

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
vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk
 456 9382

Associate minister Rev. Dr Jenny McKay
 01606 891564

Readers Peter Hall 456 9382
 Rita Waters

Churchwardens Andrew Regan 440 0408
 Hazel Jenkins 483 4679

PCC Secretary Lois Kelly 439 9458

PCC Treasurer Andrew Regan 440 0408
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Parish Office Marion McCall 480 2453

Magazine Editor vacant

Safeguarding co-ordinator
 James Hibbert 07365 519207

Website www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk

Webmaster Peter Hall 456 9382

St George's Primary School

Headteacher
 Deborah Grindrod 480 8657

St George's

Deputy Wardens
 John Hardy 01663 764 462
 Will Hesson 480 0630

Verger role vacant

Director of Music

James Hibbert 07365 519207
actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com

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 10.15am Parish Communion service most weeks during term time.

Junior Choir James Hibbert 07365 519207
 Practise 6.30-7.30 on Thursdays in the vestry; sing on Sundays for 10.15am service.

Praise and Play Lois Kelly 439 9458
 For 0-4s and their carers. Meet every Tuesday in term time, 10-11 in church.

St Gabriel's

Festival services Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall
 456 9382

Uniformed Groups

with connections to St George's

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.

Brownies Rachel Lockett 775 2755
 Voni Walker 07956 674 241

For girls aged 7-10. Meet Thursdays 6.30-8pm in the Parish Room.

Guides

Beavers Bill Frith 439 3232
 For boys and girls ages 6 and 7
 Meet Fridays 6-7pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church.

Cubs Bill Frith 439 3232
 For boys and girls ages 8-10½.
 Meet Fridays 7.15-8.45pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church.

Scouts

Elizabeth Goodred
Elizabeth.goodred@stockportscouts.org.uk
 For boys and girls ages 10½-14.
 Meet Wednesdays 7-9pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church.

Other Groups and Activities

St George's

Bell ringers Anne Mayes 485 6477
 Practise Mondays 7.45-9pm.
 Ring on Sundays 9.45-10.15am.
 Meet in the tower.

Bible Reading Fellowship Notes

Janet Neilson 483 9025
 Notes are ordered on request.

Bible Study Groups

contact the clergy

Study groups and courses are arranged from time to time.

Choir

James Hibbert 07365 519207
actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com
 Practise Thursdays 7.30-9pm in the vestry. Sing on Sundays at 10.15am and 4pm services.

Church Flowers Jean Hayden (*donations*)
 483 2367

Church Gardeners

Walter Stead 430 2449
 Meet on Tuesdays 9.30-12.30.

Coffee Mornings

Olwen Smith 483 6548
 after the 10.15am service, in church.

Cursillo

Usually meet on last Wednesday of the month. 7.30pm at different venues.

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.

Linen Guild

Pat Rigley 487 1999
 Maintain the church's linen.

Magazine Editorial Group

Meet monthly to plan future issues.
 email: magazine@stgeorgestockport.org.uk

Mothers' Union

Pat Durnall 483 4837
 Meet on 2nd Monday of the month in church at 2.15pm.

Front cover photo:

An autumn morning at
 St George's Church
 (photo by Louise Clark)

Services in November:
 see pages 6 and 23

Guest editorial: Only Connect

TWENTY FIVE YEARS ago, when he was elected Prime Minister, Tony Blair was asked what his top three priorities were. He famously replied, "Education, Education, Education". As a teacher I applauded the answer. However, on reflection, I think that there is something more important: "connection".

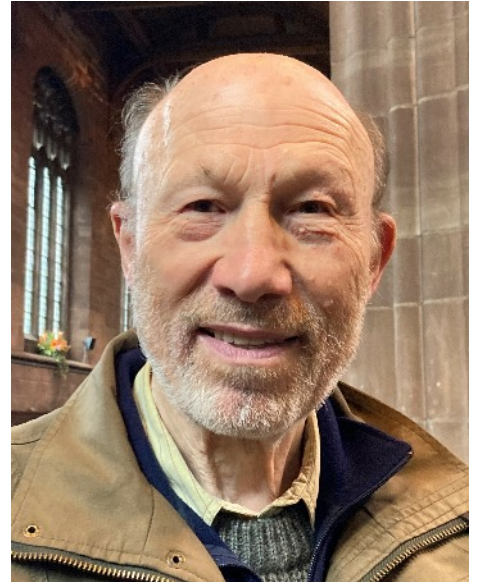
Education grows from "connection". We are social animals and when we connect we thrive. Disconnection soon leads to a downward spiral in all aspects of life, within the family, at work and in society at large.

Think of the growing gap between the rich and the poor, of the disconnect that can come between those in political power and the rest of us. The church too, over time, has not been immune from such disconnection. Some would say that much of what the church believes and teaches today does not connect with most people in this country.

To connect we have to pay attention. We often say something like, "Can I grab your attention for a minute?" when we need to have a chat with someone. Instinctively we know that to truly communicate we need a person's attention.

Attention, communication, connection. Jesus was brilliant at it. So many stories show us that. His teaching through parables grabs our attention, communicates a

truth and connects us to him and to his messages, leaving us pondering on the implications of what he has said. Though surrounded by a crowd, how often does he focus on an individual, paying them exclusive attention and responding precisely to their need?



This is love in action. For attention is love. That's what Jesus showed us. He showed us how to relate and communicate lovingly.

Producing Grapevine every month may seem like a practical and even mundane task. But it is much more than that. It requires attention, communication and connection. It is a labour of love.

Chris Dawson



Remembrance Sunday is on 13th November



Advent Sunday is on 27th November

St George's Advent Carol Service will be at 6.30pm

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Sunday Clubs: Jesus, the Light of the World

IN SUNDAY CLUBS on 23rd October we looked at the idea of Jesus as the light in the world who helps and guides us even when the way may not be clear. We used the analogy of a lantern that lights the way when there is darkness all around us. The children made lanterns to represent the light of the world, decorating them to illustrate the majesty of Christ. We played a game where one child was blindfolded and another had to guide them around an obstacle course to show the children that even when the way forward through life can seem unfamiliar and scary, Jesus will be there to guide us to safety.

It's lovely to have so many new children, some from the choir as well as several smaller ones who are now ready for more structured sessions but we do need more helpers to run these. The helper's role isn't too difficult, just turn up on the day once a month or so and join in; we also have a meeting once a term and the occasional social event. If you would like to help us nurture our young people as they learn about Jesus please speak to one of us after the 10:15 service.

Louise and Andy Clark



Photo: Louise Clark

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Elaine writes:

I know that we can often complain that the Christmas season starts too early (although I saw recently that a local shop was selling Easter eggs – but that’s another story!)

So, complaining aside, let’s be honest: it is such a joy to see the faces of children simply light up, with wide-eyed innocence, when they go to see the Christmas grotto and decorations at the garden centres around the country.

My great-niece and nephew were taken to one by their Mum and they had the most lovely time. As you’d expect, shelves were being filled, tinsel, trees and baubles were on every bit of space, and everywhere you looked was shiny stuff.

Seasonal staff were being employed and shown the ropes.

My great-nephew, Christopher, aged 7, who takes a keen interest in all things, went over to one of the new staff who was sporting a badge which said, “I am training”. Christopher asked him, “Is that really your name?” His supervisor was laughing so much she nearly did herself an injury.

If you think about it, this was a perfectly reasonable question to ask. If a badge starts with “I am... “ then you’d expect it to continue with the wearer’s name.

I just love children’s ability to ask the obvious even if we can’t see it. I like it that they can think outside the box and yet get to the heart of the matter. They are visionary. They are aspirational and they are unrestricted in their ideas.

Our grandson, Aneurin, when asked by his teacher what he wanted to be when he grew up, he answered without hesitation, “taller”. When pressed, he said that it meant he could go on the rides at Disneyland Paris when he was a certain height. She asked him again what he wanted to do when he grew up and he said, “Save the world”, so that is certainly something to aim for. Watch this space.

As adults, we don’t always know best. We are blinkered because of our past experiences. We are reluctant to step out of the familiar to test the waters or to try something completely different. We don’t ask the questions that need to be asked, and then live a life of barely understanding a particular concept or situation because we are afraid to enquire for fear of looking foolish. So, we muddle along and never recognise the shiny among the debris that we journey through.

Wouldn’t it be great to have fresh eyes, bold hearts and strong wills rather than living half a life of what might have been. We are assured that with God all things are possible (Mt 19:26) and that we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength (Philippians 4:13) but we don’t take it on board.

Jesus often speaks about the role of children, highlighting the insights that they have and how they can offer them to adults. (Mt 21:16)

Children are confident missionaries, important sharers of God’s word, inspiring disciples and assertive prophets and we need to learn from them.

One example of this is through our St George’s Church School’s Mission Statement which acknowledges that through God all things are possible. Their vision for all children and staff is, “Respect for all, Ambitious in Aspirations, Bold in Actions.”

As they step out in faith, let us follow closely behind just in case we might learn something from them. (Mt 11:25).

Every blessing, Elaine

The Commissioning Service for Elaine as Rural Dean

ELAINE with Bishop Sam (Bishop of Stockport) and the Venerable Ian Bishop (Archdeacon of Macclesfield) at the Commissioning Service for Elaine as Rural Dean on Thursday 6th October.



Photo: Andrew Regan

Parish News Roundup

Holy Baptism

25th Sep in the 10.15am service
Ashley John Stephen Nicks

25th Sep Jacob Christopher Booth
and George Jonathan Booth

2nd Oct Hugo Raphael John Bateup
(signed service)

15th Oct Jennifer Evans (adult),
Alicia Eve Sadler, Leo Marc
Sadler and Reuben
Anthony Sadler

Holy Matrimony

None last month

Funerals

None last month

Communion Flowers were sponsored as follows:

25th Sep with the dedication "From the Walton family in loving memory of Brian"

2nd Oct from David Gittings, for Margaret

9th Oct from the Stead family, in memory of Leslie and Lucy Williams (main altar)

9th Oct from Marion and Norman Johnson, celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary (Lady Chapel)

16th Oct from the Buxton family, in loving memory of Elsie and Robert Buxton

23rd Oct from Kathleen Heaword, in loving memory of George Heaword

Parish News Roundup

30th Oct from The Garlick family, in loving memory of Wilfrid and Edith Garlick (main altar)

30th Oct from Margaret Sharrard, in loving memory of Gordon (Lady Chapel)

Mothers' Union

Monday November 14th. Mothers' Union meets in church at 2.15pm when we welcome Rosie Stead with 'Crackers!' Rosie will show us how she makes her now famous Christmas Crackers and there will be an opportunity to order some for December. All welcome to come along.

Dates for the diary

Sun 6th Nov, 4pm: Celebration of Life Service

Mon 7th Nov, 12.30pm: Parish Lunch at Puss in Boots

Fri 11th Nov, 2.30pm to 9pm: Craft Fair

Sat 12th Nov, 7.30pm: Organ music with Roger Briscoe

Sun 13th Nov, 10.15am: Remembrance Sunday Service

Tue 15th Nov, 7.30pm: Talk by Roger Battersby

Sun 20th Nov, 4pm: Christ the King Evensong service

Wed 23rd to Sun 27th Nov: Christmas Tree Festival

Sun 27th Nov: Advent Carol Service

Parish News Roundup

Message Board

The concert at the Stockport Ukranian Social Club on 1st October, advertised in September's magazine, to raise funds for the Ukranian Appeal, raised more than £600. All proceeds from the concert went to British Ukranian Aid. Included in this total was £39 from the sale of Solidarity badges, made by Jane Roughley, and worn by each of the singers, plus a few which were sold at St George's.



At the time, I advertised in St George's that the money raised would go to Humanitarian Aid, and so it has.

There are a few badges remaining which I will leave at the back of church, should anyone be interested.

Rosie Stead

Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings:

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

December 2022 – January 2023 Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Fri 18th Nov.**
Committee meeting: Tue 22nd Nov.

St George's floodlighting – sponsorship request form

(Please return to Andrew Regan, 153 Acre Lane, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, SK8 7PB).

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Date of evening requested £20 or £..... donation enclosed (Please make cheques payable to St George's Stockport PCC)

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

Home address:.....



Recent Baptisms



Ashley John Stephen Nicks,
Sunday 25th September



Jacob Christopher and George Jonathan Booth, Sunday 25th September



Ashley John Stephen Nicks, Sunday 25th September



Jennifer Evans (adult), Alicia Eve Sadler, Leo Marc Sadler,
Reuben Anthony Sadler, Sunday 16th October

Celebrating Revd Canon John Roff's 50th anniversary of ordination

AT THE HOLY COMMUNION service on 2nd October to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination the Reverend Canon John Roff gave the sermon, which is reproduced here.

Reading: Luke 17. 5-10

The thing about vicars is they come and go. I believe God has a hand in who comes and each brings their gifts and does the best while they are here. Afterwards someone else comes and brings different gifts to complement, supplement, enhance the offerings that have gone before. But vicars are appendages, add ons – the heart of the thing is a loving faithful purposeful congregation with supportive bonds between each member and utter determination to do God's will as God's agents in this place. Such a congregation Hermione and I were so grateful to be part of in the time God gave us to be here. And it gives us great pleasure to read regularly in Grapevine the loving purposeful supportive community that St George's is.

You could say that the Gospel Bible passage given to us Sunday by Sunday to tackle and learn from (and when they are difficult, not to avoid) is the same. There is always a passage that goes before and the passage that follows. The verses we are given today are not to be treated outside their bigger context. And no matter how difficult the passage is, the preacher has an obligation to have a go at its interpretation.

In the verses before today's Gospel the disciples ask Jesus what he wants them to do. He has given them two tasks. Firstly, don't be a stumbling block to anybody. Secondly reprove somebody you think to be in error, BUT be sure your life is one of gentle encouraging forgiveness.

Well, they think these things are beyond them. So today they ask for more faith. This morning's Gospel translation is a bit misleading, perhaps the tenses are wrong, because it gives the impression that Jesus is telling the disciples their problem is they don't have enough faith. The passage feeds a sense of inadequacy many of us feel with regards to our Christian faith.

But Greek scholars report that the passage is really about Jesus wanting the apostles to understand that because they have some faith that is enough – it is enough for them to do what is seemingly impossible”.

Now how often in the 50 years of my ordained ministry that I celebrate with you today have I longed that I had more faith? I've sat with dying people wishing, wondering that if I had more faith they would get better. I have often at morning prayer on my knees longed that if I had more faith the church would be fuller on Sunday. I have longed that if I had more faith in my daily life I would be more serene – indeed a beacon to God's goodness. It is almost like when I was a boy I would hear sermons in the Methodist congregation I was part of that asked if we had

given our lives to Christ. Time and again I would say to myself, well I think I have – but in case it hasn't worked I'll do it again!

This beating ourselves up, wanting to have more faith, is destructive. It spoils the life of discipleship that is ours: it frustrates the power our simple and God-given lives have to be an agent for God in the world. Here's the thing! How could you have faith on the one hand, or the alternative – double faith. If I had double faith would those who are ill and for whom I'm praying get better? If I had double faith would the church grow faster? Does having double faith really mean that I'm better at controlling God and persuading God to do what I am hoping for? Putting it like this reveals I think that there is faith. Full stop. Wanting more faith is surely wanting to influence or control God more. That's a nonsense.

So, my learning from this morning is this. We have been given a gift of faith. That's why we are here. We come before God who has given us this gift. You can't have a little faith or a lot of faith – faith is the gift. Such faith means that whatever happens or is demanded of you, although you might not succeed, God is beside you. What greater gift could you want than that?

We are people of Christian faith. I'd wondered about images that might help us illustrate what that faith is.

Hermione wrote a poem called 'Hunger' in 2012, part of which is:

The hungry child is told
'There is no bread.'
He does not lie and say
'Therefore I am not hungry.'
No, he continues to cry out loud for
Bread.

Even so when they say
'There is no God.' - when
God Himself is silent, - I will not
Lie and say
'Therefore I am not hungry.'
No, I will continue to cry out loud for
Bread.

Some of you know Hermione and I are keen on messing about in boats. The Persian poet Hafiz writing in the 14th century has a poem which he called 'Two Giant Old People'.

God and I have become
Like two giant old people
Living in a tiny boat.
We keep
Bumping into each other
And laughing. (Two Giant Fat People (by Hafiz)

Faith is not a magic by which we seek to control God, pretending that if we had more faith this would result in God doing more of what WE wanted. Faith is a relaxed

state when we know and do not doubt that God walks with us, knowing that God will not be shaken from us.

So I'm grateful that we share together this morning. I'm grateful to see afresh that I'm not to beat myself up by what I perceive I have or haven't got. No. I am to rest and walk with God. I am not to be a stumbling block to anyone, and I've got to live a life that celebrates forgiveness of others and encouragement of them. It's still a tall order. St George's congregation exemplifies these tasks. But it is still a cause of great rejoicing that in these tasks God walks with us – never apart from us. That is faith indeed.

It is to this God who cherishes us, gives us purpose, and walks with us all, be praise and glory now and for ever, Amen.



Cake Sale for Macmillan Cancer Support

ON 14TH OCTOBER St George's Rainbows held a cake sale, inviting family and friends. The Rainbows all dressed up as Super Heroes. The event raised £80 for MacMillan Cancer Support.



Bells ring farewell to HM Queen Elizabeth II

THE RINGING of church bells has become a very familiar accompaniment to many events in the life of our nation. Sometimes it is to mark moments of joy and celebration, but at others it reflects sorrow and mourning. The traditional sound of bells rung in the way they have been in the British Isles for centuries is entirely appropriate for joyous occasions, but for the death of a monarch it is necessary to adjust the sound to reflect solemnity and express sorrow. This is accomplished by muffling the bells, which involves strapping tough leather pads to the clapper of each bell. Fixing a muffle to one side of the clapper produces a distinctive softer sound at alternate blows, almost like an echo. This is termed half muffling. For the death of a monarch the bells are traditionally fully muffled, with a leather pad on both sides of the clapper. Few churches have the two sets of muffles required for this, but most have sufficient for half muffled ringing, and this is what was done at many churches all over the country. In some ways, the sound of half muffled bells is more immediately apparent.

The protocols directing how the Church marks the death of the monarch are of necessity carefully worked out and communicated in advance, ensuring that our services and other actions (including the ringing of bells) are appropriate in terms of timing and content. The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers published careful guidance for ringers on the times of ringing following the announcement of the monarch's death. This enabled a coordinated response in which bells were rung in churches at about the same time. As the announcement of Queen Elizabeth's death was not made until after 4:00pm, the guidance advised that ringing should take place on the following day (Friday 9th September) at 12 noon. This provided time for bands to be informed and assembled, and muffles to be fixed. At St George's we rang half muffled at the appropriate time for about half an hour.

As the death of the monarch marks the immediate succession of the next in line to the throne, the following day (Saturday 10th September) was a day of celebration for the accession of King Charles III. Flags were raised to full mast, and muffles were removed for ringing at 2pm to mark the accession of our new King. This period continued into the next day, so the bells remained unmuffled for the ringing on Sunday morning. However, flags were again lowered to half-mast that afternoon and the bells were re-muffled ahead of our usual ringing practice on the evening of Monday 12th

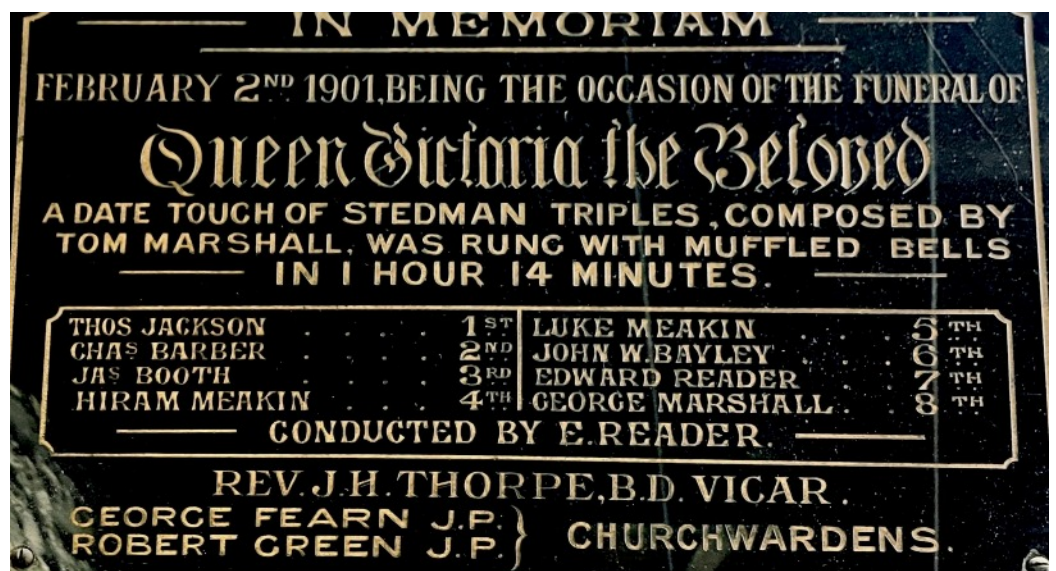
September. This provided further opportunity to acquaint ourselves with muffled ringing – it does take a bit of getting used to, particularly as it tends to slow the ringing down. We also rang half muffled before the service on the morning of Sunday 18th September.

Rings of bells are tuned to a descending major scale, which gives them their joyful sound. Muffling contributes an element of gravitas, but this can be increased on a ring of ten bells, as at St George's, by ringing the 'middle eight' bells (numbers 2 to 9) which produces the Dorian mode. If you want to know how this sounds, play down the white notes on the piano from D to D. It produces a minor scale, but with the third note down being a semitone higher. It is derived from the ancient plainsong modes and frequently found in folk tunes. Even without muffles, the 'middle eight' bells produce a very distinctive and more sombre mood, but with the addition of muffles this is further intensified.

The Central Council's guidance advised that ringing take place during the hour before the Queen's funeral. We duly met at 10am on 19th September and rang on the 'middle eight' for about half an hour, ending by gradually reducing the number of bells being rung, one bell at a time from the lightest to the heaviest, until the last bell was tolled on its own – a very moving sound.

It is worth noting that on the wall in the ringing room at St George's there is a plaque recording details of the ringing on the day of Queen Victoria's funeral in 1901 (see photograph). The bells, cast in 1896 and installed ahead of the church's consecration the following year, were then very new. It is good to know that these bells continue to be rung, not only week by week for Sunday services, but also for national occasions. We have a book in the tower in which the details of ringing for special occasions are recorded. It was signed by all the ringers taking part in the ringing on 9th, 10th and 19th September – an important historic document (see the photograph in last month's Grapevine).

Andrew Mayes





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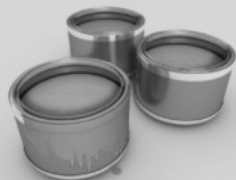
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Donation Christmas Gift Ideas for Stockport Women's Refuge



General Refuge Children resources:

Wooden kitchen toys e.g. wooden food, kettle, pots and pans, cutlery

Wooden building blocks (variety of shapes, colours, some with numbers/ letters)

Baking equipment e.g. trays, cupcake cases, baking paper, spatulas, mixing bowls, scales

Figures of people (multi-cultural and of different abilities)

Glue sticks

Baby born (or similar) and clothes/ items for them

Musical instruments

Wooden trains (to fit onto train track we already have!)

Bug houses/ Bird boxes

Outdoor foam house building bricks

Sensory toys

Blankets and throws to use during children sessions

Bean bags - with removable washable covers

Group outdoor games – Giant Jenga, giant connect 4 etc.

Skipping ropes

Wii game console remotes

Children being supported by Refuge:

Dressing gowns

Plug-in night lights

Family board games eg Bop it, Jenga, connect 4 etc.

Blankets (with child friendly characters/ patterns printed on them, fleece texture)

Chocolate selection boxes

Stocking fillers

Nappies in size 5 and up

Women :

Dressing gowns and slippers

Slipper socks

Heated blankets

Hot water bottles with covers

Toiletries or bath gift sets.

Jean is always up for a spin on the dancefloor

We believe in tailoring our care to what each and every person loves. Whether it's toe tapping music or two lumps in your tea. If you're happy, we are too. See for yourself how we choose to live life in colour.

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The Gift of Prayer

SOMEONE GAVE me a gift of a prayer on a card with an image of "Big Ben".

Inside the Elizabeth tower is a wooden plaque inscribed with the words that accompany the chimes of Big Ben: "All through this hour, Lord be my guide, that by Thy power, no foot shall slide".

And a prayer that goes with it:

Lord, I submit to you.
You are my guide.
Lead me, and by your power
deliver me from that which causes me to slide.
I delight in you.
Lead me by your truth.
Establish me, do not let me stumble.
You are the way of life.
Lord, I will follow you.

Amen.

Elaine Chegwin Hall



Photo by [Louis. K](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Recipe of the Month: Honey and Mustard Roast Pork

250g/8oz new potatoes, halved or quartered
2 tbsp olive oil
2 tbsp wholegrain mustard
2 tbsp runny honey
1 clove garlic, finely chopped
1 pork fillet, approx 400g/14oz
fresh sage, roughly chopped

Preheat oven to 190C/gas mark 5. Cook potatoes in a large pan of boiling water for 5 minutes, then drain thoroughly. Meanwhile, mix together the olive oil, mustard, honey, garlic and some seasoning.

Place the pork in a small roasting tin and put the potatoes round it. Spoon or brush the oil/mustard

mixture over the meat and scatter the sage over. Roast for 35-40 mins, until the pork is cooked through and there is no pink meat, and the potatoes are golden and tender.

Remove the meat to a carving board and allow to rest for about 5 mins. Also remove the potatoes and keep warm. Meanwhile, add 1-2 tabsps boiling water to the roasting juices in the tin and stir to incorporate, then bring back to the boil.

Slice the pork and serve with the potatoes and gravy from the pan and any vegetables you like.

Serves 2-3

Pamela Ferguson

Living out our faith

At our most recent Founders' Day service at Stockport Sunday School, the speaker, Stuart Dean, referred to Pope Francis saying that we all have a need for each other in our lives – even if we may not be aware of that fact when life is going well.

But over the last three years or so, events have perhaps been sharp reminders of this truth, both practically and emotionally.

The effect of Covid on our health service resources, food supplies, social contact, and general way of life has demonstrated how interdependent we are at all levels of society and circumstances.

Internationally, the war in Ukraine has focussed attention on how our national security is intertwined with other nations.

And, in September, the passing of our Queen, Elizabeth II, has made us realise how much she meant to us as a nation.

It was not just the length of her reign which was remarkable, but, more importantly, how the monarchy changed under her influence. She allowed it to develop to reflect the world we live in, while retaining the traditional aspects which are so important to its continuity.

During her reign, she experienced the Blitz in London during World War II, and, as a member of the armed forces, gained a proficiency in vehicle maintenance, of which she always remained proud.

In later years, the Falklands War took place and, at the end of her rule, the war in Ukraine, with its implications for western democracy, has reminded us of how fragile peace can be.

She has coped with family crises, and had to deal with a wide variety of Prime Ministers, where her wisdom, based on experience of her role, has been widely acknowledged. In all this, as Head of State, she provided an invaluable focus and continuity to the nation's life.

Underpinning all this was her unswerving Christian faith, which was a source of strength in good times and in difficult times. On her accession,

she undertook to serve our nation to the best of her ability, and she was true to her promise. No doubt influenced by the example of her father, King George VI, she chose the course of duty, accepting she would not have the freedom to live her life just as she might choose.

Like so many of the good things in life, we, as individuals and as a nation, perhaps took all this for granted.

But the death of our monarch has caused us to pause, think, and then express our appreciation for the way in which she has served our country, not just in the demands of high office, but with a genuine interest in all her subjects, whenever and however she might meet them.

The Chief Rabbi has pointed out that the Hebrew scripture concept of kingship is not to be served, but to serve. And, of course, Jesus himself said 'the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.' And that is how our Queen ruled.

As Christians, we can be particularly grateful for her example in living out her religious faith.

I felt certain phrases used in the funeral services had a particular resonance.

- Her title as 'Fidei Defensor' – Defender of the Faith
- The words from the Book of Common Prayer – 'that we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not our hold on things eternal.'
- To be able to say, in the words of St Paul – 'I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.'
- And to quote the poet, John Donne – 'No man is an island unto himself... so ask not for whom the bell tolls – it tolls for thee.'

May we, in our own individual lives, be encouraged by our late Queen's example in our own service to God and each other.

*Editorial from Stockport Sunday School's October Newsletter
Reproduced with permission
Walter Stead*

Whilst having a clear out, I came across this poem that my favourite aunt gave me when she was about the same age that I am now. At the time, in my youth, I found it quite amusing. Now I can really understand it! Pat Wilke

I'm Fine

There's nothing the matter with me,
I'm as healthy as I can be.
I have arthritis in both my knees and when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.
My pulse is weak, my blood is thin.
But I'm awfully good for the shape I'm in.
Arch supports I have for my feet, or I wouldn't be able to be on the street.
Sleep is denied me night after night,
But every morning I'm alright.
My memory's failing, my head's in a spin,
But I'm awfully good for the shape I'm in.
How do I know that my youth's all spent?
Well! My got up and go has got up and went,
But I really don't mind when I think with a grin,
of all the grand places my get up has been.
"Old age is golden," I've heard it said,
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed.
With my ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup,
My eyes on the table, until I wake up,
Ere sleep overtakes me
I say to myself,
Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?
I get up each morning and dust off my wits,
Pick up the paper and read the obits.
If my name is still missing, I know I'm not dead.
So I get a good breakfast and go back to bed.
The moral is this, as this tale I unfold, that for you and me who are growing old,
It's better to say I'm fine with a grin,
Than to let the folks know the shape we ARE in!

(Constance O'Neon)

**St George's Church, Buxton Road (A6)
Stockport, SK2 6NU**

Christmas Tree Festival 2022

Wednesday 23rd November 12:00- 6:00pm

Thursday 24th November 12:00- 7:00pm

Friday 25th November 12:00 - 8:00pm

Saturday 26th November 10:00am - 6:00pm

Sunday 27th November 12:00 - 4:00pm

The Ballad of Pimlico

Mr Ha and Mr Ho
Both owned a shop in Pimlico.
Above the shop their names were picked
Out in gold on crumbling bricks.
Inside a trove of treasures galore
Awaited their customers at the door.
One man studious and good at mathematics,
The other bubbly, helpful and pretty dramatic.
Two friends so sweet and kind and true,
Their bond was as strong as... super glue!

Yet one day a change swept through the store
When both men wondered who was most adored
And treacherous thoughts that crept like mice
Started to threaten their paradise.

Said Mr Ho to Mr Ha
"I'm more popular than you are!"

Said Mr Ha to Mr Ho
"My dear good man, do you really think so?
When each customer calls my name,
Do you truly believe you have more fame
Than I, Mr Ha, the man with the brain
Without whom no one would deign
To even enter this shop?
I am, non-stop
The person in charge, the big chief, it's true.
Why would anyone come in just to meet you?"

Bristling and angry under his whiskers and hat,
Mr Ho decided that he could top that.
He stood on his tiptoes and looked him in the chin
And said in words that were sure to get in,
"Mr Ha, how very dare

You spout about with lies so bare?
You know I'm the chap who's hearty and jolly,
And encourages the clients to part with their lolly.
Whilst you sit in an office so cluttered and dark,
And your bite, Mr Ho, is so much worse than your bark.
Face it, my friend, you know that it's true
Why would anyone want to come and see you?

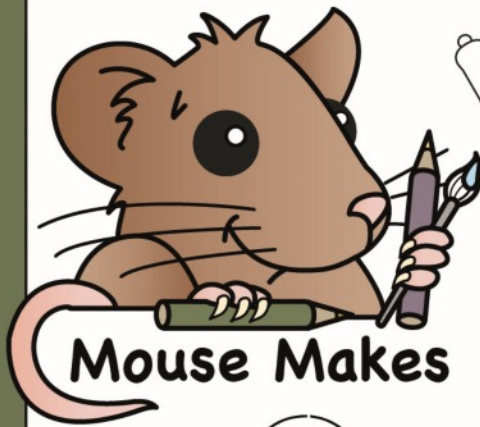
A fight broke out of words so mean
That I am not comfortable staying in this scene.
So let's move back, just one more pace
And look at the customer with an anguished face,
Who stands at the counter, confused, and dismayed
He knows what a colossal mistake they have made.
In a quavering voice, he speaks loud to be heard
Over the cacophony of noise from this absurd
Argument that seems to have no end
Between two once close and devoted friends.

"I'm afraid good sirs, you must be mistaken
And did not understand or take in
My question was truly not 'how much
Are you adored', though you are such
Kind men when you are not at war,
My question was about this door.
All I really want to know
Is how low that you'd want to go
And is this price the death of it?
Or can you do a deal with it?
The question that I came in for
Was not a desire to start a war
I asked and now I do implore
How much, good sirs, is this door?"

Nicola Pennicott-Hall



Sketches of Mr Ho and Mr Ha by Andy Clark



THE COMING OF A KING

The birth of Jesus is fortold



God sent a messenger to Mary
What was the angel's name?

Luke 1:26-28

Mary was frightened,
what did the angel say?

Luke 1:30

What was Mary to
name her child?

Luke 1:31



What is her son
going to be?

Luke 1:32-33



READ
the story
in *Luke*
1:26-55



What does the angel
say about God?

Luke 1:37
(LEARN this verse)

Mary praises God, what does
she say God has done?

Luke 1:46-55



What happened
to Elizabeth
when Mary
went to
visit her?

Luke 1:41



Find the words
in the word
search and
the ___
words too.

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

ANGEL • MESSAGE • GOD • JOSEPH • MARY • BABY • SON • BORN
CHILD • THRONE • KING • REIGN • KINGDOM • HOLYSPIRIT • LORD
HOLY • WORD • ELIZABETH • BLESSED • SAVIOUR • REJOICE • PRAISE

Early Christianity in Egypt – part 2

This is the continuation of the 16-day journey, which James Batty took in 2010, visiting sites dating back to the 12th Dynasty (1991 – 1786BC). In part 1 we left him at the Auberge du Lac, in the Fayoum, the former hunting lodge of King Fuad and son, Farouk, until the early 1950s.

LEAVING EARLY, we were now travelling southward in order to visit the Hawara Pyramid of Amenhemhet III of the 12th Dynasty. As it is now inaccessible due to being full of mud from a later irrigation canal, we just visited its adjoining temple; this being the former 'labyrinth' described by Herodotus. Then we went to the nearby Hellenic necropolis, where over a century ago the incredible 'magenta' coloured anthropoidal coffin and mummy of a Greek youth, were found, in pristine condition, with a wax portrait of him in situ.

Gilded hieroglyphs and the words, 'Farewell Artemidorus', in Greek, tell us who he was, while his sad eyes still gaze at visitors over a gulf of 2000 years – now in the British Museum.

That night we slept in the Nefertiti Hotel in Minya, the town which was once Lord Kitchener's supply base on the Middle Nile. Later we had a slide show!

Once again, an early breakfast in order to visit the site of el-Amarna, heretic Pharaoh Akhenaten's new city, named Akhetaten, and his large family's tomb, which was on our visiting list.

Then our driver got the coach well and truly stuck in some soft sand when leaving the tarmac road. These things can happen in desert areas. A small boy was dispatched to the local village of Amarna to summon help, while we sat around in the shade and watched the entertainment – unloading our baggage and water supplies.

Eventually, an old British-made tractor appeared, equipped with a long chain, which was fastened to the rear of our coach. After a lot of spluttering from the tractor and shouts of encouragement from the local children, our Mercedes was hauled backwards out of the sand and, with handshakes for the tractor driver, we were on our way again, to see the rock-cut tombs of the court officials, many of which were reused by early Christians and Anchorites as dwellings and chapels.

That night we arrived late at Sohag and blamed Akhenaten for the delay. This time our accommodation was for several nights in a permanently-moored Sheraton cruise boat, with excellent food, including 'Umm Ali' pudding which many people enjoy.

We were now in a major Coptic city and, after breakfast, we set off for Akhmim, to visit the White Monastery of Shenuti. Originally built to the design of an Egyptian Fortress, tradition says it may have been founded by St Helena, mother of Constantine. The name derives from the white limestone blocks, with walls 70ft high, and with

a cavetto cornice and a postern gate for entry. Much of the nave is in ruins but the east end and the apse are used as a church.



The mud-brick monastic buildings that once lay around the church have all disappeared. Shenuti succeeded as head of the monastery when aged about 50, after his uncle, Anba Bgoul, died, and rebuilt the church about 440AD. He was Egyptian by birth and was probably responsible for its fortified wall. He is now venerated in Coptic history as a great abbot and an advocate of discipline in the life of the Copts, and spoke no Greek.

We had a tour of the apsidal end of the church, with a monk. The frescoes were being restored by an Italian team and showed paintings of early martyrs, such as St



Stephan, then on to the roof to view Shenuti's cave some way off in the cliffs.

The Red Monastery, which we visited next, lies four miles away. It takes its name from the red sandstone and mud brick and, again, the conservators were busy working on the only intact east end of the church. The paintings were preserved for hundreds of years by being covered in mud brick buttresses, now being removed, along with a millenium of soot. Every part of the walls is painted and the restoration has been ongoing for 10 years.



Then it was time to move on to Abydos, travelling through Nag-Hammadi where, in 1946, some clay pots were discovered by a farmer. They contained sheets of 4th century papyrus, unfortunately damaged by the discoverer, but now appearing to be fragments of the apocryphal gospels of St Jude and St Peter.

We travelled west to Abydos, the legendary site of the burial of Osiris – now marked by the 'Osireion', a large cenotaph comprised of 25-ton pink granite blocks from Aswan. The Osireion stands in a depression, behind the temple of Osiris, built by King Sethi I of the 19th Dynasty, (1308 – 1194BC). In appearance it resembles a rectangular 'Stonehenge'. However, the whole of the site covers approximately two square miles, with royal burials from the 1st Dynasty, (3350 – 3100 BC), and a Middle Kingdom 12th Dynasty ruined pyramid, (1991 – 1786 BC). Situated

fairly close to Luxor, it is visited by thousands of visitors each year, who come to see the preserved carvings on the temple's interior, with their brilliant colours intact.

That evening, after 16 days and almost 700 miles, we reached Luxor and put up at the welcoming Saint George Hotel for two nights, before visiting the Franciscan Church and the Cathedral of St Maurice, close to the Karnak Temple.

Luxor's two former monasteries – Deir el Medina and Deir el Bahari, now exist in name only, being part of the west bank necropolis. But we had reached journey's end, unfortunately – a visit to the historic 5th Century St Anthony's Monastery, close to the Gulf of Suez, would have to wait a little longer.



Music Scheme – November 2022

Sunday 6 th November – The Third Sunday before Advent			
10:15am	Parish Communion	4:00pm	Annual Celebration of Life Service
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening	Hymns:	375 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound 594 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; 262 O Lord my God, when I in awesome...
Hymns:	96 Jesu, lover of my soul, I know that my redeemer lives, 505 Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us, 157 The day of resurrection!	Psalm:	46
Anthem:	Christ the Lord is risen again – Foster	Anthem:	Abendlied – Rheinberger

Sunday 13 th November – Remembrance Sunday	
10:15am	Remembrance Sunday Service
Setting:	Mass for Peace and Reconciliation – Mayes
Hymns:	413 Eternal Father, strong to save, 355 I vow to thee, my country, 427 For the healing of the nations, 537 O God, our help in ages past,
Anthem:	Funeral Ikos – Tavener
No Evening Service	

Sunday 20 th November – The Feast of Christ the King			
10:15am	Parish Communion	4:00pm	Choral Evening Prayer
Setting:	Mass of St Thomas – Thorne	Hymns:	14 Glory to thee, my God, this night 494 King of glory, King of peace,
Hymns:	165 Christ is the King! O friends rejoice; 546 O worship the King, all glorious above; 278 Alleluia, sing to Jesus! 497 Let all the world in every corner sing	Responses:	Dean Psalm: 72
		NT Cantic:	Philippians 2. 5-11
		Magnificat:	Plainsong (Mode 8)
Anthem:	King of all ages – Isom	Anthem:	O come, ye servants of the Lord – Tye

Sunday 27 th November – Advent Sunday		
10:15am	Parish Communion	6:30pm
Setting:	The Addington Service – Shephard	The Advent Carol Service
Hymns:	24 Come, thou long expected Jesus, 32 O come, O come, Emmanuel, 607 Thy kingdom come, O God, 26 Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding;	See Order of Service for details
Anthem:	Adam lay y'bounden – Ord	

The Choir visited Sheffield Cathedral in August for its 2022 Summer Tour



Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword solution:

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

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

125th Anniversary Celebrations

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SATURDAY 12th NOVEMBER 7.30PM

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Buxton Road, Stockport SK2 6NU

- An evening of jolly organ music to include works by *Lefebure-Wely, Dubois, Gigout...*

Soloists from the Choir, and a Duet with the Director of Music

- Admission is FREE, but there will be a retiring collection for Choir funds. This is to help with the costs of the Cathedral Tours next year
- A FREE glass of wine
- This event also celebrates Roger's 50th Anniversary of playing the organ in St George's



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