

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Chester

December  
January



2021  
2022

# Parish Grapevine

£1

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

[www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk](http://www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk)



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

**Vicar** Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall  
*vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk*  
456 9382

**Assistant Curate** Rev. Dr Janine Arnott  
*rev.janinearnott@outlook.com*  
612 1048

**Reader** Peter Hall 456 9382

**Churchwardens** Andrew Regan 440 0408  
Hazel Jenkins 483 4679

**PCC Secretary** vacant

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

**Parish Office** Marion McCall 480 2453

**Magazine Editor** Richard Parr 439 8644

**Safeguarding co-ordinator** James Hibbert 07365 519207

**Website** [www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk](http://www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk)

**Webmaster** Peter Hall 456 9382

**St George's Primary School**

**Headteacher** Deborah Grindrod 480 8657

**St George's**

**Deputy Wardens** John Hardy 01663 764 462  
Will Hesson 480 0630

**Verger** Ian Staley 456 3093

**Director of Music** James Hibbert 07365 519207  
*actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com*

**Bookings for Parish Rooms** Parish Office or 480 2453  
Judith Swift 483 8681

**St Gabriel's**

**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.

**Praise and Play** Lois Kelly 439 9458  
For 0-4s and their carers. Meet every Tuesday in term time, 10-11 in church.

**St Gabriel's**

**Messy Church** Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall 456 9382  
For children and their parents. Meet occasionally, usually Saturday mornings.

## Uniformed Groups with connections to St George's

**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.

**Brownies** Rachel Lockett 775 2755  
Voni Walker 07956 674 241  
For girls aged 7-10. Meet Thursdays 6.30-8pm in the Parish Room.

**Guides**

**Beavers** Bill Frith 439 3232  
For boys and girls ages 6 and 7. Meet Fridays 6-7pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church.

**Cubs** Bill Frith 439 3232  
For boys and girls ages 8-10½. Meet Fridays 7.15-8.45pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church.

**Scouts** Elizabeth Goodred  
*Elizabeth.goodred@stockportscouts.org.uk*  
For boys and girls ages 10½-14. Meet Wednesdays 7-9pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church.

## Other Groups and Activities

**St George's**

**Bell ringers** Anne Mayes 485 6477  
Practise Mondays 7.45-9pm. Ring on Sundays 9.45-10.15am. Meet in the tower.

**Bible Reading Fellowship Notes** Janet Neilson 483 9025  
Notes are ordered on request.

**Bible Study Groups** *contact the clergy*  
Study groups and courses are arranged from time to time.

**Chancel Guild** Meet on 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9.30-12 noon, to care for the chancel.

**Choir** James Hibbert 07365 519207  
*actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com*  
Practise Thursdays 7.30-9pm in the vestry. Sing on Sundays at 10.15am and 4pm services.

**Church Cleaners** Meet on 1st Tuesday of every month 9.30-12 noon.

**Church Flowers** Marjorie Lees 483 3676  
Jean Hayden (*donations*) 483 2367

**Church Gardeners** Walter Stead 430 2449  
Meet on Tuesdays 9.30-12.30.

**Coffee Mornings (Weds)** Olwen Smith 483 6548  
Wednesdays from 10.30am in the Parish Room.

**Cursillo** Usually meet on last Wednesday of the month. 7.30pm at different venues.

**Handbells** Andy Clark 483 3703  
Play for All-Age and Taizé services, plus other special events. Ringers of all ages (with or without experience) always welcome. Rehearsals in church arranged around the ringers' availability.

**Linen Guild** Pat Rigley 487 1999  
Maintain the church's linen.

**Magazine Editorial Group** Richard Parr 439 8644  
Meet monthly to plan future issues.

**Mothers' Union** Pat Durnall 483 4837  
Meet on 2nd Monday of the month in church at 2.15pm.

**Singing Group** James Hibbert 07365 519207  
*actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com*  
Sing about once a month at the All-Age Service, with one practice beforehand. All welcome.

## Front cover photo

The nativity scene at St George's Church during Advent and Christmas  
(photo by Andrew Regan)

## Services and events in December:

see page 7

## From the Editor:

Dear Readers,

I FORGOT IN the November editorial to include the title of Roger Knight's biography of Nelson that I referred to. It's entitled *The Pursuit of Victory: The Life and Achievements of Horatio Nelson*, and is available as a paperback if anyone is making out their Christmas list!

While out walking yesterday, we parked next to a house that already had its Christmas decorations up. The long garden was filled with rows of fairy lights that were accompanied by a large, jovial Father Christmas presiding over a sleigh with the full complement of reindeer, plus models of lots of other characters not necessarily associated with Christmas! The windows and roof of the house were also filled with enough lights to gladden the heart of any passing energy company accountant! As we were pausing to admire the display, the nextdoor neighbour walked past and spoke to us. We made a comment about his neighbour's enthusiasm for celebrating Christmas even in November, but he showed a distinct lack of empathy with the display. In fact, he suggested that he'd like to tear the whole thing down, and would be heartily glad when Christmas was over, as it meant nothing to him.

I do think that's sad. I love all aspects of Christmas (perhaps with the exception of Christmas shopping for anyone who says, "I really don't want anything this year". How odd!) A very early childhood memory is of being warm in bed, with the snow piled up outside (it ALWAYS snowed when I was a child!) and hearing carollers singing *Silent Night*, still my favourite carol. I also remember being put to bed, waking up and rushing downstairs to

eagerly ask, "Has he been yet?", only to discover it was still only 9 o'clock on Christmas Eve.

As a married adult, I also remember waking in the small hours of Christmas Day to hear the sound of sleigh bells, and if you don't believe me, Margaret heard them, too! Christmas always was, and remains, a magical time of year, especially, of course, if you have children in the house – of any age! I remember also taking some of my first-year form out with a friend for a Boxing Day walk, in the snow, naturally, and making a solemn promise that we would be back in time to watch *The Great Escape* on the television!

Christmas, of course, can be a sad and lonely time for many people, particularly those remembering loved ones no longer with them. And the first Christmas must have been far from easy for Mary and Joseph in a stable in Bethlehem. Nor will it be easy for many refugees in many different parts of the world, as well as all of those living in fear of oppression and violence. Yet still the words of the angels sing out to remind us of the joy that the first and every subsequent Christmas can bring to everyone.

The Saviour – yes! the Messiah, the Lord – has been born today in Bethlehem!

Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to men, with whom he is well pleased.

On behalf of every member of the *Grapevine* team, may I wish you all a very merry Christmas, and a very happy and peaceful New Year.

God bless! Richard Parr. Editor.



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There are 10 issues of Grapevine magazine a year

Approximately 300 copies are printed each month. The current rates per issue are:

Full page: £50    Half page: £30    1/3rd page: £20    Quarter page: £15    1/6th page: £10

We can assist with the design of your display, if necessary, and make no charge for this.

Interested? Contact the Editor: e-mail [ricmar77@gmx.com](mailto:ricmar77@gmx.com) or tel. 0161 439 8644.

## GRAPEVINE would like to thank all our loyal advertisers

for their understanding and backing during this difficult period.

If you can, please continue to support them.

## FEBRUARY GRAPEVINE

We very much hope, that if safety issues permit, we will be able to return to printed copies of the magazine from the February issue. We plan also to offer readers the option of taking out a subscription to a digital copy instead of having a printed copy. As before, copies of *Grapevine* will be available to download free from the church website, although after the publication of the following month's issue.

After very positive feedback to our increased use of colour in the magazine, we intend to continue this policy. We have also discussed with the Parochial Church Council the option of raising the cover price of *Grapevine*, to contribute towards the increased costs since the last price rise six years ago. From the February issue, therefore, the cover price will be £1.20 rather than £1. We hope that this meets with our readers' approval, and does not cause too many problems for people.

*Richard Parr (Editor)*



## Elaine writes:

**D**id you know that the scientific study of lighthouses and signal lights, their construction and illumination is called ‘pharology’? No, neither did I, until I started to think about this children’s hymn written by Susan Bogert Warner in 1868.

*Jesus bids us shine,  
With a pure, clear light,  
Like a little candle,  
Burning in the night.  
In this world is darkness,  
So let us shine –  
You in your small corner,  
And I in mine.*

It started me thinking, “What would it look like if each of us stood in our own small corner? How much light would be shed? How effective would we be?”

In early times, candles were used as a source of light to aid navigation, probably within harbour lamps. They were spaced apart with the aim of drawing the boats safely back to harbour. They must have been difficult to see at a distance.

There is evidence of lighthouse structures from as early as 280BC, namely the Pharos at Alexandria, and, one of the most recent is the Faro de Torredembarra, built in January 2000.

In the 18th century, building was commenced on the Smeaton Eddystone lighthouse, just off Rame Head in Cornwall. Smeaton used the light from just 24 candles in a two-layer candelabra arrangement suspended from the lantern, which worked effectively for 51 years before being superseded by oil lamps and parabolic reflectors.

Candlepower was an old unit of light intensity and was used to measure the brightness of a light given out from a candle of specific composition and rate of burning. Each of the 24 candles weighed around half a pound and measured 12 inches.

Each candle gave the equivalent light of 2.8 standard candles making the total light intensity of about 67 candlepower. (A 60W bulb under general conditions produces somewhere between 50 and 55 candlepower, to give you some idea.)

So, back to the children’s hymn, and here’s where I have a bit of a problem: a number of people, each holding a candle, in their own corner, might light the area where they stand but not any further. There will be a limit as to how far they can see and be seen. Their impact on the surrounding darkness will be negligible and they might struggle to realise that other people are present in the area.

Setting COVID social distancing rules metaphorically aside for a moment, perhaps we should not stand in our own small corners, guarding our lights, but step out together to shine brightly and be effective as lights of Christ.

Jesus came into the world to be the Light and to foster the Light in each and every one of us.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.  
(John 1:1-5).*

Let’s stand together in the light of Christ, shining brightly in the darkness to make a difference in our world.

Every blessing for this Christmas time and the New Year.

Elaine

## Prayer Chain

THINGS ARE GETTING back to some kind of normality but there is still the feeling of uncertainty and anxiety which creeps into the edges of our consciousness and sometimes threatens to overwhelm us completely.

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 will be pleased to receive requests for prayer for yourselves or for others who are important to you. They 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. 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 how any individual is when we return 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 in, please speak to Elaine in the first instance. Thank you.

### Parish News Roundup

#### Holy Baptism

- 21st Nov Arlo Garnett  
Darcey Stanway
- 5th Dec Ella Grace Howarth

#### Holy Matrimony

- 11th Nov Connor Owen and Katie Spencer
- 20th Nov Lewis Taylor and Chyna Gibbins

#### Funerals

- 9th Nov Margaret Stiddard – service at the Rowan Chapel
- 29th Nov Stephen Armitage – service at the Rowan Chapel

#### Burial of Ashes

- 7th Nov Richard Heap

#### Communion Flowers were sponsored as follows:

- 7th Nov from Marjorie and Neville, in loving memory of Geoffrey and Cynthia  
from Wendy Simpson, in loving memory of Cyril and James Hindley.
- 14th Nov from Janet Neilson, in loving memory of the Oldham and Gosling families.
- 21st Nov from the Choir, for St Cecelia's Day.
- 28th Nov for the Christmas Tree Festival  
from Jean Martin, in memory of Ethel Henshall  
from the Durnall family, in loving memory of John Durnall

#### Floodlighting was sponsored as follows:

- 28th Nov Kath McMahon for 4th December, in memory of Louise Simone McMahon

### Parish News Roundup

#### Mothers' Union

Our meeting this month will be on **Monday 6th December** when we celebrate Advent with music, readings and mince pies! Meet in church at **2.15pm**. All are welcome.

Our first meeting of **2022** will be on **Monday 10th January**. We meet in church at **2.15pm** for a New Year celebration, the details of which will be discussed at the December meeting.

#### A January date for your diary

On Tuesday 11th January at 7.30pm, there will be a talk in church by Rupert Battersby on 'The Battersby family, Stockport and St. George's.'

#### Richard Heap

Janet, Alethea, Kai and Noah would like to thank all their friends for their support at the interment of Richard's ashes on Sunday, November 7th. Special thanks to Elaine for the beautiful service.

### Parish News Roundup

#### Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings:

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

#### Annual Subscription reminder

A reminder for those of you who pay annually, in January, for Grapevine – the subscription will be due and is increased to £12. Thank you.

#### February 2022

#### Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Fri 21st Jan.**  
Committee meeting: TBC

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

**With the return to paper copies, (see p. 4) it is more important than ever that deadline dates are adhered to if articles are to be included in the February magazine.**

## While a Shepherd Watched...



(photo: Richard Parr)

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

As you can appreciate, all of these service arrangements depend on the guidelines and directions that we are given from the government and the Church of England. For updates, please keep in touch via:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgeschurchstockport/>

Website: [www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk](http://www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk)

ACNY: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/stgeorgestckprt>

Monday 6th December	Mothers' Union carols	2.15pm, followed by mince pies
Saturday 11th December	St George's Singers	Concert at 7.30pm
Sunday 12th December	Toy Service	10.15am
Sunday 12th December	Carol Service	3pm <b>at St Gabriel's</b>
Sunday 12th December	Organ recital by Andrew Dean	7.30pm. Followed by refreshments. Retiring collection
Saturday 18th December	Churches Together	10am–11am. Carols on the green near Davenport station
Saturday 18th December	Maia Choir	Concert at 5pm
Sunday 19th December	Carol Service	Service at <b>6.30pm</b>
Wednesday 22nd December	Children's Society carol singing	Start time and location to be confirmed. Wrap up warm.
Friday 24th December	Christingle services	<b>1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm. Booking via Eventbrite (see next page)</b>
Friday 24th December	Christmas Eve Communion	11.30pm
Saturday 25th December	Christmas Day	8am Holy Communion 10.15am Parish Communion
Sunday 26th December	Boxing Day	No service at 8am 10.15am Communion service
Wednesday 29th December	<b>No service</b>	

### Please Note

- The Toy Service on Sunday 12th December will include the collection of toys for the Refuge as part of the celebration. We will be pleased to receive **brand new toys and gifts** for the children and their parents. They need not be wrapped. Thank you for your understanding.
- There will be three Christingle services, which will have reduced numbers for safety. Entry will be by free Eventbrite ticket only. (See article on next page)
- We will be open for individual (private) prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays from 11am to 12 noon, except for 29th December.
- The following services will also be **live streamed**: the Communion services at 10.15am on Sundays, Christmas Day and Boxing Day, the 11.30pm Communion service on Christmas Eve, and the Carol Service on 19th December .

# Christingle Services 2021

OVER THE YEARS, we have been enjoying gathering as a community for our special Christingle service. This year we will be following last year's pattern and we will hold three services on Friday 24th December at 1.30pm, 3.30pm and 5.30pm.

As we have to reduce numbers, **entry will only be possible by obtaining an Eventbrite ticket.** This is free and can be obtained online from Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/st-georges-christingle-tickets-219236140197>. Note that numbers include children as well as adults. Please bring the tickets with you to the service.

All money donated will go to the hugely important work of the Children's Society: [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

A collection will be made as people leave the building.

If you aren't able to attend, perhaps you can try to make your own Christingle.

Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christian Story.

The red ribbon or tape symbolises the love and blood of Christ

The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creation

The lit candle represents Jesus' light in the world bringing hope to people living in darkness

The orange represents the world.



## 125th Anniversary

WE ARE VERY excited about the various events and services that are being planned to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the consecration of St George's Church.

Here are a few of them to whet your appetite:

We are hoping to welcome a representative from the Battersby hat family to come and do a talk in January.

In February, we have arranged for a special service to be held on the closest Sunday to the consecration date on 27th February. We hope to be able to bury a time capsule to mark the event on that day and Chris Dawson is keen to know your thoughts as to what might need to be inside. Someone recently suggested a lateral flow test!!

We have a few things set up for March, including Lenten services and events, and we will be delighted to receive your entries to the photograph competition by the closing date of the 31st of March. Details are on the website under Events.

In April we have the fabulous Drumshoots coming to do a drum workshop for us on 22nd with a light supper to follow.

Please do put the St George's Festival in your diary from 4th-8th May on the theme of "The Lord's my Shepherd". It will involve schools, groups and individuals in our church and wider community and we can expect a wonderful few days.

---

### 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 .....

## Photos from recent events at St George's



*Candles were lit to remember departed loved ones at the Celebration of Life service on 7th November*

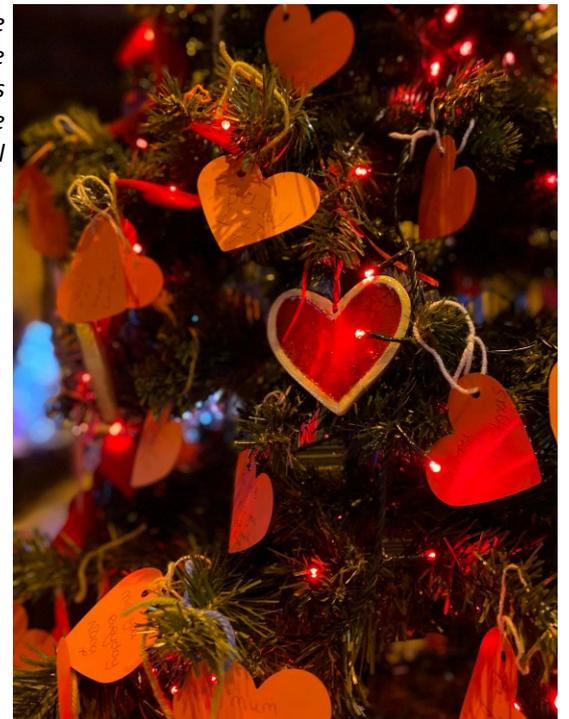
*Shoebboxes containing Christmas gifts by the font in November, before being shipped to Romania to be given to disadvantaged children*



*Wreaths at St George's War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday*



*From the Remembrance Tree at this year's Christmas Tree Festival*



*First three photos: Andrew Regan.*

*Lower right photo: Nicola Pennicott-Hall*

**Mouse Makes**  
 Colour the tree then colour in one star each day until Christmas. Leave the large star at the top of the tree to colour in on Christmas day!

*What's on the Christmas Tree?*

**PRESENTS**  
 Presents at Christmas under the tree,  
 A red Christmas stocking waiting for me,  
 But what really is Christmas,  
 What is it about?  
 Just look and the Bible and you will find out!  
 It's about **JESUS** - the best present of all,  
**JESUS** our **Saviour**,  
 God's gift to us all!

**A STAR**  
 shows the way to Jesus  
 Read *Matthew 2:1-12*

**ANGELS**  
 bring messages from God  
 Read about Gabriel's message in *Luke 1:26-38*  
 Read the shepherd's story in *Luke 1:26-38*

**LIGHTS AND CANDLES**  
 remind us that Jesus lights our way to God  
 Read *Luke 2:29-32*

**PRESENTS**  
 remind us of God's special gift to us ... **JESUS!**

**"For God loved the world so much that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." John 3:16**

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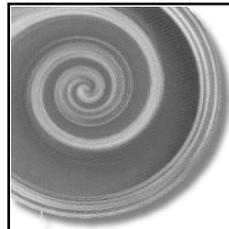
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# PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

**"His goodness  
restores my  
soul"**

- Submit up to three photos to illustrate our theme from the 23rd Psalm
- Entries open to adults & children
- View the online exhibition via Flickr
- Closing date: 31st March 2022
- Finalists will be displayed at the Lord's My Shepherd Festival from 4-8th May 2022

**Further details available**



Contact for further details:  
[photos@stgeorgestockport.org.uk](mailto:photos@stgeorgestockport.org.uk)



Download an entry form from  
[www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk](http://www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk) or ask in church

View the exhibition on Flickr at  
<https://flic.kr/s/aHsmWVW2WD>

125th Anniversary  
St. George's Church,  
Stockport



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



# St George's Church 125th Anniversary Photographic Competition

## *His goodness restores my soul*



AS PART of celebrations for the 125th anniversary of the consecration of St George's Church, Stockport, we are pleased to announce a photographic competition based on our anniversary theme of The Lord's my Shepherd, the 23rd Psalm.

The competition is open to all, from professionals to amateur enthusiasts and happy snappers of all ages. There will be separate categories for adults and children, but we hope that the images will be a celebration of the theme and so all entries will be shared in an online exhibition via our [Flickr account](#). The finalists and winners will feature at our Festival event from 4th to 8th May 2022 when the overall winners will be announced.

**Adults – Theme 'Restores my soul'**. Open to those over the age of 16.

- What restores your soul?
- What makes you feel whole?
- It could be something natural, a favourite hobby, food or place.

**Children – 'Goodness'**. Open to under 16s

- What says good to you?
- What is good in the world?

The competition is open now, but you may take some time and frame your perfect image. The closing date for entries is 31st March 2022 and we can start our online exhibition as soon as we receive entries.

### Terms and Conditions

- All images submitted must be entirely the entrant's own work.
- A maximum of three images per person will be allowed. These may be submitted at different times but must not exceed the total number.
- All entries must be received by the **closing date of 31st March 2022**.
- The organisers reserve the right to refuse entries deemed to be inappropriate.
- An application form must be completed with all submissions.
- The declaration must be signed by the person submitting or the parent/guardian of children under 16.
- Permission must be sought from, and consent given, by any persons featured in an image.
- By submitting photographs entrants understand that St George's Church Stockport has the right to use the images for different purposes, including for the purpose of the online exhibition, printing, and display at The Lord's my Shepherd event in May 2022, whilst preserving and acknowledging the entrant's rights as creator of the work. Some images may also be included in *Grapevine*, the parish magazine, and featured on the St George's with St Gabriel's website.

**Entries should be forwarded by email to [photos@stgeorgestockport.org.uk](mailto:photos@stgeorgestockport.org.uk) with images attached as JPG or PNG files.**

### Entry form

Name:			Adult	Under 16
Contacts:	Email	Phone		Alt. if required
	<b>Title</b>	<b>Filename</b>	<b>Caption – maximum of 100 words</b>	
Image 1				
Image 2				
Image 3				
I declare that				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the images I am submitting are entirely my own work.</li> <li>• I have submitted no more than a total of three images.</li> <li>• consent has been given by any persons featured in my image(s).</li> <li>• I understand that St George's Church Stockport has the right to use the image for different purposes including for the purpose of the online exhibition, printing, and display at The Lord's my Shepherd event in May 2022 whilst preserving and acknowledging my ownership rights as creator of the work. Some images may also be included in <i>Grapevine</i>, the parish magazine, and featured on the St George's with St Gabriel's website.</li> </ul>				
Signature			Parent's signature if under 16	

**Please note:** the information on this page, together with a copy of the entry form, can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk/newsite/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Photo-competition.docx>

# ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AT ST GEORGE'S AN



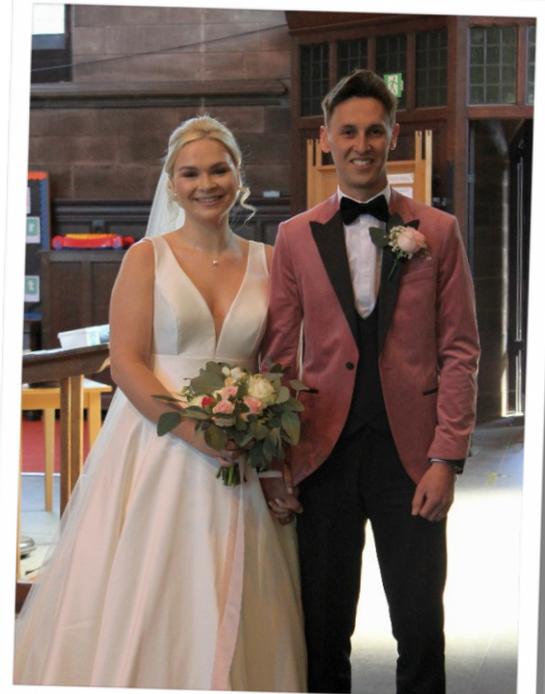
The Christingle services were held at St George's on the afternoon of Christmas Eve 2020. About 200 people attended



Nine candidates were confirmed by Bishop Mark on January 10th – seen here, masked and socially distanced



Progress, so far, on the vicarage development



This was the first wedding of the year, after the reopening of churches. Darcey Ellen Hufton-Long and James Anthony Chow



Baptism of Kirsty Ellen Johnson – godmother to the twins, Rosita and Rosanna, regular attenders at the 10.15 service with their parents, Elmira and Macaulay



A rare insight into the bell tower. Ringing was suspended in March 2020, then resumed with limited numbers in August 2020 until, finally, in July 2021, restrictions on numbers were lifted

# ST GABRIEL'S OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS



*Rita Waters had her reader's licence transferred to St George's church, on October 9th, at a service at Chester Cathedral*



*The choir on Christmas morning, socially distanced, singing carols after the morning service – held outside due to Covid restrictions*



*The choir who sang at Worcester Cathedral over August Bank Holiday weekend. Organist – Roger Briscoe, Director of Music – James Hibbert*



*Baptism of Samuel George Duff, great grandson of our former reader, Michael Coupe*



*Simnel cakes for Easter, baked by Elaine, our vicar*



*A service to welcome the new Bishop of Stockport, Sam Corley*

# Grapevine covers from 2021

 **February 2021 £1**

# Parish Grapevine

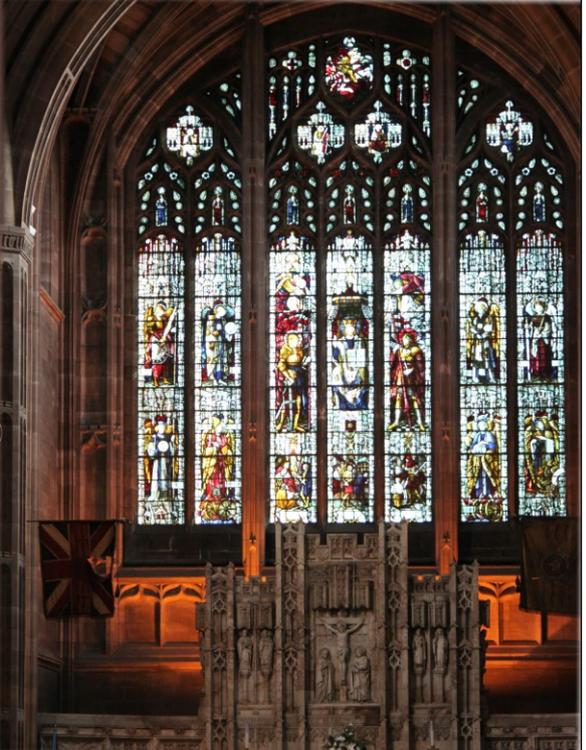
A monthly round-up of news, views, events and services at St George's, Heaviley, SK2 6NU, and St Gabriel's, Adswood in the Parish of St George, Stockport. [www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk](http://www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk)



 **March 2021 £1**

# Parish Grapevine

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



 **April 2021 £1**

# Parish Grapevine

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



 **May 2021 £1**

# Parish Grapevine

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



# Grapevine covers from 2021

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Chester

# Parish Grapevine

**June 2021 £1**

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



 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Chester

# Parish Grapevine

**July 2021 £1**

A monthly round-up of news, views, events and services at St George's, Heaviley, SK2 6NU, and St Gabriel's, Adswood in the Parish of St George, Stockport.  
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 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Chester

# Parish Grapevine

**August 2021 £1**

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



 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Chester

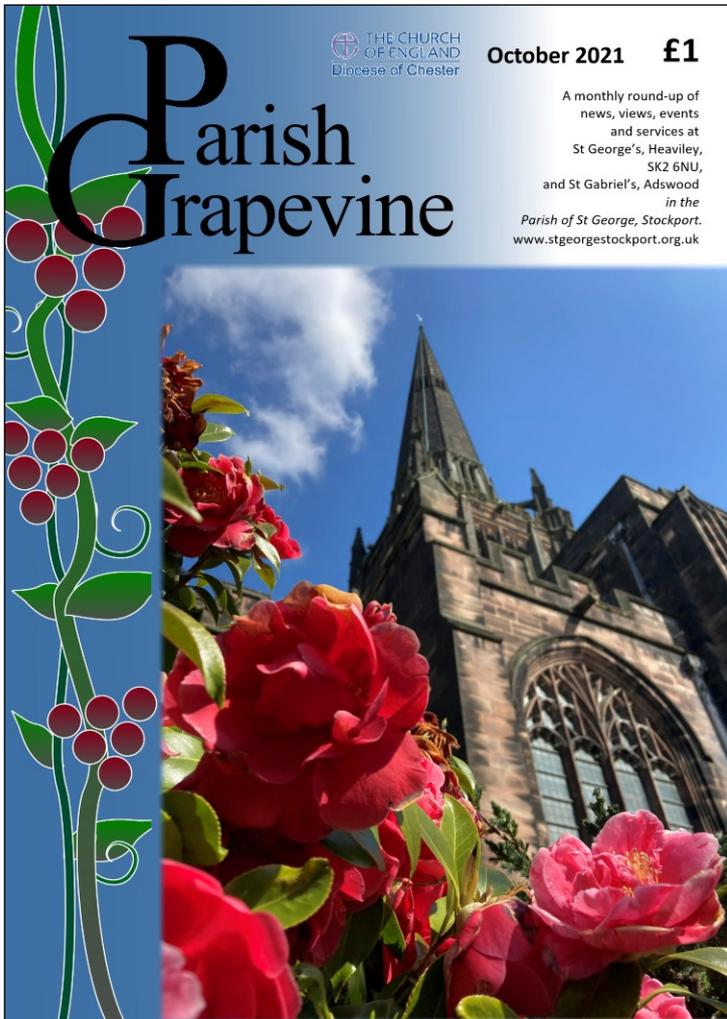
# Parish Grapevine

**September 2021 £1**

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



## Grapevine covers from 2021



### Tanners and Bobs

*This poem should take you back a 'few' years!*

Back in the days of tanners and bobs,  
When Mothers had patience and Fathers had jobs.  
When football team families wore hand me down shoes,  
And T.V gave only two channels to choose.

Back in the days of three penny bits,  
when schools employed nurses to search for your nits.  
When snowballs were harmless; ice slides were permitted  
and all of your jumpers were warm and hand knitted.

Back in the days of hot ginger beers,  
when children remained so for more than six years.  
When children respected what older folks said,  
and pot was a thing you kept under your bed.

Back in the days of Listen with Mother,  
when neighbours were friendly and talked to each other.  
When cars were so rare you could play in the street.  
When Doctors made house calls and Police walked the beat.

Back in the days of Milligan's Goons,  
when butter was butter and songs all had tunes.  
It was dumplings for dinner and trifle for tea,  
and your annual break was a day by the sea.

Back in the days of Dixon's Dock Green,  
Crackerjack pens and Lyons ice cream.  
When children could freely wear National Health glasses,  
and teachers all stood at the FRONT of their classes.

Back in the days of rocking and reeling,  
when mobiles were things that you hung from the ceiling.  
When woodwork and pottery got taught in schools,  
and everyone dreamed of a win on the pools.

Back in the days when I was a lad,  
I can't help but smile for the fun that I had.  
Hopscotch and roller skates; snowballs to lob.  
Back in the days of tanners and bobs.

*Contributed by Peter Pilbeam*

### Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

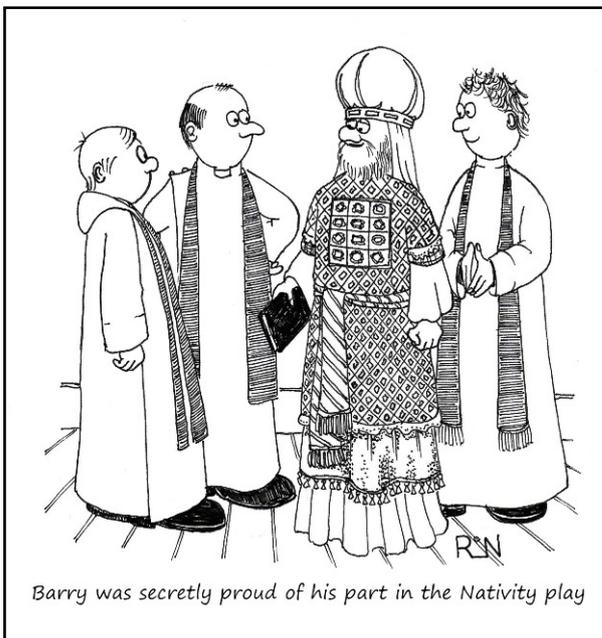
© 2014 KrazyDad.com

### Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

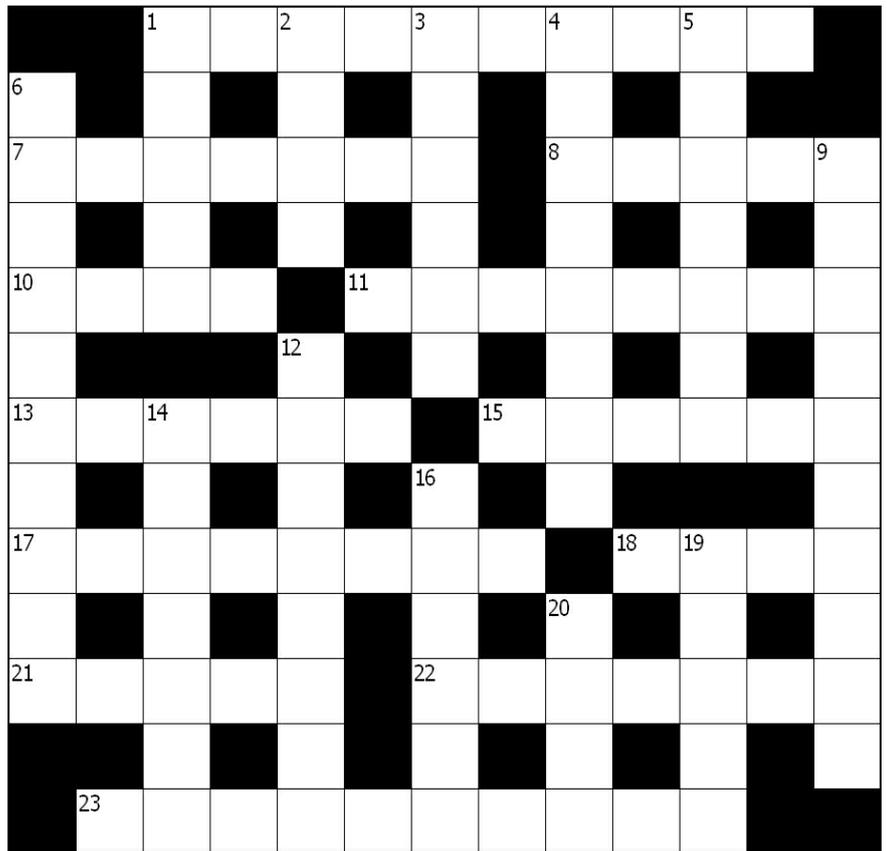
© 2013 KrazyDad.com

(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 27)



Barry was secretly proud of his part in the Nativity play

### Crossword



#### Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14-15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith \_\_\_\_ (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

#### Down

- 1 '\_\_\_\_ and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as \_\_\_\_ as a lion' (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19-20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 'Offer your bodies as living \_\_\_\_\_, holy and pleasing to God' (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 'You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will \_\_\_\_ his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21) (4)

## Distinguished guests mark Remembrance at Stockport Grammar

STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL were joined on Remembrance Day by more than eighty guests, including Greater Manchester Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Mrs Sharman Birtles JP DL, representing Her Majesty The Queen; Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Stockport, Councillor David Wilson and Ms Jeanette Slavinski; Old Stopfordian President Ms Clare Francis; Chairman of Governors Mr Christopher Dunn and fellow Old Stopfordians.



Headmaster, Dr Paul Owen, led the service with an opening statement marking 103 years since the end of the First World War, and Lower Sixth Form pupil Patrick Owen played The Last Post to commence the two-minute silence. Prayers were led by Reverend Leaver, remembering those who have given their lives in service across the globe.

Wreaths were laid by Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Mrs Sharman Birtles; Deputy Mayor, Councillor David Wilson;

and separate wreaths were laid by Head Girl Jessica Horsford and Head Boy Harry Brown on behalf of Stockport Grammar School, and Mary Robinson MP.

In the Junior School, Headmaster, Mr Copping, gave an assembly on Remembrance Day and why it is marked. Head Girl, Minnie, also read a prayer. In the grounds of the school, pupils and staff made the Act of Remembrance, reciting The Exhortation with Upper Sixth Form pupil, Emily Edwards, performing The Last Post and Reveille.

## Recipes for December and January

### Leek and Mushroom Salad

9 medium leeks, washed, trimmed and sliced diagonally into 3

about 4 tabsps olive oil

700g/1½ lb mushrooms, wiped and quartered

110g/4oz pine nuts

assorted salad leaves

4 tabsps extra virgin olive oil

1 tbsp balsamic vinegar

1 teasp sugar

zest of 1 lemon

½ teasp salt

good grinding of black pepper

1 tbsp chopped parsley

Steam sliced leeks until tender. Pour the remaining ingredients into a screw topped jar and shake well.

Heat olive oil in a large frying pan and cook mushrooms in relays so that they don't stew. Sauté them until almost crisp, remove to a plate and let them cool.

When leeks are ready, put them into a wide dish, spoon over the dressing and leave to cool. Toast pine nuts to a light golden brown – watch that they do not burn.

Divide the leaves between individual plates, spoon over them the leeks in their dressing, distribute the mushrooms over the leeks and scatter on the toasted pine nuts.

## The Maia Singers

Conductor **John Pomphrey**  
Accompanist **Catherine Hall-Smith**

# Christmas Music & Carols by Candlelight

Including

I wish you Christmas, It's the most wonderful time of the year,  
The twelve days of Christmas, A maiden most gentle,  
Deck the Hall with boughs of holly, Silent Night

**St George's Church,**  
Buxton Road, Stockport SK2 6NW

**Saturday 18th December 2021**  
**5pm**

Adults £12.50, Concessions £10, Under 18s £5  
Mince pies, fruit juice / wine included

Tickets at the door, from choir members and  
by email from [tickets@themaiaingers.co.uk](mailto:tickets@themaiaingers.co.uk)

[www.themaiaingers.co.uk](http://www.themaiaingers.co.uk)



### Watercress, Pink Grapefruit and Red Onion Salad

3 pink grapefruit  
½ red onion, skinned and very finely diced  
175g/6oz watercress, torn into easy-to-eat pieces  
6 tbsp extra virgin olive oil  
2 tbsp balsamic vinegar  
½ teasp caster sugar  
1 teasp sea salt  
good grinding of black pepper  
chopped parsley to garnish

Slice the peel from the grapefruit with a sharp knife, cutting away all the white pith. Slice towards the centre of the fruit on either side of the tough white membrane which encases each segment. Put the segments of grapefruit into a bowl and mix in the diced red onion.

Mix the remaining ingredients to make a vinaigrette dressing by shaking together in a screw-topped jam jar.

Arrange the watercress on individual plates, spoon the grapefruit and red onion over it and dress with a good spoonful of dressing. Can be served with warm rolls.

### Chestnut and Chocolate Pudding

1 tin unsweetened chestnut purée  
170g unsalted butter (can use salted)  
140g caster sugar  
225g dark chocolate  
brandy (optional)

Line a 2lb loaf tin with baking paper. Cream butter and sugar. Melt chocolate in a pan with 60ml water. Add chestnut purée to creamed butter and sugar then add cooled chocolate and brandy to taste if using. Put into prepared tin and refrigerate until next day. Turn out and serve with cream/yoghurt.

*Pamela Ferguson*

## Jean is always up for a spin on the dancefloor

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## I'm sorry, I'll read that again

THE BEGINNING OF December marks the start of a very busy few weeks for nearly everyone, as the preparation for Christmas speeds up. At Stockport Sunday School, we have already had a 'starter for 10', with our Christmas Fair, once again a very enjoyable event.

For families, the children will be preparing for the Christmas activities at school, as well as letting everyone know what they hope Santa will bring. Parents will be drawing up lists of presents to purchase, planning meals and visits to relations and friends over the Christmas period.

Churches are preparing the various services they will hold; clubs and organisations are arranging social events.

For many of those people who work, there will be the end of year reviews to be done, targets to be met, often meaning burning the midnight oil.

It's tiring just to think about it!

It's therefore not surprising that some people feel it is all too much, particularly when they have to put up with a barrage of advertisements on TV, or the internet, telling them of offers they supposedly can't afford to miss. They resent what is described as the 'commercialisation' of Christmas, a word which is defined as 'exploiting or spoiling for the sake of profit.' Enough said!

Such folk may be seen by some to be killjoys, but there is a degree of substance in what they say.

On the other hand, there will be many of us who will be attending religious services to celebrate our Lord's birth: singing well-loved Christmas hymns and carols; hearing the well-known Bible readings; enjoying the fellowship of our worship together. But it's perhaps possible that the familiarity of these traditional practices may dilute the significance of the Gospel message – we switch off, so to speak.

And sometimes we need something to attract our attention – to make us think afresh about what we read and hear.

Recently, I was reading some notes by Sheila Walker, a Christian author and church minister, looking at the Bible accounts of the period surrounding Jesus' birth. In it, she says she suspects that for many people nowadays, the Christmas story is just that, a 'once upon a time' fable, alongside Snow White and Goldilocks. And she also suggests that the actual Biblical narratives may perhaps have been embroidered in places over time.

Those of us who attend churches are familiar with most of the readings used over Advent and Christmas – perhaps too familiar! I found her comments interesting, and felt they were worth sharing.

She first addresses the Annunciation, as described in Luke's Gospel, when the angel Gabriel appears to Mary to

tell her that she will bear Jesus. To say Mary was 'perplexed' is surely an understatement, to say the least. 'Why me?' would have been an understandable question. But, no, her question is 'How can this be?' In other words, she is not shocked by the angel's visit, (which suggests God saw her as a person for whom nothing is impossible for God to do). She's willing to accept whatever he wishes. Did she have a choice? Perhaps not. She isn't asked if she agrees with what the angel is telling her. But, in essence, she accepts that God knows what he is doing. A message for us, perhaps, when life is difficult, challenging.

And what about the actual events of Jesus' birth, acted out by the children in many school nativity plays? Often there is a grumpy innkeeper who seems to delight in telling Joseph and Mary that the inn is full. But there is no mention of an innkeeper in Luke's Gospel! Joseph and Mary had travelled to Bethlehem for the census because that was where Joseph's family came from – 'to their own towns to be registered'. Therefore Joseph probably had relations living there. If so, and if the town was crowded, and given the Jewish reputation for hospitality, it's very likely the family would want to provide them with accommodation, particularly when Mary was due to give birth. Not to welcome a descendant of David to Bethlehem would shame the whole community. The word 'inn' also means 'guest room' so possibly it wasn't a 'Travel Lodge' as we know it, but a domestic dwelling. If the guest room was occupied, the visitors would be housed in the living area, which was sometimes adjoined by a stable area at a lower level, with the animals helping to keep the occupants warm in winter. The manger would provide a handy cradle for the new-born baby. And maybe there were family members around to look after Mary when the baby was born.

This begs another question. If there were other people at the birth – did they know the significance of the event that was taking place? Most likely not. Joseph and Mary were probably keeping the knowledge of Gabriel's visit to themselves, still coming to terms with what it might mean for their future.

But, out in the fields, the birth is publicly announced to shepherds in an awe-inspiring manner. When they arrived at the manger, and told everyone what they had seen, 'all who heard it (Joseph's family and their friends?) were amazed at what they heard.'

Not surprising, really. Such an amazing event to be told to shepherds, people who were amongst the most underprivileged members of society in those times. Not announced to royalty, or to those in authority, not to the learned religious leaders, but to simple, ordinary folk, who would appreciate the good news, rather than thinking how it might affect their standing in society. And therein lies the challenge for us: if we know the good news of

Jesus' birth, let us joyfully share it with others, with enthusiasm and commitment.

Sheila's article points out other discrepancies in how the Christmas story is told in the Gospels, and how it has been passed on in later times. For example, the Wise Men's visit to the Christ child was probably up to two years after the birth – so it is very unlikely that they presented their gifts in a barn, with ox and asses looking on.

You may think these points, although interesting, are not of major significance to our understanding of the events.

Even so, they may be enough to prompt us to find time, over the coming weeks of Advent, to read in a new way the Christmas passages of scripture; to do it with an enquiring mind; to see if there are any new lessons we can learn for ourselves. A reminder that our understanding of God should be like a flowing stream, always moving on, rather than a lagoon that might become stagnant.

And, in conclusion, let us not allow the practical demands of our Christmas celebrations to overshadow the true significance of the season, a season of goodwill to all.

*Editorial by Walter Stead in the  
Stockport Sunday School December newsletter  
Reproduced with their permission*

## Merry Maths at Christmas!

$$1 \times 9 + 2 = 11$$

$$12 \times 9 + 3 = 111$$

$$123 \times 9 + 4 = 1111$$

$$1234 \times 9 + 5 = 11111$$

$$12345 \times 9 + 6 = 111111$$

$$123456 \times 9 + 7 = 1111111$$

$$1234567 \times 9 + 8 = 11111111$$

$$12345678 \times 9 + 9 = 111111111$$

$$123456789 \times 9 + 10 = 1111111111$$

+

Waiting for the number fairy!

Angela Foulkes

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## ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, STOCKPORT MUSIC LIST – DECEMBER 2021

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December – The Second Sunday of Advent</b>	
<b>10:15am – St. George's Service</b>	
<b>Setting:</b>	The Addington Service – Shephard
<b>Hymns:</b>	24 Come thou long-expected Jesus, 58 Long ago, prophets knew 34 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry 27 Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
<b>Anthem:</b>	Advent Message – How
<b>No Evening Service</b>	

<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December – The Third Sunday of Advent</b>	
<b>10:15am – The Toy Service</b>	
<b>Setting:</b>	The Addington Service – Shephard
<b>Hymns:</b>	607 Thy kingdom come, O God, SP13 Christ be our light 513 Lord, the light of your love is shining, 31 Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
<b>Anthem:</b>	From the squalor – Townend
<b>3:00pm – Carol Service at St. Gabriel's, Adswold</b>	
<b>See Order of Service for details</b>	
<b>7:30pm – Organ Recital: Andrew Dean, Stockport</b>	

<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December – The Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	
<b>10:15am – St. George's Service</b>	
<b>Setting:</b>	The Addington Service – Shephard
<b>Hymns:</b>	243 The God whom earth and sea and sky 362 Tell out, my soul, the greatness... 244 Virgin-born, we bow before thee: 35 People, look East. The time is near
<b>Anthem:</b>	The angel Gabriel – arr. Pettman
<b>6:30pm – Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols</b>	
<b>See Order of Service for details</b>	

<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day</b>
<b>11:30pm – St. George's Service</b>	<b>10:15am – St. George's Service</b>
<b>Setting:</b>	<b>Setting:</b>
The Canterbury Service – Barker	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne
<b>Hymns:</b>	<b>Hymns:</b>
56 It came upon the midnight clear 63 O little town of Bethlehem 62 O come, all ye faithful, 53 Hark! the herald angels sing	48 Christians, awake! Salute the happy morn, 66 Once in royal David's city 76 While shepherds watched their flocks by night, 62 O come, all ye faithful
<b>Anthem:</b>	<b>Anthem:</b>
Nativity Carol – Rutter	In dulci jubilo – arr. Barker

<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December – The Sunday after Christmas / Feast of St. Stephen, Martyr</b>	
<b>10:15am – St. George's Service</b>	
<b>Setting:</b>	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne
<b>Hymns:</b>	Good King Wenceslas looked out... 45 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, 67 See amid the winter's snow, 73 Unto us a boy is born!
<b>Anthem:</b>	Star Carol – Rutter
<b>No Evening Service</b>	



## ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, STOCKPORT MUSIC LIST – JANUARY 2022

<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January – The Second Sunday of Christmas</b>	
<b>10:15am – St. George's Service</b>	
<b>Setting:</b>	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne
<b>Hymns:</b>	87 Hail to the Lord's Anointed, 84 Brightest and best of the sons of... 83 As with gladness men of old 89 O worship the Lord in the beauty of...
<b>Anthem:</b>	A New Year Carol – Britten
<b>No Evening Service</b>	

<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January – The Baptism of Christ / The First Sunday of Epiphany</b>	
<b>10:15am – St. George's Service</b>	
<b>Setting:</b>	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening
<b>Hymns:</b>	175 Come down, O Love divine, 93 When Jesus came to Jordan 87 532 O for a closer walk with God 282 The Spirit lives to set us free...
<b>Anthem:</b>	Come, Holy Ghost – Attwood
<b>4:00pm – The Epiphany Carol Service</b>	
<b>See Order of Service for details</b>	

<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> January – The Second Sunday after Epiphany</b>	
<b>10:15am – St. George's Service</b>	
<b>Setting:</b>	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne
<b>Hymns:</b>	90 Songs of thankfulness and praise, SP131 As man and woman we were made 281 Author of life divine 548 One more step along the world I go
<b>Anthem:</b>	O taste and see – Vaughan Williams
<b>No Evening Service</b>	

<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> January – The Third Sunday after Epiphany</b>	
<b>10:15am – St. George's Service</b>	
<b>Setting:</b>	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening
<b>Hymns:</b>	165 Christ is the King! O friends rejoice 198 There's a spirit in the air, 383 Be still, for the presence of the Lord, To him we come – Jesus Christ our Lord!
<b>Anthem:</b>	Teach me, O Lord – Attwood
<b>No Evening Service</b>	

<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January – The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple</b>			
<b>10:15am – St. George's Service</b>		<b>4:00pm – Choral Evensong</b>	
<b>Setting:</b>	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne	<b>Hymns:</b>	80 When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day (*) SP4 Light of gladness, Lord of glory, 17 O gladsome light, O grace...
<b>Hymns:</b>	94 Hail to the Lord who comes 360 Faithful vigil ended 513 Lord, the light of your love is shining, 267 Thou, whose almighty word	<b>Responses:</b>	Sanders
<b>Anthem:</b>	O nata lux de lumine – Tallis	<b>Psalm:</b>	34
		<b>Canticles:</b>	Evening Service in A – Harris
		<b>Anthem:</b>	When to the temple Mary went – Eccard

## Garden Gnomes

December and January tend to be quiet months in the garden. The grass has stopped growing at last and most plants are dormant. Around the church, the Gnomes have been busy sweeping up all the leaves and generally keeping the gardens looking neat and tidy. Unfortunately, I have been unable to help much in the last month but look forward to getting more involved after Christmas. This year we have had some good growing weather and many of the plants have produced lots of growth, and this includes the weeds. The year started with a particularly great display of snowdrops which seemed to flower for a long time in January and February. Because of the lack of traffic earlier in the year, the paths were becoming overgrown with weeds. Once we were allowed back to work in the gardens, work progressed well during the year with the removal of weeds from paths around the church and the beds. Lots of bushes had grown profusely during lockdown and needed pruning. A lot of the time we have concentrated our efforts on the two oval beds on the west side of the church and the Garden of Remembrance. We have also worked on the dahlia bed which performed better this year after the tall trees were cut back, giving the bed more light. A new bush, a *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*, has been planted near the wall next to the entrance to the vestry and should look lovely next year. The leaves turn a variety of pinks and yellows in autumn and sometimes have a distinctive caramel scent when in fresh autumn colours. It flowers in early spring but the flowers are small and inconspicuous.

It is a shame that the roses in the oval beds have not grown so well this year, due either to disease or old age, and will need reviving or replacing. Roses in the Garden of Remembrance flowered well and were still in bloom until late November. A late cold spell in March, after a relatively mild winter, shortened the flowering season for some early flowering plants. Some of the geranium plants survived the winter and went on to give a display this year. Work has progressed throughout the year in removing the weeds and moss from the path along the north side of the church.

So what should we do in our gardens at this time of year? Many of us will be too busy getting ready for Christmas, but this time of year is a good time to plan for next year. So, perhaps after Christmas and New Year celebrations are over, it is worth getting hold of some gardening catalogues and planning what you want to plant in your own garden next year. Other things you can be getting on with are cleaning and oiling your garden tools ready

for next year. Clear borders of any dead or diseased plants and tidy up, removing any stakes or bamboo canes to stop them rotting in the ground. Prune trees, removing any split or broken branches, and reduce the height of overly tall plants to reduce wind rock. If you are worried about your tender plants, move them inside your green house or into a cool room in the house. If this is not possible, wrap them in bubble polythene or fleece.

As the hectic period of Christmas approaches it is nice to reflect on some of the holidays and gardens we have managed to visit this year. In June, Ann and I travelled down to a holiday let in a small village called Burpham very close to Arundel in West Sussex. From here at the foot of the South Downs we were able to visit the National Trust property, Nymans gardens, near Haywards Heath. We chose Nymans because we were meeting up with some friends who live near Tunbridge. We managed to meet up in the carpark as arranged and took advantage of the café before exploring the grounds. The gardens have been part of an estate since the 17th century but were developed, starting in the 19th century, by the Messel family. There is a diverse landscape, with formal gardens, wetlands and woodlands, all managed by the National Trust. At the centre of the gardens is the manor house which has been situated here since the 17th century. In 1916, Lenard Messel inherited Nymans and he and his wife rebuilt the house and introduced a wide range of plants to the garden, particularly plants from the Himalayas and South America. A fire in 1947 destroyed much of the house except the north-east wing, which is still habitable. The house looks romantic and contains interesting relics from previous owners, even though the roof is missing on the building. The herbaceous borders to the front of the house are boldly planted and the borders to the side of the house are a riot of colour in June when we were there.



On the way to the house from the carpark we passed a lovely wildflower meadow including wild spotted orchids.



Because we visited in late June, the spring flowers were at their best, with lots of bees and other insects busy collecting nectar. Over the meadow were far-reaching views of the Sussex countryside. We wandered on through formal woodland with fantastic mature trees until we came to the rose garden.



The rose garden was surrounded by a high wall with a beautiful fountain in the centre. Each quadrant contained different varieties of roses from old-fashioned to modern shrubs and most were in full flower, sending out a wonderful fragrance. The rest of the day we spent walking around the arboretum, sunken garden and loggia, finally ending up in the wild garden where we spotted some deer. I think we picked a great time to visit this property, with the beautiful flowers, especially the roses. If you are in the area it is worth a visit. The rest of the holiday was spent walking along the South Downs, visiting Arundel Castle and the wetlands. It was a great break and worth the long journey. I think at some time in the future we will be making a return visit.

Robert Gnome

## Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword

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

## Regular Services at St George's

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)

Services which are live streamed only  
(on Facebook):

- 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

See page 7 for Christmas services and events

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