

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

# Parish Grapevine



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

<b>Vicar</b>	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall <i>vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</i> 456 9382	<b>Junior Choir</b>	James Hibbert 07365 519207 Practices: Wednesday and Thursday 6pm–7.30pm in the vestry during term time. Sing for Sunday services at 10.15am and 4pm.	<b>Bible Study Groups</b>	<i>contact the clergy</i> Study groups and courses are arranged from time to time.
<b>Associate minister</b>	Rev. Dr Jenny McKay 01606 891564 <i>jenny@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</i>	<b>Praise and Play</b>	Lois Kelly 439 9458 For 0–4s and their carers. Meet every Tuesday in term time, 10–11 in the Parish Rooms.	<b>Choir</b>	James Hibbert 07365 519207 <i>actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</i>  Practice: Thursdays 7.30pm–9pm in the vestry during term time. Sing for Sunday services at 10.15am and 4pm.
<b>Readers</b>	Peter Hall 456 9382 Rita Waters 487 3620	<b>St Gabriel's</b>		<b>Church Flowers</b>	Jean Hayden ( <i>donations</i> ) 483 2367
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Andrew Regan 440 0408 Hazel Jenkins 483 4679	<b>Festival services</b>	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall 456 9382	<b>Church Gardeners</b>	Walter Stead 430 2449 Meet on Tuesdays 9.30-12.30.
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Lois Kelly 439 9458	<b>Uniformed Groups with connections to St George's</b>		<b>Coffee Mornings</b>	Olwen Smith 483 6548 after the 10.15am service, in church.
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	Andrew Regan 440 0408 <i>treasurer@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</i>	<b>Rainbows</b>	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.	<b>Cursillo</b>	Usually meet on last Wednesday of the month. 7.30pm at different venues.
<b>Parish Office</b>	480 2453	<b>Brownies</b>	Rachel Lockett 07712 302342 Lianne Warburton 07815 482603  For girls aged 7-10. Meet Thursdays 6.30-8pm in the Parish Room.	<b>Handbells</b>	Andy Clark 483 3703 Play for All-Age and Taizé services, plus other special events. Ringers of all ages (with or without experience) always welcome. Rehearsals in church arranged around the ringers' availability.
<b>Magazine Editor</b>	vacant	<b>4th Stockport Scout Group</b>		<b>Linen Guild</b>	Pat Rigley 487 1999 Maintain the church's linen.
<b>Safeguarding co-ordinator</b>	James Hibbert 07365 519207	<b>Squirrels</b>	Sarah Johnson 07930 243 159  Meet at: Bridgell Community Centre Siddington Avenue SK3 8NR	<b>Magazine Editorial Group</b>	Meet monthly to plan future issues. email: <a href="mailto:magazine@stgeorgestockport.org.uk">magazine@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk">www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk</a>	<b>Beavers</b>	For boys and girls aged 6 and 7 Wednesdays 5.30–6.30	<b>Mothers' Union</b>	Pat Durnall 483 4837 Meet on 2nd Monday of the month in church at 2.15pm.
<b>Webmaster</b>	Peter Hall 456 9382	<b>Cubs</b>	For boys and girls aged 8–10½ Wednesdays 6.30–8.00		
<b>St George's Primary School</b>		<b>Scouts</b>	For boys and girls aged 10½–14 Wednesdays 6.30–8.00		
<b>Headteacher</b>	Deborah Grindrod 480 8657	<b>Other Groups and Activities</b>			
<b>St George's</b>		<b>St George's</b>			
<b>Deputy Wardens</b>	John Hardy 01663 764 462 Will Hesson 480 0630	<b>Bell ringers</b>	Anne Mayes 485 6477 Practise Mondays 7.45-9pm. Ring on Sundays 9.45-10.15am. Meet in the tower.		
<b>Director of Music</b>	James Hibbert 07365 519207 <i>actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</i>	<b>Bible Reading Fellowship Notes</b>	Janet Neilson 483 9025 Notes are ordered on request.		
<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Roger Briscoe <i>brogerdom16@gmail.com</i>				
<b>Vergers</b>	Lee Howarth Mary Howarth				
<b>Bookings for Parish Rooms</b>	Parish Office or 480 2453 Judith Swift 483 8681				
<b>St Gabriel's</b>					
<b>Contact:</b>	Parish Office 480 2453				
<b>Bookings</b>	Parish Office 480 2453				
<b>Children's Activities</b>					
<b>St George's</b>					
<b>Children's Corner</b>	Available for children (and parents) during services. Equipped with books, crayons and soft toys.				
<b>Sunday Clubs</b>	Ask for Louise, Eliza or Andy at the 10:15 Sunday service.  Eliza 07967 798453 Louise 483 3703				

### Front cover photo:

A view of the nave of St George's Church from the tower gallery

(photo by Andrew Regan)

### Services in March:

see pages 17 and 23

## Guest Editorial – Tending God’s Garden

LENT IS A TIME of quiet contemplation and constraint. It is traditional to give something up over the period of Lent, but this often comes with the expectation that we will return to whatever we have given up once we get to Easter. The theme of the Lent breakfasts in 2022 was sustainability in the Church, our community and what this meant for us individually. During the series of talks I spoke about food and sustainability, which I will reflect on here.

There are many references in the Bible to our role as stewards of the Earth and our need to care for the environment that God has provided for us. We find in the second chapter of Genesis that “The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and care for it” (Gen. 2:15); in Old Testament Hebrew *abad* (tend) can be taken to mean ‘to cultivate as servants’, while *shamar* (care for) means to guard and protect. God has provided us with access to natural resources to satisfy our need for food and materials, but we have a duty to do this in a way that does not unduly impact the environment.

Growing, harvesting, processing, transporting and consuming food has a potentially large impact on our environment. These processes consume resources such as energy and water and produce waste. About 70% of all freshwater that is consumed is by agriculture and in some countries this is as much as 90%. The amount of freshwater consumed in producing a foodstuff can be measured by its water footprint, which can vary significantly for a single product depending on how and where it was produced. For example, the world average water footprint for a kg of beef is 15,415 litres of water whereas for beef produced in the UK this is 7338 litres, but it can be as much as 90,000 litres. An equivalent soya substitute has a water footprint of around 3,763 litres. Similarly, the carbon footprint of beef is around 50kg of

carbon dioxide per kg of meat while soya has a carbon footprint of 1–10kg of carbon dioxide per kg.

Soya bean production is controversial because it is linked with deforestation, particularly in Brazil and Argentina. Yet 70-90% of this high protein, high fat product is fed to animals for meat production and a proportion is used to produce alternative fuels such as biodiesel. A very small proportion of soya is used to produce plant-based foodstuffs. Feeding animals grain to produce our food is much less efficient than eating the grain directly, so the grain to produce meat for a single person could otherwise feed 10 people.

Given what we know about how we are impacting our environment, changing to a plant-based vegan diet or a vegetarian diet can therefore significantly reduce our impact on the environment. Daniel 1:12,15 also provides other health-based reasons for changing our diet. Daniel and others from Judah were brought to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and were to be trained to enter the king’s service. They were to be allocated food and wine from the king’s table, but Daniel resolved not to defile himself with these offerings, saying “Test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water.” At the end of the ten days Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and better nourished than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king. I similarly resolved not to eat meat last year having progressively reduced the amount that I was eating, and I am thoroughly enjoying the experience of cooking without it.

Of course, changing our dietary habits is not the only choice that we need to make, but it is certainly a step in the right direction and one that can be enjoyed rather than endured.

Andy Clark



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## Your First Solo

DO YOU WANT to do a solo?

If so, come to St George's church. We have the best Organ player, James. The best soloist is Lauren. Our helper's name is Hannah. She helps when it is your first solo because on the day it makes you feel scared, but you will be okay. My solo is called Lead Me Lord.

*Anya Moakes, aged 9*

## How Good Church Is!

DO YOU ENJOY singing? Do you want to join St George's Choir? Join it now!

Many people are part of the choir. You can join whenever you want. The teachers are called James, Roger, and Hannah.

The best soloist is Lauren. Also, the best organist is James and Hannah is a great singer too! Hannah can sing high but not as high as Lauren!

We sing high and low all the time.

The teachers are really helpful. James makes it easy to get the music in tune, and Hannah helps you to get your cassock on.

We are given a book which is called the Common Praise Book and a folder which holds all of our sheets together.

So if you enjoy singing and performing you should come and join us!

*Ella, aged 7*



photo: James Hibbert

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## Elaine writes:

**H**ave you ever had an earworm? No, it's not a wriggly parasite, but a term used to describe a song that gets stuck in your ear or head.

Sometimes they pop in unbidden.

Sometimes it's a song or tune that we've heard recently and gets stuck in

a never-ending loop.

Sometimes we see a box or an advert mentioning a word which clicks through our subconscious and throws out a tune which has seemingly been buried in our memories for an age.

Sometimes the earworm emerges when we are under stress and then keeps repeating at each stressful occasion in our lives such as exams, childbirth, weddings and bereavement.

There are lots of thoughts and ideas about how earworms get into our consciousness, but it is estimated that around 90 percent of people experience this phenomenon, also referred to as 'sticky music' or 'stuck song syndrome', among other terms.

Just recently, I was listening to Radio 2 and the Scott Mills show. He has a segment called the "Music Police" which challenges the listeners to identify an earworm, which is sung over the airwaves by someone who has just a line or so of a tune which they can't identify.

A few days later, all is revealed.

Are you one in the 90 percent or is this all new to you?

Whilst for many, this is a pure irritant, I was thinking, what if we could use that earworm as a gift? A way of memorising a hymn which would be used as a prayer? To learn something which could be shared with another? To have something to call upon when times are tough?

Hymns such as "Father hear the prayer we offer" which includes the fabulous final verse:

Be our strength in hours of weakness  
In our wanderings, be our guide  
Through endeavour, failure, danger  
Father, be thou at our side

give comfort, support and reassurance as we walk along life's pathways.

"The Lord's my shepherd", in its various forms as a hymn, reminds us of the reality that God is with us and echoes the very familiar words of the 23rd psalm which is so beloved of people at times of bereavement.

Or perhaps, "When I survey the wondrous cross," brings us to the point of the sacrifice made for us all by Jesus and our own response, "demands my soul, my life, my all."

What if we could make this "earworm" useful for us in memorising the Gospel message and the very tenets of our faith to share with others, to have it on hand and to make it available?

Music is a great medium for sharing, as we all well know, and perhaps learning the words of a few hymns may be better able to help us to be confident in making that message memorable for ourselves and for others.

May you be richly blessed as we journey together through Lent and towards Easter.

*Elaine*

## Prayer for Assembly

Let there be respect for the earth  
Peace for its people  
Love in our lives  
Delight in the good  
Forgiveness for past wrongs  
And from now on a new start.

*This is from Aneurin aged 6.*



*photo: Andy Clark*

## Parish News Roundup

### Holy Baptism

None last month

### Holy Matrimony

None last month

### Funerals

2nd Feb Margaret Elizabeth Jeffrey at the Rowan Chapel.

22nd Feb Stanley Alfred Newton. Service in church and committal at the Cypress Chapel.

### Communion Flowers were sponsored as follows:

29th Jan from Jill, Anne and Lynn, in memory of Brian and Nancy Wainwright.

5th Feb for all those remembering their baptism.

12th Feb from Jean Norton, remembering Ron.

19th Feb in memory of Edna and Norman Tootell.

26th Feb from Kate Stephenson and family, remembering Barry and all our loved ones.

### Floodlighting was sponsored as follows:

28th Feb in memory of Ian Flitcroft, with love from Sheila and Rachel.

### Mothers' Union

We are meeting on Monday March 13th at 2.15pm in the Parish Room.

## Parish News Roundup

We are looking forward to welcoming Angela Foulkes with her talk entitled 'Ear Friendly' which will undoubtedly be of great interest to many of us!

Please feel most welcome to come along and join us.

### Eco Church

Do you want to protect and enhance God's creation?

Over the past year we have been undertaking work to embed Eco Church principles in what we do in our church activities and worship. Our next step will be to make an application to be officially recognised as part of the Eco Church community. There are three levels of award, Bronze, Silver and Gold, and in time our aim is to achieve the highest level of award. We are looking for volunteers to help with this work, which would include attending meetings, contributing ideas, and helping to promote our work.

If you think you could help with this important mission, please contact Andy Clark at: [andrew.clark1565@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.clark1565@gmail.com)

### Frances Farrar

There will be a celebration of the life of Frances Farrar on Saturday 22nd April from 11am to 3pm in St Gabriel's Church.

## Parish News Roundup

### Messy Church for Adults

Messy Church has been running since 2004 and has been a fabulous resource to reach out to children and their families in sharing the Good News of Jesus.

We thought we might try a Messy church for adults during Holy Week as we follow the Easter journey through art, crafts and maybe even baking.

This will be specifically for adults and scheduled at a time when they can spare some space for themselves.

We will be meeting on Tuesday 4th April from 7pm to 9pm. Hot drinks and cakes will be served. No charge. Donations appreciated.

If you'd like more details, please be in touch with Elaine:

[Vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk](mailto:Vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk)

### Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings:

Please contact the vicar:

Telephone: 0161 456 9382

or email:

[vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk)

### April 2023

#### Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Fri 17th March**

Committee meeting: Tue 21st March

## 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:

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

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Signature.....

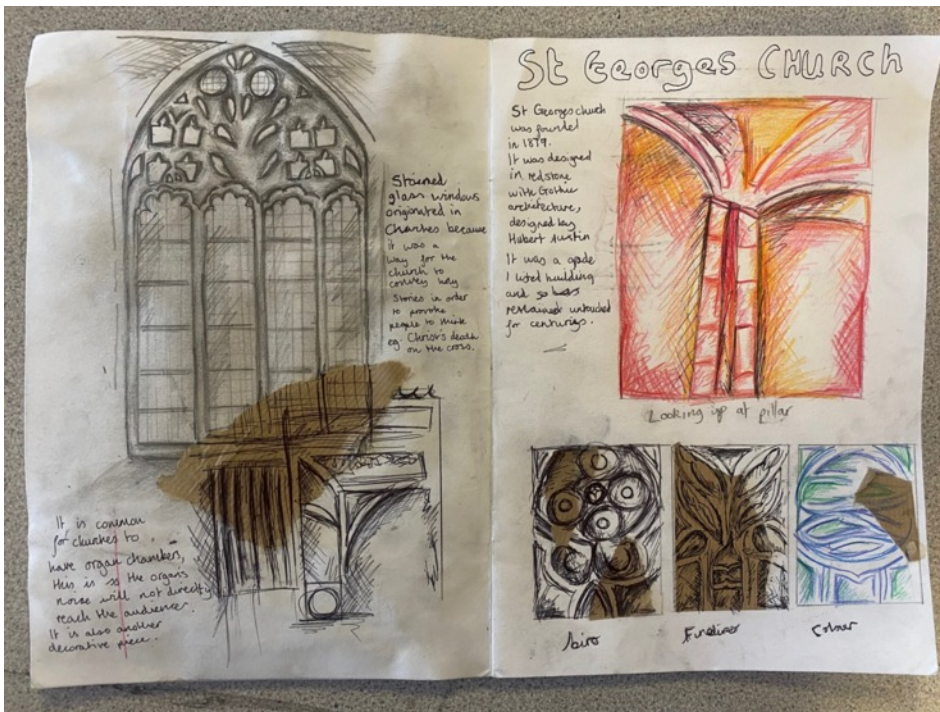
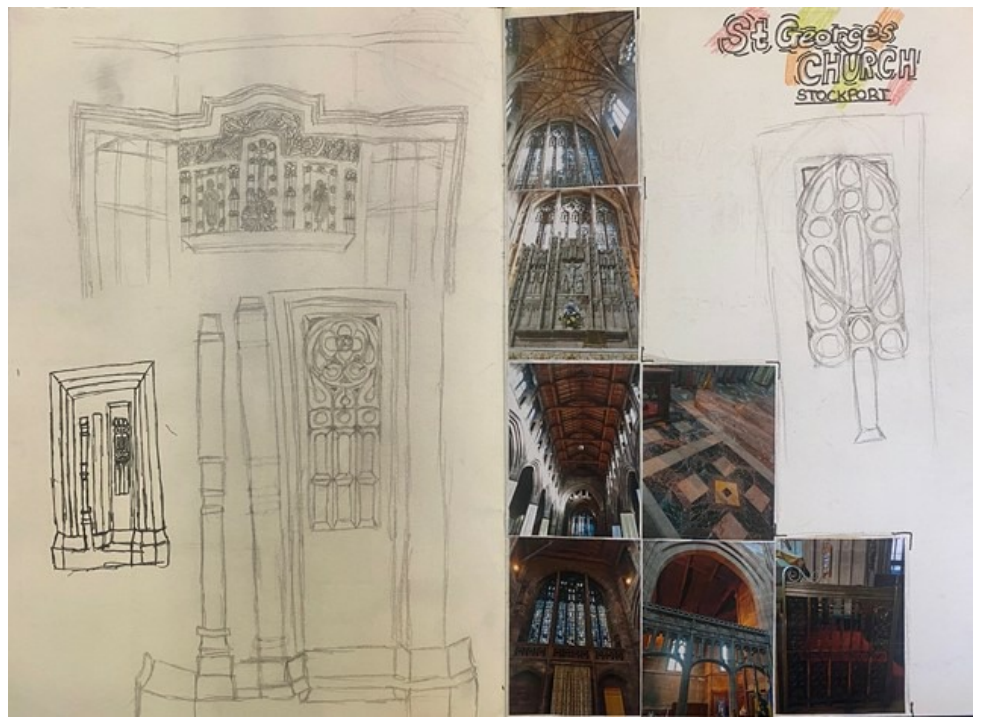
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# Stockport Grammar School Art Trip to St George's Church

IN EARLY JANUARY Becci Upton and her team brought a group of around 70 year 9 pupils to visit the church as part of an art trip examining architecture. The students explored the features of the church, making sketches and producing art work from sight. These are just a few examples of the excellent work produced on the day.

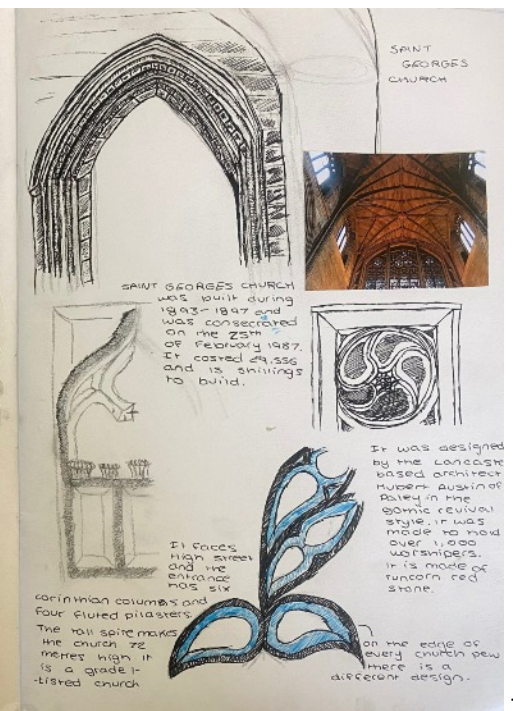
by Daisy Bird



by Thomas Stanton



by Sarah Preston



## Lest we Forget – Holocaust Memorial

On the 27th January, I was privileged to take part in the Holocaust Memorial Day service at Stockport War Memorial, arranged by the Borough Council. The small a cappella choir I sing with had been asked to provide appropriate music for a very moving experience.

The annual event commemorates the day when the notorious Auschwitz concentration camp was captured by the Allied forces, and its prisoners released. It also remembers other countries where genocide has taken place in more recent times – Bosnia, Darfur, Cambodia, Rwanda.

The Stockport service is particularly moving because there are people in the congregation who were personally affected by the persecutors and who share memories of their experiences.

Lest we think this is about past history, the current experience of the Ukrainian nation is a stark reminder of man's inhumanity to man. This was particularly brought home for me by the words and music of one of the pieces we sang: 'The prayer of the children', prompting memories of the news reports showing families fleeing from the Russian advance 12 months or so ago.

Such situations are a warning of the danger of populations following charismatic 'strong' leaders, who have little or no concern for the damage and harm caused by their power.

It is hard to understand how they can distance themselves from the suffering they cause, feeling no sense of guilt. It is said that 'all power corrupts', and, unfortunately, all too often that is true. What is more, it can affect people who are generally very far from being evil.

I have been reading, in recent days, some Bible commentaries by David Walker,

the Bishop of Manchester, about the life of David, the shepherd boy who became King of Israel. He was also a charismatic leader, in some ways a 'man of the people', which caused animosity from King Saul.

David was a successful leader in battle, a talented musician, with a strong commitment to doing God's will, as shown by the psalms he wrote. Yet, in his private life, he fell victim to coveting the wife of one of his military leaders and arranging his death so that he could marry her.

Only when he was condemned by the prophet, Nathan, and then lost his new-born son, does David acknowledge

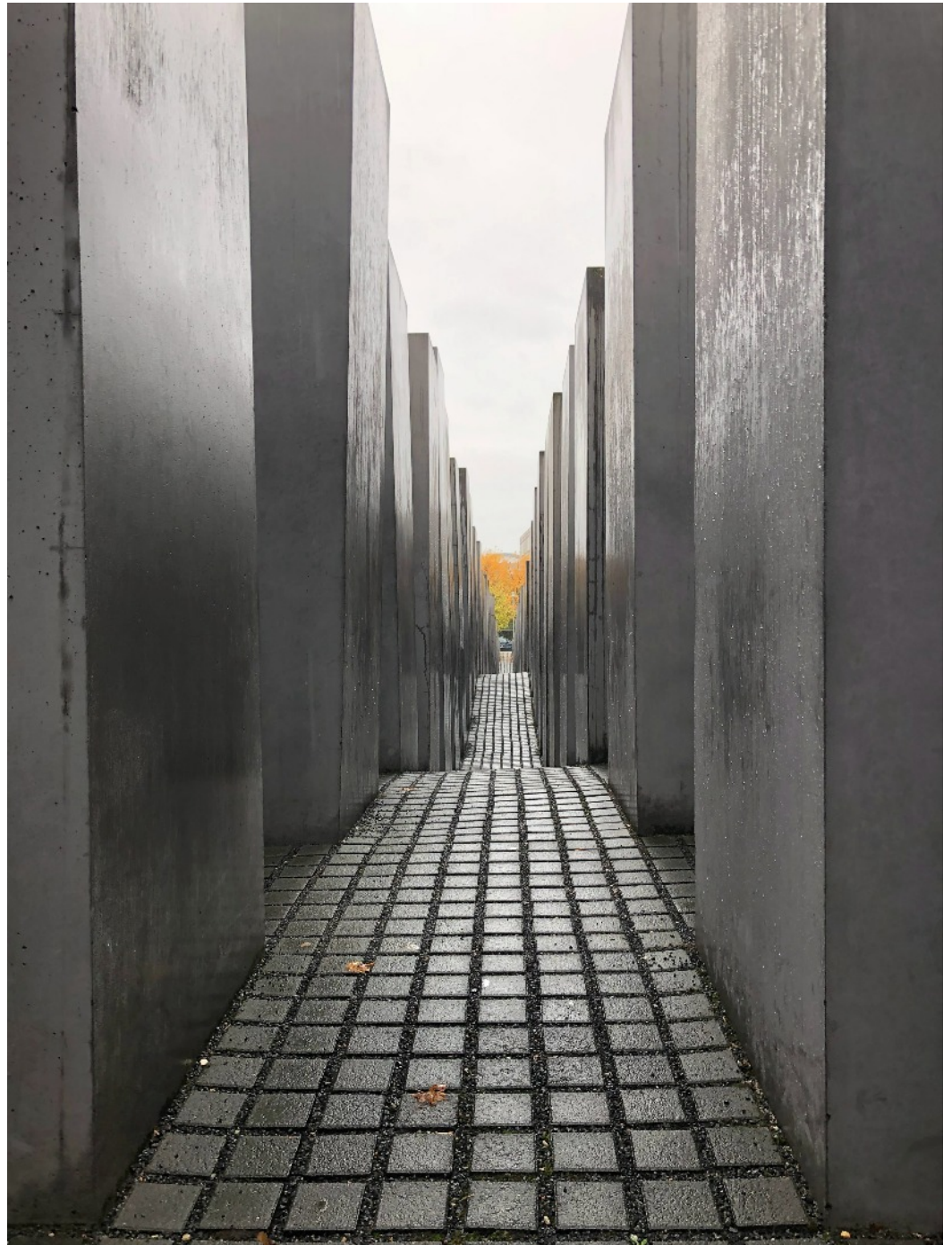


Photo by Ryen on [unsplash.com/photos/Crz7w2rOjjw](https://unsplash.com/photos/Crz7w2rOjjw)

*The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, also known as the Holocaust Memorial, is a memorial in Berlin to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, designed by architect Peter Eisenman and Buro Happold.*



the error of his ways, and truly repent, fasting and praying for the life of his child, who soon dies.

With such a background, it seems surprising that, historically, David came to be honoured as one of Israel's greatest leaders, and a man of God. The answer probably is that he did acknowledge his wrongdoing and learned from it, in respect of his relationship with God.

When David was praying for his son during his illness, he fasted, but the Bible account doesn't refer to the practice of 'sackcloth and ashes', which was a common expression of grief in ancient times. In fact Jesus uses the term when denouncing the cities that rejected his teaching – saying that even the notorious inhabitants of

Tyre and Sidon would have repented in sackcloth and ashes if they had seen Jesus' miracles.

I mention this as 22nd February, Ash Wednesday, was the beginning of Lent. Traditionally a time for Christians to think about their relationship with God. A period of self appraisal; to see if there are parts of lives and habits, which have fallen away from what they should be. They won't be the extreme failings of dictators or errant kings; but they may be things which are weakening our service to God, and our care for one another. So, let's pause, and think what we can do over the following days of Lent, to bring us closer to our loving God.

*Walter Stead*

## Prayer of the Children

Words and Music by Kurt Bestor

Can you hear the pray'r of the children  
on bended knee, in the shadow of an unknown room?  
Empty eyes with no more tears to cry,  
Turning heavenward toward the light.

Cryin' Jesus help me to see the mornin' light of one more day,  
But if I should die before I wake, I pray my soul to take.

Can you feel the hearts of the children  
Aching for home, for something of their very own?  
Reaching hands with nothing to hold on to,  
But hope for a better day, a better day.

Crying Jesus help me to feel the love again in my own land,  
But if unknown roads lead away from home,  
Give me loving arms, 'way from harm.

Can you hear the voice of the children  
Softly pleading for silence in their shattered world?  
Angry guns preach gospel full of hate,  
Blood of the innocent on their hands.

Cryin' Jesus help me to feel the sun again upon my face?  
For when darkness clears, I know you're near,  
Bringing peace again.  
Can you hear the pray'r of the children?

# Useful recycling tips

## Contact lenses and packaging

Specsavers collects contact lenses and lens packaging in every store and recycles them in the UK with a company that turns them into construction materials.

## Glasses

Specsavers, Boots Opticians and Peep Eyewear take spectacles for recycling.

## Cosmetics

Mascara, lipstick, makeup palettes, travel miniatures... Boots takes all of these in store, from any brand or source. They go to a UK based recycler to be transformed into construction board.

Boots guarantees nothing goes to landfill and nothing is incinerated.

Boots also takes the pumps from soap, shower gel or other dispensers as these can't go in normal plastic recycling. Ideally, refill and reuse pump bottles as far as possible.

## Dental stuff

When it comes to toothbrushes, electric toothbrush heads, floss containers and interdental brushes, there isn't much good news. TetraCycle will accept them if you can find a dropoff point.

Toothpaste tubes can go in Boots' cosmetic recycling boxes.

## Insulin pens

Boots and Superdrug take these through the Pen Cycle scheme.

## Pill blister packs

Apparently, because it's pharmaceutical, there are stringent rules on what plastics can be used. A lot of them are made from PVC and, from a recycling perspective, that's very difficult.

Superdrug runs a recycling scheme in stores where it has an in-store pharmacy.

Returned packs are turned into boards for the construction industry.

## Black plastic containers

In the past, black plastic takeaway and ready meal containers couldn't be recycled.

It's not an issue at all nowadays so, Recycle away.

## Bags and Wrappers

Do rinse before recycling, as food soiling is likely to make these impossible to recycle.

Many of the supermarkets have front-of-store collection boxes for flexible plastic.

Salad bags, carrier bags, crisp and biscuit packets, ready meal film lids – if it springs back when you crumple it, it can go in these collection boxes.



photo by Bernard Hermant on [unsplash.com/photos/dclPEtMVdK8](https://unsplash.com/photos/dclPEtMVdK8)

## Pizza boxes

Use common sense – if they're really dirty, don't recycle.

Grease stains are acceptable.

## Food and pet food pouches

All these can go into the flexible plastic collection points in supermarkets, but they are the most difficult plastics to recycle, so they become construction boards.

Pets at Home will recycle pet food pouches of any brand but asks that you rinse them out first.

## Teabags

Loose leaf tea is the best option for the planet, but if it has to be teabags, choose one with a plant-based seal. Many bags are now sealed in this way, including PG Tips, Yorkshire tea, Clipper, Co-op, Asda and Sainsbury's own brands.

The super virtuous empty the leaves into the compost and bin the bag.

## Vapes

Every week, 1.3m single-use vapes are thrown away, and they are the UK's fastest growing waste stream.

Follow the Recycle Your Electricals advice and find a recycling point.

Take the battery out, if there is one, and recycle it separately – don't put the whole vape in the battery recycling. Consider switching to refillable vapes.

*Edited article from the Life and Arts section of the Guardian newspaper by Emma Beddington Tuesday, 7 February 2023*



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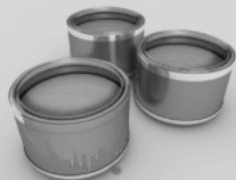
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## Recipe of the month: Onion Marmalade Mac 'N' Cheese

*This is macaroni cheese with a twist, a comforting dish for a cold day – and it's vegetarian too. And economical!*

- 360g dried macaroni
- 60g butter
- 70g plain flour
- 1 teasp mustard powder
- 900ml milk
- 350g extra strong cheddar cheese
- 100g onion marmalade

Preheat oven to 220C/gas mark 7. Bring a large pan of salted water to the boil, add macaroni and simmer for about 6 minutes, until al dente. Drain, then put back in the pan.

Put the butter in a medium pan over a moderate heat. When melted, add flour and mustard and cook for 2 minutes, stirring. Add the milk gradually, a little at a time, stirring, until smooth. Stir half the cheese into the sauce until melted. Check for seasoning. Add sauce to the pan with cooked macaroni. Mix all together and tip into a large deep oven proof dish, about 2 litres. Spread it evenly then dot with the onion marmalade. Scatter over the remaining cheese and bake for 35–40 minutes until bubbling and golden brown on top.

*Pamela Ferguson*

# Jean is always up for a spin on the dancefloor

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# Contentious Christianity Zoom Discussions

YOU ARE ALL heartily invited to our five week Zoom discussion series for Lent on some aspects of “Contentious Christianity.” This is the second year of running such a series and we have another top notch line-up for you this year on the theme of “Scientific and Ethical Issues of our Time.” The sessions will be fully virtual on Zoom and Revd Jenny, our Associate Minister, will be running these together with Chris Dawson. Sessions begin at 7pm and the Zoom dial-in details are:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85243312130?pwd=cVVjak1VYjhjVUpwRWY2cTI4VWw0UT09>

Meeting ID: 852 4331 2130      Passcode: 639273

Further speaker details will be provided shortly but the talks are as below.

## **March 7th: Do Animals go to Heaven?**

*Revd Dr Jenny McKay, St George's Stockport*

## **March 14th: When is it right to Protest?**

*Revd Mark Coleman, Christian Climate Action*

## **March 21st: How to be an Every Day Activist.**

*Mr Andrew Graystone, author of Faith, Hope and Mischief, Tiny Acts of Rebellion*

## **March 28th: Euthanasia and Christianity**

*Revd Professor Peter Selby, St Andrew's Cheadle Hume and University of Manchester*

## **April 4th: Artificial Intelligence and Christianity**

*Revd Dr Tim Bull, Residentiary Canon and Director of Vocations, St Alban's Abbey*

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Jenny

## Biographies of our first three speakers

### **Revd Dr Jenny McKay**

Originally from Belfast, Jenny trained as a vet at University College Dublin. She then moved to Doncaster where she worked as a small animal vet in practice. She then specialised in veterinary pathology and completed her PhD at the University of Cambridge. She has worked in academia, the pharmaceutical industry and now manages a team of over 30 pathologists in a private veterinary diagnostic laboratory. After a period of illness, she felt a calling to ministry and, finding this hard to reconcile with her love of her veterinary work, she attended the Foundations for Ministry course at Chester University in 2013 to explore her vocation. Finding a pathway which enabled her to continue her work as a vet and as a priest, Jenny was ordained in Chester Cathedral in 2020 and is currently a Minister in Secular Employment and Associate Minister at St George's Stockport.

During the Covid pandemic, Jenny became particularly interested in the role of virtual ministry and social media as means of reaching out to people physically unable to



attend church. Through various articles, online services, podcasts and reflections, she is reaching out to those of all faith and none in accessible ways through @thereverendvet on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and Twitter. She uses the medium of animals to reach out to a wide range of people. Married to Dave, who is a GP practice manager in Liverpool, they have three crazy cats, Lulu, a Russian Blue, Poppy, a Chartreux, and KitKat, a chocolate point Birman. Poppy stars alongside Jenny in her cartoon series "The Reverend Vet" on her Facebook page and website.

*She is looking forward to discussing "Do Animals go to Heaven?" on 7th March.*

### Revd Mark Coleman

Mark is a priest in the Church of England. He was Vicar of Rochdale and served as the Bishop of Manchester's Borough Dean until his retirement in 2020. He has lived in Rochdale since 2014, previously serving 15 years in Liverpool parishes, both in a housing estate and in a suburban community. Mark says he had 'the best job in the world' in Rochdale where, as well as performing the usual duties of a parish priest, he worked with community and faith partners to encourage and support "local saints and prophets". Before his work in the Church, Mark worked in the voluntary sector in Age Concern and Business in the Community.

Mark helped start Extinction Rebellion Rochdale in 2020. He has been arrested 15 times for sitting on the highway with Insulate Britain and Just Stop Oil. Recently he spent a week on remand in HMP Birmingham. He is a member of Green Christian and Christian Climate Action.

Mark is married to Wendy, until recently a local councillor, and they have two grown-up boys.

*Mark is looking forward to discussing "When is it right to protest?" on 14th March.*



### Mr Andrew Graystone

Andrew has been a youth worker, a TV producer and a storyteller. He is a regular presenter of The Daily Service on BBC Radio 4 and Pause for Thought on BBC Radio 2. He is chair of The Charnwood Trust, an educational charity in Stockport. Andrew is married to Jane. They lived in Adswold for 12 years, and now live in Levenshulme, where they are part of a messy, multicultural Nazarene church.



In March 2019 Andrew "went viral" when an image of him standing outside a mosque following the shootings in Christchurch, New Zealand, was shared millions of times around the world. In this evening of storytelling, challenge and laughter, he will tell the story of that day and other tiny rebellious actions that have marked his Christian journey.

Andrew is the author of *Too Much Information? Ten Essential Questions for Digital Christians* (Canterbury Press, 2019). *Faith, Hope and Mischief* (Canterbury Press, 2020) and *Bleeding for Jesus* (DLT, 2021).

*Andrew is looking forward to discussing "How to be an Every Day Activist" on 21st March, based on his experiences in Faith, Hope and Mischief!*

## Should you join the PCC?

I WONDER how much you know about the role of the PCC. Could you be on the PCC? At the end of April we will be holding the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) when we will need to elect four new members of the PCC. I hope this will go some way to encouraging you to take part. The PCC usually meets six times a year.

The first point to note is that St George's PCC is a charity and PCC members are trustees of the charity. As trustees, the members of the PCC have responsibilities under charity law to:

- ensure that the PCC is carrying out its purpose for the public benefit
- act in the best interests of the PCC
- manage PCC resources responsibly
- ensure the PCC complies with statutory accounting and reporting requirements.

The PCC as a group works with Elaine to promote the mission of St George's Church. The minister (Elaine) and the PCC have a duty to consult on matters of general concern and importance to the church and to cooperate in promoting in the parish the whole mission of St George's. Examples of this for last year were promoting the 125th anniversary of the consecration of St George's

both with the service in February and the 125 Festival in May. There was also discussion throughout the year around when to wear masks and how to administer communion safely during services, to reduce the risk of spreading Covid.

The PCC has overall charge of all the expenditure of the church, which has been quite difficult in recent months with the cost of heating the church rising about fourfold. Decisions had to be made about when the church could be heated and whether to move mid-week services to the Parish Room to help manage the church finances. When discussing the budget for this year the PCC had to decide what to charge groups wishing to hire the church or the Parish Rooms.

The PCC is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the church, the churchyard and any moveable objects. This means, for example, we are responsible for the heating, lighting and sound systems in church. The current photocopier needs replacing so the PCC will need to decide what to replace it with.

The PCC also owns the curate's house. This year the decision was taken to sell 40 Beechfield Road and to buy a newer house where the upkeep is more manageable.

Being on the PCC gives you the opportunity to have a voice in the life of St George's.

*Lois Kelly*

## Lenten Prayer Breakfasts 2023

St George's Church, Buxton Rd, Stockport, SK2 6NU

### **EXPLORING MENTAL HEALTH**

Saturday 25 February 2023

#### **Mental Health and the NHS, a Doctor's Perspective**

Bob Baldwin Retired Consultant Psychiatrist

Saturday 4 March 2023

#### **Finding Hope in a Troubled World – for ourselves and for others**

Marion McCall Parish Secretary

Saturday 11 March 2023

#### **Reaching Out – Outreach in the Community**

Anne Rodger Rev320

Saturday 18 March 2023

#### **SP-ARK Suicide Prevention – Awareness, Resource, Knowledge**

Linda Buckley Papyrus Champion & Reader at St Matthew's, Stretton

Saturday 25 March 2023

#### **What Have we Discovered? – reflection and discussion**

Chris Dawson

We meet in the Lady Chapel.

Breakfast is served from 9.30am and the talk and discussion run from 10am to 11am



## Special Lent, Holy Week and Easter services 2023

**Sunday 19th March Mothering Sunday.** *Flowers distributed.*

8am Holy Communion

10.15am Mothering Sunday Communion service

**Sunday 26th March**

4pm Choral Evensong

**Palm Sunday 2nd April** *Palm Crosses Distributed*

8am Holy Communion

10.15am Palm Sunday Communion with reading of the Passion

4pm Palm Sunday celebration service

**Monday 3rd April**

7.30pm Taize Communion

**Tuesday 4th April**

7pm to 9pm Easter Messy Church for adults (Parish Rooms)

**Wednesday 5th April**

7.30pm. Tenebrae Service

**Maundy Thursday 6th April**

7.30pm Maundy Thursday communion

**Good Friday 7th April**

2pm Good Friday Reflection  
(Hot Cross Buns to follow)

**Easter Eve Saturday 8th April**

10am to 12noon Easter Messy Church (Parish Rooms)

7.30pm Easter Eve Vigil and renewal of Baptism Vows  
(Cakes to follow)

**Easter Day Sunday 9th April**

8am Holy Communion.

10.15am Easter Sunday Communion (Easter Egg Hunt to follow)

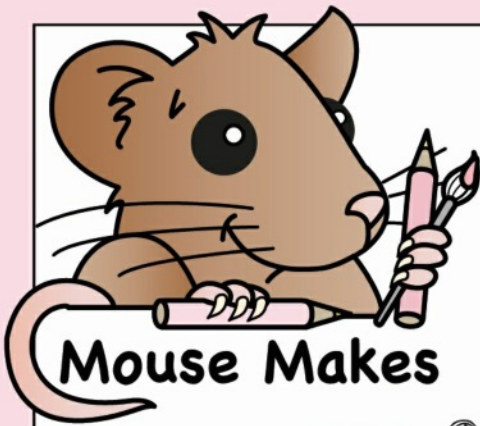
4pm Easter Sunday celebration service

*9.30am Wednesday Morning Prayer and 10am Holy Communion are in the parish rooms during March, along with Warm Spaces until 1pm*

*Sunday services: 8am, 10.15am and 4pm in church*



Photo by Andy Clark



## Mouse Makes

### WHO IS MY MOTHER?



- |         |           |
|---------|-----------|
| CAIN    | ELIZABETH |
| ISAAC   | HANNAH    |
| JESUS   | RACHEL    |
| JACOB   | REBEKAH   |
| TIMOTHY | EVE       |
| JOSEPH  | MARY      |
| SAMUEL  | SARAH     |
| JOHN    | EUNICE    |

Look up the Bible verses then find the answers and the names below in the word search



- REBEKAH
- ELIZABETH
- EUNICE
- RUTH
- MARY
- RACHEL
- LEAH
- ZILPAH
- MOTHER
- MUM

### BIBLE MOTHERS

Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?

— — — — —  
Genesis 4:1-2

Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?

— — — — —  
Genesis 17:19

Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?

— — — — —  
1 Samuel 1:20

Who was Ruth's Mother-in-Law?

— — — — —  
Ruth 1:1-5

Eunice was Timothy's mother, but who was her mother?

— — — — —  
2 Timothy 1:5

Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

— — — — —  
Exodus 6:20

Look up the Bible verses and find out who the Bible mothers are.



**M** — — — — —  
Matt 1:16

— **O** — — — — —  
2 Tim 1:5

— — — — — **T** — — — — —  
1 Kings 1:11

— — — — — **H** — — — — —  
1 Sam 1:20

— — — — — **E** — — — — —  
Gen 34:1

— — — — — **R** — — — — —  
Gen 30:22

How many other words can you make from:

**MOTHERING SUNDAY**



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

### Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

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### Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 23)

### Crossword

	1	2		3		4		5		6		
7												8
9								10				
						11	12					
13			14		15					16		
			17									
18		19								20		
				21								
22										23	24	
				25		26		27				
28						29						
	30											

#### Across

- These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
- 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
- King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
- Town possessing mineral spring (3)
- Mede (anag.) (4)
- High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
- He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
- A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
- Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
- 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
- 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
- Edit (anag.) (4)
- 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
- Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
- 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been —, he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
- Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

#### Down

- 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
- Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
- 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
- Concept (John 8:14) (4)
- 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
- Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
- 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you' (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
- 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
- This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
- Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
- He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
- 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
- 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — —' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
- Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
- 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
- Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)



## A Winter Window

POPPY ALWAYS sat by the window. Anyone walking past could see her sitting there and watching. She didn't mind you looking at her through her window. In fact, she loved it. She was just happy seeing you seeing her. And she was a very popular figure sitting in that window. Most people in the neighbourhood knew her and would give her a friendly wave as they walked by.

Poppy always sat by the front window, because it was Poppy's way of engaging with the world. She couldn't go out by herself, and so the front room was her home. She liked it well enough. It was warm, comfortable and interesting. She could fall asleep by the fire or poke around for things to do. But it was much more fun looking out of the window at the wonderful world out there.

Poppy always sat by the window, and because she couldn't get out there by herself, as she would have liked, she loved making up stories for herself about the people she saw walking by. The postman was a regular, and Poppy loved it when she saw him walking up the path and rattling the letterbox with the mail. It was always exciting to investigate what the postman had brought. Where was he off to next? How did he spend the rest of his day?

And what about the two girls at the bus-stop? Always the same time each morning, the chatter, the laughter and the constant texting as they spoke. Where were they going? Would they be fun to be with? More stories to ponder, and more pleasure from the world "out there".

The winter was a special time for thinking about what people were doing or even working out who people were. Everyone was wrapped up from head to toe in warm hats, scarfs and coats, and even wellington boots if it was snowing. Sometimes, it was really difficult to tell if it was a young or old person passing by, someone local or someone unknown, as they were just unrecognisable. The best days were when it was snowing hard and blizzarding, and even freezing fog. You couldn't see more than a centimetre in front of your nose so it was possible instead to start looking at shapes of snowflakes on the window and to imagine them making shapes of people and animals.

Every trapped snowflake had a different shape and represented a different story that Poppy could think about. So, winter days were often the most fascinating days, and she didn't mind being confined to the house.

She also loved looking at the tracks in the snow in the garden outside, made by birds or cats or even hedgehogs passing across the front garden. She would wonder where they were heading to and felt very happy indeed that she was inside and not having to plod through the wet snow herself.

Poppy always sat by that window. She didn't walk upstairs to look out from a bedroom window and she certainly didn't sit in the cold kitchen or utility room. The real reason that she sat by the window was to watch for her house-mate Jenny coming home. Jenny would always



have tales to tell of her day at work and Poppy would look forward to the sharing of experiences as they each had very different days indeed! It was fortunate that Jenny worked so they could afford to live together in their house and Poppy was eternally grateful that Jenny looked after her so well.

Poppy didn't do very much around the house, as from a very young age she had been extremely clumsy and was constantly dropping or breaking things. Jenny was so kind and just told her to do what she wanted. They got on well and that was the main thing. You couldn't ask for a better house-mate!

Poppy was always so happy when she saw Jenny parking her car and walking up the garden path. She would hear the key in the lock and head to the door as

quickly as possible. They had shared this house for many years but there was still that thrill of excitement when Jenny came home and she knew they'd be spending a happy evening together. She knew that Jenny didn't mind that she was sitting at the window all day, happily using her imagination and also minding the house at the same time.

Ah, at that first sight of Jenny, Poppy would jump up and down excitedly, miaow loudly, rub around Jenny's legs. She'd often drag her catnip mouse into the hall and show how clever she was at throwing it in the air and catching it, or chasing it madly in circles around the floor.

After all, sitting by the window was all about waiting to welcome your whole world when she came back.

*Jenny McKay*

## Picking up for Lent

IN THIS LENTEN season, we once again prepare to reflect Christ's forty days of fasting in the desert, and embrace our self-denial of choice. This, we have been led to understand, should be done not in the interests of one's own health and well-being or, Heaven forbid, virtue signalling, but in a true spirit of sacrifice. Therefore abstaining from chocolate, alcohol, puddings, treats etc, or resolving to walk ten thousand steps or visit the gym on a daily basis, while laudable as a pattern for daily life, may be viewed as falling short of the required spiritual rigour.

Nevertheless, the imposition of any form of discipline has to be a positive force, and requires some thought before one commits oneself to six long weeks of it. I start with good intentions naturally – don't we all – but the well-paved Road to Hell runs downhill and is usually slippery.

My primary Lenten resolution, which I try to maintain throughout the year, involves picking up litter around my home streets in Cale Green. I believe it makes a contribution to my community and to God's wider world, it channels my inner Bag Lady and yes, it probably is virtue signalling, but with the hope that other people in the area and beyond will perceive it as a Good Idea and join me with their own bags and litter pickers (readily available at the Pound Shop on Bramhall Lane).

I won't go into details, but on the six-minute walk from my home to St George's I normally manage to fill a large Bag for Life with discarded drinks cans, takeaway cartons, aerosols, gas cylinders and worse. At least these will not end up in the waterways and eventually the sea; a small contribution to the health of the world, but imagine if even a few thousand of us throughout the country did this, and a few

thousand others noticed us and reconsidered before dropping their litter on the streets!

On the negative side, my walk to church now takes fifteen minutes, and I am always late for choir practice. Which brings me to my next Lenten resolution...

*Penelope Bisby*





## Music Scheme – March 2023

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> March – The Second Sunday of Lent	
<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>
<b>Setting:</b>	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne
<b>Hymns:</b>	582 Take up thy cross, the Saviour said, 96 Jesu, lover of my soul, 390 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine: 262 O Lord my God, when I in awesome...
<b>Anthem:</b>	'And as Moses lifted up the serpent' – Stainer
<b>Anthem:</b>	God so loved the world – Stainer
<b>No Evening Service</b>	

Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> March – The Third Sunday of Lent	
<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>
<b>Setting:</b>	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening
<b>Hymns:</b>	469 I heard the voice of Jesus say 416 Father, hear the prayer we offer: As the deer pants for the water... 455 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
<b>Anthem:</b>	Hide not thou thy face – Farrant
<b>No Evening Service</b>	

Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> March – The Fourth Sunday of Lent / Mothering Sunday	
<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>
<b>Setting:</b>	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne
<b>Hymns:</b>	Fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers, 362 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! 253 For the beauty of the earth, 548 One more step along the world I go,
<b>Anthem:</b>	Be thou my vision – Chilcott
<b>Anthem:</b>	Look at the world – Rutter
<b>No Evening Service</b>	

Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> March – The Fifth Sunday of Lent / Passion Sunday			
<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>Choral Evensong</b>
<b>Setting:</b>	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening	<b>Hymns:</b>	122 The royal banners forward go, 106 Drop, drop, slow tears, 110 Jesu, grant me this, I pray,
<b>Hymns:</b>	108 Glory be to Jesus, who, in bitter pains, 174 Breathe on me, breath of God, My heart is filled with thankfulness... 499 Lift high the cross, the love of Christ...	<b>Responses:</b>	Byrd <b>Psalm:</b> 86
<b>Anthem:</b>	Adoramus te, Christe – Dubois	<b>Canticles:</b>	The Second Service – Byrd
		<b>Anthem:</b>	Ave verum corpus – Byrd

## Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword solution:

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

## Regular Services at St George's

### Services in church, with congregation:

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

### Services which are live streamed only:

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

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

## Associate Director of Music Roger Briscoe

OUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, James Hibbert, is very pleased that Roger Briscoe has accepted the role of Associate Director of Music at St George's.

The role of Associate Director of Music is very much an honorary position, but it acknowledges the continued work that Roger does to support the musical life of our church community. Roger has a long-standing association with St George's, stretching back over 50 years. During this time he has held the positions of Assistant Organist and Director of Music.



photo: Neil Raval

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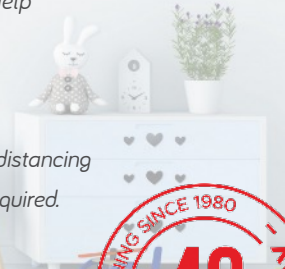
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