clothing, decent boots and eating and drinking enough. He is an expert map reader, not just relying on phones or SATNAVs. I have always been grateful for him being there, most especially in inclement weather.

Being correctly equipped and prepared reminded me of Ephesians 6 and the armour of God, protecting me against the challenges of life whilst allowing me to move forward with purpose and with a sense of assurance, ready to face the vagaries of life (and weather!) head on.

If I was allowed to add anything else to my "armour", I'd like to include walking poles. They enable me to achieve not just the cardiovascular benefits or the ability for bursts of speed but something more profound – three points of contact.

When climbing a significant upward gradient or descending a mountain or trying to navigate tricky conditions underfoot or needing an extra boost to get round an awkward lump of rock, it's important to have three points of contact to be secure.

I find the anchoring provided by the poles, allows me to step out in confidence, knowing they are holding me firm.

As Christians, our three points of contact, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, hold us secure through the obstacles that we can encounter, through the uphill struggles and the steep downwards pathways. God, through the fellowship of the Holy Trinity, guides us through the storms, the poor visibility and the treacherous conditions on life's journeys, and we can rely on those three points of contact, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to get us through.

With every blessing

Elaine

'Anxiety' comes top

THE WORD 'ANXIETY' has been chosen by children to describe their experience of 2021.

Oxford University Press (OUP) asked more than 8,000 pupils, aged between seven and 14, to select a word from a shortlist of 10 words. The words were: anxiety,

challenging, isolate, wellbeing, resilience, bubble, kindness, remote, cancelled, empathy.

The children were asked to choose which word they felt was most applicable to them. 'Anxiety' was closely followed by 'challenging', and then 'isolate'.

Parish News Roundup

Holy Baptism

13th Feb Mia Grace Hein

Holy Matrimony

None last month

Funerals

None last month

Communion Flowers were sponsored as follows:

6th Feb for all who have been baptised at St George's church over the last 125 years

13th Feb from Jean Norton, remembering Ron

20th Feb in memory of Edna and Norman Tootell

Floodlighting was sponsored as follows:

10th Feb from Janet Neilson, in loving memory of Geoffrey Oldham. Dad, Grandpa and Great Grandpa. Always in our hearts.

Mothers' Union

We meet on **Monday 14th March at 2.15pm in church.**

We will be welcoming **Gerard Hayes** and **Rev. Glenys Sellors** for a **MUSICAL AFTERNOON.**

Please feel welcome to come along – you do not have to belong to MU in order to attend any of our meetings. This should be a very enjoyable afternoon.

Parish News Roundup

An email from Tril

Dear Elaine and all St George family, As the celebrations grow closer I do so miss being with you all.

I worshiped at St George's for 65 years, experiencing both birth and death within its fold and memories are many and varied. From churching to christening to banners to Rose Queens and Boy Bishops, to 8834 squares creating Jacob's huge jacket!

What fun all working together.

Wishing you all a wonderful, happy, memorable celebration.

Sending very best wishes and love,

Tril Sutherland

Message Board – March 2022

Dear Tril,

Elaine was delighted to hear from you and to know that you are receiving Grapevine each month. I had become increasingly worried about you as I hadn't heard from you since June, despite several emails to you. Imagine my surprise and delight when your Newsletter arrived this morning (February 23rd)! Unfortunately, it arrived too late for publication in the March issue, but many people will be thrilled to hear from you through your emailed newsletter. It will certainly appear in the April issue.

Good to know that you have remained Covid free and are keeping busy. We miss you.

Rosie

Parish News Roundup

Judith Swift and I have been posting magazines to many people far and wide, although many wish now to receive it digitally. Over the years we learn of their interest in maintaining a link with St George's church. One such person is Michael Sheldon, now living in Chichester, and receiving the magazine digitally every month. He sent me this email and has given me permission to reproduce it.

You can be confident that I'll enjoy continuing to have Grapevine online. I haven't lived in Stockport for 65 years but St George's was an important part of my growing up, and there was a strong family connection. My grandfather and father were wardens; my aunt was headmistress and my mother took charge of flower arranging for some years.

I belong to the Wilfrid Garlick days (a special vintage) and hold his memory in high regard. So, although it is all a long time ago, and I'm no longer a churchgoer, Grapevine serves as a valued link to the past.

Michael

Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings:

Please contact the vicar:

Telephone: 0161 456 9382

or email:

vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk

April 2022

Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Fri 18th Mar**

Committee meeting: via email

1st March: St David's Day, time for daffodils

1ST MARCH is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom

'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' – but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery!

We do know that David – or Dafydd – of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and

he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and revered in the Western Church. Tradition

has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others – living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.



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125th Anniversary of St George's

WE HAVE A number of things planned in the next few weeks and months and would love to invite you to be part of this very important 125th anniversary year and the celebrations surrounding it.

We have various services and events in March, April and May. Details are below, and these will be updated as we move through the year.

March 2022		
Wednesday 2nd March	Ash Wednesday	Services 10am and 7:30pm
Saturdays 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th	Lent breakfasts	
Tuesday 22nd	Concert	Stockport Grammar School
Sunday 27th	Mothering Sunday	Services
April 2022		
10th April	Palm Sunday	Services
11th–16th	Holy Week services	7:30pm
Saturday 16th	Messy Church	10am–12 noon
Saturday 16th	Easter Eve service	7:30pm
17th April	Easter Day	Services
Friday 22nd	Drumroots workshop	7.30–8.30 <i>followed by supper</i>
May 2022		
4th–8th May	Festival	
Saturday 7th	Messy Church	10am–12 noon
Saturday 7th	Pottery Sheep	12.30pm onwards
Saturday 7th	Sheep Drive	7pm <i>with cheese and wine</i>
Sunday 8th	Pet service	10.15am
Sunday 8th	Afternoon tea	<i>Afternoon tea 1–3pm</i>
Sunday 8th	Songs of Praise	4pm
Friday 13th	Concert	Mayor's choir

St George's 125 Festival Sheep Drive Saturday 7th May, 7pm.

No!! 'One Man and his Dog' is not about to take over the Parish Room! This is our take on the traditional Beetle Drive where the drawing of sheep will be the order of play.

The cost will be £10 per head and will include a light supper of cheese, meats and nibbles with hot and cold drinks. Please feel free to bring your own alcoholic beverages.

Tickets will be on sale from early April after the Sunday morning service. Numbers will be limited, so please make sure you put the date in your diary.

There will be a prize for the most imaginatively drawn sheep, so start practising !

Ruth Davies



Revd Vet, Jenny McKay

THIS IS A PHOTO of the Revd Vet, Jenny McKay, who is coming to lead our Pet Service on Sunday 8th May at 10.15 as part of our St George's Festival to celebrate our 125 years. She works as a veterinary pathologist, was ordained in 2019 and works as a self-supporting minister in Great Budworth parish.

We look forward to welcoming her to our parish and want to encourage anyone with a pet to bring them along to the Pet Service for a blessing. Specific arrangements will follow soon.

The Reverend Dr Jenny McKay: a short biography

Originally from Belfast, Northern Ireland, Jenny trained as a vet at University College Dublin. She then moved to England where she worked as a small-animal vet in practice in Doncaster. Always fascinated by veterinary pathology, she specialised in this discipline and completed her PhD at the University of Cambridge.

She has worked in academia, the pharmaceutical industry and now manages a team of over 30 pathologists in a private veterinary diagnostic healthcare company.

After a period of illness, she felt a calling to ministry and, finding this hard to reconcile with her love of her veterinary work, she attended the Foundations for Ministry course at Chester University in 2013 to explore her vocation. Finding a pathway which enabled her to continue her work as a vet in the workplace and as a priest, Jenny was ordained as deacon in Chester Cathedral in 2019 and is currently a minister in secular employment. She supports her local parish as curate at St Mary and All Saints, Great Budworth, Cheshire.

However, during the Covid pandemic, Jenny became particularly interested in the role of virtual ministry and social media as a means of reaching out to people unable to attend church in person. Through various articles, online services, podcasts and reflections she is reaching out to those of all faiths and none in accessible ways through @thereverendvet on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

With her veterinary background she uses the medium of animals to reach out to a wider range of people and is looking forward to expanding her virtual outreach in the months to come. Married to Dave, who is a GP practice manager in Liverpool, they have three crazy cats, cancer survivor Lulu, a Russian Blue, Poppy, a Chartreux, and KitKat, a chocolate point Birman.



Irish Lambs

This is Joyce Robinson, surrounded by her Irish Lambs. This was sent on from her son Brian who comes to St George's when he is visiting family in England.



PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

"His goodness
restores my
soul"

- Submit up to three photos to illustrate our theme from the 23rd Psalm
- Entries open to adults & children
- View the online exhibition via Flickr
- Closing date: 31st March 2022
- Finalists will be displayed at the Lord's My Shepherd Festival from 4-8th May 2022

Further details available



Contact for further details:
photos@stgeorgestockport.org.uk



Download an entry form from
www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk or ask in church

View the exhibition on Flickr at
<https://flic.kr/s/aHsmWVW2WD>

125th Anniversary
St. George's Church,
Stockport



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



The Lord is My
Shepherd

Brooklyn Pottery



BROOKLYN POTTERY are coming to St George's on Saturday 7th May from 12.30pm to 2.30pm as part of our Festival 4th–8th May.

Meet around the chapel area and you'll be able to enjoy painting a pottery sheep for

just £8. Brooklyn Pottery have kindly waived the firing fee, thereby saving each customer £2.50. Put the date in your diary and come along.

Here's a bit about them and what they do.

Brooklyn Pottery is a family-friendly pottery-painting studio, tearoom and party venue, based in Shaw Heath, Stockport. We specialise in pottery-painting sessions, for people of all ages, focusing on wellness derived from creativity.

Aside from being just a generally 'fun thing to do', we also cater for birthday and hen parties, baby showers, organised groups and general celebrations!

Our party room caters for up to 20 people, plus additional seating on the balcony. We also provide an option to hire the full studio, dependent on your needs. There is a fully equipped kitchen at your disposal, so feel free to bring your own party food and we will do the clearing up afterwards! Parties are available to book every day, with evening slots available for groups of 25 or more.

Our premises are fully accessible, with wheelchair access to the rear. We welcome everyone and are extremely flexible, catering any event to meet your needs.

Whether you are looking to book for a group, pop in with the kids, or just fancy some 'quiet time' alone, you are welcome at Brooklyn Pottery!

Manchester the Golden!?



photo: Angela Foulkes

Drumroots workshop

Part of our 125th Anniversary Celebrations.



Date for your diary: Friday 22nd April 2022.

This event is from 7.30pm for an hour and then followed by a hot supper.

Here's what Drumroots say about themselves:

It's the beat of the heart; the pulse of the blood; the rhythm of life – a celebration of the spirit as old as mankind. Drumming is a powerful, potent, and vital force that Drumroots has harnessed for education and entertainment, for self-expression and self-discovery.

Drumroots workshops, which have been developed over ten years of experience, offer participants the

opportunity to interact and learn, whilst having a great time. African Drumming is inclusive, accessible and its impact is immediate. Through this powerful art form, anybody can build their confidence, improve their teamwork skills, explore their creativity, and experience a real sense of togetherness.

Participants, once introduced to their facilitator, will be trained in some basic drumming techniques. Then, through a series of interactive games and exercises, they will explore their potential in playing in rhythm. Armed with their new skills, participants will be guided to interact as a full musical ensemble, eventually producing a complex and highly rewarding polyrhythmic traditional African piece!

It all sounds very exciting.



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Robinson's Brewery is to relocate

AFTER NEARLY 200 years on Lower Hillgate, Stockport, Robinson's Brewery is to move from its historic home to Bredbury, where a Robinson's packaging operation has been based for more than 40 years. The £12m project, expected to be completed by 2025, includes the installation of a new brew house, together with purpose-built office accommodation.

It means that everything that the firm does – from brewing, cask racking and kegging, to bottling lines and logistics – will be housed at one site for the first time since 1949, fulfilling a long-held ambition of the Robinson family. Around 50 employees will make the move from Lower Hillgate to Bredbury. Robinson's famous shire horses will also be moving to a new home.

The brewery is currently working on proposals to reopen The Bull's Head in Market Square, later this year, following substantial renovations. It is also liaising with Stockport council to explore the opportunity that freeing up the present brewery site could provide for further regeneration of the historic town centre.

Edited report by Nick Statham

Local Democracy Reporting Service

Stockport Express 26th January 2022

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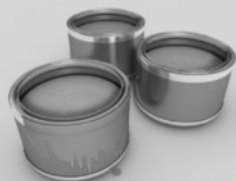
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Beware those innocent family board games!

IF YOU WANT to start a family row, you could always suggest a game of Scrabble. It seems that it is the board game which scores highest in sparking arguments.

But don't underestimate the potential of Cluedo and Monopoly. Apparently, the Royal Family long ago decided not to play Monopoly, because it got too "vicious", according to Prince Andrew in 2008.

If you want to keep calm, better to play Ludo or Risk, which seem to be much more peaceable. The survey of board games was conducted by thortful.com, a greeting card firm.

Jean is always up for a spin on the dancefloor

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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

Adverts can appear **in colour**, at an increased charge.

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 or tel. 0161 439 8644.**

Stockport Central Library – update

AT A MEETING on Tuesday night (February 8th 2022) cabinet members agreed to forge ahead with plans to move the library service from its historic home on the A6, to 'Stockroom' – a 'learning and discovery centre' at Merseyway. The move is to be funded by the government's Future High Streets Fund and is expected to be completed by Autumn 2023. The £14.5m grant must be spent by March 2024.

Despite the contentious nature of the issue, there was ultimately broad support for Stockroom itself – if not the moving of Central Library from its historic home. A compromise of sorts appears to have been reached as part of the final decision. A cross-party group will now work on proposals to move the borough's adult education service from Hardman Street to the current Central Library building.

An official statement, released by council leader, Elise Wilson, begins:

This is a game-changing opportunity to spend £14.5m of government money, improving our town centre with

new public facilities, breathing new life into vacant retail which will attract thousands of much-needed visitors back to Stockport town centre.

I am pleased that we can now move forward and deliver this fantastic community hub which will benefit local people for generations to come.

We recognise the affection for Central Library that many have expressed. As well as having clearly pledged to safeguard the future of this historic building, the newly established cross-party working group will ensure its long-term future is protected. We already have a track record of restoring and preserving historic buildings, with more than £7m investment in the Underbanks and over £500,000 in the Town Hall.'

This appears to bring to an end a lengthy saga which has been hotly debated since details first began to emerge in the autumn of 2020.

*Edited report by Nick Statham
Local Democracy Reporting Service
Stockport Express 9 February 2022*

A Word of Warning

DEFINITIVE 1st and 2nd class stamps – which feature the Queen's head on them – will become invalid by 2023. **Stamps issued at Christmas will also no longer be in use.**

They will be replaced by similar stamps with a barcode attached to them. From **31st January 2023** you won't be able to use the current style of stamp. Instead, only the new-style stamps complete with their new barcodes will be valid, and you'll pay a surcharge trying to use anything other.

Fortunately, stamps can be traded in before the cut-off deadline – and Royal Mail will let you do it for free.

Customers will have to fill out a 'Swap Out' form on Royal Mail's website or call the postal giant directly, to request a form.



Alternatively, you can trek out (*their words, not mine*) to get one in person from a local delivery office – but **not** a Post Office. You'll then have to post back the stamps you want to swap to a Freepost address.

The 'Swap Out' system launches on 31st March 2022 and you can continue to trade in old stamps well after they become invalid, as it runs until **31st March 2023.**



The only exceptions are 'special' commemorative stamps, as these will continue to work after 31st January 2023.

Rosie Stead



I'm hoping that I may be able to obtain several 'Swap Out' forms from our Bredbury sorting office. I could then leave them at the back of church to save anyone the 'trek out' to their local delivery office.

Recipe of the month: Welsh Cakes

With St David's Day being on 1st March this recipe seemed appropriate. I don't often use lard these days and find these are equally good made using all butter.

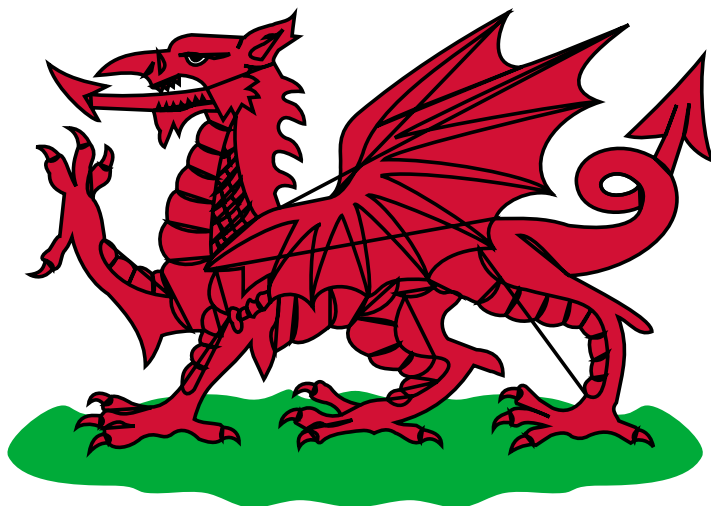
225g/8oz plain flour
85g/3oz caster sugar
½ teasp mixed spice
½ teasp baking powder
50g/2oz butter, cut into small pieces
50g/2oz lard, cut into small pieces, plus extra for frying
50g/2oz currants
1 egg, beaten
splash milk

Tip the flour, sugar, mixed spice, baking powder and a pinch of salt into a bowl. With your fingers, rub in the butter and lard until crumbly. Mix in the currants. Work the egg into the mixture until you have a soft dough, adding a splash of milk if it seems a little dry; it should be the same consistency as shortcrust pastry.

Roll out the dough on a lightly-floured work surface to the thickness of your little finger. Cut out rounds using a 6cm/2½in cutter. Heat a flat griddle pan or heavy

frying pan over medium heat, grease lightly with lard. Cook the Welsh cakes in batches for about 3 minutes each side until golden brown, crisp and cooked through. Serve warm with butter, and jam if liked, or simply sprinkled with caster sugar. Best eaten soon after they are cooked though they will, allegedly, stay fresh for a week in a tin.

Pamela Ferguson



(graphic by NikNaks, licensed under: CC BY-SA 4.0)

Planting for the 125th Anniversary by the Garden Gnomes



photo: Kate Stephenson

Marjorie Lees – Retirement

IN 1997, the year of St George's centenary, Barbara Lee-Wood (who was running the flower team at the time) advertised in our magazine for volunteers to help with flower arranging. Marjorie responded by ringing her up – and was promptly recruited. Since then she has contributed a lot of time and effort to our church flowers, and has used her arranging skills to provide floral arrangements for many memorial and celebratory occasions.

Marjorie loves flowers and flower arranging, and has thoroughly enjoyed her years with the flower team. She rose to the occasion when our annual Christmas Tree Festival began in 2008, providing beautiful themed font decorations – something she has continued to do every year.

Sadly, Marjorie is having to retire from doing the church flowers, and no doubt her Saturday mornings will never be quite the same! She tells people that she has enjoyed the work so much, and has many regrets that she

can no longer continue with her flower arranging activities. A very big thank you to her for her dedication to our church flowers, and may she have many peaceful Saturday mornings.

(As in 1997, new volunteers will be very welcome to join the flower team – no experience or qualification needed. Please contact Elaine if you are interested.)

Jean Hayden

PS from Marjorie Lees

When Barbara Lee-Wood retired from the flower arranging, Isobel Garlick willingly volunteered to take over. Sadly, after a few years, ill health caused her to retire and I took over the flower arranging, which I have enjoyed for many years. What I couldn't cope with, was the financial side of the job, so I asked for help from Jean Hayden. She was the first person I thought of and she has proved to be invaluable and I could not have managed without her. Thank you.

25th March: Lady Day or The Annunciation

THIS BEAUTIFUL EVENT (Luke 1:26-38) took place in Nazareth, when Mary was already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel came to Mary, greeted her as highly favoured, told her not to be afraid, that she would bear a son, Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth was already pregnant (with John the Baptist).

The Church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25th March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from his birth on 25th December, but the

latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked – he was born to die, and thus fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar – it is one of the most frequent depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly, Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice – humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in his will for her life.

St George's floodlighting – sponsorship request form (Please return to Andrew Regan, 153 Acre Lane, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, SK8 7PB).



Name Phone no

Date of evening requested £20 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.....

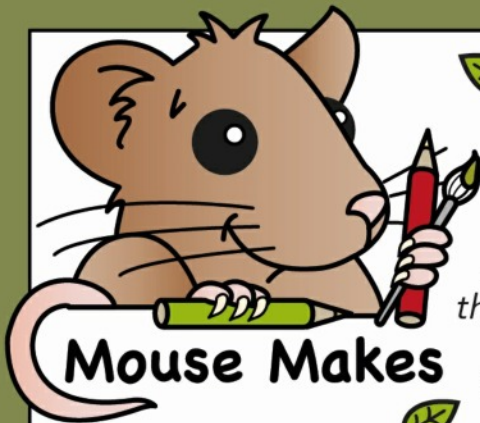
Home address:.....

Post Code Signature..... Date

A Flower Arrangement by Marjorie Lees

THIS PHOTOGRAPH is of a beautiful floral arrangement created by Marjorie Lees to celebrate the Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival held at St George's in May 2018, instead of its usual location in Chester Cathedral.





Mouse Makes

GOOD FRUIT OR BAD FRUIT?

Jesus said:

"A good tree does not produce bad fruit, nor does a bad tree produce good fruit. Each tree is known by its own fruit..."

...Good people bring good things out of the good they stored in their hearts. But evil people bring evil things out of the evil they stored in their hearts. People speak the things that are in their hearts."

- Luke 6: 43-45

During LENT ask God to help you through His Holy Spirit to turn your hate to **love**, your impatience to **patience** and your unkindness to **kindness**, so we can be like a good tree that grows good fruit.



READ
Luke
6: 27-45

How did Jesus say we should treat others?

Look up
Luke 6:31



_____ to everyone who asks you
Luke 6:30

_____ to those that hate you
Luke 6:27

_____ for those who are cruel to you
Luke 6:28

_____ those who curse you
Luke 6:28

_____ and you will be forgiven
Luke 6:37

Find these words from **Luke 6** in the word search above.

GOOD • BAD • FRUIT • TREE • HEART • EVIL • EACH • OWN • STORED
PRODUCE • BRING • SPEAK • REPENT • FORGIVE • LOVE • BLESS • PRAY • GIVE

Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

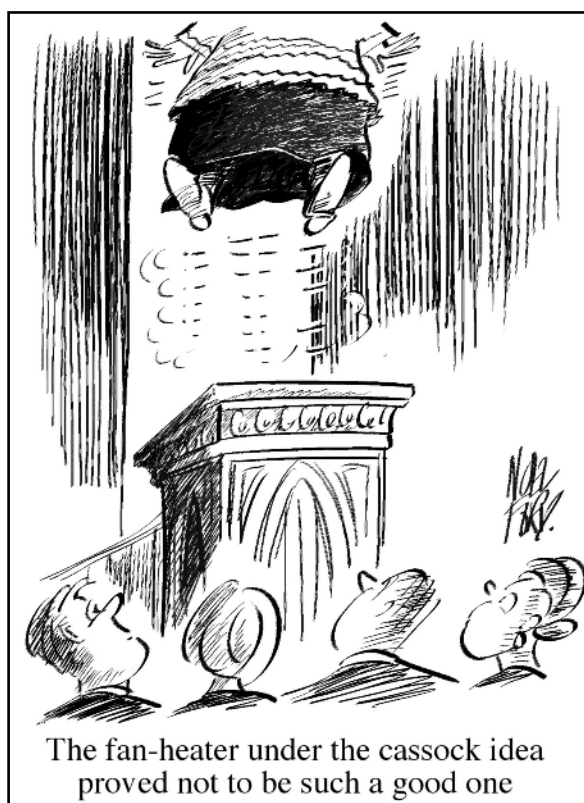
© 2008 KrazyDad.com

Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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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			

Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 "“They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!”” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)
- 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12 ‘A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies’ (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19 ‘Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature’ (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21 ‘As you can see, he has done nothing to — death’ (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23 ‘All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home”’ (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham’s side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

Down

- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2 ‘In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea’ (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 ‘But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!’ (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 ‘Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ’ (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 ‘For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings’ (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob’s well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul’s first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)

LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFASTS 2022
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EMBRACING OUR ENVIRONMENT

[Saturday 5th March 2022](#)

Church and the Environment

Janine Arnott

Clergy Team, St George's Church

[Saturday 12th March 2022](#)

Our Climate & Ecological Emergency

Grahame Buss

Extinction Rebellion Activist

[Saturday 19th March 2022](#)

Tending the Garden – Food Sustainability

Andy Clark

Lecturer in Environmental Science, Salford University

[Saturday 26th March 2022](#)

Friends of the Earth

Pete Abel

Manchester Friends of the Earth

[Saturday 2nd April 2019](#)

What Have we Discovered? –
reflection and discussion

Chris Dawson

We meet in the Lady Chapel from 9.30am for a croissant and coffee or tea. The talks are at 10am for about half an hour, followed by questions and we finish at 11am.

St George's Choir at Lichfield Cathedral

WE ARE PROUD and delighted that St George's Choir is going to be singing at the choral evensong service at Lichfield Cathedral on Saturday 5th March at 5.30pm.

If you find you can attend, then you are most welcome to do so.

In recent years, the choir has grown in strength and number, and they have been extending their repertoire and taking up opportunities to sing, not only in Lichfield but, last year, in Worcester Cathedral (see below) and there are other dates in the pipeline.

Having more people in the choir is to be applauded and we must say thank you to James Hibbert, our Director of Music, for all that he does.

He has been assisted by two experienced organists, Andrew Dean, who has decided to take a sabbatical from playing, and Roger Briscoe, who celebrated his 50th

anniversary at St George's in recent weeks. We are most grateful for all they contribute.

To support this important aspect of ministry and to maintain it for the future, we would like to invite you to make a donation, specifically to choir funds. This would help purchase music, new robes as needed, and would provide expenses for the musical support for an assistant organist to enable James to conduct the choir during rehearsals and services whilst someone else plays the organ.

If you'd like to do this, the details are below. Thank you.

St George's Church Choir

Account number: 01025277

Sort code: 30-98-12



The man that hath no music in himself,
Nor is not moved
With concord of sweet sounds
Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils.

"The Merchant of Venice"



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, STOCKPORT MUSIC LIST – MARCH 2022

Wednesday 2nd March – Ash Wednesday	
	7:30pm – Holy Communion with imposition of ashes
Setting:	A People's Mass – Murray
The Litany:	Plainsong arr. Hibbert
Hymns:	95 Forty days and forty nights 97 Lord Jesus, think on me, 582 Take up thy cross, the Saviour said 21 Sun of my soul, thou Saviour dear,
Anthem:	Hide not thou thy face from us, O Lord – Farrant
Anthem:	View me, Lord – Lloyd

Saturday 5th March
Choir Tour to Lichfield Cathedral
5:30pm – Choral Evensong

Sunday 6th March – The First Sunday of Lent		
10:15am – St. George's Service	No Evening Service	
Setting:		Missa Stopfordiensis – Mayes
Hymns:		95 Forty days and forty nights 385 Be thou my guardian and my guide, 97 Lord Jesus, think on me, 96 Jesu, lover of my soul,
Anthem:		Purge me, O Lord – Tallis

Sunday 13th March – The Second Sunday of Lent		
10:15am – St. George's Service	No Evening Service	
Setting:		Missa Stopfordiensis – Mayes
Hymns:		500 'Lift up your hearts!' ... 447 God of freedom, God of justice 533 O for a heart to praise my God, 547 Oft in danger, oft in woe,
Anthem:		Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake – Farrant

Sunday 20th March – The Third Sunday of Lent		
10:15am – St. George's Service	No Evening Service	
Setting:		Missa Stopfordiensis – Mayes
Hymns:		572 Sometimes a light surprises 605 Through the night of doubt and sorrow 453 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, 455 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
Anthem:		Remember not, Lord, our offences – Purcell

Sunday 27th March – Mothering Sunday	
10:15am – St. George's Service	4:00pm – Choral Evensong
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening
Hymns:	241 Sing we of the blessed Mother All our blessings, all our joys 253 For the beauty of the earth, 362 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
Anthem:	Mother of God, here I stand – Tavener
	Hymns: 552 Our Saviour's infant cries were heard, t. Coe Fen 238 For Mary, Mother of our Lord, 507 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
	Responses: Ayleward Psalm: 32 [Turtle]
	Canticles: Evening Service in B flat – Stanford
	Anthem: Song of Mary – Shephard

Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword solution:

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

Services at St George's

Services in church, with congregation:

Sundays: 8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.15am Parish Communion (also live streamed)

Wednesdays: 9.30am Morning Prayer (also live streamed)

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 27th March: 4pm Choral Evensong

Services which are live streamed only:

Mondays to Fridays: 9.30am Morning Prayer (also in church on Wednesdays)

The church will also be open for individual private prayer in the chapel on Wednesdays and Sundays from 11am to 12 noon

Sheep are being gathered by the font for the 125th Anniversary Festival

photo: Rosie Stead



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Committee meeting: via email

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