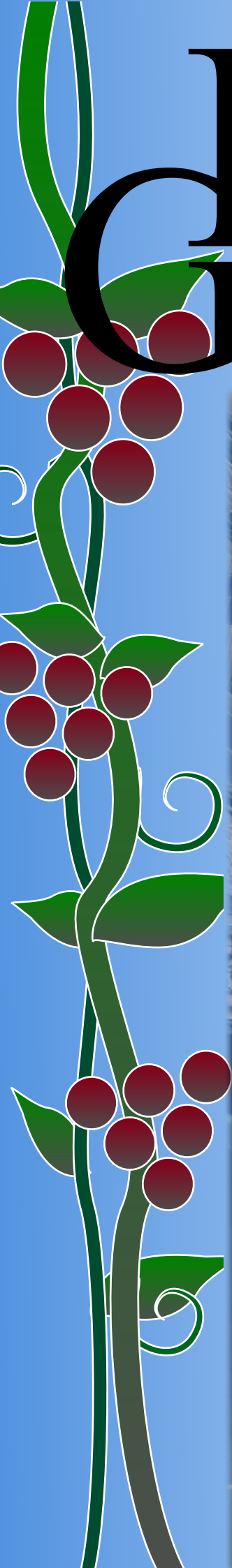


A monthly round-up of  
news, views, events  
and services at  
St George's, Heaviley,  
SK2 6NU,  
and St Gabriel's, Adwood  
*in the*  
*Parish of St George, Stockport.*  
[www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk](http://www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk)



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

<b>Vicar</b>	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall <a href="mailto:vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk">vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</a> 456 9382	<b>Sunday Clubs</b>	Ask for Louise, Eliza or Andy at the 10:15 Sunday service. Eliza 07967 798453 Louise 483 3703	<b>Bible Reading Fellowship Notes</b>	Janet Neilson 483 9025 Notes are ordered on request.
<b>Associate minister</b>	Rev. Dr Jenny McKay 01606 891564 <a href="mailto:jenny@stgeorgestockport.org.uk">jenny@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</a>	<b>Junior Choir</b>	James Hibbert 07365 519207 Practise: 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>	contact the clergy Study groups and courses are arranged from time to time.
<b>Curate in training</b>	Rev. Jane Crook <a href="mailto:revjanecrook@gmail.com">revjanecrook@gmail.com</a> 07533 107548	<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 <a href="mailto:actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com">actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</a> Practise: Thursday 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>Festival services</b>	<b>Church Flowers</b>	Jean Hayden (donations) 483 2367
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Andrew Regan 440 0408 Hazel Jenkins 483 4679	<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Lois Kelly 439 9458	<b>Church Gardeners</b>	Walter Stead 430 2449 Meet on Tuesdays 9.30-12.30.
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	Andrew Regan 440 0408 <a href="mailto:treasurer@stgeorgestockport.org.uk">treasurer@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</a>	<b>Parish Office</b>	Cathryn Otley 480 2453	<b>Coffee Mornings</b>	Olwen Smith 483 6548 after the 10am service on Wednesdays, in church.
<b>Magazine Editor</b>	vacant	<b>Safeguarding co-ordinator</b>	James Hibbert 07365 519207 <a href="mailto:stgeorgestockportsafeguarding@outlook.com">stgeorgestockportsafeguarding@outlook.com</a>	<b>Cursillo</b>	Usually meet on last Wednesday of the month. 7.30pm at different venues.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk">www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk</a>	<b>Webmaster</b>	Peter Hall 456 9382	<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>St George's Primary School</b>		<b>Headteacher</b>	Deborah Grindrod 480 8657	<b>Linen Guild</b>	Pat Rigley 487 1999 Maintain the church's linen.
<b>St George's</b>		<b>Deputy Wardens</b>	John Hardy 01663 764 462 Sue Burt 483 9589	<b>Magazine Editorial Group</b>	Meet monthly to plan future issues. <a href="mailto:magazine@stgeorgestockport.org.uk">magazine@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</a>
<b>Director of Music</b>	James Hibbert 07365 519207 <a href="mailto:actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com">actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</a>	<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Roger Briscoe <a href="mailto:brogerdom16@gmail.com">brogerdom16@gmail.com</a>	<b>Mothers' Union</b>	Pat Durnall 483 4837 Meet on 2nd Monday of the month in church at 2.15pm.
<b>Vergers</b>	Lee Howarth Mary Howarth	<b>Bookings for Parish Rooms</b>	Parish Office 480 2453	<b>4th Stockport Scout Group</b>	Sarah Johnson 07930 243 159 Meet at: Bridgell Community Centre Siddington Avenue SK3 8NR
<b>St Gabriel's</b>		<b>Contact:</b>	Parish Office 480 2453	<b>Squirrels</b>	For boys and girls aged 4–6 Saturdays 9–10
<b>Bookings</b>	Parish Office 480 2453	<b>Children's Activities</b>		<b>Beavers</b>	For boys and girls aged 6 and 7 Wednesdays 5.30–6.30
<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>Cubs</b>	For boys and girls aged 8–10½ Wednesdays 6.30–8.00
<b>Other Groups and Activities</b>		<b>St George's</b>		<b>Scouts</b>	For boys and girls aged 10½–14 Wednesdays 6.30–8.00
<b>Bell ringers</b>	Anne Mayes 485 6477 Practise Mondays 7.45-9pm. Ring on Sundays 9.45-10.15am. Meet in the tower.				

### Front cover photo:

St George's in the January Sunshine  
Photo by Andy Clark

**Services and Events in  
February:**  
see page 23



## Jenny writes: Transforming the Ordinary

February is a bit of an in-between month. Long past are the Christmas celebrations and we now sit in that period of Lent knowing that Easter is approaching. The days are still dark even though we know the light is coming back. This year, Dave and I decided to visit Northern Ireland at the end of January as a post-Christmas treat and we stayed at a lighthouse. Blackhead Lighthouse, on the very Northern end of Belfast Lough is a listed lighthouse and was built in 1902. Now owned by the Irish Landmark Trust, the lightkeepers' houses around its base are available for rent. During this week in January, the Antrim coast was looking absolutely glorious, and the sun's rays were beating off the cliffs even though it was close to freezing. I had never explored this part of the coast before, and it was absolutely amazing. The ordinariness of that coastline was not so ordinary after all.

Although brought up in Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland, I left at 18 years old to go to university in Dublin, then moved to England, and there are so many places in Northern Ireland that I still haven't visited. We often don't spend time exploring what lies underneath the ordinariness of where we are brought up, and if there was one "small" benefit to COVID, without travel we had to stay close to home and find new places nearby.

During a walk along that beautiful clifftop, I began to think about how Jesus often takes the ordinary to bring about extraordinary transformation, the wedding miracle at Cana for example. He could have clicked

his fingers and wine would have materialised but instead, he worked with people, instructing the staff to fill the jars with water. The steward drew out fine wine and there were gallons of the stuff. This transforming power is reinforced again and again in his ministry – just think of the feeding of the five thousand!

Northern Ireland itself has, of course, transformed itself over the years, from the Troubles of the 70s and the 80s to a relative peace now, and people of all faiths work more closely together. There are still the flags on the entry to some small towns and villages which let you know which "side" the people living in an area belong to, but otherwise those awful days are over and there are city tours of the Falls and Shankill areas with visitors welcomed with open arms.

The transformative power of God is all around if we open our eyes. It's in the strange coincidences – the phone call at the right time; the unexpected encounter; encouragement coming from different sources at the same time; God is always working in the ordinary if we open our eyes to see. Another transforming moment for me was when my father was taken ill in Northern Ireland one Christmas and we couldn't get a flight over to Ireland, but, lo and behold, in the ward he happened to be in, were visitors from his church visiting their own relative, and they quickly took him under their wing and got him enough supplies for his hospital stay. An ordinary visit to their relative had turned into a transforming one for my father.



During this month of February, my prayer for all of us is that we use our time in Lenten reflection and see that Jesus is indeed the God in flesh, God with fingerprints, God in the midst of us: shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart. You are encouraged to attend our church Lenten breakfasts as an opportunity to hear about people in the world of work; ordinary people, chaplains and others, who bring God's love into their work environments. Reflect on your God who transforms the ordinary. Every. Single. Day.

Blessings, Jenny

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## Gold Award from St George's Rainbows



HERE IS ALICE with her Gold Award from St George's Rainbows. We are very proud of her.

Trisha, Sue and Hannah

## Baptism of Levi



Photo: Hazel Jenkins

THESE ARE the post-baptism photos of Levi Magee with some of the baptism team and Levi's mum, Eva, after his full immersion baptism on 26th November 2023.

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# Baptism and Confirmation



photo: Andrew Regan

ON SUNDAY 14TH JANUARY Bishop Sam visited St George's to officiate at the Baptism and Confirmation service. This is the start of a new chapter in the Christian journey of the participants and a cause for jubilant celebration. Some comments from some of our candidates at the baptism and confirmation service are reproduced here to demonstrate the deep connection forged with Christ through their commitments.

*With baptism, I found a sense of joy and lightness, assurance of my heart, and satisfaction. I felt that my relationship with the Holy Spirit had become stronger and more formal. This does not mean that I did not have a relationship before and I was not a Christian. Baptism is known as marriage with Jesus Christ, just like marriage. Declaring and making public is a relationship. In baptism, we declare to unclean spirits, evil spirits, other religions, and fallen angels. From now on, Jesus Christ is my Lord. Jesus is my saviour and he is by my side. Like marriage, we announce to everyone that no one should come to me. I am officially married. In marriage, we see each other and talk every day, and the relationship becomes deeper. I pray and listen to God's voice and sometimes I remain silent to hear God's words to give me knowledge and wisdom and my relationship becomes stronger day by day. "Amen"*

*Here are a few words on how I felt during and after the confirmation service: I felt overwhelmingly happy and loved during (and after) my confirmation. I felt part of the Christian community and felt also a sense of relief that I had a new start and could leave lots of negativity behind me. I'd also like to say thanks to you, Bishop Sam and everyone else who helped and attended a night so special to me.*

*Before everything I would like to say thank you for everything. I feel peace and calm in my heart that I never experienced before.*

*When I attended my baptism I can't explain because it is so amazing and magical. I think people can't understand until they experience it. When I was baptised I was born again. After my baptism I was so excited to begin my new journey in my faith. I was forming a closer relationship with Jesus.*

*It's very hard to explain the feeling. I feel the brightness and joy inside, the moment that I came out from the water I felt reborn. Everything seems so beautiful, the calmness and peace that I feel is something I have never felt before. Thanks for everything.*

## Parish News Roundup

### Holy Baptism

21st Jan Teddy Jobe Paul Michael Bailey

### Baptism and Confirmation, 14th Jan:

Naghmeh Aslanpoor (Amy)  
Yalda Darvish  
Mehrsa Jamali  
Anooshiravan  
MohammadEsmaeilJavaheri (Anoosh)

### Confirmation, 14th Jan:

Navid Aryamehr  
Razieh Nanzanin Derekeh (Nazanin)  
Frances Walmsley  
Narges Yazdani

### Holy Matrimony

None last month

### Funerals

8th Dec Alan Robinson. Service in church. Committal at the Rowan Chapel

17th Jan Joan McCorkell. Service at the Cypress Chapel

### Communion Flowers were sponsored as follows

3rd Dec Christmas Tree Festival.  
17th Dec from Pat Durnall, in loving memory of Asa and Ida Brooks and Mary, Derek and Ann and all the Brooks family.  
24th Dec from Phoebe Macleod, in memory of our best loved Husband, Dad and Grandad, Rod Macleod, who made

## Parish News Roundup

7th Jan life special. We love and miss him.  
from Mike and family, in Memory of Barbara Westwood.

14th Jan from Pat Durnall, in loving memory of John Durnall and all the Durnall family

### Floodlighting was sponsored by:

4th Dec: in memory of Louise Simone McMahon

22nd Jan: Morag Ranson, for Malcolm and Morag's wedding anniversary.

### Mothers' Union

The next meeting will be on **Monday 12th February at 2.15pm** in the Parish room. We will be serving Afternoon Tea and everybody is welcome but please contact Pat Rigley (487 1999) to place your order. Come along for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

### Magazine Subscriptions

A reminder to people who pay for the Grapevine magazine annually, subscriptions are now due.

The cost is still £12 for 10 issues. Payment may be made by cheque, cash or direct bank transfer.

Cash and cheques can be put in the Grapevine box in front of the church wardens' seat.

Cheque details are: St George's Stockport PCC

## Parish News Roundup

Alternatively you may pay by direct bank transfer to: St Georges Stockport PCC, Sort Code: 80-02-14, Account no: 00802467, quoting reference 'Grapevine'.

For those of you who receive the magazine digitally, I ask for a small donation of, say, £12, in appreciation of the work Andrew Regan puts into compilation and distribution.

Exceptions are retired clergy and advertisers.

Andrew Regan, Treasurer, 153 Acre Lane, Cheadle Hulme SK8 7PB.

Thank you, Rosie

### Used Postage Stamps

Now we are no longer collecting stamps as part of the Recycling for Good Causes scheme, I shall resume the support of the RNLI. To this end there is now a box at the back of church for your donations. May I please remind you, when trimming, to leave a 5mm border?

Kate Stephenson

### Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings:

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

### March 2024

#### Grapevine magazine dates:

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

## St George's floodlighting – sponsorship request form

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

Name ..... Phone no .....

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

Reason for request (if appropriate) .....

If you are a taxpayer and would like the church to reclaim the tax on your donation please also complete the following Gift Aid declaration:

*I want to Gift Aid my donation of £..... to St George's Church, Stockport. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.*

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

Home address:.....

Post Code .....

Signature.....

Date .....



## Adswood Rose Queen

The following letter was published in the summer 1999 issue of Stockport Heritage magazine, along with the photograph below.

Dear Sir,

This 1943 photograph should bring back a few memories for the older folk and the past residents of Adswood. During the early part of the war years, all the trauma of what was going on was cast to one side for this occasion which was produced on a shoestring, once a year, throughout the late 30s and 40s and on and on.

Mrs Tinning and Miss Mottershead, along with the helpers, and Mothers' Union members of St Gabriel's Church, worked for weeks before the event to make this day very special for the Adswood community in general, considering that this was war time and clothing, food and all the other trappings of living were extremely hard to come by, this was no mean feat so when the day dawned and things were in place the occasion was one to be remembered.

The first crowning of the Rose Queen was held on the corner of Burrwood Drive with Adswood Road where St. Ambrose RC Church is now, and a large house 'Bamford Grange', once stood. This was, I suppose, the only level ground suitable for the stage to be built on. However, a quick re-hash had to be performed due to bad weather

conditions and back to the church hall with everything including bands and trappings to mount the crowning ceremony.

However, all was well and the afternoon was a great success. In subsequent years the hall at Adswood Council School was obtained, and the event was turned into a much bigger spectacle embracing a garden party atmosphere with games and stalls selling home-made goods, etc. I believe that as many as 27 queens and followers from around the Stockport boundary were present at the last few years of this pageant. St Gabriel's Church was an extension of St George's Church and the minister, Rev. Osgood, along with his chief, Canon Pownall must have been delighted with the outcome. The event was rounded off with a dance or social gathering with music by the then well known Bob Tinning's Dance Band or music from a mountain of records of all sorts to dance to and the MC was Mrs. Tinning who both led the dancing and gave tuition to all and

sundry regarding the steps and configurations. After all the trappings of a good day everybody scurried home in total darkness to await the next year's event leaving the newly crowned Rose Queen to attend the various events in her diary for her year of office.

The photograph shows the new queen for 1943/4 Joyce Shufflebotham with the Mayor, Councillor Frank Fidler, and his wife the Mayoress and the queens court along

with the retiring queen, pictured on the playing fields of Garners Lane School after the ceremony by Herbert Gibbs a local photographer, who covered these occasions for the Express and the Advertiser. On the extreme right is myself as sword bearer.

Keith Pullin  
Scissett,  
Huddersfield



# A service to celebrate the life of José Westwood

25 October 1939 – 1 November 2023

JOSÉ'S FUNERAL was held on Thursday, 23rd November, at St George's church, Stockport and the service was conducted by the vicar, Rev Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall. The church was well filled with family, relatives, members of St George's congregation, members of the Stockport Ladies Luncheon Club, of which she was treasurer, and many friends.

In her address, Elaine said it would take about two minutes to say what José didn't do, and about an hour to say what she did do. She was one of those people who saw what needed to be done and got on with it – quietly and efficiently – no fuss.

José was a local girl, educated at Banks Lane School and the Cheadle Hulme school and then the de Montfort University, which is where she met Mike. They shared the same interests, a love of jazz, a love of the theatre and amateur dramatics.

After graduating in 1961, José worked at the Blood Bank in Roby Street, Manchester, as a scientific officer, analysing blood for blood typing, to be used by the hospitals. She and Mike were married by Canon Wilfrid Garlick in 1964. José was very involved in the church throughout her life and helped with Sunday Club, a stalwart member of the Mothers' Union for over 40 years, member of the Linen Guild. Whatever project was started, José got involved – Christmas banners, wall drapes for the pillars, cushions for the coffee area – whatever she did it was done to the highest standard.

She was a member of the Stockport Ladies Luncheon Club where she had held positions of chair, president and treasurer.

Simon, one of José's sons, spoke on behalf of the family:

As mother of three children, all having taken different paths in life and living in various parts of the country, she still managed to be guide, mentor,

counsellor, sergeant major and rôle model. But as a grandmother to Darcy, now 14, she came into her own – teaching, guiding and encouraging her. A very special relationship, reflected in the poem Darcy wrote after José died and which was printed in the December magazine, My Busy Bee.

Her faith was a large part of who she was and José found great purpose, solace and comfort in that and the many friends she had at St George's.

Simon ended his address with a poem, Remember Me by Margaret Mead:

To the living, I am gone  
To the sorrowful, I will never return  
To the angry, I was cheated  
But to the trusting, I am at peace  
And to the faithful, I have never left.  
I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.  
So as you stand upon a shore  
Gazing at a beautiful sea –  
**remember me**  
As you look in awe at a mighty forest  
and its grand majesty – remember me  
As you look upon a flower  
And admire its simplicity – **remember me**  
Remember me in your hearts, your thoughts  
Your memories of the times we loved  
The times we fought, the times we laughed.  
For if you think of me, I will **never** be gone.

Hymns: For all the Saints: Love Divine, all loves excelling  
and O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians, chapter 13: verses 1-13

Entrance music: Procession to the Minster by Richard Wagner

Exit music: Toccata from the 5th Organ Symphony by Charles-Marie Widor

*Edited versions of the addresses  
by the vicar and Simon Westwood*





## My Busy Bee

I often missed my busy bee  
I wished she could be busy on over me  
But I lived so far away  
My texts and calls they made her day.  
The letterbox was always full of cards, gifts and cut-outs  
I've kept it all and every one has its special place in the house  
Every word you said it's glued in my head.  
I remember it all, every time a bird sings or I see a ladybird's zip of red.  
You buzz round the kitchen and buzz around town.  
Always helping us turn our frowns upside down.  
You'd never sit still when it came time for tea.  
You'd always be there for Dad, Mum and me.  
The sweetest of souls and the kindest of hearts  
Your warm hugs and words were my favourite parts.  
I never believed I'd be here, and I can't believe we have to say goodbye  
But I'll never, no never, let your love and spirit die.

*For José Westwood by her granddaughter, Darcy Westwood.*

## Our new curate: Jane Crook

I AM MARRIED to Andy and we have three children, who are now all young adults: Holly (21) and James (22) live with us in Woodley and Katie (23) lives in Crewe. We also have a 6-month-old Westie puppy, called Robbie. We have lived in Stockport for the last 14 years and I grew up in Knutsford, so Cheshire is very much my home.

Before I was ordained, I was a teacher; I started off as a primary school teacher but gradually moved up the age range to teach GCSE students. I really enjoyed teaching pupils of all ages.

I was ordained in 2022 and I have been serving as Curate at All Saints' Church, Marple and St Paul's Church, Strines, since then. However, during my training I did placements at St Thomas' Church, Mellor and also in the Parish of Stockport and Brinnington, where my husband, Andy, is now the Curate.

When I am not working, I like to spend time with my family,



read a good book, go for a walk (often with Robbie, the dog), have coffee with friends or listen to a podcast at the gym.

[revjanecrook@gmail.com](mailto:revjanecrook@gmail.com)

## Mindful Meditation

ALL STYLES of meditation lead us to the same place - back to ourselves. They ground us and bring us into the present moment, the most relaxed and powerful moment to be in. We become calm and "calm is power". And that power leads us to insight – into ourselves, into our relationships, including for those of us with a religious faith, our relationship with God.

Being mindful is about being where I am now and being with "what is" at this moment. Yes it's a challenge. Our attention is easily distracted, by things around us, by the demands upon us and by our thoughts and our worries.

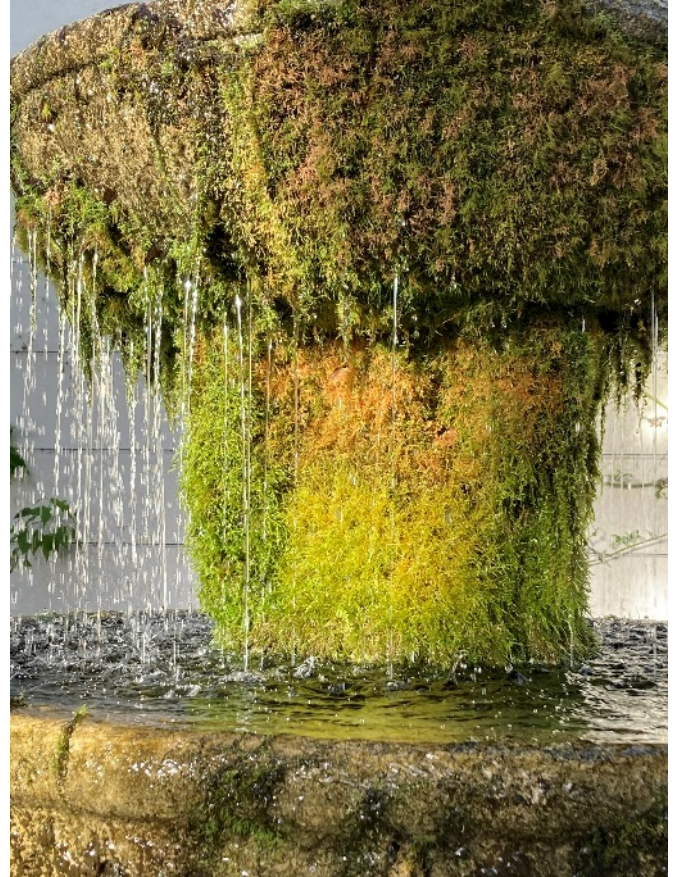
Jesus knew this and reminded us to be present and deal with today. In Matthew chapter seven he summarises his teachings by saying: "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day's trouble be sufficient for the day". (Matthew 7: 34). He's already told us to consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air and how they get on with life.

We can practise being present by practising mindfulness meditation. It's called a practice because that is what it requires of us. It's simple but not easy.

Sit in an upright, relaxed posture, feet flat on the floor, hands relaxed in your lap. Take a few deeper breaths – as always, breathing in through your nose. Then focus gently on your breathing, perhaps saying to yourself, "Breathing in I know that I am breathing in. Breathing out I know that I am breathing out." This can be shortened to "In" and

"Out" in time with your breath. Build up to doing it for 20 minutes. When thoughts come, smile at them and let them pass. Yes put a smile on your lips and refocus on your breathing.

*Chris Dawson*



*Photo: Fountain in Lyme Park Orangery by Louise Clark*

## Interactive Nativity

THE INTERACTIVE NATIVITY took place on Saturday 16th December 2023. Elaine, Peter, Sue and Hazel attended and really got into the spirit of Christmas. Starting at St Mary's church in the market place they made their way to Bethlehem (Sports Direct). Along the way they sang Christmas hymns, including Joy to the World and Hark the Herald Angels Sing, and listened to the story of Christ's birth. This was the first interactive nativity to be held in Stockport and maybe more of the St. George's family will dress up and attend this year if it returns.



*photo courtesy of Hazel Jenkins*



*photo by David Birch from St Mary's Church, Stockport*

## 'Lenten Valentines'

THIS MONTH Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day! The link between the two can be summed up in terms of the nature of real love! Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, focuses on learning to love God more, as we give him space in our lives. This is what Jesus found when he was led into the desert by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan. (Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread. Yet loving God and His word comes before satisfying physical desires.

Satan tempted Jesus to worship him. However, worshipping God is an expression of loving God and serving him.

Finally, he was tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple. Real love for God does not put him to the test, but wants to obey him.

Lent also teaches us how to live out the love of God in practical ways, as we follow Jesus in the way of the Cross. We see this clearly demonstrated in the life and death of Saint Valentine.

Valentine was a Christian who demonstrated the importance of sharing God's love with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the third century AD and that he was martyred on 14th February. Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the

Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so had attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married couples in secret, which is why today we celebrate our love for one another on his day.

In trying to understand the meaning of her revelations from God, Julian of Norwich found:

*'What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was his meaning.'*

*Canon Paul Hardingham (from Parish Pump)*



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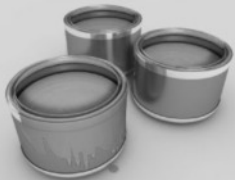
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## Recipe of the Month: Rich Dark Marmalade

*Granulated sugar can be substituted for the Demerara sugar in this recipe if you prefer a lighter-coloured marmalade.*

2 lbs Seville oranges (or 1 kg)

4 lbs Demerara sugar (or 2 kg)

4 pts water (or 2.5 litres)

Scrub oranges, removing the remains of the stalk. Put in a large pan with the water, bring to boil and simmer until soft. This can take up to two hours and I test by poking with the handle of a wooden spoon. Remove oranges from the water, saving the water, and allow to cool. Cut the oranges into quarters vertically and remove pips. Put the pips

into the orangy water and boil for 10 mins to extract pectin. Strain, discard pips but keep the water. While pips boil, cut up oranges according to how you like your marmalade. I like mine with chunky peel pieces but you may prefer to cut them fine.

Put the chopped peel back into the pan with the preserved water. Start the pan heating up again and add sugar. Stir until the sugar is dissolved. Bring to the boil then let it boil as fast as it will go without boiling over! Stir from time to time to stop it sticking. Test for setting by putting a small amount on a cold saucer. If it wrinkles when pushed then it's done. Pour into warmed jam jars and cover with paper disc then cellophane or lids.

*Pamela Ferguson*

# Jean is always up for a spin on the dancefloor

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## Lent Breakfasts – Saturdays 17th February to 16th March

ONCE AGAIN it is Lent Breakfast time! Another set of interesting Saturday mornings as part of our Lent practice – and a companionable start to the day. This year's title is: Alternative Ministries – Meeting People Where They Are.

Last April I attended a Diocesan day telling us about how the church ministers to people in ways outside its formal ministry. It was fascinating hearing about what is out there and the support that is being given to people in their communities.

Although the various chaplaincies are professionally led, most of the chaplains are lay volunteers, people like you and me, who feel called to the work. Indeed, within our own congregation we have at least one person acting in this capacity.

Our Associate Minister, Jenny McKay is going to start our series, because, of course, she has another life as a vet. We will be hearing from someone who was a Street Pastor, from a Railway Chaplain and a Waterways Chaplain. The fifth session will be the usual “What Have We Learned?” discussion. Oh, and did you know that there are more boats on England's canals today than when they were used for their primary purpose of transporting goods and materials?

I shall put out a detailed flier shortly. Dates are above and we will follow the usual timings: Breakfast from 9.30am, talk from 10am for half an hour to forty minutes, followed by questions. Finish at 11am.

*Chris Dawson*



Photo by [Kavita Joshi Raj](#) on [Unsplash](#)

### Thought for the Day, Radio Ulster

WE'RE VERY PLEASED that the Revd Dr Jenny has been given a slot on Radio Ulster's Thought for the Day programme on Tuesdays at 7.20am for the next month. Beginning on 23rd January, you can listen to Jenny's short reflection for the day, and for those of you who are not such early birds, it will appear around 7.30am on the BBC Sounds TFTD page and will remain there:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/p0Cpyslq>

*Jenny outside BBC Northern Ireland,  
Ormeau Road, Belfast.*



## Praise and Play

PRAISE AND PLAY started back after the summer holidays when we welcomed a number of new children who came with the group of childminders who have been faithful members for many years. A number of the children returning after the summer break were now toddlers. It is always lovely to see how quickly the children grow up during their time at Praise and Play. During the term we welcomed new members who came either with a parent or a grandparent. It has been a privilege to get to know them.



holiday. This put considerable pressure on them because Praise and Play can open only if there are two designated leaders in attendance. We cannot continue to rely on the good nature and commitment of only two or three people to run Praise and Play. We are therefore keen to hear from anyone who would like to find out more. Without your help Praise and Play may not survive for much longer.

*Lois Kelly*



We have had a slightly disrupted term as we had to relocate to church for a few weeks before the October half term because of the problem with dry rot in the Parish Room. We were all pleased to be able to move back in November. We put a tree in the Christmas Tree Festival and St George's Pre-school hid Wilma in it. Many children enjoyed finding Wilma during the Christmas Tree Festival. Father Christmas paid a visit to Praise and Play at the end of term and gave each child a knitted teddy, kindly provided by the Mothers' Union. Thank you from all at Praise and Play, with a special mention to Enid Broadbent who knitted the majority of the teddies.

We were sorry when Marion Johnson had to stand down from helping with refreshments due to ill health. Thank you Marion for the many years you have helped and we hope you get better soon.

Sue Burt and Tracey Bennett were the only two leaders at Praise and Play for a number of weeks when Lois was on

### Most popular names for babies in 2023

#### Girls:

Olivia  
Amelia  
Isla  
Lily  
Ava  
Freya  
Ivy  
Sophia  
Grace  
Willow

#### Boys:

Muhammed  
Noah  
Theo  
Leo  
Oliver  
Arthur  
George  
Luca  
Freddie  
Jack

## St George's Mothers' Union

A SERVICE of Nine Lessons and Carols had been planned for a while, then came the actual planning, lessons no problem, but carols, well that may prove a little more difficult! We are only a small group and one gets very self-conscious when singing out loud, but I remembered going to a funeral just after the end of 'lock down' where all the hymns were pre-recorded by various choral societies, and that set me thinking! Most of the carols were sourced, a CD player found and set up, but, what if the operator pressed the wrong button and we got Bing Crosby singing 'I saw Mummy kissing Santa Claus' instead of 'Silent Night'? Time to seek help! James, our Director of Music, came to the rescue and offered to find all the carols and even come to the meeting and operate the machine.

So we all assembled in church, the lessons read by Rev. Jenny and Vicar Elaine, the carols we were treated to included contributions by the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral, London, for 'Once in Royal David's city', the choir of Canterbury Cathedral sang 'Silent night, holy night', 'Away in a manger' by the choir from Kings' College Cambridge and the Choir of St John's College, Cambridge sang 'While shepherds watched their flocks by night'. We could just listen, hum or join in but whatever we did the atmosphere was wonderful and many said what a super way to lead into the Christmas season. Thank you James, Rev. Jenny and Vicar Elaine.



January saw the start of a New Year and we welcomed Peter Ball, one of our dedicated gardening team, to speak of his 'Life in Law'. He described how he progressed from starting as a solicitor to becoming a court judge; it took many years and lots of study. We all realised how responsible the position is and the preparation needed for each case. We appreciated the mental burden it also places on the one in charge, being responsible for the future of both the victim and the accused. A most interesting and informative talk, thank you Peter.

Our next meeting is on Monday 12th February at 2.15pm in the Parish room when we will be having an afternoon tea. Everyone is welcome. We are a very friendly group, we just ask that you let us know if you want to come so we can cater and get enough sandwiches. Charge £5. Contact Pat R on 487 1999.

## Word of the year 2023

LAST YEAR'S shortlist of eight words was selected by language experts at the publisher, Oxford University Press. That list was then put to a public vote in November, reducing it to four finalists, before Oxford lexicographers chose the winner. Word of the year, 2023, is '**rizz**', slang for style, charm or attractiveness. This term is from the middle part of the word 'charisma'. It is an unusual word formation pattern – other examples are 'fridge' refrigerator and 'flu' influenza. It beat other contenders such as 'Swiftie' (an enthusiastic fan of Taylor Swift); 'situationship' (an informal romantic relationship); 'prompt' (an instruction that is given to an artificial intelligence program) and 'beige flag' (a character trait indicating that a potential partner is boring).

The publisher said the word 'rizz' had 'boomed on social media', showing how the internet can propel fringe language into the mainstream.

Previous words of the year were:

- 2022 'goblin mode' – a type of behaviour which is unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly or greedy
- 2021 'vax' – the extraordinary rise in vaccine-related language
- 2020 'social media'; 'remote working' and 'Covid-19'
- 2019 'climate emergency'.

*Edited version of an article  
in the Guardian, 5th December 2023*



### Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

© 2008 KrazyDad.com

### Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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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												

#### Across

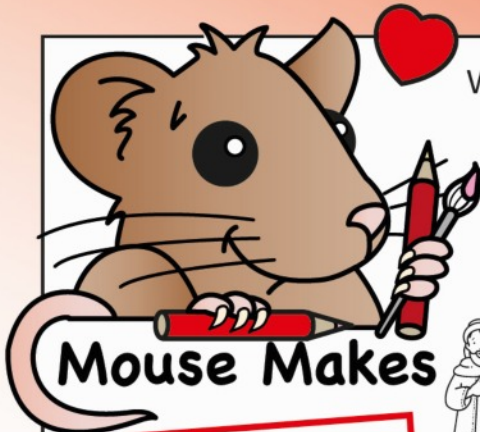
- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
- 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
- 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
- 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

#### Down

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)

3 So rapt (anag.) (6)

- 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
- 5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- 6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
- 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 12 'The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my —' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
- 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)
- 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)



## Mouse Makes

Who were the first couple?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

\_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

\_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

\_\_\_\_\_

Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 1:5



Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 16:3

FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT  
KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,  
MFU OPU NBO  
TFQBSBUF.

NBSL  
UFO WFSTF  
OJOF

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God  
See 1 Kings 11:1-3

### CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

ADAM	ELIZABETH
ABRAHAM	MARY
ISAAC	HANNAH
JACOB	PRISCILLA
BOAZ	EVE
ZECHARIAH	RUTH
ELKANAH	REBEKAH
AQUILA	RACHEL
JOSEPH	SARAH

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

ABRAHAM  
ADAM • AQUILA  
BOAZ • ELKANAH  
ELIZABETH  
EVE • HANNAH  
ISAAC • JACOB  
JOSEPH • MARY  
PRISCILLA  
RACHEL  
REBEKAH • RUTH  
SARAH  
ZECHARIAH

## Every Breath They Take

ACCORDING TO research by scientists from Queen Mary's University, London, 60% of the air pollution that children breathe during the day is taken in while they are at school. Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollutants because they tend to breathe faster than adults, so take in more air relative to their body weight, they generally spend more time outside and so are exposed to higher levels of pollution for longer periods of time, and because their vital organs are still developing they tend to be more acutely affected by pollution. A recent study estimated that 3.4 million children in the UK are learning in an environment where air pollution levels exceed World Health Organisation guidelines for fine particles. That amounts to one quarter of children that are exposed to dangerous levels of pollution during their school day. The World Health Organisation guidelines are much stricter than current UK standards for fine particles, meaning that while many areas meet the UK legal limits they still fail to protect vulnerable children from the long-term effects of pollution, such as asthma, obesity, reduced cognitive functioning, and mental health disorders.

St George's Primary School is an example of a school that is vulnerable to air pollution. It is situated next to two extremely busy roads, the A6, where the average daily traffic is 22,346 vehicles, and Bramhall Lane, where the traffic flow per day is 19,286 vehicles. The playground on the A6 side is situated within metres of the road and is protected only by a cast-iron fence and laurel hedge.

Towards the end of last year I had the great pleasure of visiting members of the school's Eco Council to talk about the problem of air pollution and other environmental

issues that they have been learning about. I was struck by the knowledge that they displayed and their passion for tackling environmental issues first hand. Over the next few months I will be carrying out some research with one of my undergraduate students to investigate the levels of particulate pollution around the school premises. We are particularly interested in finding out whether the laurel hedge affords the children any protection from pollutants coming from road traffic. It is really exciting to be working with the Eco Council members and their teacher, Fiona Noone, on this important project, and I look forward to reporting our findings later in the year.

*Andy Clark*



## Recent Baptism



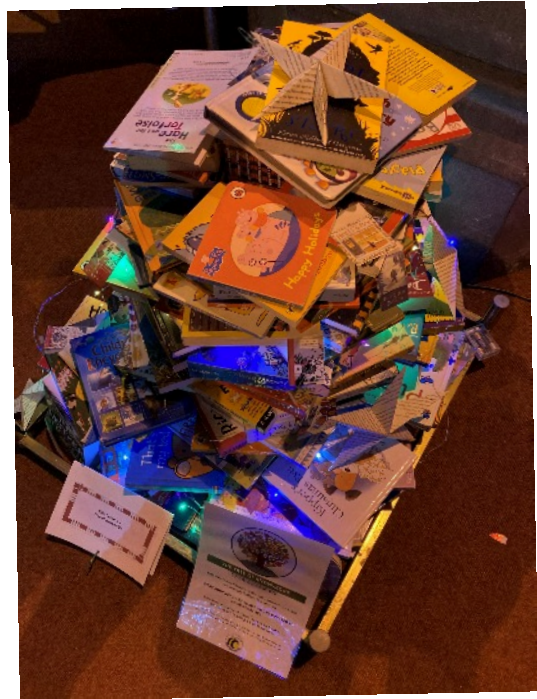
THIS IS the baptism of Teddy Jobe Paul Michael Bailey on 21st January 2024, seen here with his Mum and Dad, Rebecca and Christopher, older siblings Sophia-May and Oliver, and his godparents and supporters.

# St George's Christmas Tree Festival 2023



DURING THE FESTIVAL we welcomed approximately 2046 adults and 1137 children. In addition we had 884 children from schools and youth organisations who brought 124 adults with them. This is an increase of about 200 from last year, with a continued trend for more visitors on the Sunday.

Photos by Janet Neilson, Louise Clark and Andy Clark





## Music Scheme – February 2024

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February – The Second Sunday before Lent</b>			
<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>Café Church: 'InSpire'</b>
<b>Setting:</b>	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening	<b>Hymns &amp; Songs:</b>	Amazing grace - how sweet the sound... How deep the Father's love for us, King of Kings, Majesty, There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son, O, Lord hear my prayer, (Taizé chant) My heart is filled with thankfulness...
<b>Hymns:</b>	267 Thou, whose almighty word 531 O Christ the Word incarnate, Seek ye first the kingdom of God 170 Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it,		
<b>Anthem:</b>	Teach me, O Lord – Attwood		

<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February – The Sunday next before Lent / Transfiguration Sunday</b>	
<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>
<b>Setting:</b>	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne
<b>Hymns:</b>	409 Come, ye faithful, raise the anthem, 248 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, 392 Bright the vision that delighted, 609 To God be the glory!
<b>Anthem:</b>	The Lord bless you and keep you – Rutter
<b>No Evening Service</b>	

<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Ash Wednesday</b>		
	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	<b>Setting:</b>	The Addington Service – Shepherd
	<b>The Litany:</b>	Marshall
	<b>Hymns:</b>	95 Forty days and forty nights 96 Jesu, lover of my soul, 97 Lord Jesus, think on me, 15 God, that madest earth and heaven,
	<b>Anthem:</b>	O most merciful – Wood
	<b>Anthem:</b>	Wash me throughly – Wesley

<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February – The First Sunday of Lent</b>	
<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>
<b>Setting:</b>	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening
<b>Hymns:</b>	95 Forty days and forty nights 385 Be thou my guardian and my guide, 96 Jesu, lover of my soul, 455 Guide me, O thou great redeemer,
<b>Anthem:</b>	Dona nobis pacem – Mayes
<b>Anthem:</b>	View me, Lord – Lloyd
<b>No Evening Service</b>	

<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February – The Second Sunday of Lent</b>			
<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>Introit:</b>	Purge me, O Lord – Tallis
<b>Hymns:</b>	582 Take up thy cross, the Saviour said, 262 O Lord my God, when I in awesome... 468 I danced in the morning... 578 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,	<b>Hymns:</b>	537 O God, our help, in ages past, 97 Lord Jesus, think on me, 14 Glory to thee, my God, this night,
		<b>Responses:</b>	Ayleward <b>Psalm:</b> 135
<b>Anthem:</b>	Hide not thou thy face – Farrant	<b>Canticles:</b>	The Second Service – Byrd
<b>Anthem:</b>	Drop, drop slow tears – Gibbons	<b>Anthem:</b>	Lord, let me know mine end – Greene

## Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword solution:

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

## What am I?



THIS IS the answer to the last What am I? (shown above). The plastic strip wraps around a three-pin plug to provide a handle to help arthritic hands to remove plugs from plug sockets.



This month's puzzle is pictured below. My son, Robert, came up with a much better use than their actual intention. We use his suggestion regularly. *Rosie Stead*



## 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)

(during this winter, the Wednesday morning services are in the Parish Room)

### 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**

## Prayer Chain

IN PSALM 55 we are urged to cast our burdens onto the Lord and in Matthew 11 we read reassuring words to those who feel they are heavy-laden that they will find their rest in Christ.

The prayer chain is here to support you and we will be pleased to receive requests for prayer for yourselves or for others who are important to you. We will undertake to pray for your situation every day, to journey with you in those times of challenge and to empathise with your situation.

This is a confidential service, ably led by Phoebe MacLeod: [marshyreeds@gmail.com](mailto:marshyreeds@gmail.com)

We do not require anyone's second names, but we do need for you to have sought their permission. We will not share the information with anyone outside of the prayer chain and we will not come over to check up on any individual when they come to church.

The prayer details come to Phoebe who shares them securely with the group. Prayer commences until such a time as the situation changes. What is hugely important is for the person who has been in touch with us in the beginning, to keep in touch regularly to update us.

If this is a ministry that you would like to be involved with, or if you'd like to ask for prayer, please speak to Phoebe or Elaine [vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk)

Thank you

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