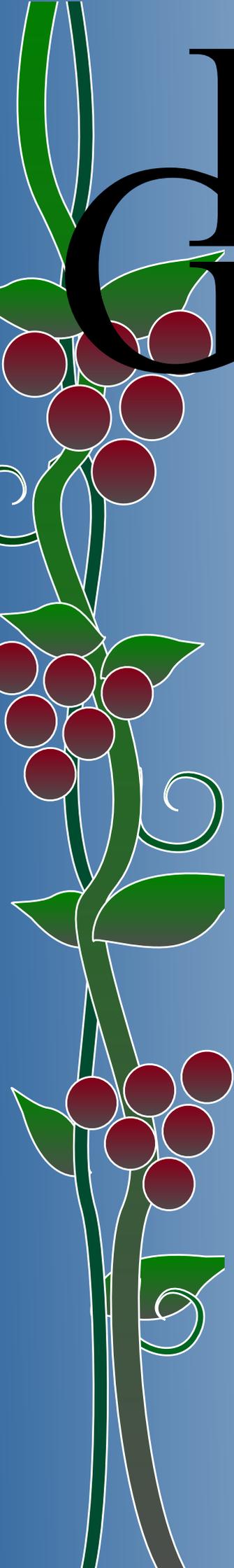


Parish Grapevine

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



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

Vicar	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall <i>vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</i> 456 9382	Praise and Play	Lois Kelly 439 9458 For 0-4s and their carers. Meet every Tuesday in term time, 10-11 in church.	Choir	James Hibbert 07365 519207 <i>actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</i> Practise Thursdays 7.30-9pm in the vestry. Sing on Sundays at 10.15am and 4pm services.
Assistant Curate	Rev. Dr Janine Arnott <i>rev.janinearnott@outlook.com</i> 612 1048	St Gabriel's		Church Cleaners	Meet on 1st Tuesday of every month 9.30-12 noon.
Reader	Peter Hall 456 9382	Messy Church	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall 456 9382 For children and their parents. Meet occasionally, usually Saturday mornings.	Church Flowers	Marjorie Lees 483 3676 Jean Hayden (<i>donations</i>) 483 2367
Churchwardens	Andrew Regan 440 0408 Hazel Jenkins 483 4679	Uniformed Groups with connections to St George's		Church Gardeners	Walter Stead 430 2449 Meet on Tuesdays 9.30-12.30.
PCC Secretary	Andrea Webb Reilly 07400 883938	Rainbows	Trisha Brown 07403 353 175 Sue Kirkland 07854 101 918 For girls aged 5-7. Meet Fridays 6.15-7.30pm in the Parish Room.	Coffee Mornings (Weds)	Olwen Smith 483 6548 Wednesdays from 10.30am in the Parish Room.
PCC Treasurer	Andrew Regan 440 0408 <i>treasurer@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</i>	Brownies	Rachel Lockett 775 2755 Voni Walker 07956 674 241 For girls aged 7-10. Meet Thursdays 6.30-8pm in the Parish Room.	Cursillo	Usually meet on last Wednesday of the month. 7.30pm at different venues.
Parish Office	Marion McCall 480 2453	Guides		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	Richard Parr 439 8644	Beavers	Bill Frith 439 3232 For boys and girls ages 6 and 7 Meet Fridays 6-7pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church.	Linen Guild	Pat Rigley 487 1999 Maintain the church's linen.
Safeguarding co-ordinator	Will Hesson 480 0630	Cubs	Bill Frith 439 3232 For boys and girls ages 8-10½. Meet Fridays 7.15-8.45pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church.	Magazine Editorial Group	Richard Parr 439 8644 Meet monthly to plan future issues.
Website	www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk	Scouts	Elizabeth Goodred <i>Elizabeth.goodred@stockportscouts.org.uk</i> For boys and girls ages 10½-14. Meet Wednesdays 7-9pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church.	Mothers' Union	Pat Durnall 483 4837 Meet on 2nd Monday of the month in church at 2.15pm.
Webmaster	Peter Hall 456 9382	Other Groups and Activities		Singing Group	James Hibbert 07365 519207 <i>actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</i> Sing about once a month at the All-Age Service, with one practice beforehand. All welcome.
St George's Primary School		St George's			
Headteacher	Deborah Grindrod 480 8657	Bell ringers	Anne Mayes 485 6477 Practise Mondays 7.45-9pm. Ring on Sundays 9.45-10.15am. Meet in the tower.		
St George's		Bible Reading Fellowship Notes	Janet Neilson 483 9025 Notes are ordered on request.		
Deputy Wardens	John Hardy 01663 764 462 Will Hesson 480 0630	Bible Study Groups	<i>contact the clergy</i> Study groups and courses are arranged from time to time.		
Verger	Ian Staley 456 3093	Chancel Guild	Meet on 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9.30-12 noon, to care for the chancel.		
Director of Music	James Hibbert 07365 519207 <i>actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</i>				
Bookings for Parish Rooms	Parish Office or 480 2453 Judith Swift 483 8681				
St Gabriel's					
Secretary	John Sutcliffe 286 2301				
Bookings	Parish Office 480 2453				
Children's Activities					
St George's					
Children's Corner	Available for children (and parents) during services. Equipped with books, crayons and soft toys.				
Sunday Club	Louise Clark 483 3703 For children of nursery and school age. Meet during the 10.15am Parish Communion service most weeks during term time.				
Junior Choir	James Hibbert 07365 519207 Practise 6.30-7.30 on Thursdays in the vestry; sing on Sundays for 10.15am service.				

Front cover photo

Camellias blooming at
St George's Church
earlier this year
(photo by Louise Clark)

Services in October:
see page 23

From the Editor:

Dear Readers,

IN THE SEPTEMBER editorial, I mentioned my interest in walking. The very first article I wrote for *Grapevine*, over nine years ago now, when Mark Lane was editor, was an account of walking the South Downs Way from Winchester to Eastbourne. I have just come back from re-walking the Way, but this time from east to west, starting in Eastbourne and finishing at the cathedral in the centre of Winchester.

Once again, I couldn't have done the walk without Margaret's help, who met me each evening at the rendezvous point, and then took me back there next morning. It meant a lot of driving for her, although we had booked three places to stay fairly close to the route. We stayed firstly in Alfriston, a beautiful village with a huge village green close to both the church and the Cuckmere River. The South Downs Way is marked by its crossing of or closeness to six attractive rivers, the Cuckmere, Ouse, Adur, Arun, Meon and Itchen.

For the first couple of days the heat was tremendous, reaching 80 degrees at its highest. Beachy Head and the Seven Sisters shone brilliantly white in the sun, and it was a welcome relief to get up onto the Downs and find a cooling breeze. The going each day varied between springy turf, flint-covered paths, green country lanes overhung with trees, and concrete farm roads. There were far more walkers and cyclists about than twelve years ago, no doubt as a result of Covid-induced 'staycations'. It became quieter the further west I went, but was still much busier than I remembered. There were still larks singing, though, and dozens of butterflies. I saw crows twisting and spiralling in the air as they attempted to chase off intruding ravens, in an eerie memory of the 'dogfights' between Spitfires, Hurricanes and Messerschmitts during the Battle of Britain, fought in the same clear skies.

There were picturesque villages to walk through, many of them with beautiful churches, often dating back to Norman times. Sadly, many of them were closed to casual visitors, although one exception was the small church of St Peter and St Paul in Exton, where I chatted with an elderly gentleman who told me proudly that his son maintained the churchyard.

We also stayed in Burgess Hill, north of the Way, with an excellent, inexpensive hotel, and finally in Midhurst, a small town with an amazing variety of beautiful buildings, ranging from medieval to Georgian in style. We ate well in the evenings, and the weather continued to be wonderful. I never saw a drop of rain while walking, although we did have one spectacular thunderstorm one evening in Alfriston. The walk ended in front of Winchester Cathedral, too late in the afternoon to gain admittance, sadly, but still an impressive end to the walk.

One of the great pleasures of a long walk is its simplicity. All you have to do is walk until you reach your destination. I met another walker who was spending six weeks with friends, on what he described as a pilgrimage, eventually ending in Canterbury. Walking through such lovely landscapes reminds you what a beautiful world God has given us. As Hannah, the prophet Samuel's mother, put it, "For all the earth is the Lord's, and he has set the world in order."

I suppose that the Christian's life is also a kind of long walk, where the walker knows that he or she can rely on the best guide of all, better even than the excellent OS maps that I took with me! May your walk this month be as full of joy and satisfaction as the walk I enjoyed.

God bless!

Richard Parr.

Editor.



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Grapevine magazine is in digital form

Please note: Grapevine magazine will be published in **digital form only** during the current coronavirus restrictions. Copies can be downloaded from our website at www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk



Peter writes:

Meeting in person – Acts 2:44

"And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had."

Monday was a strange day. As some of you may know I am the secretary for the triennial Chester Diocesan Clergy Conference as well as the National Secretary for Bishops' Visitors. Over the past eighteen months, all our planning meetings and AGMs have been online. Except yesterday. Yesterday I made the trip across the Derbyshire Dales, on a gloriously sunny morning, to the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, near Alfreton, for a site visit and planning group meeting.

For the first time in over a year, I was in a meeting with other people: people, most of whom I had never met. We had seen each other's faces, we had spoken, joked, laughed, prayed and made plans, but they had remained disembodied heads on screens.

On the one hand, this new way of working has many advantages. We have not had to travel from our respective homes to the diocesan offices in Daresbury. Coming from the four corners of the diocese has probably saved the diocese several hundred pounds in travelling expenses. It has also saved me having to buy cream cakes from the bakery in Davenport – I always find meetings go much better if people are eating cakes! Meetings have been more focussed and though we started planning about six months later than we normally would, we find we are now well in advance of where we should be.

The downside of course is that Zoom is not very good at building a team. The planning group will need to be a team at the actual Clergy Conference and one important part of team building is being together. We have never sat around a table before. We have never interacted with each other: for all Zoom's technological innovation, it doesn't allow more than one person to speak at a time. Some might think that this a good thing, but it can stifle real creativity in not allowing people to quickly bounce ideas off each other. It doesn't allow the quick s(n)ide

comments that often become the way forward. It remains staidly in the one speaker, many-listener mode.

At ten o'clock we met in the foyer of the conference centre, grabbed coffees and finally sat down together. Immediately the problems of meeting in person surfaced. Do I wear a mask? Can people hear me if I wear a mask? Fortunately, our planning meeting was held outside in the sunshine. We were reasonably distanced, so masks could come off.

On Monday evening at our Zoom PCC, the same subject came up. Should we continue to hold PCC meetings using Zoom, or would we prefer to meet in person? The same arguments came up, except for one additional point regarding exclusion.

Do we exclude people by holding the PCC using Zoom? Admittedly, everyone on the PCC does have access to the technology, but not everyone has a camera and microphone, so their faces are not shown, and they may not be able to interact as immediately as those with them. Facilities are, however, available for typed comments, though these cannot be as quick as a verbal interjection.

And then the counter argument. Do we exclude others by holding it in person? Though the government has removed all the restrictions surrounding Covid, there are some people who are still very cautious about meeting in person. The infection rates are high and, though doubly vaccinated, some of us have a reduced immune system and cannot be sure how effective the vaccination has been. I am sure that if we met outdoors we might be happy to meet in person, but in winter it is hardly an option.

I do not have a solution to this problem. The PCC decided to continue on Zoom until spring. Whilst at Swanwick, however, I did hear of one innovative solution to meeting in person. One group had issued three colours of wrist bands. If you wore a red one, it meant, 'please keep away for my safety!' An orange one meant that 'you may approach with caution. I'm happy to chat with you, but I do insist that you wear a mask.' Green, meant 'I'm happy to shake your hand.'

As for me, I wear a t-shirt with the slogan "I am socially distancing. If you can read this, you are too close!"

Peter

Blackberry Sheep Simplified

WHEN I started to knit Blackberry Sheep, I found that the decorative stitch on the main part of the body was very fiddly to do – and also very time-consuming. I tried the pattern using double moss stitch, and I found that gave a perfectly satisfactory appearance for the main part of the body. I knitted all other parts of the body as in the pattern.

In case you are not familiar with double moss stitch, I did the 16 rows of 26 stitches as follows:-

- Row 1 (K2 P2) 6 times, K2
- Row 2 (P2 K2) 6 times, P2
- Row 3 As Row 2
- Row 4 As Row 1

Repeat these 4 rows 3 more times.

Happy knitting.

Margaret Parr

Parish News Roundup

Holy Baptism

- 4th Sep Alfie John Collins
12th Sep Martha Alice Edith Clegg
18th Sep Penelope Starkey
19th Sep Arthur Duckworth
Lily Barrett
26th Sep Eva Harley
Bethanie Johnson (adult)

Holy Matrimony

- 3rd Sep Karl Farrow and
Megan Scott
4th Sep Matthew Vickers and
Victoria Hill

Funerals

- 2nd Sep Jean Davison
6th Sep Sheila Ashmore
18th Sep Olga Jones (memorial
service)
19th Sep Michael Coupe (memorial
service)
28th Sep Betty Fitter
(at St Matthew's, Stretton)

Burial of Ashes

- 12th Sep John Daly
18th Sep Joyce and Rafale Drummond
(at Stockport Crematorium)
28th Sep Arthur Gardner (at St Cross,
Appleton Thorn)

Communion Flowers were sponsored as follows:

- 29th Aug to celebrate the baptisms
of Rosita, Rosanna and
Siamac Stones
5th Sep for all who are back at
nursery, pre-school, school
and colleges and those
preparing for university
12th Sep from the Staley family, for
birthday memories of Kevin
19th Sep from Peter Pilbeam, in
loving memory of Margaret
Pilbeam
from Sandra Noble, in
loving memory of George
and Dorothy Newitt
26th Sep from the Buxton family, in
loving memory of Vera

Mothers' Union

On **Monday 11th October** we welcome Rev. Glenys Sellors to our second meeting of the new season.

Parish News Roundup

We meet at 2.15 pm in church. All are very welcome to join us.

Thank You

We should very much like to thank all those who contributed to the lovely service for the funeral of Jean Davison. Our very grateful thanks to the Reverend Janine for leading the service; to the wonderful organist and soloist; and to Peter and Olwen Smith and Margaret Parr, for their help with refreshments. Thank you also to Richard for reading the eulogy. The service was absolutely what Jean had requested. She would have approved.

With many thanks and kind regards.

Liz and Peter Davison

Lifeboats

I have received a letter from RNLI acknowledging my last parcel of stamps and asking that I bring the following to your attention:

'We accept a wide range of collectables, including broken or damaged jewellery, stamp collections, first-day covers, coins and banknotes.

We rely on voluntary contributions and legacies for income. Our lifeguards assisted 32,207 people last year, responding to a total of 19,449 incidents, and in total saved 118 lives. Your generous contributions will help ensure our lifesaving work continues.'

So, please do keep saving your stamps etc. for this very worthy cause. We never know when we may need them ourselves.

Kate Stephenson

Parish Lunch

All are welcome at the parish lunch which takes place on the first Monday in the month at the Puss in Boots, Nangreave Road at 12.30pm. Come along on Monday 4th October.

Welcome Service for Bishop Sam

The special service for Bishop Sam is at **7pm on Thursday 14th October**. Let's make sure that we give them a really good welcome. We need help to assist with parking, stewarding and refreshments. As the diocese is

Parish News Roundup

collecting the numbers of those wishing to attend, can you ensure that your name has been included on the sheet at the back of church or contact the organisers via Eventbrite at chester.anglican.org/news/invitation-to-welcome-julie-and-sam.php. Those in the choir, leading or assisting with refreshments, stewarding or car parking or acting in their roles as wardens do not need to do this.

Refreshments

We are hoping to start refreshments after the 10.15am Sunday service. We need a team of people willing to help with refreshments on a rota basis after worship and also for larger events such as the Christmas Tree Festival, Celebration of Life service (7th November) and **most urgently** for the Bishop's welcome service on 14th October. Please speak to Peter Smith, the churchwardens or clergy.

Bringing in the sheep

New patterns have been arriving for knitting and crocheting. Patterns available on the font. See also page 5 for a modified version of Blackberry Sheep.

Christmas Shoe Boxes

Please do take one. Instructions are inside.

Dates for the Diary

Sat 9th Oct, 2.30pm: Reader service at Chester Cathedral to formally welcome **Rita Waters** to our parish.

Sun 10th Oct, 4pm: Choral Evensong.

Sun 24th Oct, 2pm: Trafalgar Day Service

Sun 31st Oct, 4pm: Choral Evensong.

Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings:

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

November 2021

Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Fri 22nd Oct**
Committee meeting: via email

Christmas Tree Festival 2021



IT IS WITH HOPE and optimism (are they the same thing?) that the Christmas Tree Festival planning committee is back in full swing. I'm writing this as the temperature outside is 26 °C but by November we will be ready for the glorious event which is the Christmas Tree Festival. There will be some changes this year to try and keep everyone as safe as possible and possibly a few less trees but it should be a time to celebrate together. Father Christmas has been persuaded to come and obviously there will be tea, coffee and cakes. Some traditions have become established over the years such as the Saturday Dancing School concert, and on Friday our own choir singing carols round the piano.



However, sadly, we're all a year older and will need lots of help in making it all work. Help will be needed on Monday 24th November in laying out all the infrastructure, the electric cabling, tables and pewboards etc. Advice will be on hand, but we will need bodies to crawl round pews etc. Also we will need the usual raft of volunteers to man the doors, serve the coffee, welcome people and be ready to offer first aid if needed. Sign-up sheets will be available from mid October but if you are able to offer help in any way then do please have a word with me or Lois Kelly.

Like everything we have planned for the last twenty months, the Festival is subject to infection rates and the possibility of local lockdowns, but let's be optimistic and get planning!
Hazel Jenkins



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 £10 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

Service to celebrate the life of Sheila Latimer Ashmore

20th November 1923 – 24th August 2021

THE SERVICE to celebrate the life of Sheila Ashmore was held on 6th September at St George's church, and was conducted by the vicar, Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin-Hall. The committal had already taken place at Stockport Crematorium.

The service began with music, *Sailing*, by Rod Stewart, followed by a welcome from Elaine, prayers and the hymn, The King of Love my Shepherd is, especially chosen as it was Sheila and Owen's wedding hymn.

Thoughts from the family – son, David Ashmore

Sheila loved Scotland. Her first foray across the border was during WW2 when she was stationed as a Wren in the town of Gourrock, near Glasgow. Her task was to keep a watchful eye over the British fleet on the Clyde, to ensure their safety.

During the 60s and 70s David and his brother, Matthew, spent many camping and caravanning holidays in Scotland with their parents. They visited many places which, without exception, had nothing there except sea, mountains and midges. They were dragged off to ceilidhs, which they never wanted to go to and taught themselves to fish off the rocks, without success.

In later years Sheila was taken on family holidays to the Isles of Skye and Arran, where her greatest pleasure was visiting Scottish tourist gift shops to buy knitwear. Good times and happy memories.

Thoughts from Rory Ashmore – Matthew's eldest son

His memories were of Sheila (Granny) spending holidays with his family in Cornwall, near Land's End. They



stayed in a quirky clifftop cottage with beautiful, dramatic views over the coastline. Granny would sit on the lounge sofa, admiring the scene over her morning cup of tea, before one of their classic 'three item' (never less, never more) cooked breakfasts, or enjoying the golden sunsets from

that same spot with evening drinks and nibbles.

Sheila would treat the family, at least once on each of the week-long trips, to one or more of her dinner classics – roast lamb on the first Sunday, with well-seasoned vegetables and Lancy Hotpot with a mountain of 'pittled' cabbage. These trips with Granny were a special time for the family and the memories will always be there whenever they visit that part of the world.

Thoughts from a friend – Hazel Jenkins

Hazel spoke of Sheila both as a member of St George's and as a huge part of Girlguiding in both Stockport and North West England. Living in Woodsmoor, Sheila was an active member of the congregation at St George's. She was a Welcomer, welcoming people as they came through the door; an active member of the Mothers' Union and a member of a team who, in conjunction with Stockport Social Services, provided a Day Centre for older people in the local area. Transport was provided and there were activities and entertainment as well as a freshly

cooked lunch.

Sheila visited the Holy Land on a parish trip, attended the bishop's prayer course and hosted prayer meetings in her home. She was also a regular user of the Bible Reading Fellowship notes.

The last time she was at St George's was to visit the Christmas Tree Festival in 2019. She really enjoyed walking round and looking at the trees, but the best part was sitting in the cafe area with cake and a drink, chatting to everyone and being back in the building.

Hazel went on to say that Sheila was Guiding through and through. She became District Commissioner for Stockport South in October 1970 and was certainly the hands-on, supportive commissioner that was needed. She would listen if there was a



problem, work out the best solution to solve it, make sure that all efforts were appreciated and would encourage girls to embrace new opportunities.

In 1974 local authorities were re-organised and Stockport Guiding was affected by this. On 1st April 1974 the County of Stockport was created, with an inauguration service at St George's, and Sheila was its first County Commissioner. The wonderful standard, on display during the service, was the County Standard, and everyone was encouraged to admire it at the end of the service.

As County Commissioner, Sheila was able to set up structures and events that set the County on a solid path for the future. The usual term of office for a commissioner is five years, however before four years were up, Sheila was headhunted to become the Region Chief Commissioner for North West England. Her leadership and support were superb.

When Sheila finished as Region Chief Commissioner, it was back to Stockport to help out as Assistant County Badge Secretary, as well as becoming Region Vice President.

Hazel ended by thanking Sheila for being a wonderful person and in particular, all that she had done for Guiding.

Thoughts from the family – Geoffrey Ashmore

In the 1960s the family owned a grey Bedford van – an early kind of people carrier – registration number: JBV 930, which gave rise to its nickname – Jolly Bedford Van. This was needed to transport the family – four children – and all the camping equipment, on annual camping holidays. These were quite often shared with Owen's twin brother, Alick – whose family travelled in a Volkswagen bus. Alick and his wife, Eileen, had five children, Sheila and Owen four, so it was quite an expeditionary force that sailed across the sea every year to camp abroad.



Eileen, who was 100 in September, couldn't be at the service, but sent a tribute to her sister-in-law: 'She was a top Girl Guide and in the Second World War, kept the Navy going,' a reference to Sheila's service in the WRNS.

A lifelong family friend, Frances King, had the last word, representing everyone's thoughts: 'Sheila gave me much

happiness, her kind words and lovely meals. I sure was one of the family and she will be with me forever.'

Thoughts from Matthew Ashmore

Sheila was half Irish through her mother, Violet Hilda, known as Pat, who was one of the Latimer girls from Dublin – hence Sheila's middle name. She was proud of her Irish heritage and always wore shamrock on St Patrick's Day, sent to her from Dublin by Aunt Mildred.

The family had several holidays in Ireland, most memorably in the early 1970s when they visited sites linked to the great Irish poet, William Butler Yeats. Sheila loved all this and she and Owen attended poetry readings in Sligo whilst the family were there. She was particularly fond of the poem 'Lake of Innisfree', written in 1888 whilst Yeats was living in London and feeling badly homesick for his beloved Ireland. Innisfree is an island in Lough Gill in County Sligo. Matthew ended his memories by narrating the poignant poem from memory.

Memories from Matthew in Alaska – a grandson

He began by saying he was sad not to be at the service, but their family would be there in spirit. His memories included his sister, Hannah, and himself waking up to sugary orange squash and chocolate biscuits before breakfast at Flowery Field, when they were young, followed by a game of snooker or bagatelle!

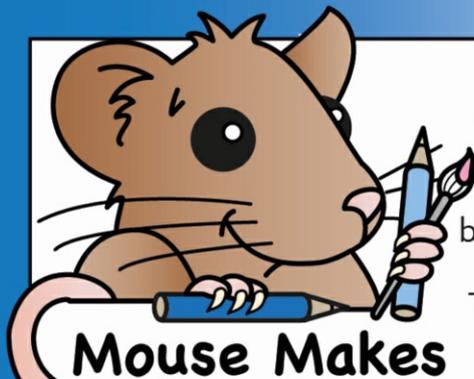


In later years the great grandchildren, Isla and Isabel, enjoyed listening to Sheila's Girl Guiding stories and going for walks in the garden with her to feed the birds. There would be a glass or two raised, to join in celebration of their Gran's full and happy life and they looked forward to seeing everyone soon.

The service ended with the Irish Blessing, read by Elaine, and a rendition of a Guiding song, Taps, sung by the many Guides in the congregation.

Music to end: *On the Crest of a Wave* by Ralph Reader

Edited version of the service. Rosie Stead



Mouse Makes

"Come with me across the lake,"

Jesus said to his disciples, so they got into a boat and set out. While they were sailing Jesus slept.

A big storm *blew* across the lake and the boat began to fill with water. They were in **great** danger.

The disciples went to Jesus and woke him.

They said, *"Master, mater, we are going to drown!"*

Jesus got up and gave a command to the wind and the waves, *"Be **still**, be **calm**."*

The wind stopped and the lake became calm.



Read the story
in Mark 4: 35-41



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

EVENING • JESUS • DISCIPLES • CROWD • LEFT • OTHER SIDE • LAKE • BOAT • SAILED ASLEEP • WAVES • BROKE • OVER • SWAMPED • DANGER • WOKE • DROWN • QUIET STILL • WIND • STORM • WATER • SUBSIDED • CALM • FAITH • FEAR • OBEY • WHO

Feasts of hope

SAHAR, SAREH AND NICOLA came with me to a special night hosted by Stockport Libraries. It was called “Feasts of hope – food for body and soul”.

Each person or group was asked to submit a recipe and a story, and these were put in a booklet, “Recipes and Stories celebrating human rights.” People brought in their prepared recipe and the table was laden with food and people stood up to tell their stories – it was a real privilege to be there.

Sareh Shah’s Story

I wish there were only one country existed called the world. The world in which human rights were a priority. The world with equal rights for men and women. The world ruled by the people from the people not the dictators. The world based on love, peace and hope.

I am from Iran. I fled my country because of not being ended in prison and persecuted like thousands who got arrested and disappeared forever. I left all I had behind such as my family and friends who are of course the most important part of everyone’s life. I came to the UK to save my life and then something far greater happened.

I was physically and mentally drained, completely disappointed and depressed. I had lost everything especially my hope until my Christianity journey began. I went to the church and started learning more about Christianity, I met new nice people at the church. I learned a lot from them which led me to get baptised. That was a point I realised my life has been saved by its all means and I believed that was the god’s plan. As a Christian, I believe the god is helping me and always had a plan for me since I left my country all the way to the UK and all these years that I have been living here. Christianity was a miracle which made me calm, gave me hope and acted like a healing to all my wounds.

My asylum claim has been refused by the home office and I have been living in the UK since 2013 with no status, no right to work or study and with no support. My parents are old and not being able to see them again is my everyday’s nightmare. As a woman in her 30s, I would like to work, have a normal life and contribute to the society I am living in. All these desires which are quite basic to most of the people have been taken away from me.

I lived with fear, depression, anxiety and no hope for a better future, but Jesus helped me come up with them and I strongly believe that he will be there for me and make my dreams come true and my life will be saved by him. He is the only reason that I have survived. My first priority in life is to spread the words of Jesus so that everyone would be saved.

“You are the light You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the

same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16).

Tahchin – Sareh’s baked chicken rice

Ingredients:

2 cups basmati rice
2 eggs
1/2 cup dried barberries
1/2 cup plain yogurt
2 tablespoon butter
1/4 cup oil
4 tablespoon bloomed saffron
Salt and pepper
1 boneless chicken breast (or boneless chicken thighs)
1 onion
Turmeric

Method:

Step 1: Soak barberries in water for 1 hour.

Step 2: To cook chicken, first slice one small onion. Now cook boneless chicken breast with onion, 1 glass of water, salt, pepper and turmeric with gentle heat until it finishes the water. Cut the chicken into small pieces.

Step 3: Rinse rice until the water went clear. Place rice in a large pan filled with water. Add some salt and let it cook. The rice is done after 6 to 8 minutes when it begins to rise to the top and the water comes back to a boil. Check the rice is cooked at the end by trying a grain. Break one grain in half. Rice should be soft on the outside but hard in the middle. Pour rice into the colander to drain; then set aside.

Step 4: In a bowl, mix together the yoghurt, egg yolks and saffron liquid.

Step 5: Add the rice to the yogurt mixture and stir it well.

Step 6: Add 3 tablespoons oil to rice cooker or pan.

Step 7: Pour half of the rice into the pan. Flatten the first layer with a spoon, layer chicken pieces and then cover the entire surface with remaining rice.

Step 8: Pour remaining liquid saffron or 2 tablespoons of oil or melted butter over the rice.

Step 9: Place the pot on medium-high heat directly on the stove top. Cover the pot and cook until rice begins to steam. Then lower the heat and cook for one hour until the crust forms.

To serve: allow to cool for a few minutes, then turn out onto a round serving plate which is larger than the diameter of the pot. Garnish with the barberries.



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Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

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Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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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 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of —, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)

- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4-5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)



Garden Gnomes

OCTOBER IS THE month when the weather can be hot and sunny or cold and wet, and we can even see some frost, and the leaves on the trees will display their autumn tints and start to fall, giving gardeners the annual task of collecting them and putting them on the compost heap. If you have a lot of leaves, make a separate pile to make leaf mould. Even if you only have leaves to fill a plastic waste sack, you can fill the sack, making sure that the leaves are wet, then fasten the sack and pierce the sack once or twice with the garden fork and leave for a year to make leaf mould. Compost heaps can benefit from being turned over regularly to stir them up and allow air in. Many of the summer bedding plants will by now look a bit of a mess with dying leaves, and are ready to be moved to the compost heap. Hardy geraniums, cat mint, peonies and delphiniums can be cut back right down to ground level and the cuttings put on the compost heap. In the cold winter time, the contents of the compost heap will not decompose at the same rate as in warmer times so the Gnomes cover the heaps with black sheeting. Weeds will still grow if autumn is mild and need to be pulled up. Also, vegetable plants will continue to produce crops.

October is a good time to plant spring-flowering bulbs such as crocus and daffodils; tulips later on put energy into the roots. To put some colour into the garden over the winter months you can plant hanging baskets with pansies, violas and polyanthus and these will continue to give a colourful display through winter months into spring and will require very little attention. Summer bulbs such as dahlias and gladioli should be lifted and stored away from frost for the winter. If you are planning to repair or lay a new lawn using rolls of turf, now is the time to get the ground dug over and levelled and made flat. Tap unrolled turf down with the back of your rake and make sure you leave no gaps. When you get a frost, keep off the lawn to avoid damaging the grass.

In the vegetable garden lift any potatoes that are still in the ground; it is best to do this on a sunny day when they can be left to dry then stored in paper bags or in trays. Gather up other root crops like carrots, leeks, sprouts etc. You can then dig over the plot and add manure and mix it into the soil before the ground becomes hard with the frosts this month or in November. As a rule, each bulb should be planted at a depth of three times its own height. Perennials and shrubs can be planted before the weather gets cooler and this will allow the plants to thrive. Lift clumps of rhubarb, then split them with a spade. Each piece (crown) must have one or more buds, then plant each crown about two to three feet apart with only the buds showing above the ground. Tamp around the crowns and water well; cover with straw and in the following spring remove the straw and add some manure around each plant but do not cover the buds. Then re-cover with straw.

The Gnomes are involved in other tasks around the church other than gardening and one such job was carried out by Peter W. very early one Tuesday morning in August, when he lifted the road grids in the South Avenue and cleaned the drains, using a post-digging tool. This should stop large puddles from flooding the avenue on very wet days. This is a job that can only be carried out during school holidays when the avenue is not full of cars. Finally I have been watching the squirrels in the trees on my walks around the cemetery, and they have been collecting the berries in their mouths and dropping many on the floor. You can see horse chestnuts (conkers) part-eaten and still in the outer casing, You can see the squirrels' cheeks bulging, filled with nuts and berries. This was in early September and I have never noticed such a large number of squirrels in previous years. Enjoy your gardening.

Ian

Dracula isn't here!

A CHURCH in North Yorkshire has been trying to convince eager tourists that the vampire's grave is NOT in their churchyard.

Recently the church leaders at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Whitby, even put up a poster in the entrance door which reads: "Please do not ask staff where Dracula's grave is as there isn't one. Thank you."

Whitby inspired Bram Stoker to write his novel, *Dracula*, in 1897. And it seems that Stoker first came across the name 'Dracula' in Whitby's library. It was another name for the blood-thirsty Romanian ruler, 'Vlad the Impaler'.

St Mary the Virgin stands beside Whitby Abbey, and has a churchyard. This prompts many tourists to ask for the exact location of Dracula's grave, even though of course Dracula never existed.

The grave that can be found, however, is that of a man named Swales, who is also mentioned in the book.

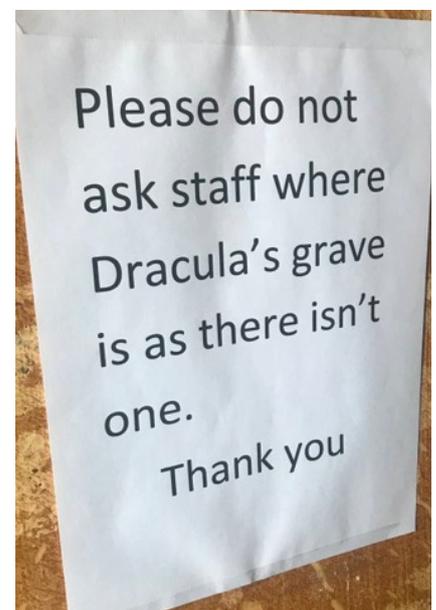


photo: Kevin Meagher

Recipe of the month: Slow cooker Chicken Curry

This tomato-based chicken curry is intended to be made in a slow cooker so can be prepared in the morning and left to cook throughout the day. However, I don't have such a thing and found it worked perfectly well cooked in a conventional pan. It is not a very hot recipe.

Serves: 4

- 1 teasp sunflower or vegetable oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 teasp ground cumin
- 1 teasp ground coriander
- 1.5 teasp garam masala
- 1-3 teasp hot paprika, to taste
- 2 tabsp tomato purée
- 2.5 cm chunk fresh root ginger, peeled and grated
- 400g tin chopped tomatoes

- 200ml coconut milk
- 1 teasp caster sugar (optional)
- 650g chicken thigh fillets, trimmed of excess fat and cut into chunks about 6cm

Large handful fresh coriander, leaves roughly chopped, to garnish

Heat the oil in a pan over medium heat and fry onions until soft. Stir in the garlic, cumin, coriander, garam masala and 1 teasp paprika and fry gently for about a minute. Add tomato puree and cook for a further minute. Stir in ginger, tomatoes, coconut milk and sugar, if using. Transfer this mixture to the slow cooker, stir in the chicken and some seasoning. Cover with the lid and cook on low for 6 to 8 hours. Alternatively, if not using a slow cooker, add the chicken to the onion/tomato mixture in the pan then simmer gently for about 20 minutes until all is cooked.

Pamela Ferguson

Maki Kaji – Godfather of Sudoku

8th October 1951 – 10th August 2021

MAKI KAJI was born in Sapporo, attended school in Tokyo and studied literature at Keio University, also in Tokyo, before dropping out in 1970. He then spent much of his time at horse races, and liked to play with numbers.

In 1980, with two friends, he founded Nikoli – named after a horse that ran in the 1980 Epsom Derby – which was Japan's first puzzle magazine. His puzzle magazine paved the way for the 21st century boom in pencil and paper number puzzles, examples of which appear daily in almost every newspaper around the world. It was a couple of years later, when Maki was flicking through an American puzzle magazine, that he saw a puzzle called Number Place, a similar format to Sudoku and the only puzzle he understood, as he spoke no English. He thought his readers might enjoy it, so he decided to refine it, renamed it Sudoku – an abbreviation of a punning Japanese phrase: 'Numbers should be single, unmarried' and it first appeared in the magazine in 1984.

For two decades Sudoku attracted barely any interest beyond Nikoli's niche readership, until in 1997, it was discovered in a bookstore by Wayne Gould, a New Zealander on holiday in Tokyo. He designed a programme that generated examples, and in 2004, sold the idea to the Times in London. Within weeks of the Times publishing a regular Sudoku, almost every newspaper in the UK had followed suit. Maki estimated that the number of regular Sudoku players exceeded 100 million people.

Sudoku is arguably the single thing that has introduced the pleasures of mathematical thinking to the most people in the world. Maki was a sociable, fun-loving character whose primary passion was gambling on horse races – he changed his job description on his business card to 'Godfather of Sudoku'.

Edited version of an obituary in the Guardian

21 August 2021

Sustainable Bramhall

There is an organisation in Bramhall – Sustainable Bramhall – whose aim is to encourage the villagers to become more green and Eco-friendly. It arranges litter picks and has distributed packets of wild flower seeds to be planted in gardens, to attract insects and bees.

Along with the work of this organisation there is also a shop in Bramhall – Em's Easy Eco shop – which collects many items which are frequently discarded into landfill, namely: the empty foil strips from tablets; polythene bags; cheese wrappings and bras!

To further promote the work to make the village greener, there is an Eco Festival at Bramhall Methodist church from the 14th – 16th October.

Some branches of the Co-op and Waitrose have collection points for plastic wrapping – for example: bubble wrap; squashable plastic and (what is described as) crinkly, stretchy plastic.

Every little helps reduce what goes into landfill.

Rosie Stead

Wellspring harvest wish list 2021

We are always in need of:

- Tinned meats for sandwiches – corned beef, ham, luncheon meat
- Tinned meats – stewed meats, hot dogs, meatballs, curry
- Tinned savoury pies
- Vegetable and meat soups
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned fruit
- Pie fillings – sweet and savoury
- Pickle
- Brown sauce HP, tomato sauce, mayonnaise
- Sugar
- Tinned rice pudding
- Tinned or packaged custard
- Biscuits
- Individually wrapped multipack crisps, chocolate and biscuits
- Shower gel and liquid soap

- Shaving foam and razors
- Roll-on deodorants – please not spray cans
- Coffee
- Cordials
- Milk (long life milk is very useful)
- Small plastic bottles of pop or still water

May we respectfully suggest that for the next year we already have adequate stocks of the following items:

- Tinned fruit
- Baked beans
- Kidney beans
- Tomato soup
- Chick peas
- Grapefruit
- Fruit prunes
- Sweet corn
- Tinned salmon
- Marmalade and jam
- Packets of pasta and rice
- Tea bags

31st October: All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening

MODERN HALLOWEEN celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1st November – All Saints' Day – was dedicated to all Christian martyrs and saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and

preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune-telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

A Suitable Name?

Lois and Steve Kelly saw this church notice board while on holiday recently.



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Restoring Bell Ringing

IN MARCH last year I wrote a blog explaining how it had been necessary to suspend bell ringing owing to the Covid-19 pandemic. At the time we had no idea when, or indeed how, it would be possible to start again. By July things were beginning to open up a little, and the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers provided guidance on measures to be taken for as safe a return to ringing as practical. Some precautions were quite obvious: wearing face masks, using hand sanitiser, ventilation and social distancing. Some elements had to be assessed in terms of our own tower. St George's has a large and well-ventilated ringing room, and the ropes are comparatively more widely spaced than in many towers. Nevertheless, with a recommendation that we should remain two metres apart when ringing, it was necessary to leave out some of the bells to achieve this distance.



photo: Andrew Regan

In August 2020 we rang the bells again for the first time for Sunday morning service – just five of our full ring of ten – numbers 1, 3, 6, 8 and 10. It probably sounded unusual, but reasonably musical! As only five of us could ring on each occasion, it was necessary to draw up a rota to ensure we all managed to take part in some ringing. We were limited to just fifteen minutes, which was fine for service ringing, but not sufficient to have practices.

After a while, with rising case numbers, ringing was again temporarily suspended for a few weeks, but we did manage to ring on Christmas morning. Then came another lockdown, and ringing stopped yet again. Encouragingly, by Palm Sunday 2021 we were able to resume ringing once more, and it was especially joyful to ring on Easter Sunday morning. Restrictions were gradually eased further: we were able to ring just 1m apart, which enabled us to ring bells 1 to 6 again (frequently done on rings of ten bells) and, even more important and welcome, we could ring for forty-five minutes. This enabled us to return to Monday evening practices, which we did in June, but still with only six ringers at each practice. Finally, in July, we resumed our normal practices with no restriction on how many of us could be in the tower. We are, however, meeting a little later, and our sessions last for about an hour.

What became obvious was that people had missed the sound of the bells, and we very much appreciated the positive welcome of our return to ringing, not only from our church community, but also from local residents who took the trouble to get in touch.

The sound of church bells is recognised as being an important part of our national heritage, and in more recent times there have been requests for bells to be rung to mark particular occasions and events, not necessarily immediately connected with the Church. I sometimes wonder if the people who make these requests are aware that in many towers the number of ringers is dwindling, as, despite the apparent appreciation of church bells, fewer people are taking up ringing. The decline has been exacerbated by the pandemic, and there are reports from towers at which some ringers have chosen, for one reason or another, not to return.

Ringling doesn't appear to attract the young in the numbers it once did; it's not seen as "cool", and takes time and commitment at levels many are not willing or able to make. There are plenty of activities which, because the results are far more immediate, are understandably more attractive. Learning (and teaching) ringing as an adult is, like many other activities, a little more difficult, but certainly practical and enjoyable, as many 'mature' learners will confirm. Sadly, unless more people are prepared to take it up, there are towers (possibly even St George's) at which in not many more than ten years' time, there won't be enough ringers to maintain regular ringing. There hasn't been a regular band of ringers at St Mary's Stockport for over fifty years.



photo: Andrew Regan

Until recently, because of the restrictions, it hasn't been possible to ring all ten bells at St George's. On the evening of Thursday 14th October, a service will be held at St George's to welcome the new Bishop of Stockport, Sam Corley, who, we're delighted to learn, is a bell ringer. This would be a splendid occasion for all our ten bells to be rung!

Andrew Mayes

Sir Clive Marles Sinclair

20th July 1940 – 16th September 2021

SIR CLIVE SINCLAIR was the inventor who brought pocket calculators and accessible, miniature computers into British homes in the 1980s. First the ZX80, which was 9" (23cm) wide and 7" (18cm) deep and cost less than £100, but was very basic. It needed to be plugged into the television to provide a screen and a cassette to store data.

A year later came the ZX81 and then, marginally more sophisticated and costing £125, the ZX Spectrum, which was made under licence in the US by Timex. If many owners and their children used their computers to play new sorts of games, such as Monster Maze, they were also taught about programming and other technological skills.

For a few years Sir Clive seemed to be the high tech, go-ahead Briton the Tory government was striving to promote. He was made businessman of the year, knighted and became, briefly, a multimillionaire.

But his reputation suffered in 1985 with the invention of the C5, his prototype electric car. It was ridiculed by

the media, who had been led to expect a full-sized vehicle from the genius inventor, not a tricycle with a modified Hoover washing machine engine. Although Sir Clive predicted annual sales of 100,000, only a few thousand were ever sold. Within months he was forced to sell his computer company to Alan Sugar, the owner of Amstrad.

There were other interests: he claimed an IQ of 159 and was chair of the British arm of Mensa for many years, and he was a keen poker player, enjoyed poetry and ran marathons.

But, it has to be said – Sir Clive Sinclair was answering a need people didn't know they had for their leisure time and, nowadays, we can't imagine life without some form of computer technology. Strangely, Sir Clive did not use a computer, email or the internet, and preferred a slide rule to the calculator he had developed.

*Edited obituary from the Guardian,
18 September 2021*

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The UK and US in Afghanistan

TWENTY YEARS AGO, on 7th October 2001, the first US and British forces arrived in Afghanistan to launch a massive military offensive following the 9/11 terrorist attack on the United States.

The aim of the offensive was to find and neutralise the al-Qaeda militants under Osama bin Laden who had planned the aerial terror attack with support from the Taliban, killing nearly 3000 people. The Taliban had at that time been in power over most of Afghanistan for five years, tightening the screw with their own strict interpretation of sharia law.

The decision to send forces into Afghanistan – Operation Enduring Freedom – was made by President

George W Bush, supported by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and was initially successful, with support from Northern Afghan forces, taking the final Taliban stronghold of Kandahar in December the same year. But the Taliban never went away, regrouping in the mountains and in neighbouring Pakistan.

Some 456 Britons lost their lives in Afghanistan in the 20-year conflict, and there were many other fatalities, including 2,448 American soldiers, 66,000 Afghan national military and police, 3,846 US contractors, 1,144 NATO allies, 444 aid workers, 72 journalists and 47,245 Afghan civilians.

Tim Lenton

Persecution of Christians set to rise in Afghanistan

As the Taliban tighten their grip on Afghanistan, Release International has warned that attacks on Christians are likely to rise across the region.

One church leader in Afghanistan said Christians were living in great fear. Some who worked for the government now face reprisals, and any identified as Christians could be killed. Christians risk betrayal, even from their own family members.

A Christian contact of one Release International partner describes the situation as 'dire.' Says 'Micah': "Our brothers and sisters in Christ are telling us how afraid they are. In the areas that the Taliban now control girls are not allowed to go to school and women are not allowed to leave their homes without a male companion."

The church in Afghanistan already faced sharp persecution, even before the Taliban advance. That church is invisible and must operate underground in this land where Muslims who change their faith are breaking the law and considered to have betrayed their communities.

To be exposed as a Christian is to risk being charged with apostasy, which is punishable by death or

imprisonment. There have also been honour killings of Christians by their families.

One of the communities worst affected by the Taliban is the Shia Hazara minority, which has been especially responsive to the Christian message.

In May 2021, the Taliban bombed the Sayed Ul-Shuhada High School in Kabul, killing at least 85, mainly schoolgirls. The previous year the Taliban staged a shooting at a maternity clinic, killing women, children, and babies.

It was the Pakistan Taliban who shot 15-year-old Malala Yousafzai for going to school and telling the world about it in a blog.

Thousands of Afghans, including Christians, are now seeking refuge in neighbouring Pakistan. But the Taliban are growing in influence there, too. Before the Afghan president fled, he accused Pakistan of permitting thousands of jihadi fighters to cross its border to support the Taliban.

Through its international network of missions, Release International is active in some 25 countries around the world, supporting pastors, Christian prisoners and their families.

6th October: William Tyndale, Bible translator and Reformation martyr

This month is the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, and so a good time to pay tribute to an outstanding English scholar, translator and martyr of the Reformation.

William Tyndale (c. 1494 - 6th October 1536) was born near Gloucester, and studied at Oxford and Cambridge. He could speak seven languages, and was proficient in ancient Hebrew and Greek. As a priest, his abilities would have taken him a long way, but by 1523 Tyndale's only desire was to translate the Bible, so that English men and women could read it for themselves. It became his life's passion.

For Tyndale had rediscovered a vital doctrine that the Church had been ignoring: that of justification by faith. He had found it when reading Erasmus's Greek edition of the New Testament. In fact, his life's work was well summed up in some words of his mentor, Erasmus: "Christ desires His mysteries to be published abroad as widely as possible. I would that [the Gospels and the epistles of Paul] were translated into all languages, of all Christian people, and that they might be read and known."

Tyndale's translation was the first Bible to be published in English, the first to draw directly from Hebrew and Greek texts, and the first English translation to take advantage of the printing press.

It was to cost him his life. For Tyndale's work was seen as a direct challenge to the power of both the Roman Catholic Church and the laws of England in maintaining the Church's position.

When the authorities had tried to stop his translation, Tyndale fled to Hamburg, Wittenberg, Cologne, and finally to the Lutheran city of Worms. It was there, in 1525, his New Testament emerged. It was quickly smuggled into England, and King Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, and others, were furious.

Tyndale moved on to Antwerp, where for nine more years he continued his work. Then in May 1535 he was

Anthony Ashley-Cooper, 7th Earl of Shaftesbury – the Poor Man's Earl

Think of Piccadilly Circus, and that small statue of the angel poised with bow and arrow. Most people think it stands for Eros. It does not. It stands for Anteros, his brother, the god of selfless love. It is a memorial to the greatest Christian Victorian philanthropist, politician and social reformer of his generation – Lord Shaftesbury.

Anthony Ashley Cooper, the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury (1801 – 1885) was a devout Christian who spent his life fighting to help ease the plight of lunatics, chimney sweeps, children in factories, women and children in the mines, opium addicts, and children without any education.

His own early life was loveless and bleak – his parents formal and frightening, his early schooldays a 'horror' of 'cruelty and starvation'. The only love came from the family's housekeeper, Maria Millis. A biographer wrote: 'She provided for Ashley a model of Christian love that would form the basis for much of his later social activism and philanthropic work.' The reality and homely practicality of her Christian love were a beacon for the young Ashley. She told him Bible stories, she taught him a prayer.

After Christ Church Oxford, where he proved an outstanding scholar, Ashley turned to politics. In 1826, aged 25, he was elected as Tory MP for Woodstock. He was eager to serve on parliamentary committees that got things done; his great life's work had begun.

Lunatics: In 1827 lunatics were kept chained naked in straw, forced to sleep in their excrement. They were washed in freezing cold water, with one towel for 160 people and no soap. There was gross over-crowding and inedible food: asylums were places to die in.

Shaftesbury's maiden speech in Parliament was in support of a Bill to improve conditions. He wrote: 'By God's blessing, my first effort has been for the advance of human happiness.'

It took years: from 1827 to 1884 he fought for a succession of Lunacy Acts, writing later of 'the years of toil and care that, under God, I have bestowed on this melancholy and awful question.'

Child Labour and Factory Reform. Again, reform took years, Shaftesbury fighting for the Ten Hours Act in 1833,

betrayed, arrested, and jailed in a castle near Brussels. Tied to the stake for strangulation and burning, his dying prayer was that the King of England's eyes would be opened. Sure enough, two years later King Henry authorised the Great Bible for the Church of England, which relied largely on Tyndale's work.

Not only that, but in 1611, the 54 scholars who produced the King James Bible drew very heavily from Tyndale. Even today we honour him: in 2002, Tyndale was placed at number 26 in the BBC's poll of 100 Greatest Britons.

1842, 1844, 1846 and 1847 – when it finally got through Parliament. No child under the age of 9 should work in the cotton or woollen industries, and no one under 18 may work more than ten hours a day.

Miners. In 1842 he fought to outlaw the employment of women and children in coal mines.

Climbing boys. Thousands of young boys were dying in terrible pain – scorched, blinded and suffocated by soot, or with cancer of the scrotum. Ashley fought for Bills in 1840, 1851, 1853, 1855, 1864 until finally the Chimney Sweepers Act 1875 closed the practice down.

Education reform: 1844 Ashley became president of the Ragged School Union that promoted education for poor children. He wrote that if it were to fail, 'I should die of a broken heart'.

Religion. Lord Shaftesbury was a devout Christian who became a leading figure in 19th century evangelical Anglicanism and President of the British and Foreign Bible Society for nearly 30 years. He was very sympathetic to the Jews, and advocated their return to the Holy Land.

Lord Shaftesbury's funeral service at Westminster Abbey on the morning of 8th October 1885 drew thousands of people. The streets along the route were thronged with the poor: costermongers, flower-girls, boot-blacks, crossing sweepers, factory hands and many more. They waited for hours just to see his coffin go by. He was dearly loved by them as the 'Poor Man's Earl'. One biographer wrote: 'No man has in fact ever done more to lessen the extent of human misery, or to add to the sum total of human happiness.'

The great preacher Charles Spurgeon called him 'the best man of the age'. He 'lived for the oppressed', he was a 'moral anchor in a drifting generation', 'friend of every living thing', 'he had a 'fervent love to God, and hearty love to man.'



Lord Shaftesbury
H. Hering, Photo



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, STOCKPORT

MUSIC LIST – OCTOBER 2021

Sunday 3rd October – The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity			
10:15am – St. George's Service		2:00pm – Wedding and Nuptial Mass (BCP)	
Setting:	The Addington Service – Shephard	Responses:	Smith Psalm: 128 [Smart]
Hymns:	490 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun 391 Blest are the pure in heart, 516 Love divine, all loves excelling, 548 One more step along the world I go	Hymns:	See Order of Service for details
Anthem:	O come, ye servants of the Lord – Tye	Anthem:	Holy, holy, holy – Schubert
		Anthem:	Christ be with me – Rawsthorne
		Anthem:	If ye love me – Tallis

Sunday 10th October – Harvest Sunday			
10:15am – St. George's Service		4:00pm – Choral Evensong	
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne	Hymns:	274 To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise 251 All things bright and beautiful 254 For the fruits of his creation,
Hymns:	270 Come, ye thankful people, come, 272 Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer, 253 For the beauty of the earth, 275 We plough the fields, and scatter	Responses:	Smith Psalm: 126 [Cutler]
Anthem:	For the beauty of the earth – Thiman	Canticles:	Evening Service in A flat – Harwood
		Anthem:	Thou visitest the earth – Greene

Thursday 14th October	
	7:00pm – Diocesan Service to welcome Suffragan Bishops
Hymns:	See Order of Service for details
Anthem:	Be thou my vision – Chilcott

Sunday 17th October – The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity	
10:15am – St. George's Service	
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening
Hymns:	369 All people that on earth do dwell 390 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine: 393 Brother, sister, let me serve you, To him we come – Jesus Christ our Lord.
Anthem:	Christ be our light – Farrell
No Evening Service	

Sunday 24th October – The Last Sunday after Trinity / Bible Sunday	
10:15am – St. George's Service	
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne
Hymns:	1 Awake, my soul, and with the sun... 445 God moves in a mysterious way 321 Rise and hear! The Lord is speaking 277 All for Jesus, all for Jesus,
Anthem:	The Spirit of the Lord – Elgar
2:00pm – Trafalgar Day Service	
See Order of Service for details	

Sunday 31st October – All Saints & All Souls [Transferred]			
10:15am – St. George's Service		4:00pm – Choral Evensong	
Setting:	The Addington Service – Shephard	Hymns:	482 Jerusalem the golden, 537 O God, our help, in ages past, 14 Glory to thee, my God, this night
	232 For all the saints, whom from their labours... SP117 Thanks be to God for his saints... 227 Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days! 626 Ye holy angels bright,	Responses:	Ayleward Psalm: 15 [Hopkins]
Anthem:	Holy is the true light – Harris	Canticles:	Fauxbourdon Service – Morley
		Anthem:	Funeral Ikos – Tavener

22nd October: Donatus –

and the danger of exploring an unfamiliar church

WHEN YOU are out and about on the road far from home, ever feel tempted to pop in and explore an unfamiliar church? If so, think of Donatus as your patron saint – and beware. You don't know what you may be letting yourself in for....

In 829 Donatus, an Irish monk, had completed a prayerful pilgrimage to Rome, and thought his adventures were over. Now there remained only the long road home to Ireland. He had got as far as the beautiful little town of Fiesole, which sits high above Florence in Tuscany, when he saw a lot of people milling about the cathedral. Curious, he decided to look in.... as he entered the cathedral, the bells rang, the lamps were lit and wham! Without any diocesan paperwork at all, he was acclaimed to be the new bishop the people had been praying for.

Donatus was very surprised, but accepted that this turn of events must be God's will for his life. So he became bishop, in a time when bishops did even more dangerous things than they do nowadays. Instead of verbal forays into the national press, Donatus was given the job of leading Pope Louis the Pious' troops against the Saracens.

Safely back in Fiesole, Donatus settled down as a scholar and teacher of his new flock. But he never forgot his native Ireland, and so did the 9th century equivalent of 'twinning' his diocese, for he opened a little hospice where any Irish pilgrims passing through Tuscany could stay in safety. He died in 876, and 12 centuries later, his relics lie in the present cathedral of Fiesole.

Services at St George's in October

Services in church, with congregation:

- Sundays:** 8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.15am Parish Communion (also live streamed)
- Wednesdays:** 9.30am Morning Prayer (also live streamed)
10am Holy Communion (BCP)
- Sunday 10th October:** 4pm Choral Evensong
- Sunday 24th October:** 2pm Trafalgar Day Service
- Sunday 31st October:** 4pm Choral Evensong (also live streamed)

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

Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword solution:

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

**A belated Happy 80th Birthday to Pat Rigley
from all the "Grapevine" team!**

Every generous
act of giving,
with every
perfect gift,
is from
above,
coming
down
from the
Father of
lights,
with whom
there is
no variation
or shadow
due to change.

James 1: verse 17

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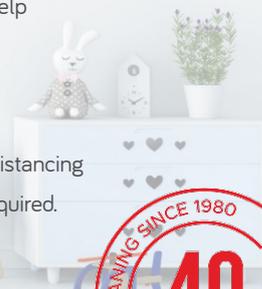
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