THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Diocese of Chester

Larish Tapevine

February 2023 £1.20

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

		Who's V	Vho in the F	Parish of St George, S	tockport		
Vicar	Rev. Canon Elaine C vicar@stgeorgestoc	hegwin Hall		_	Choir	James Hibbert 07365 519207 ctingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com	
Associate minister Rev. Dr Jenny McKay 01606 891564			time, 10–11 in the Parish Rooms.		Practise Thursdays 7.30-9pm in the vestry. Sing on Sundays at 10.15am and 4pm services.		
Readers	jenny@stgeorgestoc Peter Hall	kport.org.uk 456 9382	St Gabriel's Festival services	s Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall	Church Flowers	s Jean Hayden (donations) 483 2367	
	Rita Waters	487 3620		456 9382	Church Garden		
Churchwardens	Andrew Regan Hazel Jenkins	440 0408 483 4679	Uniformed Grou with connectior	ups ns to St George's		Walter Stead 430 2449 Meet on Tuesdays 9.30-12.30.	
PCC Secretary	Lois Kelly	439 9458	Rainbows	Trisha Brown 07403 353 175	Coffee Morning	Olwen Smith 483 6548	
PCC Treasurer	Andrew Regan asurer@stgeorgestoc	440 0408 kport.org.uk		Sue Kirkland 07854 101 918 For girls aged 4-7. Meet	Curreille	after the 10.15am service, in church.	
Parish Office	Marion McCall	480 2453		Fridays 6.15-7.30pm in the Parish Room.	Cursillo	Usually meet on last Wednesday of the month.	
Magazine Edito			Brownies	Rachel Lockett 07712 302342 Lianne Warburton	Handbells	7.30pm at different venues. Andy Clark 483 3703	
Safeguarding co	James Hibbert 073			07815 482603	Hallubelis	Play for All-Age and Taizé services, plus other special	
Website Webmaster	www.stgeorgestock	oort.org.uk 456 9382		For girls aged 7-10. Meet Thursdays 6.30-8pm in the Parish Room.		events. Ringers of all ages (w or without experience) alway welcome. Rehearsals in churc	
St George's Prir	nary School			To sign up to Brownies or Rainbows please visit		arranged around the ringers' availability.	
Headteacher	Deborah Grindrod	480 8657		www.girlguiding.org.uk and click on "Join us"	Linen Guild	Pat Rigley 487 1999 Maintain the church's linen.	
	Deboran Grindrod	480 8037	4th Stockport S	cout Group	Magazine Edito		
St George's				Sarah Johnson 07930 243 159		Meet monthly to plan future issues.	
Deputy Warder		63 764 462 480 0630		Meet at: Bridgehall Community Centre Siddington Avenue SK3 8NR		email: magazine@stgeorgestockport. org.uk	
Verger	role vacant		Squirrels	For boys and girls aged 4–6	Mothers' Unior	n Pat Durnall 483 4837 Meet on 2nd Monday of the	
Director of Mus	sic James Hibbert 07. actingdirectorofmusica		Beavers	Saturdays 9–10 For boys and girls aged 6 and 7		month in church at 2.15pm.	
Bookings for Pa		480 2453	Cubs	Wednesdays 5.30–6.30 For boys and girls aged 8–10½ Wednesdays 6.30–8.00			
St Gabriel's	Judith Swift	483 8681	Scouts	For boys and girls aged			
Contact:	Parish Office	480 2453		10½–14 Wednesdays 6.30–8.00			
Bookings	Parish Office	480 2453					
			Other Groups a	nd Activities			
Children's Activ	vities		St George's				
St George's			Bell ringers	Anne Mayes 485 6477 Practise Mondays 7.45-9pm.			
Children's Corner Available for children (and parents) during services.		Ring on Sundays 9.45-10.15am. Meet in the tower.		Fro	nt cover photo		
	Equipped with bool and soft toys.	-	Bible Reading Fo	ellowship NotesJanet Neilson483 9025Notes are ordered on request.		nt cover photo: vintry morning at	
Sunday Clubs	Ask for Louise, Eliza the 10:15 Sunday se		Bible Study Gro		St	George's Church	
	Louise	967 798453 483 3703		arranged from time to time.	(ph	oto by Andy Clark)	
Junior Choir	James Hibbert 07. Practise 6.30-7.30 c Thursdays in the ve Sundays for 10.15a	n stry; sing on				ices in February: e pages 17 and 23	



Elaine writes:

Be Thou my guardian and my guide;

And hear me when I call;

Let not my slippery footsteps slide,

And hold me lest I fall.

What a difference there is between age and perception! When the front door opened onto a

glorious expanse of snow covering the driveway, car and road ahead, our grandson, aged 6, was full of joy, eager to put on his wellies and be the first to make his imprint on the virgin vista.

I, however, was mindful of the prospect of Manchester Airport being closed, the roads being clogged with slow moving traffic and the reality of another holiday (albeit a short break away) being cancelled.

He saw opportunities, as he picked up snow to throw, and I saw problems. That said, it's not my usual *modus operandi*. I am very much a glass half-full type of person, but on this occasion, with so many disappointments in terms of time away, I was beginning to despair.

Our cheerful taxi driver loaded us up. The Manchester runways were reported to be clear, and we were ready to go. A ten-minute journey turned into an hour and ten minutes with the fabulous driver trying all kinds of short cuts to beat the jams. Eventually we arrived, thanked him profusely and set off to deposit bags and move through security, all of which was speedily done.

Whilst the flight was delayed, the service on board was great and we arrived in one piece to collect luggage, go through customs and enter into the freezing cold air of lceland.

In general, it was a mirror image of what we had left behind except for the ice mountains that had been deposited at the side of the road by the snow ploughs.

It turned out that Iceland was experiencing the worst winter since 1918. So, we had swapped the warmth of

the Caribbean (cancelled through Covid at least five times) to this. Well at least the beaches would be empty!

The next day was our first foray out and we managed to get almost 50 metres whilst sliding all over the ice, despite wearing heavy walking boots. We decided to retreat and went back to the room, put on some Yak Trax (other brands of snow grips may be available) and set off with a renewed confidence.

That said, I took baby steps, still fearful of slipping. Peter said to trust in the snow grips and, once I did, everything felt more secure.

I was reminded, as I walked, of the hymn quoted above, a hymn of trust, of reliance upon God to hear us, to uphold us when we're feeling shaky and to be there in case we slip.

So often, we step out into what might be challenging, or even treacherous, situations in life. We think we're equipped, we try to hold ourselves up and reach out to other things to stop ourselves falling, to keep our balance.

If we put on Christ, every day, then we will feel more secure, ready to face whatever is before us. (Ephesians 6: 10-17). If we rely on Christ, every day, then we can move forward with confidence instead of relying on our own strength and finding it lacking. If we can trust in Christ, every day, to be our guardian and guide, then perhaps we may avoid those icy patches which put us at risk of slipping.

To be honest, the weather wasn't great, but we had plenty of it. On our last full day, the winds were gusting at 45 miles an hour, which is force 8 on the Beaufort scale and it was blizzard conditions. So, what do you do? Well, it seemed a good idea at the time, but we went out for a 15-minute walk to a geothermal beach around the corner. The winds were so strong that it felt as if you were being pulled over. In a strange way, and in the madness of it all, we had a good time. We returned over an hour later, pleased to have faced the storms and come out safely.

With every blessing

Elaine

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Praise and Play News

IN SEPTEMBER as well as welcoming many familiar faces back to Praise and Play, we also welcomed new families. Before the October half-term break we met at the back of church, but then relocated to the Parish Room. This is a much cosier and safer space for us.



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This term we shared stories of some of the Old Testament prophets and during Advent we looked at the Christmas Story.

We celebrated a number of birthdays and in the final session Father Christmas paid a visit! Lois Kelly

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Baptism and Confirmation Service, 15th January



Reza and Aida with Bishop Sam

Reflecting on his and Aida's baptism, Reza wrote:

My feeling about baptism is that I am cleansed from all sins and a new birth and I believe that Jesus Christ has adopted me and put a new path in my heart and as it is written in the Bible in Mark 16:15-16: Before his ascension to heaven, Christ told the apostles: "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creations. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. But whoever does not believe will be condemned." According to these verses, baptism plays a role in the process of salvation. The condition of salvation is believing and being baptised.



Elaine, Darcey and Isabel with Hannah and James



Isabel and Darcey with Bishop Sam

Darcey and Isabel's mother Linsey wrote: We had a wonderful day, and being able to share this special moment together made it even more amazing. We feel we have a place of belonging in the Church family now and forevermore.



Isabel and Darcey cutting the cake

Pari	sh News Roundup	Paris	sh News Roundup	Parish News Roundup	
•	ism Harlen Luca James Boswell and Confirmations attended Sam Corley, Bishop of	18th Dec	from Pat Durnall, in loving memory of Asa and Ida Brooks and Mary, Derek and Ann and all the Brooks family.	at the right time for you and your partner'. All are welcome to come along. Lent Breakfasts 2023	
We were d candidates baptised a We had tv people baj	Sunday 15th January 2023 elighted to welcome three s from St Alban's who were and confirmed. wo children baptised, five potised and confirmed and	25th Dec from Phoebe Macleod, in memory of our best loved husband, dad and grandad, Rod Macleod, who made life special. We love and		Exploring Mental Health. Five Saturday mornings from 25th February to 25th March. Details to follow. Grapevine subscriptions Grapevine magazine subscriptions are now due, for those who pay annually.	
George's	ole confirmed, all from St imony	1st Jan	Giving thanks for the New Year.	The subscription is £12 for 10 copies o the magazine, December/January and	
None last Funerals	month	8th Jan	from Mike and José Westwood, in memory of	July/August being double issues. Cheques should be made payable to S	
5th Dec	Victoria Barbara Selena Slater. Service at the Rowan Chapel.	15th Jan	Barbara Westwood. from Pat Durnall, in loving memory of John Durnall and all the Durnall family.	George's Stockport PCC and sent to th treasurer, Andrew Regan, 153 Acre Lane, Cheadle Hulme SK8 7PB, or placed in the Grapevine box at the	
22nd Dec	David Gerald Bullock. Service in Church. Burial at Park Road Cemetery Cheadle.	22nd Jan from the Alcraft and Hayden families, in loving memory of Walter Fallows.		back of church. Alternatively, you may pay by dire bank transfer to St Georges Stockp	
3rd Jan	Roy Bateson. Service at the Cypress Chapel.			PCC, Sort code 80-02-14, Account no. 00802467, quoting reference 'Grapevine'.	
6th Jan	Doreen Hayhurst. Service at the Cypress Chapel.	4th Dec	Kathy McMahon, in remembrance of her	Subscriptions are usually also due in February from the postal recipients of	
12th Jan	Jean Margaret Martin. Service at the Rowan Chapel.	27th Dec	daughter's death. Kate Stephenson, in celebration of Ruth and	the paper copies of Grapevine. As Royal Mail gives notice of any price increases in March, I am going to	
24th Jan	David Alan Wadsworth. Service at the Rowan Chapel.	22nd Jan	Martin's 10th wedding anniversary. Morag Ranson, for Malcolm and Morag's ruby	invoice in April in future, so that I can ask for the correct subscription, rathe than a calculated guess in February.	
30th Jan	Paul Thomas Horan. Service in Church. Burial at Bury Cemetery.		wedding anniversary.	This year the invoice will run from February 2023 – March 2024 and thereafter April – March each year.	
31st Jan Jean Jacqueline Ashley. Service at St Matthew's Church Stretton. Committal at Walton Lea.		Mothers' Union Monday 13th February. We will meet in the Parish Room at 2.15pm when we welcome Helen Harrison from Congleton branch with 'Virtual Babies!', an MU project in which she is very		We post very few copies of the magazine these days, most people preferring the full-colour, digital version and the great reduction in postal charges.	
Communion Flowers were sponsored		much invo	lved.	Rosie Stee Baptisms, Banns and Marriage	
as follows: 4th Dec from Jean Martin, in memory of Ethel Henshall. from the Durnall family, in loving memory of John Durnall.		The project involves taking these 'babies' – (i.e. baby dolls) into Year 10 (14- and 15-year-old boys and girls) classes to explore with them the realities of caring for a baby and particularly to help reduce the number		bookings: Please contact the vicar: Telephone: 0161 456 9382 or email: vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk	
11th Dec from the Stephenson		•	e pregnancies.	March 2023	

11th Dec from the Stephenson family, in memory of Elsie Brown.

The message is 'to help you make a conscious choice to become a parent

Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: Fri 17th Feb.

Committee meeting: Tue 21st Feb.

Christmas Tree Festival 2022

It was wonderful to return to a full-throttle Christmas Tree Festival in 2022. We used lessons learned from our cautious re-opening in 2021 and enjoyed an altered layout with a more generous seating area for the café, which also meant less furniture removal when we welcomed visiting choirs and the Karela dancing school.

We had 70 trees filling the church and, as ever, marvelled at the ingenuity and imagination of those putting up their trees. Trees were from local schools and businesses, church groups (both St George's and other churches) and charities, art groups and choirs. The variety on display was fabulous to see. The prayer trail was again a popular feature and people very much enjoyed being able to take away a booklet containing the prayers

A very conscious decision was made to keep the prices at pre-Covid-19 levels as many families were struggling, especially as Christmas approached, and this proved a sensible decision as we had around 2000 adult visitors and 1000 children. Father Christmas managed to pop in again on the Saturday, which delighted all the children –how does he manage it each year with his timetable?. Also, on the Friday, we were delighted to welcome the Mayor and deputy Mayor of Stockport who were very interested in everything that was going on.

Whilst the main aim is to welcome people into the church and ensure that they feel comfortable in the surroundings, it was gratifying to finish with a profit of £7000. Much of this was due to the hard work of the raffle donors and ticket sellers and all the people who provided





cakes and worked so hard in the café. Many thanks to Pat Rigley and team for the raffle and to Peter Smith and team for the café.

Our only request for 2023 is that we need more help on a day-by-day basis to ensure that everything is well staffed without depending on the same people all the time. Just a couple of hours at sometime during the week from as many people as possible means that it can all run smoothly without the organisers dropping from exhaustion! Meanwhile, have you got a good idea for a tree for 2023? Hazel Jenkins



(Photos by Louise Clark)

An Experience of Christian Worship in Ukraine

I RECENTLY had a chat with Andrii and leva about what church is like for them in their home countries. I had noticed that they often remain standing during the service, at first I thought that they were possibly uncomfortable but later I wondered whether this was what they were used to in Ukraine and Lithuania.

Andrii says that he grew up in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which stems more from the Greek Orthodox tradition rather than the Russian Orthodox Church. He told me that there are similarities with the Greek Catholic Church, which is also present in Ukraine. The structure of our services is therefore very similar to what they are used to at home, apart from the language, and they find it is easy to follow. Andrii says that people kneel more in Ukrainian churches, but there is a mixture of sitting, standing and kneeling. He said that it's usual to go to confession before the service, but confessional booths are not really used and that confessional prayers are being introduced into the service. Andrii says that his family attended church together, which was common when he was growing up. There was a strong community feeling with lots of activities, and this is what he wanted for his own family.

We were speaking on the day we celebrated Epiphany, and although the Ukrainian Orthodox Church at that time were celebrating Christmas, there is a move to bring it in line with the Gregorian calendar and hold Christmas at the same time as much of the world.



Orthodox Church of St Andrew in Kyiv. Photo by Serhii Tyaglovsky on Unsplash



Church interior, Lviv, Ukraine. Photo by Tuna Ekici on Unsplash

I was reminded by a quick internet search that Christianity was suppressed in Ukraine during the Soviet era, the Church was banned in 1930 and was restored only in 1989. It's good to know that it has been reestablished so well since then.

The couple told me that they know of a Ukrainian language service somewhere in Manchester and have attended it occasionally, but it is quite a long journey for them with a young family. The family feel comfortable at St George's. Andrii commented that the congregation is welcoming and diverse, and their children Adam and Maarta feel at home here. Both children started coming to Praise and Play as babies and they are very proud that Adam has recently joined the junior choir. I for one am pleased to be part of a church where those with differing backgrounds or needs can find a welcoming and comfortable place to worship.

Louise Clark

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

Recipe of the month: Broccoli, Gorgonzola and Walnut Quiche

I made this recently but used Stilton instead of Gorgonzola.

Pastry to line 23cm/9in tart tin

150g/6oz broccoli florets

100g/3.5oz gorgonzola, crumbled

2 eggs + 1 yolk, beaten

300ml/½ pt double cream

25g/1oz walnut pieces

Preheat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas mark 6. Roll out pastry to the thickness of a £1 coin and line tin. Prick base all over and chill for 15 mins. Bake blind for 20 mins, removing beans and paper for last 5 mins cooking time. Lower oven temperature to 150C/130C fan/gas mark 2.

HE CHURCH

Cook broccoli florets for 3 mins in boiling water, drain and dry on kitchen paper. Arrange in pastry case, dot with crumbled Gorgonzola. Mix together the beaten eggs with the cream and some salt and pepper. Pour over broccoli and cheese and scatter walnuts over the top. Bake for 40 mins or until just firm. Serve warm or at room temperature.

A Letter from Tril – December 2022

Dear Rosie and Walter,

Thank you so much for the comprehensive catch-up. You are a wizard at keeping up to date with all the news.

Nothing world shattering has happened here. The Summerset group has celebrated its 25th birthday. We are happy that our little village cannot be enlarged in any direction. They are in the process of building another village in New Plymouth which will be more than twice our size. It will have assets which we don't have, such as a dementia unit, but no one wants to transfer, except of course, the unfortunate people who need the dementia unit.

Cara and Bali take such good care of me. We phone every morning and probably meet at least once each week, but I am still living entirely independently, thank the good Lord.

They are both busy people. Cara works voluntarily for a "trade aid" shop, supervising prison visiting and attending at court to help people prepare for their appearances, as well as running a book club, keeping a lovely garden under control and their house immaculate. Bali has always been so busy with educational matters that retirement sort of took him by surprise. However, not for long. He received some sort of honour earlier in the year, presented by the Governor General at Government House. He has also been awarded an honorary Doctorate and I was allowed to attend the ceremony.

I must thank you both for the fact that I have St George's news and services each week. Bless you.

We have our own little swimming pool here, and I am very cross that I have an infected big toe which refuses to heal, so no swimming, and showering with plastic bags laced on etc. But if that is all I have to moan about how lucky am I?

Of course I miss Graham. He used to come over from Germany every six weeks or so. Now thanks to modern technology we Face Time every Sunday. And he will join us for Christmas, God willing. Hard to take in that he is nearly 70!

Will stop rabbiting on! Love and Best wishes to all my friends and Happy Christmas.

Tril

Choir Activities During Advent and Christmas

ST GEORGE'S CHOIR is always extremely busy over the Advent and Christmas periods with an Advent Carol Service, three Christingle services, and midnight communion for Christmas, as well as the Christmas morning service amongst the events that they support. This picture was taken after the beautiful Nine Lessons and Carols service.





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For 'gold' read 'love'

I AM INDEBTED to Chris Dawson for this opportunity to express my thanks to my father, a debt owed for roughly eighty years. Chris writes highly valued, thoughtful contributions to St George's Church's weekly 'Lance', and on 13th January, in "Affirming and Accepting", spoke of the Japanese art of Kintsugi. (By carefully putting together the pieces of a broken pot, adding powdered gold to resin, the artist enhances the value of the original pot.) The computer revealed pictures (assuredly copyright!) of dishes and bowls with irregular gold scars, the deep blue vessels being particularly attractive.

I had never heard the word before and knew nothing of the concept but felt myself smiling as childhood memories flooded in. Most family homes have a

collection of dolls and other toys long after there are children wanting to play with them. It took only a few minutes to find ours, even though the youngest of the family is already nine:

Not so for my birth family – mine was the first arrival for 13 years, and Brian, born then, joined the Merchant Navy when he was 17. I had a dolls' pram, but as our cairn terrier was happy to be wheeled around in it, wearing a bonnet if required, dolls hardly featured. Betty, however, was special, not only for her smooth matte porcelain face, eyes that closed as she was laid down – those eyes were brown! She was the only brown-eyed doll I had ever seen. Brian's sister, Betty, in the WAAF at the time, had brown eyes, so that had to be my doll's name.

The accident happened at teatime on Easter Day, and it was going to be a special tea, the sort that kept Mum busy in the kitchen for a long time with the door shut. Betty had, of course, been invited. Cushions had not brought her high enough to reach the dining table, so I had added a few books. The crash, when it came, left me only one clear but indelible image, that of staring at the V-shaped bar and metal lump holding Betty's eyes and surrounded by pale peach curved pieces of porcelain!

There must have been much wailing from me, but I have no memory of that. Mum was as ever fatalistic in outlook (with a hint of "I told you so" in tone) but Dad had already fetched a tray and was meticulously gathering every porcelain fragment of poor Betty's head, now on the carpet. Over the next few evenings Mum and I watched with fascination as Dad built his 3D jigsaw. When it disappeared for several days, I feared the worst, realising later that he was giving his work ample time to dry completely.

Nobody could say that Betty emerged unscathed from her accident: she was badly scarred, and her eyes closed with a slight clunk, but I loved her more than ever before, which gratified both my parents. I have been told that, from the age of two, I would often say, confidently, "Daddy men' it" so the radical surgery would probably always have been taken for granted, but picturing the quiet smile that would have lit up my father's face if I could have told him he was a Kintsugi artist is treasure indeed – thank you, Chris!

Angela Foulkes



Frances Farrar

WE HAVE just heard the sad news that our beloved Frances Farrar died on 25th January, after a short illness. All of us will have been richly blessed by the joy of having known her. There will be a private cremation in Coventry followed by a service at St Gabriel's to celebrate her life later on in the year. No dates have been decided for this yet. Let us give thanks for her life and please hold her lovely family in your prayers.

The photo is from when Peter and I went to visit Frances in February 2020 before Covid.



Banknote designs unveiled, featuring King Charles III

Every blessing, Elaine

PLANS TO ENTER new banknotes, featuring an image of King Charles III, are due to be in circulation by mid 2024.

Unveiling the design ahead of the King's Coronation in May, the Bank said Charles's portrait would appear on existing designs of all four of its polymer banknotes currently in circulation: £5, £10, £20 and £50. Although the note designs will feature a new portrait of the monarch, the reverse side will remain unchanged, with Winston Churchill on £5 notes; the author, Jane Austen, on £10 notes; artist JMW Turner on £20 and the computer scientist, Alan Turing, on £50 notes. Security features, including holograms and plastic windows, will also remain unchanged.

Charles will become only the second monarch in British history to feature on a banknote. Although paper money has been produced by the Bank of England since the late 1600's, a likeness of the reigning monarch was first featured in 1960, when £1 notes, showing Elizabeth II, were introduced for everyday use. Coins have, however, featured monarchs for centuries. Notes featuring Queen Elizabeth II will remain legal tender, whilst notes featuring King Charles III will 'cocirculate', as Threadneedle Street said plans had been made, in line with guidance from the Royal Household, to minimise the environmental and financial impact of the change, by printing new notes only to replace worn banknotes and to meet any overall increase in demand for the currency.

Use of physical currency has steadily fallen in recent years because of the rise of card and contactless payments. However, more than 4.7bn Bank of England notes featuring Elizabeth II remain in circulation, worth about £82bn.

The launch of the note will stand as one of the most prominent changes for royal symbols since the death of the Queen in September. Other changes will be to coins, stamps and the King's 'CR' monogram to be used on state documents and post boxes.

> Edited version of an article by Richard Partington in The Guardian January 2023





A year in the life of the RSPCA

DURING 2022 the RSPCA had some 'weird and wonderful' incidents to deal with.

First to be rescued in January 2022, was a six month old seal pup which appeared next to a riverbank by the Old Lock and Weir Inn near Bristol. As the pub is situated at the water's edge, it's likely the pup swam upstream along the the River Avon from the coast.

Two days later another seal pup was found on a cliff in Weybourne, Norfolk, 15 metres from the beach. It must have taken a wrong turn and then followed the coastal path before ending up on the cliff edge. It was taken by RSPCA rescuers to a safe spot on the beach.

A recurring theme in RSPCA rescues in 2022, was foxes getting their heads stuck, including a vixen that became trapped in a watering can and a fox found with his head stuck in a large tin of dog food. This proves what a danger discarded litter can be to wildlife. Wherever possible cans should be rinsed out and lids completely removed before responsible disposal.

A 1.5m long boa constrictor was found slithering through a fast food restaurant in Bognor Regis in July. The non-venomous snake was placed in a box by staff before it was collected by the RSPCA.

In August rescuers used barbecue tongs, and a little bit of gentle persuasion, to pull a hedgehog free from an open drain in Hull. It was then released back into the wild.

But, strangest of all was the discovery, by a couple unpacking their shopping, of a Hispaniolan common tree frog on a bunch of bananas! It had made a 4,300 mile trip from the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean to Tamworth, Staffordshire, but was said to be in good condition, despite its long journey.

Information obtained from an article in The Guardian, 2nd January 2023

The Tale of a Rescue Cat

In late June last year my mother-in-law, Kate, posted a message on our family chat group about a cat that had turned up at her house in Wiltshire. The cat had decided that it wanted to live with her. She really wanted to take it in and give it a home but said that it kept clamping itself to her feet, so she was worried that it would be a risk to my father-in-law who is unsteady on his feet. She made enquiries around her village, but no one knew anything about the cat or who it might belong to. She fed the cat, calling her Pilchard but realised that she needed to find a new home for it. My sister-in-law arranged to take the cat to a rescue home where it was found that the tiny thing was pregnant, eventually having three kittens. This would be the end of the story, except that when Louise saw pictures of the cat, she fell in love with it. Come September the kittens had been weaned and were ready to leave their Mum. Louise made a trip down to Wiltshire with a new comfy cat basket, staying with her Mum and Dad overnight before going to collect the cat and bring her home to Stockport. We have called her Brontë to keep with the literary theme of our other cat's name, Dickens. She is a little fluffy ball of energy, zipping about the house and causing havoc. She seems to be permanently hungry and is adept at stealing food from our plates, but then she did live on the mean street of Monkton Deverill (look it up). Dickens has even taught her how to wake me up at 3am for breakfast time!



Brontë is a rescue cat who travelled all the way from Wiltshire to live in Stockport (photo: Andy Clark)

Andy Clark

Dust and Glory – Resources for Lent 2023



BUST GLORY

THIS LENT we are all invited to explore how we can live well with the mess of everyday life.

Dust and Glory encourages us to take a fresh look at the frustrations and failings that every day brings and, rather than pretending we can always avoid them, seek to learn from them and grow closer to God through them.

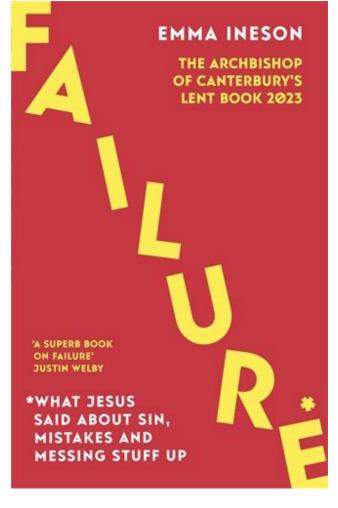
Archbishops of Canterbury and York

See the following link for resources on the Church of England website: <u>URL: https://bit.ly/3XCsZvA</u>

The Archbishops' Lent Book and Course

Dust and Glory: A Lent journey of faith, failure and forgiveness is the Church of England's Lent theme for 2023. This year's resources are informed and inspired by the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2023 Lent Book, **Failure: What Jesus said about sin, mistakes and messing stuff up (SPCK) by Bishop Emma Ineson**, who has also co-written the daily reflections booklet for adults (CHP).

URL: https://spckpublishing.co.uk/failure-what-jesus-saidabout-sin-mistakes-and-mucking-stuff-up-10





Ash Wednesday at St George's

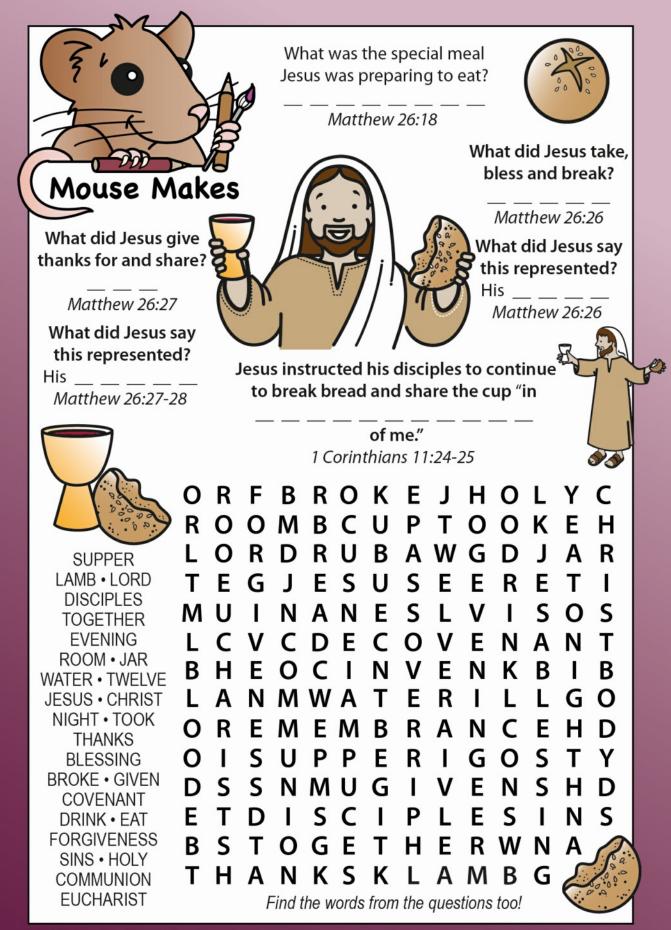
LENT BEGINS on Ash Wednesday, 22nd February 2023.

There will be a service of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at 7.30pm that evening at St George's Church



STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

is delighted to sponsor the Children's pages of The Parish Grapevine



Sudoku puzzle: easy

1	9					5		8	
	2	6		3	8	1		9	
8				7		4			
				9				6	
3	4		8		6		1	7	
3 2				1					
		4		8				1	
7		3	9	2		6	5		
6		2					8	3	
	© 2014 KrazyDad.com								

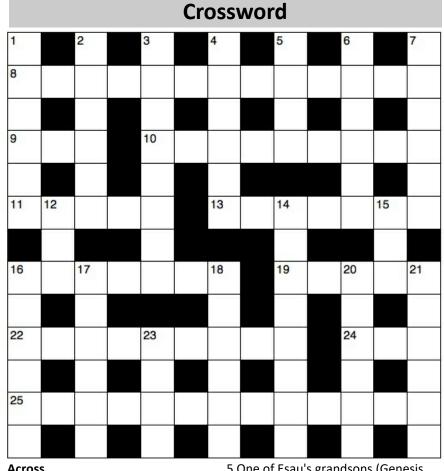
Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 23)



"He moved here after the PCC voted to lower the church heating bill. He says it is warmer out here."



- Across
- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8) 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the -
- heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)
- 19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to - your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On - - let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but - him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' - salt to - your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always - to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to - (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

News from the Garden Gnomes

SINCE HAVING knee surgery in October I have left my fellow Gnomes to do all the hard work. They have been busy keeping the church grounds looking as tidy as possible, although I know the weather has not been the best for gardening. What with the big freeze, then the Christmas break and what now seems like non-stop rain, I think Tuesday mornings have been quite quiet.

The 125 bed, as it has become known, has been cleared. Robert was kept busy planting up the spring bulbs which many of you kindly donated. These should soon be showing some growth, so we look forward to a splash of colour in the coming weeks. We will then put in bedding plants to take us through the summer.

There were a number of wreaths placed in the Remembrance Garden at Christmas and these will have been left until Candlemas and then cleared away. We try to recycle as much as possible, but it's quite a painstaking job to get the foliage out of the wire and sort out the plastic berries from the holly. As part of our Eco Church mission we should look to provide guidance to anyone leaving wreaths in memory of loved ones to look for tributes that can be more easily composted and recycled.

Most of the gardening jobs for February seem to be focused on tidying up and preparing for the coming spring.

• Divide clumps of snowdrops when they have finished flowering and replant to begin new colonies.

• Cut back wisteria side shoots to encourage abundant flowers in the spring.

- Prune buddleia and elder to the base.
- Finish winter-pruning fruit trees and soft fruits

• Prepare vegetable beds for sowing by weeding thoroughly, then cover with a thick layer of garden compost

• Hunt out overwintering snails huddled in empty pots and hidden corners to reduce populations.

• Sow seeds for summer bedding and keep in a frost-free greenhouse or a sunny windowsill.

- Put dahlia tubers in pots indoors.
- Wash greenhouse glazing inside and out to let in as much light as possible.
- Install a nest box with a camera so you can watch birds raising their broods in spring.
- Make fat ball feeders. If they are hung among roses they will attract blue tits.

• Clean and service mowers and garden power tools so they are in good order for spring.

When you have finished all these jobs, maybe you would find a couple of hours on Tuesday mornings to come and join us at church? You would be made very welcome and even plied with coffee and chocolate biscuits!!

Gnome Kate



photo: Andy Clark

Treading the Earth Lightly: from the Christmas Tree Festival Prayer Trail

Reuse

Repurpose

There are many programmes on TV which show the presenters taking items, destined for the skip, which have gone out of fashion or need some repair or people have needed to make more space in their homes for more stuff.

At the end of the show, the former owners of the objects are shocked and surprised to discover, thanks to the skills of upholsterers, carpenters, painters and crafters, how their things have been transformed from dull, boring or useless to something which they'd very much like to have back.

Prayer from Rt Revd David Urquhart Bishop of Birmingham

Lord Jesus, the earth is yours and you have commanded the winds and the sea; help us to leave behind our consumer demand for plastics and move towards behaviours that are environmentally healthy; help us to follow your lead in caring for the world you love. Amen.

Action

Take a bauble, put it on your Christmas Tree, give it to someone else as a gift, use it to adorn a parcel or reuse it for something else entirely.

Part of repurposing is being creative, thinking outside the box, using things that we already have, instead of buying new.

On a simple level we can reuse carrier bags, envelopes, newspaper, cardboard, bubble wrap and packaging, and reusing containers such as jars and cans and boxes for storage can save us buying plastic.

Specialist recycling centres sell items from clothes to building materials, which can be adapted for other uses, or we can swap resources and skill sets with friends and family.

Challenges for prayer and reflection

How often do you look at a household object and actively think, "What can I use that for?"

Would you be prepared to go to classes (or YouTube!) to learn upholstery, sewing, painting, carpentry or some type of craft in order to repurpose your furniture, clothing or household items from shabby to shabby chic?

Would you ask your friends and family to help?



Parish of St. George, Stockport with St. Gabriel, Adswood



Shining as a beacon for Christ



Music Scheme – February 2023

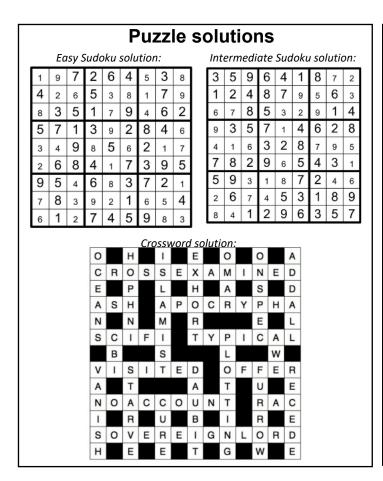
Sunday 5 th February – The Third Sunday before Lent						
10:15am	Parish Communion	4:00pm	Baptism Thanksgiving Service			
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening					
Hymns:	608 Thy kingdom come! On bended knee					
	555 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,	See Order of Service for details				
	SP13 Longing for light, we wait in darkness,					
	435 Glorious things of thee are spoken,					
Anthem:	Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace – Wesley					

Sunday	Sunday 12 th February – The Second Sunday before Lent						
10:15am	Parish Communion						
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne						
Hymns:	265 The spacious firmament on high,						
	250 All creatures of our God and King,	No Evening Service					
	Seek ye first the kingdom of God						
	474 Immortal, invisible, God only wise						
Anthem:	Lead me, Lord – Wesley						

Sunday	Sunday 19 th February – The Sunday next before Lent						
10:15am	Parish Communion						
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening						
Hymns:	2 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,						
. –	248 Tis good, Lord, to be here,	No Evening Service					
	213 Christ is the world's light,						
	466 How shall I sing that majesty						
Anthem:	O nata lux de lumine – Tallis						

Wednesday 22 nd February – Ash Wednesday							
	7:30pm	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes					
	Setting:	The Addington Service – Shephard					
The Litany: Plainsong							
	Hymns:	95 Forty days and forty nights					
		96 Jesu, lover of my soul,					
		97 Lord Jesus, think on me,					
		21 Sun of my soul, thou Saviour dear,					
	Anthem:	Purge me, O Lord – Tallis					
	Anthem:	Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake – Farrant					

Sunday 2	26 th February – The First Sunday of	126 th Anniversary Sunday				
10:15am	Parish Communion	Choral Evensong				
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening	Hymns:	581 Take my life, and let it be			
Hymns:	95 Forty days and forty nights		533 O for a heart to praise my God,			
	283 Before the throne of God above		15 God, that madest earth and heaven,			
	385 Be thou, my guardian and my guide,	Responses:	Ayleward Psalm: 119. 1-16			
	537 O God, our help in ages past,	Canticles:	Evening Service in D Minor – Walmisley			
Anthem:	Locus iste – Bruckner	Anthem:	Hear my prayer – Mendelssohn			



Loyal Service Awards for Members of St George's Choir

John Atkinson and Angela Wadsworth were each presented with the Loyal Service medal of the Royal School of Church Music on Tuesday 24th January, and are seen here with Elaine and our Director of Music, James Hibbert.

John has recently completed 50 years' continuous service with the choir, and is one of the longest serving members in its history.

Angela joined the choir in 1999, as it was recruiting new members prior to the Millennium celebrations at the church. Angela was the first female member of the choir to sing at St George's since 1908.

Regular Services at St George's

Services in church, with congregation:

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

Services which are live streamed only:

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

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









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