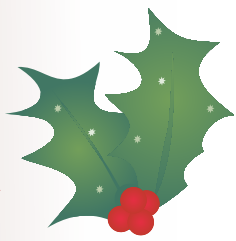


 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

December

January



2022

2023

Parish Grapevine

£1.20

*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
jenny@stgeorgestockport.org.uk

Readers Peter Hall 456 9382
 Rita Waters 487 3620

Churchwardens Andrew Regan 440 0408
 Hazel Jenkins 483 4679

PCC Secretary Lois Kelly 439 9458

PCC Treasurer Andrew Regan 440 0408
treasurer@stgeorgestockport.org.uk

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 Clubs Ask for Louise, Eliza or Andy at the 10:15 Sunday service.

Eliza 07967 798453
 Louise 483 3703

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 the Parish Rooms.

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 4-7. Meet Fridays 6.15-7.30pm in the Parish Room.

Brownies Rachel Lockett 07712 302342
 Lianne Warburton 07815 482603

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

To sign up to Brownies or Rainbows please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk and click on "Join us"

4th Stockport Scout Group

Sarah Johnson 07930 243 159

Meet at:
 Bridgehall Community Centre
 Siddington Avenue
 SK3 8NR

Squirrels For boys and girls aged 4-6
 Saturdays 9-10

Beavers For boys and girls aged 6 and 7
 Wednesdays 5.30-6.30

Cubs For boys and girls aged 8-10½
 Wednesdays 6.30-8.00

Scouts For boys and girls aged 10½-14
 Wednesdays 6.30-8.00

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:

St George's new Advent wreath stand was used for the first time on Advent Sunday, 27th November
 (photo by Louise Clark)

Services and events for Advent and Christmas:
 see page 15

Guest editorial – Treading Gently on God’s Earth

AS I WRITE this the COP 27 Climate Change conference is drawing to a close and reports on the outcomes of the event are making their way into the media. One of the biggest potential wins since the Paris Summit on Climate Change in 2015 is a new funding arrangement on loss and damage for countries most affected by our changing climate. While funding has been available to vulnerable countries and communities for climate change mitigation and adaptation, such as renewable energy technologies and flood protection, there was nothing prior to COP 27 to support communities who had lost everything in events such as the devastating floods witnessed recently in Pakistan. The proposed arrangements offer the potential of climate justice to those who are the most susceptible to the effects of climate change and yet the least responsible for its occurrence, the marginalised and the poor.

According to Oxfam 46% of global emissions of carbon dioxide, the gas that is primarily responsible for climate change, are produced by the richest 10% of the world’s population and yet these are the people often least affected. We can all take positive steps to enable us to tread more gently on God’s Earth, including reducing the things that we buy or buying from charity shops as an alternative, seeking out opportunities to recycle as much as possible, and walking or using other non-polluting transport options when we can. According to the Energy Saving Trust turning your heating down 1°C can reduce your energy consumption by around 10%, which could save up to £145 per year while also reducing your personal carbon footprint. When I was preparing for a lecture on sustainable waste management recently I found an excellent website <https://www.recyclenow.com/> where you can search for places to recycle waste materials that you cannot put in your recycling bins at

home, with many of our local supermarkets and shops participating in these schemes.

We can also support environmental and social justice campaigns through signing petitions and regular giving. I support a charity called Tear Fund (tearfund) whose key message is “Poverty is not God’s plan. You are.” On signing their petition calling on the UK government to tackle climate justice I received a thank you saying “You’ve put your faith into action, to tackle poverty and injustice”. If you give to their current Christmas Appeal your gift will be doubled.

In addition to these personal actions, as Christians we should not forget the power of prayer. As I was writing this editorial I found inspiration in this prayer written for World Environment Day:

*God of life,
we praise you for the beauty of creation,
its richness and variety;
yet, through greed and ignorance,
we scar your world with plastic waste
and throw so much away.*

*Make us more like Jesus,
treading gently on our common home,
and breathe your Spirit on us,
that we may care more deeply for your Earth.*

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Rt Revd Graham Usher
Bishop of Norwich and Lead Bishop on the
Environment

Andy Clark



What’s Where...

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Have you 'swapped out' your old stamps?

REMEMBER TO USE up your non-barcoded, regular stamps by 31st January 2023 or swap them out.

'Swap out' forms are available beside the Grapevine box, at the back of church.

'Eligible', non-barcoded stamps are the regular 1st and 2nd class stamps, or other values which feature the profile of HM The Queen. However, you will not receive barcoded equivalents of other stamps. In their letter to me, Royal Mail stated that the value would be returned to me, made up of 1st or 2nd class, barcoded stamps.



Self-adhesive stamps must be attached to their original backing paper or book. Individual stamps, that are not self-adhesive, must be stuck to a sheet of paper and sent with the swap out form.

Non-barcoded Christmas stamps and special stamps (i.e. pictorial stamps issued to commemorate anniversaries and events) **continue to be valid for postage and do not need to be swapped out.**

Royal Mail will swap eligible, non-barcoded stamps for barcoded stamps to the value of today's tariff and not for a cash equivalent. However old your 1st and 2nd class stamps are, you will receive barcoded stamps at today's value.



A word of warning. I discovered this last week, when I received replacements for my mixed bag of 1st, 2nd, 1p, 2p and Post and Go stamps, totaling £32.30, they were **entirely**, 1st class, barcoded stamps. Wherever possible I prefer to send mail 2nd class. Therefore, especially as the stamps I sent back were almost all 2nd class, I would have liked to have received, (at least), a mixture of 1st and 2nd class stamps. Royal Mail will be hearing from me.

Royal Mail update: as a gesture of goodwill, Royal Mail will not surcharge any unbarcoded stamps used after the official closing date (31.1.2023). This offer extends until 31 July 2023.

Also, any pictorial Christmas stamps, however old, are exempt from swapping out – this is a change of policy.

Rosie Stead

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Elaine writes:

What does it mean to us when we talk about “Being in Ministry?”

We assume that it must mean being ordained and usually being based around a church.

However, ministry is much wider than that. We are all called to be “disciples of all nations” Mt

28:19. We are affirmed as “the body of Christ” 1Corinthians 12:27 and are known to be part of the “priesthood of all believers” 1Peter 2:5.

In short, we all have an important part to play in sharing the Gospel message by living out the Five Marks of Mission.

To tell: To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.

To teach: To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.

To tend: To respond to human need by loving service.

To transform: To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation.

To treasure: To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Every member ministry includes those who have a specific training or time of preparation; those who might be licensed or commissioned and those who work as part

of a church, workplace, religious house, chaplaincy or in the wider community whilst exploring some learning.

Every one of us has some valuable life experience to offer which doesn’t require formal qualifications. Every one of us has the ability to open ourselves to God and to offer ourselves for service. Every one of us has God-given gifts which can be used to be the “missing piece “of our spiritual jigsaw.

So, what stops us?

We’re pretty good at talking ourselves out of commitment; convincing ourselves that we’re not good enough or clever enough or perhaps hoping that someone else might step up instead of us.

If you feel that God might be prompting you to consider something other than what you are doing at the moment, perhaps you might be interested in “Called to Serve” which is a Vocations Day Conference at Foxhill on Saturday 4th February 2023 at 10am. Details are at the end of the article.

As we journey through Advent, the start of the Church’s year, and then on towards the New Year of 2023, this is a really good opportunity to take some time to listen to God, to spend a bit more time in prayer, to explore some spiritual reading or to get stuck into the Bible and, throughout, to take note of what God is laying on your heart.

This time of preparation and exploration is invaluable as we invariably get caught up in the busyness of this time of year. Instead, treat yourself to time with God and reflect on the next steps for your phase in ministry.

Blessings at this special time, Elaine

Link for conference: [URL: https://bit.ly/3gqQR4S](https://bit.ly/3gqQR4S)

What can I give him? by Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall

DANIEL TRIED really hard to listen to the Vicar’s sermon, even the long boring ones! A few times, he heard him mention about giving our gifts to God.

Daniel liked gifts, especially ones that were given to him, so he decided that he’d give God a gift but couldn’t quite make up his mind what God would like. In addition, he only got £1.50 a week for his pocket money, and he needed some of that for his football stickers. He felt sure that God would understand.

So, he thought that God might like some chocolate, given that He had made a land flowing with milk and honey, so perhaps he had a sweet tooth.

Or maybe some crayons as God seemed to like creating.

Or perhaps a walking stick as he knew God had promised to walk alongside several people in the Bible.

The whole thing was quite troubling for Daniel who wanted to give the best gift he could. He looked a little downcast and the Vicar asked him what the matter was; Daniel shared his story about wanting to give a gift to God.

The Vicar thought about it and said he would help Daniel sort out his special gift. The next Sunday, after the service had

ended, the Vicar came over to Daniel with a big box, brightly wrapped in paper with a large bow on top and said that this was his gift.

Daniel’s parents looked over and urged Daniel to open it. “I can’t,” he said, “this is my gift to God. I don’t want to mess it up.” They gently encouraged him to undo the bow and then open the wrapping paper.

With some reluctance, that’s what he did. It took a bit of effort to tug the lid open and he peered in to find that it looked quite empty.

“Look again,” said the Vicar and Daniel looked to see a mirror at the bottom of the box and Daniel’s face was looking right back at him.

Daniel was puzzled.

The Vicar said, “you wanted to give the best gift that you could and there, looking back at you, is the greatest gift you could give to God.”

“It’s me,” said Daniel.

“Exactly,” said the Vicar. “Giving yourself to God is the greatest gift that He could ever receive from you.”

Parish News Roundup

Holy Baptism

20th Nov Oscar Kyle Moran

Holy Matrimony

None last month

Funerals

8th Nov Kenneth William Mace.

Service in Church and burial at Highfield Cemetery, Bredbury

10th Nov Andrew John Bleasby.

Service in Church and burial at Mill Lane Cemetery, Cheadle

18th Nov Mark Wayne Gillespie.

Service in Church and burial at Mill Lane Cemetery, Cheadle

Communion Flowers were sponsored as follows:

6th Nov from Marjorie and Neville, in loving memory of Geoffrey and Cynthia

6th Nov from Wendy Simpson, in loving memory of Cyril and James Hindley

13th Nov from Janet Neilson, in loving memory of the Oldham and Gosling families.

20th Nov from Janet Neilson, in loving memory of the Oldham and Gosling families

20th Nov from the Choir, for St Cecilia's Day

27th Nov Christmas Tree Festival

Parish News Roundup

Floodlighting was sponsored as follows:

20th Nov In memory of Sheila Ashmore, who was born on November 20th 1923 and who died last year.

Mothers' Union

Monday December 12th: Mothers' Union meets at 2.15pm in church with a programme of readings and music to celebrate Advent. This will be led by MU members. Tea, coffee and mince pies to follow! All welcome.

Monday January 9th 2023: We meet as usual in church at 2.15pm for our first get together of the New Year. Details to be arranged at the December meeting.

Message board

Letter from Tril to Rosie – I'll print it in full in February as this issue is about to go to the printer.

In short: nothing world shattering has happened in her Summerset retirement village which celebrated its 25th birthday last month. Her daughter and son-in-law (Cara and Bali) take great care of her, phoning every morning and meeting at least once a week. Her son, Graham, is arriving to spend Christmas with her. As he lives in Germany she misses him but Facetimes every Sunday.

She thanks us for the Grapevine magazine and services each week, and

Parish News Roundup

wishes all her friends a Happy Christmas.

Sunday Clubs help needed

We are so pleased to have some new children both in the choir and attending church recently, but we need more Sunday Clubs helpers.

Could you be on the rota to help once a month or so?

You would just be there to help the leader and support the children in the activities, there's no need to prepare beforehand.

Leaders and Helpers are DBS checked & have a meeting once a term plus the odd social event.

We'd also love to hear from you if you are interested in being a leader.

See page 2 for contact details.

Advent and Christmas services and events

see page 15 for details

Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings:

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

February 2023

Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Fri 20th Jan.**
Committee meeting: Tue 24th Jan.

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:.....



Mothers' Union News

THE BRANCH TRIES to have a very varied programme and since September this is what has happened. We started with a communion and enrolling service when we welcomed several new members and congratulated the members with over 40 years membership along with one member with 55 years membership.

October saw us welcome Judy Clarke, a volunteer room guide from Lyme Park who gave us a very interesting and informative talk on Lyme and the Legh family. The family owned the property for over 600 years, but circumstances forced them to hand over to the National trust in 1946.

November saw 22 members and guests welcome our Rosie who kindly came to demonstrate and help us make crackers. She provided us all with kits so we could make 2 crackers, everything cut out ready, with snap, gift, joke and hat. All we had to do was follow her and her helper

Jane's instructions! A recipe for disaster, as we didn't listen and pulled out the cardboard rolls! Then put the glue on the wrong side! We forgot to put in the items! And then lost our snaps!! And then we twisted too much and split the paper, and then couldn't tie the string because we were laughing too much. It was lovely to hear everyone laugh, and the Lady Chapel rang out with the happy voices as we admired each other's efforts. We finished with a well-earned cup of tea. We now look forward to December when we will celebrate Advent. Come and join us at a meeting; you will be most welcome.



Jane giving a helping hand



Serious business



Pat Durnall proudly presents



Not so serious business



The Vicar's first attempt – really good

photos by Walter Stead

British Ukrainian Aid

IN LAST MONTH'S magazine, I reported that the money raised from a recent concert, held at the Stockport Ukrainian Social Club, had been sent to the British Ukrainian Aid charity. Roy Bowden, who organised this event, received this attached letter of thanks. I thought it might be of interest to know what the charity has achieved with the donations they have received.

Acknowledgement of Donation

Dear Mr Bowden,

On behalf of British-Ukrainian Aid I would like to thank you and Voices in Achord for your generous donation in the sum of £643. We appreciate your help to those affected by the current war and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

Thanks to your donation we can provide medical and humanitarian aid for the wounded, stranded and displaced people in Ukraine, and it will help save their lives.

This is what we have achieved in the last eight months so far:

- 1) we sent 16 lorries, 30 ambulances, 22 cars, 30 vans and 1 plane loaded with medical and humanitarian aid to Ukraine;
- 2) with the help of volunteers from Plast London and Support Ukraine, we assembled and sent more than 26,000 First Aid Kits;
- 3) we procured and delivered more than 95 ambulances to Ukraine;
- 4) we covered the cost of petrol for more than 120 ambulances, procured by us and our partner organisations;
- 5) we delivered medical equipment worth c. £1 million, including baby incubators, VAC machines, ultrasounds, and anaesthetic machines, and other medical equipment, which was either procured by us or donated to us, to a number of hospitals in Ukraine;
- 6) medical supplies and equipment were delivered to Lviv, Mykolaiv, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Odesa, Zhytomyr, Poltava, Kremenchuk, Bila Tserkva, Volnovakha, Chernyiv, Uman as well as Bratislava and a number of hubs in Poland;
- 7) we have been supporting the Ukrainian refugees in the UK and covered the cost of hot meals for 6 weeks for 350 new pupils from the displaced Ukrainian families who now attend St Mary's Ukrainian School on Saturdays in London.

I can assure you that your gift will go a long way in helping those in need further. We are immensely grateful for your kind contribution.

Dr Tetyana Vovnyanko, Trustee and Managing Director

Long-Service award for Stephen Jones



ON SUNDAY 30th October 2022, following a wonderful service of choral evensong for All Saints' Sunday, our Director of Music, James Hibbert, presented an RSCM Long-Service medal to Stephen Jones. Stephen has faithfully served the choir for many years, singing with seven different Directors of Music, and despite a recent period of absence it was a real honour to present him with his Long-Service award. We hope to see Stephen back in the choir stalls again soon!



Baptism of Hugo Raphael John Bateup (signed service)

ON 2nd October 2022 we had a signing baptism of Hugo as many of the congregation were deaf. The baptism service is always very special. Hugo's was extra special, quite moving and it was a privilege to be involved. Karen, who was responsible for signing the service, was fabulous.

It meant that people were able to fully access the service with her support.

The Baptism Team



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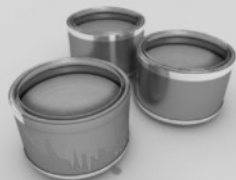
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What day is it again?

This is a genuine letter, believe it or not, written to my cousin when she was a teacher. It's a parent giving somewhat confusing instructions about picking up her daughter from school.

Dear Mrs. Slack,

Sorry for the confusion regarding Ruth going to the gate. It was entirely my fault. I wrote the letter last night, as of tonight, which will be the night before last by the time you read this. Therefore the tomorrow I was asking for Ruth to be at the gate was today (Tuesday) as I write this, which will of course be yesterday as you read it. Please do not send her to the gate tomorrow (Wednesday) which is today as you read this. I would of course have referred to this as the day after tomorrow when I wrote the original note the night before last.

Hope this makes it clear.

Yours faithfully

J _____

Pat Wilke



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ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AT ST GEORGE'S AN



Bell ringers' entry for the Christmas Tree Festival 2021. Characters based on some of the actual bell ringers!



St George's Church during the period of mourning for the late Queen Elizabeth II



Our esteemed editor, Richard Parr, retired in June to live in South West Wales, after eight years at the helm



On 12th June, the morning service at St George's included the laying up of standards for HMS Glory Association and the Fleet Air Arm Association



After a break of nearly two years, Praise and Play restarted in September 2021



St George's choir was both proud and delighted to sing at the choral evensong service at Lichfield Cathedral on Saturday, 5th March 2022

ST GEORGE'S OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS



Richard Gillings, Peter and Elaine, after the service celebrating the 25th anniversary of Elaine's ordination at St George's



This sheep was made and donated by Richard and Margery Brown (crafters) and was completely recyclable



Jaxon and Stanley Hargreaves were the second of four sets of twins who were baptised at St George's this year. Baptisms this year amounted to 34 children and two adults



Revd Jenny McKay became Associate Minister at St George's in October and is pictured here with her husband, Dave



To celebrate 125 years of St George's church, the vicar chose the theme 'The Lord is my Shepherd'. The congregation was encouraged to knit sheep for distribution to visitors – and they did!



Planting for the 125th Anniversary by the Garden Gnomes

Recipes for December and January

Green Pea Salad with Fresh Ginger and Olives

I was given this at a buffet lunch in the summer but it would also go well with cold meat - perhaps some left over from your Christmas meal. It has a sweetness from the candied peel.

12oz/350g shelled peas, fresh or frozen
2oz/50g stuffed green olives, roughly chopped
2oz/50g candied peel
1 clove garlic, finely chopped
1 inch/2.5 cm piece fresh ginger, peeled and finely chopped
2 tablesps lemon juice
7 tablesps sunflower oil

1 heaped teasp paprika
sprinkling of salt
large bunch fresh parsley or mint, chopped

Put all ingredients except the parsley into a pan. Put over a medium heat, cover the pan and cook gently, stirring now and then, for 10 mins. Remove from heat and stir in the chopped parsley. Allow to become cold then put into a serving bowl. If made ahead of time, add the parsley at the last minute and also stir it around so that it is well coated and shiny with the juices.

Florentines

If you prefer, flaked almonds can be used instead of preparing them at home.

2 egg whites
1oz/30g icing sugar
3oz/90g grated chocolate
4oz/115g almonds, blanched and cut in strips (or use flaked almonds instead)
1oz/30g candied peel
1½oz/45g glacé cherries, chopped

4oz/115g melted chocolate (approx quantity)

Whip egg whites then fold in sugar, grated chocolate, almonds, candied peel and glacé cherries. Drop in small blobs onto baking sheet lined with non-stick baking paper. Pat out thinly. Bake until firm at 325F/165C/Gas mark 4. When cold spread the undersides with melted chocolate and mark wavy lines with a fork.

Pamela Ferguson

St Patrick's breastplate

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me,
Christ beneath me,
Christ above me,
Christ on my right,
Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me

contributed by Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall

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5pm

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Advent and Christmas Services and Events at St George's and St Gabriel's

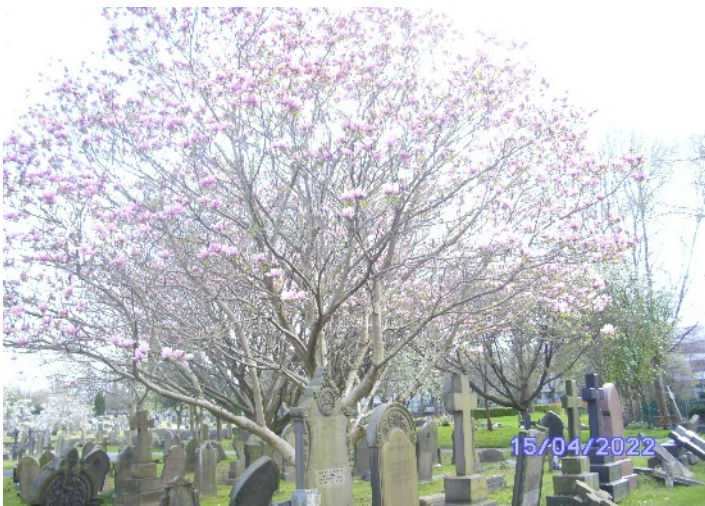
- Sunday 11th December: **Toy Service** at 10:15am
- Sunday 11th December: **Community Carol Service** at St Gabriel's at 4pm
- Saturday 17th December: **Churches Together** Carols on the Green at 10am
- Sunday 18th December: **Carol Service at St George's** at 6:30pm
- Wednesday 21st December: **Children's Society carol singing** meet at 6:30pm at Reinbeck Bramhall Lane
- Saturday 24th December: **Christingle Services** at 1:30, 3:30, 5:30pm
- Saturday 24th December: **Midnight Communion** at 11:30pm
- Sunday 25th December: **Christmas Morning** – services at 8am and 10:15am

Garden Gnomes: Year end 2022

SINCE THE START of the Covid pandemic I have taken two of three walks each day, each lasting between 40 minutes and one hour, many times alone but occasionally with a friend and mostly away from other people. On my walks I have noted the progress of some plants and trees through the seasons and the differences from one year to the next. I pass by a very large pine tree and in November 2020 to January 2021 the tree shed all its pine cones over the three month period, but it did not do the same 12 months later, in fact it did not shed more cones until April 2022 to June 2022 a gap of 17 months from the start in 2020 to 2022. The pine tree does drop some of its pine needles from late September; most are brown in colour but a few are green. The pine cones from this tree are mostly about three inches long but another Pine tree not far away has cones six to eight inches long.



In the cemetery opposite St George's Church the grave of Archdeacon John Henry Thorpe (1857 – 1932)** is opposite a large Tulip tree and in April/May 2021 the tree, without leaves, produced a sparse display of large orange coloured flowers, some of which lasted until the leaves grew on the tree. The next year, 2022, also in April and again without leaves, the tree was full of the orange coloured flowers, dozens more than in 2021 and again lasting until the leaves grew on the tree.



Tulip tree



I have always thought of poplar trees as being very tall with vertical branches, and many are; the full name is 'Lombardy poplar', and they seem to tower well above nearby trees and reach about 35 m. The church gardens on the north border did have six of these trees in a line, but they were so big that some of the branches were hitting the roof of neighbours' properties, so they were pollarded (reduced in height) and after that they all died. I have discovered that many common trees which look very similar to other trees are also of the poplar variety; they are 'black poplar'. I pass by a line of black poplar trees every day and during August 2022 three of them lost large thick branches, which could have caused injury to anyone if they had been under the trees at the time the branches fell. The branches fell during the August 2022 drought and over a period of three weeks. The weather each time was very hot at around 40°C, there was no wind and the trees were short of water. Each time the branches were quickly cut up and removed by tree surgeons; one of the staff told me that it is common for poplars to lose large branches, and added that they may have been damaged in previous bad weather.

On my walks I pass by a silver birch tree, and in the springtime when all the trees are full of new leaves the silver birch tree always looks dead, but after a few weeks buds appear on the branches and the tree soon becomes full of new leaves. This happens every year, always about six weeks later than all the other nearby trees.

I remember well that years ago at Christmas time we got a good display of snowdrops in the church gardens, followed by a display of crocus a few weeks later next to flower were the daffodils, and finally the bluebells. But these days all the varieties seem to appear at the same time. Perhaps these changes which I have become aware of to plants and trees are a result of global warming.

**John Henry Thorpe was the first vicar of St. George's Church from 1897 until his death 7th January 1932 aged 76. His gravestone says that he was vicar from 1896.

Ian Staley

Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

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Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 19)



Rodney didn't know how she'd got in, but she seemed keen to audition for the nativity play...

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		

Across

- 1 'How long will you — your face from me?' (Psalm 13:1) (4)
- 3 'Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the — he bore' (Hebrews 13:13) (8)
- 9 Posh sin (anag.) (Romans 8:15) (7)
- 10 Solemn pledges (Matthew 5:33) (5)
- 11 Italian term for full orchestra (5)
- 12 'For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not — the cry of the afflicted' (Psalm 9:12) (6)
- 14 Prescience (1 Peter 1:2) (13)
- 17 Where a Hindu holy man lives (6)
- 19 'If he found any... who belonged to the Way, whether — women, he might take them as prisoners' (Acts 9:3) (3,2)
- 22 Fragrance (2 Corinthians 2:15) (5)
- 23 Vine hen (anag.) (Jonah 1:2) (7)
- 24 Precious stone decorating the twelfth foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (8)
- 25 'Will you keep to the old path that evil men have — ?' (Job 22:15) (4)

Down

- 1 'Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with — —' (Numbers 20:11) (3,5)
- 2 'You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, " — — murder"' (Matthew 5:21) (2,3)
- 4 One of Paul's many hardships endured as a servant of God (2 Corinthians 6:5) (13)
- 5 'We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, — inwardly' (Romans 8:23) (5)
- 6 Changed (Daniel 6:8) (7)
- 7 'My yoke is — and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30) (4)
- 8 Recoil (Revelation 12:11) (6)
- 13 'O Lord, you have — me and you know me' (Psalm 139:1) (8)
- 15 ' — to me the joy of your salvation' (Psalm 51:12) (7)
- 16 Express sorrow (Isaiah 16:7) (6)
- 18 'Then he said to Thomas, " — out your hand and put it into my side"' (John 20:27) (5)
- 20 'God has said, " — will I leave you; — will I forsake you"' (Hebrews 13:5) (5)
- 21 Son of Onam and brother of Shammai (1 Chronicles 2:28) (4)



Mouse Makes

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Read the Christmas story in **Luke 2:1-21**.

Answer the questions, colour the picture and colour one star each day until Christmas.

Where was Mary's baby born?
Why were Joseph and Mary there?

What did Mary dress her baby in?

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?

Why were the shepherds afraid?

What good news did the angel tell?

What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?

Who appeared praising God, what did they say?

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



ALL • DECREE • JOSEPH • DAVID • BETHLEHEM • MARY • BIRTH • SON • LAID • MANGER
 INN • SHEPHERDS • FLOCK • NIGHT • LORD • GLORY • GOOD NEWS • JOY • DAY
 SAVIOUR • CHRIST • SIGN • BABY • GOD • PEACE • ANGELS • GO • SEE • TOLD • PRAISE

Iranian prayer meeting



A GROUP of us gathered at Stockport Baptist church to pray for Iran. It was a really blessed time with worship in Farsi and English and time to share stories and concerns and to join in prayer. It was a real privilege to be part of this time with our friends from both churches.

Elaine

Regular Services at St George's

- 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 streamed)
 10am Holy Communion (BCP)
- Live streamed only, Mondays to Fridays:**
 9.30am Morning Prayer (also in church on Wednesdays)

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Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword solution:

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

A Walk in the Pyrenees

The Cathar Crossing (the Bonshommes Trail)

LOOKING THROUGH a holiday brochure towards the end of 2019 we saw a guided walking holiday in the Pyrenees from Foix (near Toulouse) to Berga in Spain which looked interesting. We put it on the holiday list for September 2020 but then COVID struck. In March this year we decided that we would book it for this September as it seemed that travel would be easier this year. Well in terms of COVID that was true but as we found out our travel plans weren't as straight forward as we had hoped. First the time of our flight from Heathrow to Toulouse was changed as part of BA's re-scheduling of flights over the summer. Next Avanti West Coast's uncertain timetable and train strikes planned for the weekend we were due to leave meant we had to re-think how we would get to Heathrow in time for our flight. Also our departure was the weekend of the late Queen's funeral. Lastly the French air traffic controllers held a 24-hour strike on the day before we were due to fly out, which caused knock on delays the following day. We were eventually able to fly, though our flight was delayed by 3 hours so we were considerably later arriving in Toulouse than planned. We eventually reached our hotel in Foix at 8:00 in the evening only to find that the hotel wasn't serving evening meals because they couldn't get the catering staff and were directed to a restaurant a few streets away, where we met the rest of the group.

The next morning we met our guide and things started to go much more smoothly. On the first day we were driven to the Chateau Montsegur which sits on top of a very steep, high rocky outcrop for the start of our walk. The steep climb up to the Chateau was not a gentle introduction to walking in the mountains! The chateau was the final fortress of the Cathars, who were persecuted during the Crusades, and was captured in March 1244 after a 9 month siege. 220 Cathars were burned en masse after refusing to denounce their faith. There were great views over the valley below. After visiting the Chateau we set off on the rest of the day's walk through some stunning mountain scenery. On the descent our guide instructed us to bend our knees. "Bend your knees" became a bit of a catch phrase with the group whenever there was a steep descent.

We ended up in Ax les Thermes which has a number of natural hot springs some of which feed a bath in one of the town squares. It was lovely to sit on the side of the bath with my feet in the hot water at the end of that and the next day's walk. The second day's walk was a circular walk and was a bit gentler. At the end of that walk we were able to follow Peter's maxim of never passing an open café, the only time we were able to do this! The third day's walk was the most challenging of the week. We walked over a mountain pass crossing into Andorra for a while before crossing into Spain. We started out at 7:00 and were driven to the start of the walk. We started





walking at 7:45 before it was fully light, stopping for a second breakfast (an energy bar and a drink) a couple of hours later. We finally made the top of the pass about 1:00 and stopped for lunch in Andorra shortly afterwards, thinking that we had completed over half the walk. We discovered the descent to our meeting point was much further than we had thought and finally arrived at the taxi which would take us to our next hotel at 6:30. Steve and I didn't have much trouble sleeping that night! The next day we had a more leisurely start, which was another circular walk from the hotel we were staying in. One of the highlights for me came towards the end of this day's walk when we watched a red kite circling in the valley below us as it hunted for its prey.

The destination of our walk on the penultimate day was Gosol. The Cathars found refuge in this very isolated village for around 50 years before they were eventually 'found' by the Inquisition. More recently Picasso stayed in Gosol in 1906 with his mistress and it was here that his painting style changed. His stay is commemorated in the town square with a statue of a lady carrying water. The hotel we stayed in was probably the most peculiar of the week. It was short staffed and service was a bit eccentric. Our guide wanted us to start out for the final day's walk by 7:30 because rain was forecast later in the afternoon and also he needed to catch a particular train back to Foix that evening. The proprietor of the hotel was adamant that breakfast couldn't be served until 8:00. After a good deal of negotiation it was agreed that breakfast would be left out so we could help ourselves and that we would make our own picnic from the ingredients left out. That

morning we ate our breakfast in semi-darkness as we couldn't find the light switches! The weather forecast was fairly accurate as less than an hour after we arrived at our hotel in Berga, our final destination, it rained heavily.

We spent the morning of our final day gently wandering around Berga sightseeing. The afternoon found the group sitting in the hotel lounge, resting our weary legs as we waited for the taxi to take us to the airport.

Lois Kelly

Who were the Cathars and why did they need a route over the Pyrenees from France to Spain?

In the 12th century the Cathars, also known as the Bonshommes, were a Christian movement in southern France and Italy which did not accept the Catholic church's teaching about the Holy Trinity. They adhered to the teachings of the New Testament as their guide to living correctly, believing that God had created the spiritual realm and the devil was responsible for material earthly world with all the suffering, and the two were in conflict with each other. They translated the New Testament into the local language making the words of the bible accessible to people, unlike the Catholic church which required that the bible remained in Latin. This put them in conflict with the Catholic Church and Rome and they were persecuted by Pope Innocent III in the Crusades. The Cathars were slaughtered or burned as heretics. The Bonshommes Crossing was the route the Cathars took as they gradually migrated from France into Spain, seeking refuge from the Inquisition.



Music Scheme – December 2022

Sunday 4th December – The Second Sunday of Advent		
10:15am	Parish Communion	No Evening Service
Setting:	The Addington Service – Shephard	
Hymns:	58 Long ago, prophets knew 34 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry 37 The Lord will come and not be slow 27 Hark, the glad sound! the Saviour comes,	
Anthem:	Never weather-beaten sail – Wood	

Sunday 11th December – The Third Sunday of Advent			
10:15am	The Toy Service	4:00pm	Adswood Community Carol Service
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening	St. Gabriel's Adswood	
Hymns:	SP13 Longing for light, we wait in darkness, 35 People, look East. The time is near 513 Lord, the light of your love is shining, 31 Lo, he comes with clouds descending,	See Order of Service for details	
Anthem:	From the squalor – Townend		

Sunday 18th December – The Fourth Sunday of Advent			
10:15am	Parish Communion	6:30pm	Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Setting:	The Addington Service – Shephard	See Order of Service for details	
Hymns:	32 O come, O come, Emmanuel, 243 The God whom earth and sea and sky 244 Virgin-born, we bow before thee: 362 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!		
Anthem:	The Angel Gabriel – Trad. Basque Carol		

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve			
Christingle Services		11:30pm	Midnight Communion
1:30pm	See Order of Service for details	Setting:	The Canterbury Service – Barker
3:30pm		Hymns:	56 It came upon the midnight clear, 76 While shepherds watched their flocks... 63 O little town of Bethlehem 62 O come, all ye faithful,...
5:30pm		Anthem:	Gaudete – Trad. Carol
		Anthem:	Nativity Carol – Rutter

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day		
10:15am	Parish Communion	No Evening Service
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne	
Hymns:	62 O come, all ye faithful, ... 68 See him lying on a bed of straw, 67 See amid the winter's snow, 53 Hark! the herald angels sing	
Anthem:	In the bleak mid-winter – Darke	



Music Scheme – January 2023

Sunday 1st January – The Second Sunday of Christmas			
10:15am	Parish Communion	No Evening Service	
Setting:	Missa Stopfordiensis – Mayes		
Hymns:	57 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! 73 Unto us a boy is born! 76 While shepherds watched their flocks... 81 Lord, for the years your love has kept...		
Antem:	The Three Kings – Cornelius		

Sunday 8th January – The Baptism of Christ / The First Sunday of Epiphany			
10:15am	Parish Communion	6:30pm	The Epiphany Carol Service
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening	See Order of Service for details	
Hymns:	84 Brightest and best... 93 When Jesus came to Jordan 83 As with gladness men of old 89 O worship the Lord in the beauty of...		
Antem:	The Three Kings – Cornelius		

Sunday 15th January – The Second Sunday of Epiphany			
10:15am	Confirmation Service	No Evening Service	
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne		
Hymns:	87 Hail to the Lord's anointed Seek ye first the kingdom of God 278 Alleluia, sing to Jesus! 437 Go forth and tell! O Church of God, awake!		
Antem:	Do not be afraid – Stopford		

Sunday 22nd January – The Third Sunday of Epiphany			
10:15am	Parish Communion	4:00pm	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening	St. Gabriel's, Adswood	
Hymns:	591 The kingdom of God is justice and joy 622 Will you come and follow me, 376 And can it be that I should gain 90 Songs of thankfulness and praise,	See Order of Service for details	
Antem:	The call – Lloyd		

Sunday 29th January – The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)			
10:15am	Parish Communion	4:00pm	Choral Evensong
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne	Hymns:	17 O gladsome light, O grace 476 In a world where people walk in darkness SP4 Light of gladness, Lord of glory,
Hymns:	94 Hail to the Lord who comes, 383 Be still, for the presence of the Lord, 516 Love divine, all loves excelling, 360 Faithful vigil ended,	Responses:	Smith Psalm: 132
Antem:	Nunc Dimittis in B minor – Noble	Canticles:	Evening Service for Unison Voices – Wilby
		Antem:	When to the temple Mary went – Eccard

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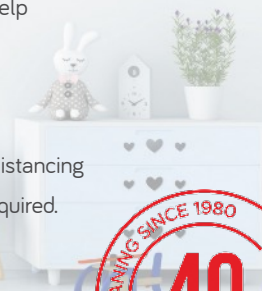
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