

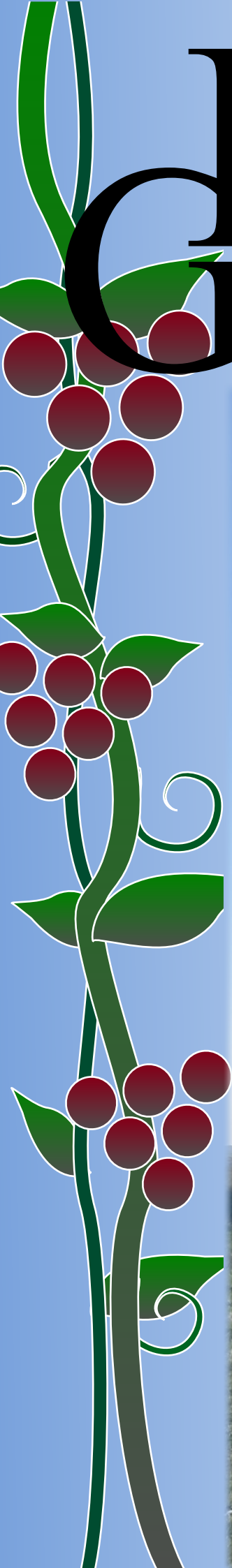
 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

May 2023

£1.20

Parish Grapevine

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



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

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

Front cover photo:

Easter Cross, Seahouses, Northumberland
(photo by Andy Clark)

Services in May:
see pages 6 and 23



Elaine writes:

*Every move you make
Every step you take
I'll be watching you*

Every Breath You Take Lyrics ©
Gm Sumner, Songs Of Universal Inc.

You will read this either as part of the pop group Police's signature song, or as some kind of creepy Big Brother or maybe as part of God

watching over our going out and our coming in (*Psalm 121*).

I quite like the idea of God wanting to watch over us as we journey through life and I feel reassured that God, through his Holy Spirit, guides, comforts and challenges me.

That guidance, comfort and challenge take different forms.

On many walks, when I feel that I have reached the limit of my energy, I hear God who knows me so much better than I know myself (*Psalm 139*) challenging me by saying, "the only person who can walk this journey is you."

When I am weighed down by the cares of the world, I recall the words of *Psalm 23*. "Your rod and your staff they comfort me".

When I need some guidance, I am led to follow God's even though his footsteps may remain unseen (*Psalm 77*).

I was walking in the Peak District en route to Edale. The limestone paving, laid down to prevent further erosion, was spread out before me.

The ground before that had been soggy, so the person who walked ahead of me left their footprints behind on the paving. Firstly, well defined and distinct, eventually fading to partial prints and then to barely visible outlines.

There was something comforting in knowing that this was a path well-trod and by following the footprints, I was stepping onto something familiar and reassuring and, even though I could barely see the prints as the walk progressed, I knew that they were there (*Isaiah 30:21*) guiding me along the pathway.

When Jesus did his amazing work on earth, he too would have left physical footprints for people to see and to follow. Whilst his footprints may or may not have been physically visible on the Emmaus road (*Luke 24:13-35*), at the side of Lake Tiberius and later as he walked with Simon Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved (*John 21:1-20*) or any of his post-resurrection appearances, we know that Jesus remains with us through the Holy Spirit who watches over us and guides, accompanies and enables us to journey with him.

Every blessing Elaine



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Baptism of Myles Pritchard



MYLES THOMAS JACKSON PRITCHARD, who was baptised on Sunday 26th March. Also in the picture are Thomas and Hannah, his parents.

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Lent Breakfasts 2023 Follow-up

DURING LENT this year we had an excellent series of talks, Exploring Mental Health. Out of the discussion at the end of the series came various observations and suggestions for further possible action. Below is a summary of them:

- It's important to recognise that:
 - we are a sanctuary for people
 - giving people hope is really important
 - connecting and listening are central to people's well-being.
- Would it be helpful to run a course on 'The skill of listening'?
- Review our welcoming of people when they enter St George's. Welcomers? Do we have enough people to form a rota?
- As a recognisable point of contact, someone at each service to wear a clearly visible badge saying "Ask Me", plus their name. No small, unreadable, 'official looking' badges!
- Can we make it easier to offer someone a tea or a coffee at any time we are open? A machine?
- Would it be possible and desirable to introduce something like the "Open Door" that we ran in the past?
- Should we run a regular meditation/mindfulness group as a contribution to well-being and mental health?

We are looking at building on what currently happens on a Wednesday morning, aware of the juggles we might have to make and how holding things during the day limits participation. The suggestion is that initially we run a three-session course on 'The Skill of Listening' and evolve that into a regular mindfulness/meditation session. Out of it might also come a daytime version of the Open Door originally run in the evening.

Suggestions are tentative and exploratory. Do let me know of any thoughts or comments.

Chris Dawson chrisjdawson43@gmail.com 0161 429 7880

Recipe of the month: Maid of Honour Tarts

Although this recipe will probably be just too late for a coronation tea party, it would make a lovely addition to any tea table or picnic. A more economical version uses all flour instead of ground almonds, in which case almond essence could be substituted for the vanilla.

¼lb/100g rich shortcrust pastry (see recipe below)

Raspberry or strawberry jam

2oz/50g butter

2oz/50g caster sugar

1 egg

3-4 drops vanilla essence

2oz/50g ground almonds

1 level teasp plain flour (gluten free if needed)

Optional:

4oz/100g icing sugar, sieved

small amount of hot water to mix

Roll out pastry and cut out 12 circles with a 2.5in/6cm cutter. Use to line 12-hole bun tin. Put a small amount of jam in each and set aside while preparing the filling.

Heat oven to 375F/190C/170C fan/gas no 5. Cream butter and sugar until light. Gradually add the slightly beaten egg and vanilla essence then stir in the ground almonds and flour. Divide between the pastry cases and spread level. Bake for 15-20 minutes.

Optional: make up a thin icing and ice. Alternatively, serve as they are.

Rich shortcrust pastry (NB Makes twice the quantity needed for the recipe)

½lb/225g plain flour

4oz/100g butter

2oz/50g icing sugar

2 egg yolks

2 tabsps water

Sift flour. Add butter, cut up, and rub into flour. Add icing sugar and make a well in the centre. Add egg yolks and water in the centre and mix to a rough dough with a fork. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface and knead for a few minutes until smooth. Wrap and place in fridge for about half an hour before using.

Pamela Ferguson

Parish News Roundup

Holy Baptism

30th Apr Alfie Lloyd

Holy Matrimony

None last month

Funerals

20th Apr Alan Watson, service in the Rowan chapel.

22nd Apr Frances Nellie Farrar, memorial service at St Gabriel's.

24th Apr Susan Brooker, service at St George's, followed by burial at Adlington Memorial Park.

26th Apr Marguerite Eileen Nicholson, service in the Rowan chapel.

Communion Flowers were sponsored as follows:

2nd Apr from the Hayden family, with love, for Mark.

9th Apr from Peter Pilbeam, in loving memory of Margaret Pilbeam, from Kathleen Heaward, in loving memory of Bertha Heaward, and from Mike and José Westwood, in loving memory of Edith Holehouse.

16th Apr from the Mothers' Union.

23rd Apr from Hazel Jenkins, in loving memory of Harry and Vera James.

Parish News Roundup

30th Apr from Marjorie Lees, for Geoffrey.
from Janice and family, in loving memory of John Puddifoot.

Mothers' Union

This month we meet on **Monday May 15th** at 2.15pm in the Parish Room.

We are welcoming Melanie Latham for 'Chuckle with Chutney'. She will be showing how she makes chutney and there will be an opportunity to purchase small jars of her produce.

Please feel very welcome to come along and join us.

Afternoon Tea and Service to mark the Coronation of King Charles III

On Sunday 7th May, from 2pm to 4pm, afternoon tea will be served in church. During the afternoon tea the ringers are offering adults, and children from Year 7 upwards, the opportunity to visit the ringing room and chime a bell, with supervision. For a donation you will be given a certificate to mark the occasion. At 4pm the afternoon tea will be followed by a special Songs of Praise service.

St George's Pre-School are seeking a new pre-school chair from summer

Expressions of interest to: The Management team, Registered Charity no. 1075366,

Parish News Roundup

stgeorgespreschoolheaviley@hotmail.com

Full details are available in church or on the Lance mailing list or via the Pre-school management as above.

Upcoming services

Ascension Day **Thursday 18th May** at 7.30pm. Deanery Communion Service with choir at St George's Stockport, followed by tea and biscuits. All are welcome.

Pentecost Breakfast at St Gabriel's. **Saturday 27th May** 9.00am to 10.15am for breakfast of hot drinks, croissants, pastries and juice followed by the service and our guest speaker at 10.15am. Service ends at 11.00am

Wednesday 28th June 7.30pm at St George's: Archdeacon's visitation for church wardens. Sidespeople are requested to attend and anyone else who would like to come. Assistance with light refreshments needed.

Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings:

Please contact the vicar:

Telephone: 0161 456 9382

or email:

vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk

June 2023

Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Fri 19th May**

Committee meeting: **Tue 23rd May**

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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Signature.....

Date



Happy 50th Birthday to the Barcode

MANY OF US will have scanned barcodes at the self-service supermarket checkouts, making shopping easier and quicker, but have you ever thought why, and how, this unparalleled modern masterpiece was invented?

It is one of the most underrated inventions of all time, a linear representation of Morse code. It was dreamed up on a Miami Beach in 1949. Inspired by his training in the Boy Scouts of America, the inventor, Joe Woodland, drew dots and dashes in the sand. He pulled them downwards with his fingers to produce thin lines from the dots and thicker lines from the dashes.

The aim was to find a code that could be printed on groceries and scanned, to allow supermarket checkout queues to move faster. It would be decades before technology would catch up with his idea.

On April 3rd, 1973, a variation of Woodland's original design was agreed upon by industry leaders. A year later, in Ohio, a pack of Wrigley's chewing gum became the first product in the world to be scanned at the till. In keeping with British tradition, a box of Melrose's teabags became the first UK product scanned in a supermarket in Spalding, Lincolnshire.

Millions of times a day, shop scanners send out a laser to detect the black and white parallel lines in the barcode. The standard 13 number system can create a thousand billion different variations, used to retrieve information such as the price and description of the product. Every customer in the UK sees a barcode on average about 20 times a day.

The barcode celebrated its 50th birthday on 3rd April 2023. Ben Clarke, the UK training manager for GSI, the global non-profit barcodes regulator, admits that the barcode is an iconic, beautiful piece of work. The fact that it hasn't changed in 50 years, shows how amazing it is.

Only GSI is authorised to produce the unique numbers powering most barcodes, to ensure that a tin of tuna sold in one supermarket will have the same barcode 'fingerprint' as an identical product sold in another. M&S, however, has its own unique codes, partly because it sold only its own products for 125 years, until 2009.

Beyond the checkout, barcodes play a crucial – and often overlooked – role in medicines and hospital equipment. They even appear on patient's wrist bands to ensure that doctors perform the right operation on the right person.

Now there are barcodes on medical devices, and medical equipment, including beds, so patients can be tracked, especially useful during a pandemic.

But this bastion of modern life is unlikely to survive another 50 years in its current form. Trials are underway to merge barcode technology with its trendier friend, the QR code, which stands for Quick Response.

The two data codes currently fulfil different roles. While a barcode is one-dimensional and ensures that customers are sold the right product for the right amount of money, a QR code takes Smartphone users to a website, or app, for more information. For example, a tin of beans has a barcode for till sales and stock checks, but customers scan a QR code on the label to read about dietary information and ingredients.

However, trials are looking into whether GSI's bank of barcodes could be incorporated into the QR square. The technology to scan QR codes at the checkout already exists in shops because many loyalty cards are now in this format. For Ben Clarke, its integration into a QR code will be a bittersweet moment. He admits that it will be with a pang of regret if it gets replaced, but it would have done its job. Time cannot stand still.

*Article by Louise Eccles from the Sunday Times 2/4/2023
Reproduced with her permission*



Photo: Andy Clark

Celebration of the Life of Frances Farrar at St Gabriel's

ON SATURDAY, 22nd April, at St Gabriel's church in Adswold, the Adswold and Stockport communities and many visitors from far and wide came to celebrate and remember the life of Frances Farrar. The church was bathed in sunshine, decorated with Frances's hats – 100 of them zigzagging across the church, pegged out like bunting! – and was ringing with the sound of laughter and chatter, as we all exchanged our reminiscences of Frances.

Frances' son, Ian, spoke, as he had been the contact point since Frances moved to Coventry.



He began by welcoming everyone, with special thanks to Elaine, the vicar, and the working party who got St Gabriel's spic and span, requiring emergency plumbers to repair a burst so that there were fully functioning facilities and water for the tea urn! The gathering HAD to be at St Gabriel's as it was almost Frances' spiritual home and used to be the very heart of the Adswold community.

Raised on Arnfield Road, then moving to Adswold Road, where her three boys were born, she was never more than a few minutes walk away from the church for 85 years.

Choir member, Rose Queen, Youth Club leader, she recounted dances, parties and weddings she enjoyed



there. Then later came her volunteer work at the church; the jumble sales, meals on wheels, and her long service as florist, flower arranger, fundraiser, hell raiser, community leader, petty cleaner, key holder, litter picker, head of PR, pantomime star, banker, booking agent, irritant, interfaith and community engagement lead. The loudest singer, the joy bringer, grant getter, always making things better, Mature Mover, Twinkle-Toed Evergreen, and, of course, Church Warden, who would never be seen without a smile and a hat and a second-hand mac...

She was proud of her three sons' achievements, but they all built their lives away, while her life remained happily anchored with her friends and neighbours in



Adswood, and at St Gabriel's. That was until her birthday on a Sunday in July 2019, when a surprise visit by concerned neighbours found that Frances needed help. Ian came and found that she wasn't coping, evidenced by the fact that she simply agreed to just walk out of her house and come and stay with him in Coventry. Quite a shock to many who were waiting in church with a birthday cake!

Dementia had crept in, not that anyone would know – she'd fooled everyone. Ian said huge thanks were due to his wife, Mol, for her patience, understanding and help when he returned home with an 'unexpected mother in the bagging area'. She lived with them for a year, before the official dementia diagnosis was confirmed. She then delayed moving into a hand-picked, 5-star care home, by breaking her arm on the day. After a week in hospital she did transfer, but fell and broke her hip.



The doctors were reluctant to operate because of Frances' age, but Ian protested and the operation went ahead. The next day a doctor told Ian that life expectancy at her age was about six months, and the chances of her walking again were minimal. But the NHS weren't aware of a special team at Charnwood House, a Methodist care home that she was discharged to. Ian remarked that it was a good job that his mother wasn't fully compos mentis as, if she thought the Davenport jumble sales were



expensive, the care home fees would really have upset her frugal and thrifty sensibility...!

Despite the doctor's dire prognosis, Frances was up and walking with a frame within a fortnight, all thanks to the people at Charnwood (and a lifetime of carrying heavy shopping bags back from Edgeley to save on bus fares).

Whilst with them Frances continued to entertain and spout profanities. She chatted up the young chef, so ate chips most days for lunch when everyone else had mash. She also caught and shrugged off Covid three times. Northern Mothers are HARD.



She celebrated her 90th birthday last year and also had a happy Christmas, doing fine, in good spirits, content and well cared for. The Sunday evening in January when Ian received a call to say she was a little dehydrated, it didn't sound too serious. He visited on the Monday morning with a selection of her favourite foods and drinks which usually perked her up if she was having a bad day.



But Frances was lying unresponsive in her bed and only managed two choice words when a nurse came to take her blood pressure – her last words. She slipped away uncharacteristically peacefully a day later, no drama, no theatricals.



As for most families, there was a protocol of calling and letting the phone ring three times to indicate safe arrival. As they left the care home that night, not an hour since she had passed, Ian's car alarm went off – honked three times, then stopped. It had never done this before in the decade that he had owned it, and it hasn't done it since. The message that Frances had already arrived safely in the better place was very reassuring for the family.

What lessons had Ian learned from his Mum's life? Look after your family, friends and neighbours; be kind; helpful and thoughtful; volunteer; get involved; say yes to anything that improves your community; keep in touch with people and remember birthdays.

Ian then asked that we jot down a thought in the book of memories; choose a hat from the collection; take a photo from the many that were on the walls of the church; and take home a pot of pansies, which decorated each table, as Frances said their ever-smiling faces reminded her of her beloved parents, Bill and Bert. In future Ian hoped their smiles would remind us of Frances.

Edited version of the eulogy given by Ian Farrar

Stockport's Soap-box Derby – 28th May

OVER 10,000 PEOPLE are expected to come down to Stockport on the 28th May to support the 'krazy, wacky and outrageous' soap-box downhill racers at the town's first Krazy Races. There will also be a flyover of one of the two remaining Lancaster bombers – a rare opportunity to witness the most successful RAF heavy bomber of World War Two.

The Krazy Racers will launch themselves from St Peter's Square, steer down the steep hill into Mersey Square, before a right hand bend onto Chestergate and past the Air Raid Shelters. The course is over 350 metres and includes chicanes, obstacles, water and more.

A number of local businesses will be taking part, including Stockport Gin, with their soap-box, designed to look like a giant bottle of gin. The opening procession will take place at 10.45am, before the first run at 11am. There will be three runs before a final run of the 10 fastest at 5pm. The soap-box derby is free to attend.

Information obtained from the Stockport Express, 19th April 2023





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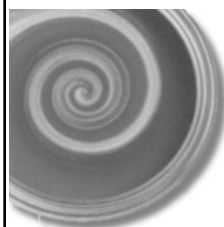
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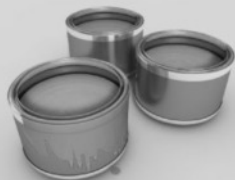
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Margaret Sharrard has moved

MARGARET HAS MOVED to just outside Bristol to be nearer to her daughter. She would love to hear from friends as she settles in. Her contact details are:

Glebe House,
5 Sundays Hill,
Almondsbury,
Bristol
BS32 4DS.

Tel: 01454 615116 followed by 305 when prompted for the room number.



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Trip of a Lifetime – Part 1

WITH A COMBINED age of 144 years, there was a definite feeling of excitement mixed with a helping of trepidation when my friend, Sue, and I met in Departures at T3 Manchester Airport on 28th January 2023 to begin our 'Big Adventure' – just the two of us with no youngsters to rely on.

The trip had been a good few months in the planning, involving many hours poring over laptops, maps and booking sites. We had a lot of excellent advice from friends who had done the trip before us and our credit cards got quite warm with all the handling they had!

I had been awoken early on that Saturday morning by an alert from the New Zealand government declaring a State of Emergency in Auckland, following the worst flooding in the city's history, when an entire summer's worth of rain fell in just one day. We later heard the event described as a 1 in 200 year happening, with rains of 'biblical proportions'. However, there was little we could do other than hope our one night stopover in Doha would give the floods time to subside.

Doha was an interesting and pleasant experience, with very welcome warm, sunny weather. We found the people incredibly friendly (apart from a dodgy taxi driver) and really eager to help. We arrived at the hotel to find it had been taken over by another group, changed its name and there didn't seem to be a booking for us. However, after an anxious few moments we were given a very nice room on the 21st floor. This was the first of several 'moments' at check-in desks! We enjoyed the swim in, and view from, the swimming pool on the 26th floor!

Whilst in Doha we managed not to find the walk along The Corniche, nor the Pearl Marina, both recommended to us by Sue's son, who had worked in Doha, but we did experience an evening at Souq Wafiq and a visit to an amazing spiral shopping mall where we browsed in Debenhams! All the incredibly high buildings were beautifully floodlit and the street lighting was in the form of illuminated trees. We commented on the lighting to the taxi driver and were told that no one pays for electricity in Doha!

From Doha we then travelled on to Auckland and, though it was raining on our arrival, at least the airport had reopened and much of the flood water had subsided.

During our one day in Auckland, we went up the Sky Tower (60 floors), saw some incredible boats in the Marina and enjoyed a lovely sunny afternoon in the Botanical Gardens. All the Botanical Gardens and



Museums in New Zealand and Australia are free. It was strange seeing dahlias and begonias in February!

Our ingenuity was tested getting back into Auckland centre (a 45-minute taxi ride) as we couldn't contact the taxi driver who had taken us to the Gardens. So, we caught a bus (no charge) which gave us a tour of a housing estate, before dropping us at the railway station where we were helped to sort out train tickets back to Auckland. This involved a very slow journey and a change of trains, as part of the track had been washed away following the floods. On arriving in Auckland we found our way back to the hotel by aiming for the Sky Tower and relying on young people who readily pulled up Google Maps on their phones to point us in the right direction. We discovered we had walked over 6 miles that day!

We then hired a car for the rest of our time in New Zealand. The indicators and windscreen wipers were on the opposite sides to what we know, and took a bit of getting used to.

We met up with my niece who has recently moved to Tauranga and Sue's cousin who lives near Wellington, seeing waterfalls in full flow and lots of potholes in the road. At Rotorua we were lucky to see the largest geyser in the southern hemisphere erupt several times. We also visited a Maori village where we had a delicious meal cooked in a hole in the ground, a bush walk and a show featuring traditional Maori dancing and story-telling.

In Wellington, we visited yet another botanical garden which began at the top of a cable car trip and wound its way down to the government building (known as The Beehive because of its unusual shape). We only had time for a brief visit to Te Papa – the National Museum of New Zealand – where we saw a stunning Gallipoli exhibition. The figures were 2-4 times human size and so incredibly lifelike I was sure I saw the nurse give a small smile.

The ferry across Marlborough Sound to South Island set the scene for the following couple of weeks. We ran out of words to describe the beautiful scenery which we experienced. Every bend in the road brought gasps as we saw lakes of the most amazing colours, surrounded by mountains, gorges, glaciers and waterfalls.

We were a little disappointed with the colour of the sand which got darker as we went further south and we didn't get the chance to swim much in the ocean as the waves were often too dangerous. We did, however,



find lots of lakesides for a leisurely dip.

Buller Gorge with the longest rope swing bridge in New Zealand was something of a challenge for me as I'm none too keen on heights, but having got part way across, there was little I could do but keep going!

When we arrived at our accommodation in Frank Josef we were told that a tree had fallen through the roof of our room, but not to worry, they had booked us into a nearby 5* hotel!! This turned out to be a very nice interlude. We were met with warm towels and chilled kiwi fruit juice whilst we checked in and discovered our room, which went directly from the decking to the rainforest and had underfloor heating in the bathroom. We refused the turn-down service each evening but did accept the chocolates and bottles of water! (We weren't too keen on the possum fur cushion covers though)! We wondered about the dress code for breakfast and whilst I went for crop trousers and blouse, Sue felt distinctly overdressed in a summer frock! Shorts and T-shirts were back on for the following morning.

In Franz Josef we passed over the many helicopter trips to the glacier and took a lovely walk up to a spectacular viewing point, which in 1908 was where the now distant glacier ended.



Queenstown was our next stop, where we were once again upgraded to a suite of rooms. We did embarrass ourselves slightly by trying to get into the wrong room and having a waiter 'break in' for us, before realising we were in the wrong block of rooms. The room we eventually found our way into was much bigger than my house. The lounge had a stone fireplace, settees and easy chairs, a dining table to seat six, full kitchen and two big bedrooms. We even had a washing machine in a cupboard. We certainly enjoyed a few days of luxury.



We took a very long day trip to Milford Sound by coach which involved 10 hours driving with 2 hours in between to sail down the

Fiord. The scenery was spectacular and a trip not to be missed. A few people from our party had got the right idea and flew back to Queenstown. We were told that the Fiord cruise would have been even better had there been a lot of rainfall as the waterfalls would be more plentiful and even more spectacular.

Following Queenstown we had a very relaxing couple of nights at Lake Tekapo in a log cabin, where we not only had our own bedroom but our own bathroom! Just along the road there is the Church of the Good Shepherd perched on a hill overlooking the turquoise waters of Lake Tekapo. The window over the altar frames the beautiful view.



Unfortunately, due to some tourists being rather less than respectful of the church, it is now open only during services. I was sorry we weren't able to attend a service there.

Our unforgettable visit to New Zealand ended with a drive to Christchurch during which we got a glimpse of Mount Cook. We had to say goodbye to our little car, of which we had become very fond.

We found the Transitional Cathedral, also known as the Cardboard Cathedral, which has been erected whilst the original cathedral is repaired following earthquake damage several years ago. It was such a spiritual visit, so peaceful, and a lovely way to end the first part of our holiday.



We knew Australia would be very different and Sue and I both knew we mustn't try to compare the two countries. In the most unlikely event that I ever repeat the trip it would most definitely be to see New Zealand again.

Kate Stephenson

Storytime April 2023

Dionne's Easter Camping Trip by Elaine Chegwin Hall

LOTS OF PEOPLE, when it comes to holidays, looked forward to travelling miles by car, plane or boat to get to wonderful destinations where there were swimming pools with slides and wave machines, or theme parks where you could spend all day on the rides, or to places where there were special activity programmes for children.

All fast action. All high intensity and all very crowded.

Whilst lots of people might have looked forward to those kinds of holidays or even dreamed about them if they couldn't afford it, Dionne was not lots of people.

Dionne preferred solitude, or at least fewer people around her. She loved the great outdoors: trees, flowers, birds and other wildlife, and where most people liked to have a warm bed in a warm room with a ceiling, windows and preferably a warm drink on their holidays, Dionne was very happy in a tent.

She got used to what other people might call "roughing it". She never got bothered about grass floating in her cereals, rain pouring down or wind buffeting the framework. She wasn't too fussed about sharing her lumpy bed roll and sleeping bag with bugs or other wildlife and the luxury of an ensuite bathroom was lost on Dionne as she was just as happy with the campsite loos at best or did what she could with a trowel behind a bush at worst.

Ok, food was limited unless you had one of those really flash tents or went glamping, which was far too posh for her to be interested in.

Instead, she carefully cooked on a small burner which she shared with her parents, and it was easy enough to warm up tinned soup, casserole or rice pudding, the

limitation being that there was usually only one pan to use which made for some interesting flavours.

Some people were tempted to use the kind of barbecues that you used to be able to buy from petrol stations and supermarkets at one stage but there were so many people who didn't take care or care at all.

They lit the barbecue, flipped a few burgers, squeezed over the tomato sauce and then left the BBQ without any thought of whether it had been extinguished or not.

Shiny aluminium casings from the BBQ to reflect the sun, along with people's carelessness or thrown away matches was a recipe for disaster and there were many moorlands, woods and parched areas of grass just waiting to be ignited and destroyed.

The forest rangers put up posters, left out leaflets at the local shops and campaigned for people to be more careful.

Dionne hated to read about the destruction, the devastation and the damage in the newspapers, TV and online and vowed to be extra careful whenever she and her parents went camping.

She worried about killing off the grasses, plants, trees and wildlife from just one person's thoughtless mistake, the death of the environment that she loved so much.

During that time, she came across an article which turned things on their head and whilst it was important for her to cook safely, it seemed as if there was a different side to this problem.

She read that there had been incidences of fires in forests in America and it looked as if it was the end of

everything, and then, one of the firefighters saw some ants – life amongst the debris and devastation.

She read that in the awful aftermath of a major wildfire, when nothing remains to hold the land in place once the rain comes, it results in flash flooding and mudslides.

But the amazing thing is that the rain also breathed life back into the remaining landscape, allowing new vegetation to grow in the burned areas. Seeds stored in the



Photo by [Lê Tân](#) on [Unsplash](#)

forest floor began to germinate. Some trees began to sprout branches from buds of dead trees and some species even relied upon wildfire for spreading their seeds, which are only cracked open by the high temperatures associated with wildfire.

Some fires add nutrients to the soil and help plant life to grow.

Once the tender new shoots begin to appear in the spring, they quickly attract larger wildlife, particularly deer.

Dionne was intrigued. Whilst she intended to be safe when cooking and camping, she realised that even through the death of a forest, there came new life growing in its place. What a message for an Easter camping trip!

Prayer for May

WE TAKE IT in turns to choose the prayers and readings for the meetings. Enid used the following which we all found very moving and felt that we would like to share it with the wider church family.

Come along and join in with us – you don't know what you might learn.

St George's Mothers' Union

The Church Garden

Like any garden, the Church needs to be planted out with seed if it is to produce a harvest. The following suggestions can help us to make our church what it ought to be:

First, plant five rows of 'Peas' –

Presence

Promptness

Preparation

Purity

Perseverance

Next plant three rows of Squash –

Squash Gossip

Squash Criticism

Squash Indifference

Then plant five rows of Lettuce –

Let us be Faithful to duty

Let us be Loyal and Unselfish

Let us be True to our obligations

Let us Obey rules and regulations

Let us Love one another.

No garden is complete without Turnips –

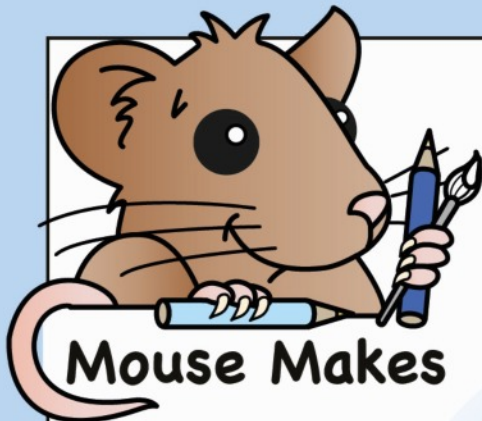
Turn up with a smile

Turn up with new ideas

Turn up with determination to make everything count for something good and worthwhile.

(Family Circle Shaftesbury & Gillingham Methodist Circuit and North East England Girl Guides Association)





Mouse Makes

Find the answers in the word search

What hid Jesus from the Apostles?

a _____
Acts 1:9

Where was Jesus taken up to? _____
Luke 24:51

Where did the Apostles return to?

Acts 1:12

Forty days after His resurrection Jesus appeared to the Apostles one last time. He told them that the Holy Spirit would come, then He blessed them and **ascended** into heaven.



READ
Acts 1 4-17

What did Jesus say that the Holy Spirit would give the Apostles?

to be Jesus' witnesses.
Acts 1:8

Who appeared to the Apostles?
Two _____ and what were they dressed in? _____
Acts 1:10

Where is Jesus seated?
At the _____
_____ of God.
Mark 16:19

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

JESUS • CHRIST • FORTY DAYS • APOSTLES • ASCENSION • TAKEN • LOOKING
SKY • RETURN • BLESSED • WORSHIPPED • JOY • PRAYER • GOD • SAT
GATHERED • WITNESSES • HOLY SPIRIT

Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

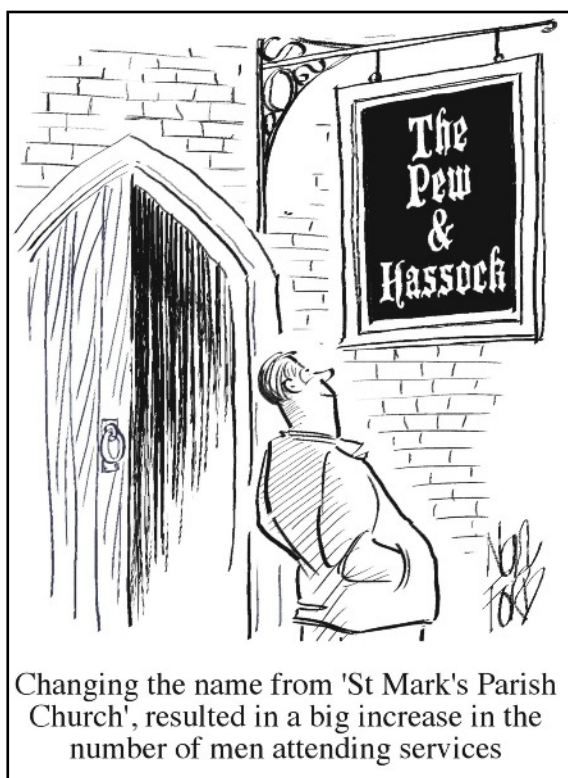
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Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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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			

Across

- 1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)
- 3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
- 9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
- 10 Group of eight (5)
- 11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)
- 12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
- 14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)
- 17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)
- 19 Attend to (3,2)
- 22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
- 23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)
- 24 Rule of sovereign (8)
- 25 Test (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
- 2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
- 4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
- 5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
- 6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
- 7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
- 8 Minister of religion (6)
- 13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
- 15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
- 16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
- 18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
- 20 Establish by law (5)
- 21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

Messy Church in Holy Week

AS AN EXPERIMENT we thought that this year we would hold a Messy Church for adults in Holy Week, I mean why should the children have all the fun? So a series of activities was planned and the common theme was obvious – Easter. There was a selection of things to do mainly involving various crafts and cooking. Food is always an integral part of these occasions! Unlike the children's Messy Church, where there is usually a coming together for a thought, a story and certainly singing, we didn't do that for the adults. We all know the story of Good Friday and Easter Sunday so didn't need reminding, as the services on the other evenings in Holy Week fulfilled that role, but we very much enjoyed the fellowship and conversation that all the activities engendered. The activities included baking flatbread, making simnel cakes and checking that we had the correct number of 'apostles' on the top, creating Coventry crosses from nails and wooden crosses, card-making, decorating tealight holders and much more. The one activity which was present at both the adult and children's Messy Churches was chocolate crispy cakes and, guess what, adults enjoy them just as much as the children!!

The Children's Messy Church was on the morning of Easter Saturday and it was lovely to welcome lots of children who were all busy with a variety of activities celebrating the joy of Easter and, of course, the now mandatory singing of I'm a Spring Chicken. If you've never seen normally, vaguely responsible adults leaping around and flapping their wings maybe you need to join us next year?!

Hazel Jenkins



Angela, look what I made



Simnel cakes



Angela creating...



Baking flatbread



Card making



French knitting



Chocolate crispy cakes



Coventry crosses with nails



Decorating pebbles



Wooden crosses

(All photos except the first two are by Hazel Jenkins)



Music Scheme – May 2023

Sunday 7 th May – The Fifth Sunday of Easter			
10:15am	Festival Parish Communion	4:00pm	Coronation Thanksgiving Service
Setting:	Festive Eucharist Service – Rawsthorne	See Order of Service for details	
Hymns:	369 All people that on earth do dwell 355 I vow to thee, my country 555 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,		
Anthem:	Zadok the Priest – Handel		
Anthem:	The mountains shall bring peace – Forbes L'Estrange		

Sunday 14 th May – The Sixth Sunday of Easter	
10:15am	Parish Communion
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening
Hymns:	516 Love divine, all loves excelling, 505 Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us, 487 Jesus, good above all other, 267 Thou, whose almighty word
Anthem:	If ye love me – Tallis
No Evening Service	

Thursday 18 th May – Ascension Day		
	7:30pm	Stockport Deanery Ascension Day Service
	Setting:	The Canterbury Service – Barker
	Hymns:	167 Hail the Day that sees him rise 574 Songs of praise the angels sang, 172 The head that once was crowned... 311 Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour
	Anthem:	The Earth is the Lord's – Stanford

Sunday 21 st May – The Sunday after Ascension	
10:15am	Parish Communion
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne
Hymns:	167 Hail the Day that sees him rise 497 Let all the world in every corner sing, 558 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,... 546 O worship the King, all glorious above;
Anthem:	King of all ages – Isom
No Evening Service	

Sunday 28 th May – Pentecost			
10:15am	Parish Communion	4:00pm	Choral Evensong (Upper Voices)
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening	Hymns:	178 Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire 383 Be still, for the presence of the Lord, Gift of Christ from God our Father,
Hymns:	175 Come down, O love divine, 418 Father, Lord of all creation, 191 O thou who camest from above 513 Lord, the light of your love is shining,	Responses:	Wilby
		Psalm:	67 [Bairstow]
		Canticles:	Evening Service in C minor – Dyson
Anthem:	If ye love me – Wilby	Anthem:	Litany to the Holy Spirit – Hurford

Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword solution:

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

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

Recycling for good causes

IN THE MARCH issue of Grapevine, Andy Clark mentioned that to become an Eco Church we must embed principles in what we do in our church and worship. Firstly, we will need to make an application to be officially recognised as part of the Eco Church community, and he was asking for volunteers to help – attend meetings, contribute ideas and help promote our work. I have discovered a Recycling project which will help the church financially and contribute to our aim to gain, at least, a Bronze award or Silver and, ultimately, Gold, in what we do as an Eco Church.

The Recycling company states that their projects are a great way for church groups to raise funds. They will send all that is needed to start the project, free of charge: Leaflets explaining what items are recyclable; a box to collect the items and, when the weight is 10kg minimum, and not more than 30kg, a sack to transfer the items into for collection, FREE OF CHARGE. The church will then receive a cheque within



eight weeks of them receiving the sack, for 75% of the proceeds. The company use a network of commercial partners for various items that are sent for recycling, and always try to get the best price for items received, market dependant.

Items suitable for donation:

- Jewellery & Watches** (in any material even if damaged or broken)
- Currency** - any coins or banknotes, UK or foreign (even if out of circulation)
- Mobile phones**
- Cameras** (old film, digital and video)
- Stamps** (Loose, single, albums, first day covers, presentation packs, collections)
- Gadgets** (Sat-Navs, iPods, MP3 players, games consoles, games and accessories)

Visit recyclingforgoodcauses.org to find out more

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