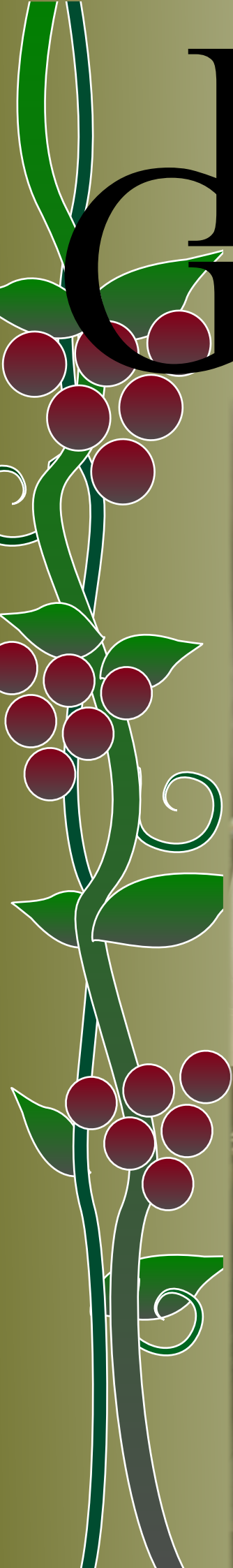


Parish Grapevine

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



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

Vicar	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall <i>vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</i> 456 9382	10.15am Parish Communion service most weeks during term time.	Bible Reading Fellowship Notes Janet Neilson 483 9025 Notes are ordered on request.
Readers	Peter Hall 456 9382 Rita Waters	Junior Choir James Hibbert 07365 519207 Practise 6.30-7.30 on Thursdays in the vestry; sing on Sundays for 10.15am service.	Bible Study Groups <i>contact the clergy</i> Study groups and courses are arranged from time to time.
Churchwardens	Andrew Regan 440 0408 Hazel Jenkins 483 4679	Praise and Play Lois Kelly 439 9458 For 0-4s and their carers. Meet every Tuesday in term time, 10-11 in church.	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.
PCC Secretary	Lois Kelly 439 9458	St Gabriel's	Church Flowers Jean Hayden (<i>donations</i>) 483 2367
PCC Treasurer	Andrew Regan 440 0408 <i>treasurer@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</i>	Festival services Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall 456 9382	Church Gardeners Walter Stead 430 2449 Meet on Tuesdays 9.30-12.30.
Parish Office	Marion McCall 480 2453	Uniformed Groups with connections to St George's	Coffee Mornings Olwen Smith 483 6548 after the 10.15am service, in church.
Magazine Editor	vacant	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.	Cursillo Usually meet on last Wednesday of the month. 7.30pm at different venues.
Safeguarding co-ordinator	James Hibbert 07365 519207	Brownies Rachel Lockett 775 2755 Voni Walker 07956 674 241 For girls aged 7-10. Meet Thursdays 6.30-8pm 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.
Website	www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk	Guides	Linen Guild Pat Rigley 487 1999 Maintain the church's linen.
Webmaster	Peter Hall 456 9382	Beavers Bill Frith 439 3232 For boys and girls ages 6 and 7 Meet Fridays 6-7pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church.	Magazine Editorial Group Meet monthly to plan future issues. email: magazine@stgeorgestockport.org.uk
St George's Primary School		Cubs Bill Frith 439 3232 For boys and girls ages 8-10½. Meet Fridays 7.15-8.45pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church.	Mothers' Union Pat Durnall 483 4837 Meet on 2nd Monday of the month in church at 2.15pm.
Headteacher	Deborah Grindrod 480 8657	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.	
St George's Deputy Wardens	John Hardy 01663 764 462 Will Hesson 480 0630	Other Groups and Activities	
Verger	role vacant	St George's	
Director of Music	James Hibbert 07365 519207 <i>actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</i>	Bell ringers Anne Mayes 485 6477 Practise Mondays 7.45-9pm. Ring on Sundays 9.45-10.15am. Meet in the tower.	
Bookings for Parish Rooms	Parish Office or 480 2453 Judith Swift 483 8681		
St Gabriel's			
Contact:	Parish Office 480 2453		
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		

Front cover photo: Richard Gillings, Peter and Elaine, after the service celebrating the 25th anniversary of Elaine's ordination.

(photo by Nicola Pennicott-Hall)

Services in September:
see page 23

What's Where...

- P 2 Who's who
- P 3 Vicar's letter
- P 4 Praise and Play Summer 2022
- P 5 The Bible and Environmental Stewardship and Well Dressing
- P 6 Parish News and Floodlighting form
- P 7 Celebrating 25 Years of Elaine's Ministry
- PP 8-9 The North Coast 500

- P 10 Enabling all God's people and Bracondale Champions
- P 12 Recipe of the Month: Chicken Breast in Lemon Cream
- P 14 The Buddy Bench Scheme and But where are all the butterflies?
- P 15 The Mud Maid at the Lost Gardens of Heligan and Melanesian Prayer
- P 16 Remembering the Venerable David Rogers and The Joy of God's Guiding Light

- P 17 Friendships, Service award for Bill Frith and Heritage Open Day
- P 18 Children's Page
- P 19 Puzzles and cartoon
- P 20 Sammy Sheep Couldn't Sleep and News from Richard Parr
- P 21 St George's Christmas Tree Festival, 2022
- P 22 September Music Scheme
- P 23 Puzzle solutions, Regular Service times, and Maddie Gets Her Choir Surplice



Elaine writes:

After two years of not being able to use my National Trust membership, I've been rather industrious in getting out and about to get my money's worth!!

We are so fortunate in having so many fabulous National Trust properties almost on our doorstep in

the Northwest and, thanks to the wonderful volunteers, some of whom are part of our church family, they bring alive the stories of those who lived there and the things that they used.

During a recent trip to Styal Mill we had a couple of opportunities to listen to the staff who worked in the weaving shed, the mule room and carding area.

For health and safety reasons, there was an elaborate extractor machine in place. I asked what was there when the mill was in use. Absolutely nothing.

The windows were closed for temperature and humidity, and you wouldn't see from one side of the room to the other because of the dust and fibres.

In the carding room, the staff were wearing ear defenders to reduce the noise and the damage to their ears. I asked what was there when the mill was in use. Absolutely nothing.

The workers weren't even allowed to plug their ears with the cotton because they'd be accused of stealing. People were taught to punch the cotton through the machine with balled up fingers to avoid their fingers being taken off. Sometimes those accidents happened after a long day and repetitive work. These days we have safety grills but then, absolutely nothing.

In the weaving area, children were running backwards and forwards with shuttles. One person operated four machines. As soon as one shuttle was set going, there was another one ready to be replaced. They had to learn Mee Maw, an exaggerated speech, to be heard above the noise.

It was all very hot work. Men could take their tops off if there were all men present but women had to wear long skirts and tops and their skirts often got caught in the machinery. No one was allowed to wear clogs as the sparks from the nails could ignite the combustible cotton and fibres and start a fire.

The Greg family at Styal Mill were perceived to be good employers but perhaps they didn't understand the impact of the working conditions as we might do today. Yet we moan about having to adhere to health and safety requirements and buy fast fashion from sweatshops

around the world where people can be victims of modern slavery.

Health and safety regulations and guidelines have emerged over the years. The Factories Act of 1833 led to the first factory inspectors. The Mines Act in 1842 brought in formal inspectors to oversee the challenging environment as people worked underground. In 1894 there was the Quarries Act and then we had to wait to 1956 have the Agriculture Act covering health, safety and welfare provisions.

It took a major incident at Windscale Nuclear plant to bring the Nuclear Installations Act into being in 1959 and asbestos regulations in 1969 were amended following numerous deaths to become the Control of Asbestos at work regulations as recently as 2012. There have been many more covering a wide variety of work-based groups and situations.

Each of those changes will have been brought about by one or more incidents. Each one will have brought outrage and we give thanks for those who have been brave enough to champion the cause to make a difference to the health and working conditions for people in our country and around the world.

Despite that, some employers still put finance, productivity and speed at the forefront of their business, paying little heed to those who might struggle in the conditions in which they work.

Some employers simply don't care, and modern slavery exists in our own country. We cannot afford to be complacent.

The Clewer Initiative is enabling Church of England dioceses and wider church networks to develop strategies to detect modern slavery in their communities and provide help and support to victims <https://theclewerinitiative.org/>.

They have two innovative apps helping to address the issue of modern slavery in hand car washes and seasonal labour in the fresh produce supply chain and offer training about specific areas of modern slavery and community resilience.

The Social Gospel is about being involved in projects like this and standing up to ensure that people have good working conditions and to make good and positive choices about what and how we buy.

Christian Aid says, "To tackle the root causes of modern slavery is to tackle the root causes of poverty and marginalisation" and has done a review of its own supply chain. There are other organisations which support this aim.

So, what is our response – absolutely nothing? Or perhaps we can take a more considered view of what we buy and be a bit more observant in our community to look out for those who are victims of modern slavery.

Every blessing, Elaine

Praise and Play Summer 2022

HOW TIME FLIES! It seems hardly any time at all since we were re-starting Praise and Play in September following a break of almost two years. We wondered how changing the day and time would affect attendance and, although the numbers have been much lower than before the pandemic, it has been lovely to meet new children with their carers as well as welcoming back familiar faces.

Just after Easter we welcomed two babies who were only days old when they came for the first time, accompanying their older brothers. The end of the summer term is a time for saying goodbye to a number of the children as they move on either to pre-school or reception class. Those leaving were presented with a children's Bible by Elaine.

Over the summer term we said goodbye to Janine when she moved to her new parish. We also were sorry that Morag stepped back from Praise and Play due to her busy schedule. We are looking for more people to help at Praise and Play as not all volunteers are available every week. Volunteering involves helping with setting up, running the sessions, and then putting away the equipment, with Marion taking charge of the refreshments. There is no expectation on anyone to commit to helping out on a weekly basis. Help once a fortnight or once a half-term would be much appreciated on Tuesday during term time from 9:45 to 11:15. Please speak to Elaine, Lois, Sue, or Tracey for more information.



(photo by Lois Kelly)

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The Bible and Environmental Stewardship: Amos 8

THERE WAS SOMETHING a bit odd about the reading from Amos 8:1-12.

Most of us could understand verses 4-12 fairly well: there's a denunciation of economic oppression, with images of divine judgement: the needy are being trampled upon; the poor are being ruined, presumably by the rich; the sellers are bewailing the fact that they're not allowed to sell things until after the festival is over – you can almost hear their complaints, "these religious holidays are really bad for business. We can't skim the poor and needy for what we can get!"

They want to be able to cheat and sell wheat mixed with the sweepings off the floor. They want to make the measures smaller than they should be; they want to make the payment shekel heavier, thus you need more silver to pay for an item. And for all of this we can see that retribution will be coming and it is not going to be pretty.

But how does verse 2 in particular fit into all of this? *He said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the LORD said to me, "The end has come upon my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.* Amos is shown a basket of summer fruit and is asked what he sees and the reply from God is, the end has come on my people Israel.

How does seeing a basket of summer fruits, probably pomegranates, figs, and grapes, suddenly translate into a prediction of doom?

The New International Version (NIV) goes some way to try to show us how you get from a to b: *"What do you see, Amos?" he asked. "A basket of ripe fruit," I answered. Then the Lord said to me, "The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer."*

A clever use of our English word RIPE to describe both the fruit and the time! And it is clever, because what is written is actually a pun, a play on words. In Hebrew the term for "summer fruit" is *qayits*, while the term for "end" is *qets*. In the northern kingdom, these two words would have sounded even more similar. It must have taken the translators of the NIV months to come up with that!

Our version of the Bible has stayed with a more literal translation but has left the Hebrew words used as footnotes so you can see the similarity. But how many people read the footnotes? And if you are listening to it being read, how would you know?

The juxtaposition of such a pleasant, sensual image, however, with such a grotesque, violent threat is jarring. The shock intensifies the sense of foreboding created by the vision.

Like other prophetic judgement announcements, Amos explains what the guilty party has done wrong and declares what will happen as a result.

The calamities will affect not just the corrupt merchants but all of Israel, suggesting that the society at large bears responsibility for creating the circumstances in which such actions could prosper. And the fact that God swears an oath underscores the seriousness of the divine intention to punish these crimes.

Now, of course, being modern, we might find it hard to believe that God causes natural disasters to punish human sins. Yet, in July, we have had two of the hottest days on record – due to what most scientists believe is the exploitation of the earth's resources.

Can we really make a disconnect between economic and environmental exploitation? Corporate fraud, exploitation of the poor, and ecological disruption are all consequences of the drive to maximize profit at any costs. People who live on the margins often suffer disproportionately from environmental abuse.

You only have to think about the destruction of the Amazonian rain forests to realise that it affects the poor most of all. The use of fossil fuels, especially coal, has been a significant factor in the increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere – and who bore the brunt of digging it out? The poor. When fracking takes place to extract natural gas from rocks, who bears the brunt of the tremors and poisoning of the aquifers? The poor.

We are possibly the first generations to see the undeniable physical effects on the environment of our past and current exploitative practices.

The warning was there for the Israelites, and it is there for us too. If we dismiss this as solely a prophecy to the people nearly three thousand years ago, then we will be forgetting that sometimes prophecy has more than one intended audience through the ages.

Peter Hall

Well Dressing at Chadkirk, Romiley



(photo: Andrew Brindle)

Parish News Roundup

Holy Baptism

3rd July Joshua Bateson
 10th July Elliott Fallows
 Dorothy Bethell
 21st Aug Joseph James McCue

Holy Matrimony

None last month

Funerals

21st July Heather Janet Goodwin at St Thomas' Norbury followed by Burial at Mill Lane
 19th Aug Shelby Elise Drinkwater at the Rowan Chapel

Burial of Ashes

29th June Venerable David and Joan Rogers
 10th July Jean Margaret Berry
 22nd Aug Sally Hemsley

Communion Flowers were sponsored as follows:

3rd July from the Hayden family, with love, for Mark
 10th July from the Garlick and Lupton families, in memory of Arnold and Jean Lupton
 17th July to celebrate the 90th birthdays of two remarkable women: Frances Farrar and Ruth Jones
 24th July from Walter Stead and family, in memory of Pauline Stead

Parish News Roundup

31st July from the Alcraft and Hayden families, in loving memory of Vera Fallows
 7th Aug for absent friends
 14th Aug from Andrew Garlick and Angela, in loving memory of Isobel

Mothers' Union

We start our new season on Monday September 12th with a service of Holy Communion, led by our vicar Elaine, in church at 2.15pm. The service will also include enrolment of recently-joined members.

Refreshments to follow.

Richard Parr's new address

108 Llanmiloe Estate
 Llanmiloe
 Carmarthen
 SA33 4UF

email: ricmar77@gmx.com

New Stamps for Old

Swap Out forms are now available beside the *Grapevine* money box at the back of church. These forms enable you to swap red 1st class and blue 2nd class stamps, and pictorial Christmas issues, free of charge, for the new, barcoded equivalents. The old stamps, and the Christmas issues, are valid until **31st January 2023**, so no immediate panic. **Make sure** you have replacements of the new variety

Parish News Roundup

before you part with your total stock of old ones, as I'm not sure how long the replacement process takes.

Rosie Stead

Donate Used Stamps for a Good Cause

Just a reminder that I am still collecting used postage stamps for the very worthwhile charity – the Royal National Lifeboat Institute. The box, on the table at the back of church, has been empty for quite a while now! Please, if you do trim your stamps, will you leave a margin of at least 5mm?

Kate Stephenson

Greetings to All

A selection of greeting cards suitable for all occasions is available at the back of church, plus copies of the poetry book. There is a dish for your contribution, or payment can be made via the card machine, as all monies are for church funds.

Louise Clark

Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings:

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

October 2022

Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Fri 16th Sept.**
 Committee meeting: Tue 20th Sept.

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



Celebrating 25 Years of Elaine's Ministry



The North Coast 500

THE NORTH COAST 500 or NC500 is a 516-mile drive around the very north of Scotland. We combined it with a diversion around Trotternish on the Isle of Skye to take our trip up to 767 miles.

In May, we all awoke bright and early, at 4:35am on Monday morning. The taxi would be picking us up at 5am to drop us off at Terminal 3 at Manchester Airport for an 8am flight up to Inverness. Two and a half hours later and we were walking through a very rainy Inverness, killing a few hours before we could pick up the campervans at 3pm. Over the next nine days we would eventually work out the Scottish weather forecasting – “Light rain with a gentle breeze” means rain coming horizontally; “Heavy rain with gentle breeze” means torrential horizontal rain and “Sunny Intervals” means a bit of sun interspersed with rain.

We had booked all our campsites in advance of the journey. Apart from the fact that the NC500 is very popular, we had two vans as we travelled with my sister and brother-in-law, so we wanted to have pitches next to each other. The first of these was at Fortrose on the Black Isle, about a 30-mile drive from Inverness. Our pitches were on the shores of the Moray Firth, and a short walk away was Chanonry Point where, we were assured, we would see bottlenose dolphins. Our informant was correct, and we watched as a small pod came in with the evening tide.

The following morning, we headed north to Dunbeath, calling in at Dunrobin Castle and Gardens. The castle is in the style of a French chateau and has been the home of the Clan Sutherland since the 1400s. Peter tried to convince us that it was so named, as the clan had “done robbin’” and had now settled down, but we were having none of it. The entry price was reasonable and included a free falconry display (weather permitting.)



Dunrobin House (Done robbing, we'll settle down now)

After stopping overnight in Dunbeath, we continued up the coast through Wick and John O’Groats before finally getting to our next camp site in Thurso. The route took us past the Laidhay tearooms only a mile or so from the campsite. However Peter assured us that his walking Rule #1 still applies in campervans: never pass an open tearoom! For once he was correct. Not only did they sell the most delicious Tiffin (containing Crunchie, Mars bars and Turkish delight), which we ate at the time and purchased some for later; but also, they had a crofters heritage museum attached and a puffin colony a short walk across the fields.

Wick was depressing to say the least and we left quickly after a brief lunch. John O’Groats was a little better: for anyone who has been to Land’s End it’s very similar, but without the exorbitant entry price. It also has very good views over the Orkneys.



The intrepid explorers at John O’Groats

Apart from being the furthest place from Land’s End it does not really have a claim to fame. The most northerly point in Britain is Dunnet Head a few miles to the west and the most easterly is near Lowestoft 700 miles to the south!

Thurso, however, did not disappoint. It is a vibrant little town, the largest settlement on the NC500 (bar Inverness.) The campsite overlooked the Pentland Firth and Atlantic Ocean with just a slate-edged footpath before the cliff edge. The same could not be said for the places visited on the next day. The settlements on the north coast are tiny in comparison to English standards, so we passed through Forss, Lybster, Isauld and Reay, hardly noticing they were there. Dounreay was obvious from the enormous car park and the part-dismantled nuclear reactor, but as we drove west, we did wonder whether we would find anywhere to have a coffee.

We eventually decided that Bettyhill would be the place for us. It was by far the largest village and had the Strathnaver Museum to offer. It was closed. The Bettyhill information centre and café was also closed. If ever you hear Peter or Elaine saying it has “a touch of the Bettyhills about it”, we’re not referring to a person, but to a place where seemingly everything is closed.

It wasn’t until we’d driven all the way through the village that we spotted a sign to a community café. Finally, we were able to grab a bite to eat in a homely community café. A few miles further on and we turned off the main road to travel into Talmine. At the end of the grassy road was a gate and beyond this was a small patch of land with a very small toilet block. There were no electric hook ups and after Elaine inspected the toilet block, she decided we would effectively be wild camping for the evening. The views from Talmine, however, were spectacular.



In a former life, Peter was the principal software engineer designing this phone. Nice to see the most northerly one in Great Britain still works nearly 25 years after he left!

Clachtoll was a complete contrast with Talmine. This was a 5-star caravan park with excellent facilities. They even provided free kayaks and wetsuits for anyone thinking that paddling in the Atlantic waters is a good idea!

The next day was another ninety-mile-plus journey, though this time over better roads to Gairloch. On the way we called in at the Russian Convoy museum at Birchburn on Loch Ewe and the Inverewe Gardens at Poolewe. Our dear departed friend, George Rose, had been on several of the convoys, so it was fitting to call in at the museum. One of the most interesting displays was about ‘Sea Dog Bamse’ a Norwegian St Bernard who regularly would go around the pubs at closing time to round up the crewmates.

As Saturday was National Fish and Chip Day, we ended up celebrating the day with a Fish and Chip supper from next door to the campsite in Gairloch.

Anyone who has visited the Highlands will probably know that almost everything closes on Sunday. There would be no cafes, no attractions, and no chance of a meal, even the petrol stations would be closed! With nothing open at all, we headed to a car park for a slap-up meal of a sausage sandwich, then to a small campsite in Loch Carron.



Peter with sister Carol and brother-in-law Paul. If the coats didn't give it away, this could be a Caribbean beach – instead it is Talmine on the north coast.

Day five began early. There was a ninety-mile drive ahead, which in normal circumstances would not be anything out of the ordinary, but in the Highlands of Scotland it would be a minimum of three hours along single-track roads with passing places. Fortunately, with two vans, we made up a convoy and almost every driver coming the other way turned into a passing place. The route saw us go around Loch Eriboll, nicknamed Loch ‘Orrible by the submarine crews who were stationed here in World War II. We had eschewed the B869 and headed south to Loch Assynt before then turning west to our destination for the day at Clachtoll.

The following morning, we drove down to the Kyle of Lochalsh and across the new bridge. There is no toll on the bridge due to the fact that it would have had to close on Sundays. We

then headed into Portree and then took the circular route anti-clockwise around Trotternish. We visited our second crofting museum, and finally my sister’s desire to see a highland cow was fulfilled. Finally, we found our campsite on the north of Portree.

The final full day of the tour saw us set out from Portree and go back the way we had come. Just beyond Auchtertyre, we stopped at Eilean Donan, the iconic castle on Loch Alsh.

Our final night was spent on the banks of Loch Ness. All was quiet and no sign of Nessie and once again we started early to drop the campervan off in Inverness.

Enabling all God's people

ENGAGEMENT AND INCLUSION Officer, the Revd Vanessa Layfield, invites you to come along to the Enabling all God's People service which takes place on 10th September at 2pm at St Michael and All Angels, Bramhall. This is the second service in the series of what is hoped to be a yearly event, following a Covid hiatus.

Vanessa said that the inspiration for the service was: *"Jesus included everyone and excluded no one, and we should do the same. The Bible tells us that we are all fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God. It's important that we remind ourselves of this and celebrate it."*

She goes on to explain, however, that people do still feel excluded, both in their daily lives and, surprisingly, in some churches, where access can be difficult or where provision hasn't been made for them to participate fully in services, perhaps because they have impaired hearing or vision.

Vanessa is keen to point out that progress is being made in churches and that things are moving in the right direction, but there is still a long way to go.

"Every year more and more churches are making improvements to their buildings and technology which helps people access and engage with their church, but it's not all about ramps and hearing loops; it's about changing attitudes" she says. *"So often we assume people's needs, desires, capabilities and even worth, without actually speaking to them or finding out how we can enable them*

to flourish. We need to embrace all God's people and celebrate our difference".

One of the speakers at the *Enabling all God's People* service is Darius Traves.

"He's an inspiration to anyone who thinks that a disability can hold you back and prevent you from doing something," Vanessa says. *"Darius was born in 1995 and because of an accident during his delivery which deprived him of oxygen, he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. He came to faith at just four years old and through his faith, hard work, and determination, he is now a fully ordained member of the clergy in the Church of England."*

Vanessa is herself disabled although, outwardly, no one would see any visible signs.

Vanessa explains: *"Not being 'obviously' disabled can sometimes be a barrier in my life, and even organising this service, there can be the inevitable questions, maybe not said, but implied, of, 'What does she know about disability?' It's just one aspect of people's perception of disability that we are trying to change. The Enabling all God's People service is one step closer to enabling all God's people to flourish."*

The service will be led by Bishop Julie Conalty, the Bishop of Birkenhead.

It is important that people book via Eventbrite to help with catering and accessibility needs. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/enabling-all-gods-people-tickets-354456949277?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Bracondale Champions

IF YOU'RE LOOKING for fun, laughter and good friendly company, maybe this is for you. I have been going to the drama group for several years now and I can honestly say it is tremendous fun, and there is absolutely no pressure to do anything you don't feel comfortable with. We have a great leader in Tess and they're all such lovely people. Why not give it a try?

The Bracondale Champions is a 'social prescribing' project set up in 2018 with the support of a local GP surgery and now run independently by local volunteers. They aim to create supportive networks for anyone living in Stockport, particularly around the Bracondale GP Practice in Davenport. Activities are open to all and free of charge. New members are welcome at weekly drama and walking groups. Through providing connections and friendship the project builds community support, leading to less reliance on GP services.

Social Stroll, weekly walking group – have fun, be fit, and make friends.

Local walking routes in green spaces, led by qualified walk leaders. Walks are of varied length, up to 3-4 miles.

Routes and walk length can be adapted for different needs.

It runs on Fridays 10.30 - 12:00, meeting at Woodsmoor Station, Ferndale Avenue SK2 7DW at 10.30. Coffee stop, along the way. For further information please contact Tess 07702038361 or Fiona 07973381562.

Drama for Fun, weekly drama group

A welcoming group for adults, providing improvised drama activities, led by a qualified and experienced drama teacher. It runs every Monday afternoon (except Bank holidays) 14:00-16:00 at The Brookdale Theatre (near Bramhall Park), Bridge Lane, Bramhall, SK7 3AB. This is a free event, with tea, coffee, and biscuits provided. New members are always welcome. There's no learning of lines or pressure to perform. It's a fun way to make friends, do something completely different, and have a good laugh.

The 378 bus from Stockport town centre drops off at 13.58 at Fir Road, on the roundabout. The venue is accessible and there is plenty of parking. For further information please contact Tess 07702038361.

Patricia Wilke



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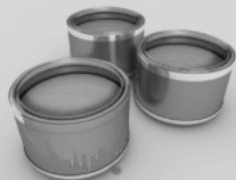
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Recipe of the Month:

Chicken Breasts in Lemon Cream

- 6 chicken breasts
- 1.5oz/45g butter
- zest 1 lemon
- 1.5 tabsps lemon juice
- 2 tabsps dry sherry
- 3 tabsps dry white wine
- ½ pt/300ml whipping or double cream
- 3 tablesps Gruyere cheese, grated
- salt and pepper

Heat butter and fry chicken breasts lightly until browned on both sides. Transfer to shallow dish. Put remaining ingredients (except cheese) into the pan and bubble until slightly thickened then pour over chicken breasts. Sprinkle the cheese over and cook in moderate oven, about 35 minutes. Serve with rice and a green vegetable or salad.

Pamela Ferguson

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to raise funds for the Ukrainian Appeal

Saturday 1st October 2022

6.30pm

Stockport Ukrainian Social Club

185 Buxton Road, Stockport, SK2 7AA

featuring a wide range of fabulous music from

Voices in Achord

a cappella ensemble

The Kinder Ringers – *hand bell ringers*

Mistral – *clarinet choir*

Geoffrey Brunt – *classical guitar*

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All proceeds from this
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Heritage Open Day Saturday 10th September

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH will be open for Heritage Open Day on Saturday 10th September from 10am–4pm.

A traditional service of Choral Matins will be at 11am and archive material will be available to view.

Should weather conditions allow, there will be an opportunity to go up the tower at 11am and 2pm.

The Buddy Bench Scheme

YOU MAY HAVE noticed benches situated in various places around the Stockport area, bearing a plaque stating: 'Sit down here if you don't mind someone saying hello'. This is known as the Buddy Bench Scheme and was organised by Anne Brown, Chair of the Community Services group of Stockport Rotary Lamplighters Club.



(photo: Rosie Stead)

They used existing benches, without memorial plaques, and chose 12 around the Stockport borough. Stockport Council said they had to do a trial first, so two benches were chosen in Heaton Moor parks (where Anne Brown lives) with email contact to get responses – then lockdown arrived!

Two years later, after a battle with the Council, having sent photos and locations, 10 more sites were chosen in North and South Reddish, Davenport, Shaw Heath, Heaton Norris, Woodley Precinct, Cale Green, Bramhall Lane, Alexandra Park and Heaton Mersey. Less affluent areas were chosen. Anne's husband fixed the plaques, using wooden battens at the back, as drilling into the benches was not allowed.

Rotary funded the cost of the plaques and it is hoped that the scheme will help ease isolation and loneliness in the community.

The Buddy Bench Scheme has been in operation all over the world for many years. In 2017 the idea was raised at a vacation Bible School in America and struck a chord with one of the children attending – Sammie Vance. She said: 'If someone is lonely, they can go and sit on the bench and others know to go up and ask them to play'. She didn't want anyone to feel alone. It would be a place to sit for anyone new to school, and those feeling left out or wanting to make a new friend.

Sammie's mother had heard of a company that turned recycled plastic caps and lids into benches. For a 6' bench with back, it would require 400lbs of plastic caps which would also require a huge advertising campaign. But, within two months, they had received 1200lbs of caps and were able to provide three benches for Sammie's school.



(photo: Anne Brown)

The project continues to grow as more people are collecting caps and maybe doing this in their own communities. We, at St George's, are collecting plastic bottle tops which go to The Plastic Shed in Stockport, for further recycling. Anne Brown and a team of Rotarians went to help sort recently, and discovered that magnifying glasses were needed. Only three different types of plastic can be used. These are 2, 4 and 5, and, as the codes are inside each lid, they are, understandably, very small! There was no-one there on this occasion to ask what each variety goes on to make, but I'll continue to make enquiries.

The Buddy Bench Scheme is a great initiative to reduce the effects of loneliness and encourage community cohesion.

Rosie Stead, with a great deal of help from Anne Brown and Google

But where are all the butterflies?



(photo by Angela Foulkes)

The Mud Maid at the Lost Gardens of Heligan

THE LOST GARDENS of Heligan, thought to be Europe's largest garden restoration project, can be found near St Austell in Cornwall, and cover over 200 acres.

Over a hundred years ago, the gardens were in their full glory. We are told magnificent trees and flowering shrubs surrounded the lawns. Oranges and lemons grew outside in the summer; the huge walled vegetable garden had melon and peach houses and a pineapple pit (still there) warmed by manure collected from the farm.

A path through the tree ferns led to the Crystal Grotto. A lake was created in a woodland setting.

Then, the First World War took the gardeners away and many did not return. The Tremayne family, who owned Heligan moved away, and the gardens fell into ruin. They lay hidden under a thick blanket of trees and brambles for seventy years.



In 1990, John Willis (a descendant of the Tremaynes) introduced Tim Smit to the devastated estate. Tim Smit was an archaeologist by training and this experience prompted an all-consuming curiosity to discover what had happened here.

Today the gardens are still being restored and are a wonderful place to visit at any time of the year.

A particularly lovely story surrounding the gardens is that of the Mud Maid. She is said to have lived in the lake when it was crystal clear. She used to run and play and

often teased Tom the Gardener. She was very sad when the brambles grew, stopped playing and lay down in the mud to sleep.

After the restoration, according to the story 'The Mud Maid' by Sandra Horn, "the Mud Maid came out of the water and danced for joy to see the paths cleared and the blossom on the trees, and she picked a wreath of flowers for her hair. She wandered along the Woodland Walk, under the moon-silvered trees. A night-bird whistled a lullaby.

'All's well', she said.

Then she lay down on a pillow of soft green moss and smiled herself to sleep."

She is there, smiling and asleep among the trees and shrubs for countless visitors to see and admire, thanks to Sue and Pete Hill who created the inspirational sculpture.



Today life has been breathed into Heligan once more. Over 20 gardeners and estate workers practise the skills of those who worked the land a century ago, cultivating the walled gardens, growing heritage vegetables, farming traditional livestock breeds and re-creating a thriving community, for visitors to enjoy all year round.

Kate Stephenson

Melanesian Prayer

SOME YEARS AGO, I took our offspring to the children's festival at Chester Cathedral. We enjoyed a fun interactive service and took part in the variety of activities on offer at different locations around the building. We were particularly interested in a talk by some visiting Melanesian brothers who told us about their life at home where worship takes place outside, and children learn to paddle small boats almost as soon as they can walk. This is because it is the main way to travel, down rivers and across, and even between small islands, including getting to school. They gave us their special everyday prayer based on their way of life and we have kept it ever since

on display in our dining room because it is in fact appropriate to all of us.

O Jesus,
Be the canoe that holds me up in the sea of life;
Be the rudder that keeps me on the straight road;
Be the outrigger that supports me in times of
temptation.

Let your Spirit be my sail that carries me through each
day.

Keep my body strong so I can paddle steadfastly on in
the voyage of life.

Amen

Louise Clark

Remembering the Venerable David Rogers

THE ASHES of the Venerable David Rogers and his wife Joan were buried on 29th June at St George's.

David was born in South Yorkshire and was educated at prep school in the Yorkshire Dales, St Edward's School in Oxford, and then, following the war, at Christ's College, Cambridge. Joan was born and brought up in Hazel Grove and met David when he was appointed curate at St George's. He went on to train in theology for his ordination at Ridley College. David was ordained in September 1949 'licensed to St George's Stockport' as assistant curate, continuing in this role until 1953. David and Joan were married at St George's on April 21st, 1951.

David subsequently became Rector of St Peter's Church Levenshulme in 1953 before moving to Sedbergh in North Yorkshire (now Cumbria) where he served as vicar and rural dean from 1959 - 1979. They left Sedbergh on David's appointment as Archdeacon of Craven, part of the Bradford Diocese, a role he held until his retirement in

1986. Before his retirement, David was invited back to St George's to preach at the ordination of two deacons.

Following retirement David and Joan moved to Leck, near Kirkby Lonsdale, to an old farmhouse where they threw themselves into church and community life and where, with more time, David was able to indulge his lifelong passion fully, developing a beautiful garden completely from scratch, and welcoming his five grandchildren to stay for long holidays.

In 2001 to mark his 80th birthday and their Golden Wedding, St George's arranged a reunion of the youth fellowship group. He continued to take services until at least 2008, celebrating the 60th anniversary of his ordination in 2009. David was known for his great humanity and integrity and a strong sense of duty and fairness. He was a natural teacher and leader, in both his work and his home life.

Andy Clark



The marriage of David and Joan Rogers at St George's Church, on April 21st, 1951



In 1985 David was invited back to preach at the ordination of two deacons

The Joy of God's Guiding Light

I RECENTLY CAME across a file in which I found some materials from a retreat that was organised by Alec Corio during Advent 2017. Chris Dawson had brought the labyrinth path, at the centre of which was a lantern to symbolise the coming of the light at Christmas. I slowly walked the labyrinth, conscious of my breathing, pausing to collect my thoughts. Afterwards, I took some time to collect my thoughts and wrote this prayer, which I was not brave enough to share at the time.

Show me the joy that I can bring through your guiding light
Relieve me of the fear that impedes my way to the beauty and the truth
Hold me in your gentle embrace in the darkest of the nights, and
Direct my journey through this path of thorns, safely to the blossom filled woods
Take me with you to the place where I can see
My eyes no longer clouded by self-doubt and deceit
And where I can hear the peaceful sounds of your promise
And bring this light to my encounters with your world

Andy Clark

Friendships

WHAT A JOY it is to be able to get to church again and chat to our friends or make new friends. Ultimately, what a gift it is to know “What a friend we have in Jesus” as the hymn goes!

So God moves in mysterious ways and we can reflect on times gone by and also look forward to new beginnings.

I have recently been chatting with a number of people about the friends we have at St George’s and particularly Kathleen Heaward, who remembers the time of the Youth Fellowship of the 1950s and asked me to write something about it for this magazine!

Since we have recently been connected again with the family of the late David Rogers, it seems appropriate to recall his coming to this church and his onward path with Joan.

Joan was part of the Youth Fellowship of that time as were many, many people. This was a time when she was Joan Malkin, living locally with her family. The Malkin family attended church and had their own group of friends. Their names can be found in the Book of Remembrance. In our recollections David Rogers was one of THREE curates who worked with Wilfred Garlick. He came about 1949. The other two were Jimmy Mair and Maurice Wilde. Apparently David met Joan while she was “child-sitting” Andrew Garlick at the vicarage!! After their wedding at St George’s they moved to Levenshulme and then Sedburgh but always kept links with their friends at St George’s. They often came to visit here, and trips to see them were also arranged. Joan was such a hospitable and caring host as the coaches arrived!! She was a great one for keeping in touch with people and both were greatly loved by their friends. Even when they moved south their friends still kept in touch.

Now there are only a handful of people left at church who shared those special times together, but memories are very precious and enjoyed by those who were there.

Many families lived locally and had friends from local schools too. The main social activity which enabled people to mix and meet new people was the YF at church, from which other activities such as cinema outings, hiking and holidays began. In addition to harvest suppers and carol singing there was also the great Parish Party held at the Town Hall. Many friendships were formed and many also led to marriages.

Friendships are formed in many ways and often through surprise meetings. Usually there is a common activity, as in the many groups that meet at church. Kathleen recalls being Rose Queen at church in 1949. I know there are others in our congregation who will remember that role, or that of the Harvest Queen, both of which brought lasting connections and friendships with other churches as the “At homes” were held throughout the year.

Friends I met when “playing out” aged three and upwards (!) have lasted a lifetime. We shared experiences together. We have concern for each other’s “well being” and take an interest in each other’s lives. We trust and support each other. It has been wonderful to continue to make new friends wherever I have been.

For each one of us it is good to be with friends and sit comfortably without having to explain ourselves, to smile and laugh together, to share the good and difficult times. Let’s look forward to making new friendships as we move forward this year.

Janet Neilson

Service award for Bill Frith

IN HIS RECENT newsletter to the Scouting world, Vice President of Stockport District, Charles Hamilton, reported on the big District event – the Jubilee Celebration Camp at Linnet Clough. It was wonderful to see, at the opening ceremony, the giant horseshoe of Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Squirrels, curving round.

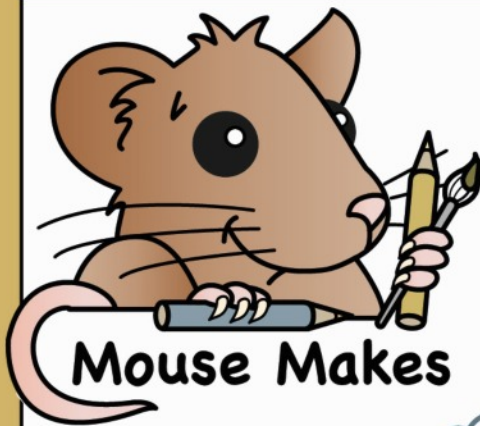
There were about 600 there and it felt as if they were back and together again. It was a chance to meet up with old friends who hadn’t met for three years, because of the pandemic – lthough, after about eight hours he, Charles, began to wilt!

There was a very pleasant occasion in the afternoon as the Gang gathered to see Bill Frith receive his 50-year service award. In the voluntary sector it is unusual to find people involved in running any organisation for more than five years. In Scouting they are fortunate to have leaders like Bill, who keep going year after year.

Bill Frith, as many parents will know, runs the 4th Stockport (St George’s) Beavers and Cubs Groups, held weekly at the rear of Trinity Methodist church on Bramhall Lane.

Beavers (boys and girls aged 6 and 7) meet Fridays, 6-7pm
Cubs (boys and girls aged 8-10½) meet Fridays, 7.15-8.45pm





Mouse Makes



Everyone who hears Jesus' words and **does** them will be like a



Everyone who hears Jesus' words and **does not** do them will be like a

The _____ fell,
The floods came and the
_____ blew.

Matthew 7:25




On what did he build his house?

Matthew 7:24

On what did he build his house?

Matthew 7:26

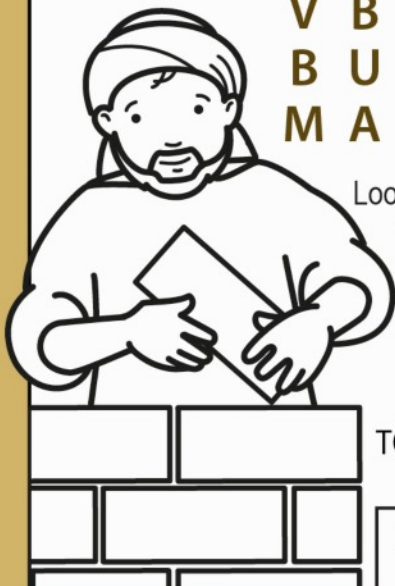

Matthew 7:24-27
and
Luke 6:46-49

What happened to the houses?
Read
Matthew 7:25 and 27

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



What was the reaction of the crowd to Jesus' teaching?
Read
Matthew 7:28-29



Look up the Bible references to find the missing words then look for them and the words below in the word search

JESUS • HEAR • LISTEN • WORDS
DOES • BUILT • FOUNDATION • MAN
DUG • DEEP • SOLID • GROUND
STREAM • RIVER • BURST • FLOODS
TORRENT • HOUSE • FELL • COLLAPSED
RUIN • DESTROYED

How many other words can you make from the word

FOUNDATIONS



Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

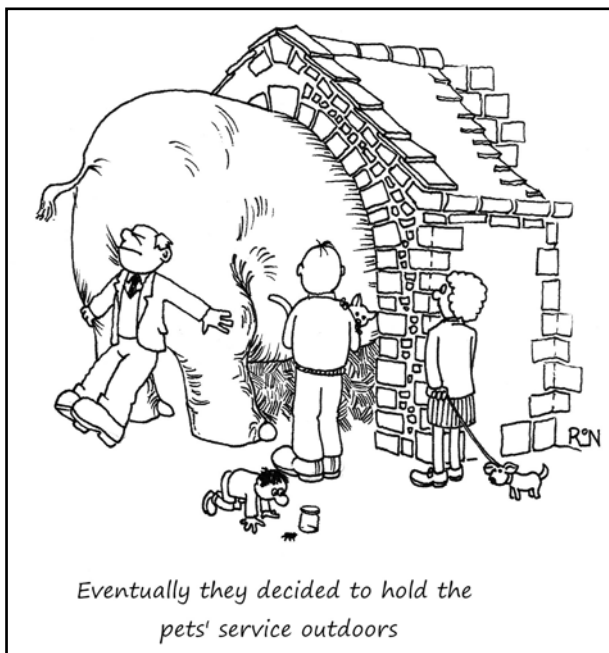
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Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 23)



Eventually they decided to hold the pets' service outdoors

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 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)
- 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)
- 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)
- 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)
- 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
- 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)
- 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
- 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
- 19 Mock (Luke 14:29)(8)
- 24 Disgrace (Psalm 44:13)(8)
- 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus 13:4)(4)
- 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome (6)
- 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23)(6)

Down

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
- 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and

- let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
- 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
- 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
- 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
- 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
- 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
- 11 Do ten (anag.)(5)
- 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
- 13 Capable of being used (1 Kings 7:36) (9)
- 14 'Each one should — his own actions' (Galatians 6:4) (4)
- 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
- 18 'But I am afraid that just — — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
- 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts (5)
- 21 One of the four sons of Asher (Genesis 46:17) (5)
- 22 Be distressed (Proverbs 24:19) (4)
- 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)

Sammy Sheep Couldn't Sleep

SAMMY SHEEP couldn't sleep. He'd tried everything to help: a warm glass of milk, a cuddly blanket, no cuddly blanket, reading a book, listening to soothing songs. He'd even tried counting sheep, but I suppose that doesn't work when you're a... well, sheep. Looking enviously at his ninety-nine brothers and sisters, dozing peacefully in their beautiful meadow home, he wondered if he'd ever fall asleep. It was a big day tomorrow – first day of the sheepdog trials and they all had to be at their best to help Spot, the Farmer's dog, win first prize.

Finally, Sammy made up his mind and decided that a midnight stroll would do him good. Yes, it was dark, but the moon was full. He'd only be a few minutes and once he was feeling properly sleepy, he could come back, snuggle up with his brothers and sisters and no one would know he'd been gone. They weren't supposed to leave the field, you see. It could be dangerous out there with rabbit holes peppering the countryside, bushes that could trap them in their tangled branches – not to mention the wild animals that would be very happy to have a nice, tasty sheep for a late-night dinner.

At first, it was rather pleasant. It was fairly easy to slip through the gate and the hot summer day had left the night air warm. Sammy enjoyed his stroll, the world looking so different in the light of the moon, and he felt brave, sneaky even, that he alone could enjoy this view. Finally, Sammy started to yawn, and it was time to head back. He was thinking dreamily of his grass pillow when suddenly, he slipped. Down and down and down Sammy fell until he was afraid that he'd never stop.

With a BANG, Sammy landed on the ground, knocking the wind out of him. Looking around, he could see he was on some sort of ledge, but he couldn't see how to get back up and he certainly couldn't see how far down the ground below him was. Gingerly, he tried to stand up but a sharp pain in his back left ankle forced him to stay where he was. He was trapped – no way up or down and that's even if he could move.

Softly, Sammy started to cry. He'd felt so brave when he'd started out on his night-time adventure, convinced that he'd be back home and in his bed with no problems. No one knew where he was or even that he was gone. They were all fast asleep and dreaming of buttercups and sweet cowslips. Sammy suddenly felt very alone and very, very frightened. Every creak and crack, every gust of wind seemed to him to be monstrous wild animals coming out to gobble him up. Eventually, he closed his eyes and fell into a fitful, nightmare-filled sleep.

A loud sound woke him, making him jump. He looked around but the night was still black, and he couldn't even see the ground in front of him. There it was again! A crunching sound, like a wolf chewing on bone. Sammy curled into a ball as the noise got closer and closer and louder and louder.

This was it; he was never going to see his brothers and sisters again, never again chase each other in the field or spot patterns in the clouds.

Without warning, something reached out of the darkness and grabbed him. Sammy cried out in terror and wished with his whole heart that he'd never sneaked out of the gate. Then, he heard a soft, soothing voice that he knew so very well. "There you are, you daft thing! Went for a bit of a wander, did you?" It was the Farmer. He'd left the safety of the field, in the middle of the night and come to find him. "Never mind, let's get you home, shall we?" He tenderly picked Sammy up and draped him across his shoulders.

As they walked back to the field, Sammy wondered why the Farmer had risked his own safety to come and find him. He had ninety-nine other sheep, what made him so special? What Sammy didn't realise was that the Farmer loved every single one of them and, when one was lost, the Farmer wouldn't rest until he brought them home. All Sammy knew was that he was safe now. He was tired and in pain, but he knew beyond doubt that he was very, very loved.

Nicola Pennicott-Hall

News from Richard Parr – our former Editor

24th June 2022

The move (from Bramhall to south-west Wales) did go very smoothly, although we didn't get away until 4pm. Ali and Paul (daughter and partner) had collected the keys, done lots of cleaning and going to the tip and met us for breakfast at McDonald's the next morning. They had even taken a bag of goodies to leave at the Travelodge in St Clears for us. They then helped with unpacking and doing various jobs for the whole day. Then they drove back to Leighton Buzzard that night!

Anyway, the house is lovely, the village as nice as we remembered it, and all the people so welcoming and

friendly. Everyone has been so kind and helpful, not only in Llanmiloe, but in Carmarthen and everywhere we've been.

We've had a shopping trip for furniture and I've joined the local Bowling Club and play my second match tomorrow! As they play in whites and much more formal gear than the Crown Green bowlers back in Cale Green, they insisted on lending, or giving, me everything I needed. We already feel very much at home here.

We've also had a lot of nice meals out, in between the unpacking! Now we've had a supermarket home delivery, we'll just have to stay at home! We are down to the last

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dozen boxes now, and hope to be nearly straight before we go to Switzerland.

I'm glad about the *Grapevine* meeting, and that so many people attended. Clearly, there was a lot of enthusiasm and excellent ideas. Well done Andy Clark and everyone else.

We are missing all our friends at St George's. We haven't yet had the chance to go to church here, but we think we have located churches in nearby Pendine to visit, probably when we're back from holiday. Please give our love and best wishes to everyone. It's nice to still read 'Lance' and get the weekly news.

Take care and please keep in touch.

Richard and Margaret

23rd July 2022

We enjoyed Switzerland very much and had great weather. The hotel was really nice, typical Swiss rooms

with lots of wood and paintings, and excellent views of the Jungfrau and Eiger. We got about quite a lot, using the Swiss pass. Strangely, the trains weren't affected by the heatwave!

We both managed a bout of Covid, Margaret right at the end of the holiday, and I started a couple of days after we were home. We were rough for a couple of days, but are fine now.

We have started worshipping at a lovely old church about two miles away – St Margaret's. A very small, but welcoming, congregation. We have already had a home visit from the vicar – an ex-pharmacist! The services seem relaxed and informal, but also very meaningful. How are things at St George's? Hope everyone is ok.

We are missing you all! Take care.

Much love from Wales

Richard and Margaret

St George's Christmas Tree Festival, 2022

WHEN I WAS a small child and we came home from a trip to Stockport on the bus, as the bus drove up the A6 towards the Town Hall, we delighted in looking out for the fur shop which had a sign in its window, all year round, saying **It will be cold again**. So that's a bit how I feel, writing this in a heat wave, to tell you about the forthcoming Christmas Tree Festival!

The 2022 Festival will take place from Wednesday 23rd November until Sunday 27th November, which is Advent Sunday. As in previous years, Monday 21st will be spent setting up the infrastructure within church and then on Tuesday 22nd we open the doors to welcome our exhibitors and their trees.

We felt very relieved and thankful to have achieved the Festival last year and hope that this year life will feel more normal. We have taken on board the safeguards and precautions we incorporated last year so that we can make everything as safe as possible. The usual requests for help will be coming in October, so please put the dates in your diary now so that hopefully you will be able to assist in one of a myriad of ways.

However, for those readers thinking of entering a tree, the application form will be on the website and copies available in church. Alternatively you are very welcome to email me at hazel.jenkins@stgeorgestockport.org.uk and I will send one directly to you.

Hazel Jenkins





Music Scheme – September 2022

Sunday 4 th September – The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity			
10:15am	Parish Communion		No Evening Service
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening		
Hymns:	582 Take up thy cross, the Saviour said To him we come – Jesus Christ, our Lord, 376 And can it be that I should gain... 578 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,		
Anthem:	Do not be afraid – Stopford		

Saturday 10 th September – Heritage Open Day				
11:00am	Choral Mattins		No Evening Service	
Hymns:	577 Stand up, and bless the Lord, 430 Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,			
Responses:	Ayleward			
Venite:	[Nares]	Psalm:		121
Canticles:	Morning Service in B flat – Stanford			
Anthem:	Teach me, O Lord – Stopford			

Sunday 11 th September – The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity			
10:15am	Parish Communion	2:30pm	Battle of Britain Memorial Service
Setting:	Missa Stopfordiensis – Mayes	Hymns:	546 O worship the King, all glorious above; 443 God is our strength and refuge, Almighty Father of the sky (t. Melita) 355 I vow to thee my country 353 And did those feet in ancient time
Hymns:	474 Immortal, invisible, God only wise SP283 I will sing the wondrous story 318 O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray 455 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,	Anthem:	My soul, there is a country – Parry
Anthem:	Fight the good fight – Maxson		

Sunday 18 th September – The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity			
10:15am	Parish Communion		No Evening Service
Setting:	Mass of St Thomas – Thorne		
Hymns:	165 Christ is the King! O friends rejoice; 627 Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim, 448 God of grace and God of glory, 610 To the name of our salvation		
Anthem:	Teach me, O Lord – Attwood		

Sunday 25 th September – The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity			
10:15am	Parish Communion with Baptism	4:00pm	Choral Evensong
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening	Hymns:	556 Praise the Lord! Ye heavens, adore him; 411 Dear Lord and Father of mankind, 15 God, that madest earth and heaven,
Hymns:	369 All people that on earth do dwell, 383 Be still, for the presence of the Lord, 512 Lord, the light of your love is shining, 437 Go forth and tell! O Church of God, awake!	Responses:	Ayleward
		Psalm:	134
		Canticles:	Evening Service in D – Brewer
Anthem:	If ye love me – Tallis	Anthem:	View me, Lord – Lloyd

Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword solution:

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

Regular Services at St George's

Services in church, with congregation:

- Sundays:** 8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.15am Parish Communion (also live streamed)
4pm Choral Evensong (last Sunday of the month, also live streamed)
- Wednesdays:** 9.30am Morning Prayer (also live streamed)
10am Holy Communion (BCP)

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

Maddie Gets Her Choir Surplice

I SAT DOWN with Maddie, aged 11, a junior member of the choir to talk about her recent presentation of Surplice (a surplice is the white linen robe worn by members of the choir and clergy) and life in the choir.

How long have you been in the choir?

Since October, so just a couple of months under a year.

How did it feel to get Surplice?

It was very exciting, but I was a bit nervous about the service where I was given my surplice. Now that the nervous part is over, I'm just excited again.

What kinds of things do you do in choir? Is there anything special for junior choir?

We do lots of different kinds of singing – hymns, psalms, we even get the chance to sing in different languages sometimes (usually Latin). For junior choir, we get our own special books with easier-to-read music, as well as personal help.

Do you have any favourite songs/hymns?

My favourite hymn is 'Long ago prophets knew (Ring bells ring)'. I also love to sing 'The Lord bless you and keep you' and 'Glory to God'. My favourite non-church songs are 'We will rock you' by Queen, 'Yellow Submarine' by The Beatles and the Wellerman Song.

What's good about choir/church?



(photo: Louise Clark)

Apart from the singing, being in choir has helped me be more responsible; I have also been improving my reading skills since joining. What I love most about church is getting the chance to meet new people of all ages and backgrounds (and hoping they join choir).

What's the most interesting/exciting service or event you have sung at?

The service where I got Surplice was very exciting, as I said. The Carol service was a lot of fun, and I'm looking forward to it this year. The other most enjoyable service was the pet service; I brought my pet snail!

Lilla Clark

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