November 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

Diocese of Chester Larish Larish Lapevine

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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

			vito in the r	ansh of St George, S			
Vicar	Rev. Canon Elair vicar@stgeorges	ne Chegwin Hall stockport.org.uk 456 9382	Junior Choir	James Hibbert 07365 519207 Practices: Wednesday and Thursday 6pm–7.30pm in the	Bible Study Gro	Study groups conto Study groups and arranged from tim	
Associate minister Rev. Dr Jenny McKay 01606 891564			vestry during term time. Sing for Sunday services at 10.15am and 4pm.	Choir a	James Hibbert 0 ctingdirectorofmusi	7365 519207	
Readers	jenny@stgeorges Peter Hall	stockport.org.uk 456 9382	Praise and PlayLois Kelly439 9458			Practice: Thursday 9pm in the vestry	
	Rita Waters	487 3620		For 0–4s and their carers. Meet every Tuesday in term		time. Sing for Sun at 10.15am and 4	day services
Churchwardens	Andrew Regan Hazel Jenkins	440 0408 483 4679		time, 10–11 in the Parish Rooms.	Church Flowers	Jean Hayden <i>(don</i>	
PCC Secretary	Lois Kelly	439 9458	St Gabriel's		Church Garden	o.rc	483 2367
PCC Treasurer	Andrew Reg		Festival services	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall 456 9382	Church Garden	Walter Stead Meet on Tuesdays	<i>430 2449</i> 9.30-12.30.
treasu Parish Office	urer@stgeorgesto Cathryn Otley	ockport.org.uk 480 2453	Uniformed Grou	ıps	Coffee Morning	•	402 65 46
Magazine Edito		400 2433		ns to St George's		Olwen Smith after the 10am se	483 6548 rvice on
Safeguarding co			Rainbows	Trisha Brown 07403 353 175 Sue Kirkland 07854 101 918		Wednesdays, in cl	
stgeorgestoci	James Hibbert kportsafeguardin			For girls aged 4-7. Meet Fridays 6.15-7.30pm in the	Cursillo	Cursillo Usually meet on la Wednesday of the 7.30pm at differen	
Website	www.stgeorgest	ockport.org.uk		Parish Room.	Handbells	Andy Clark	483 3703
Webmaster	Peter Hall	456 9382	Brownies	Rachel Lockett 07712 302342 Lianne Warburton		Play for All-Age ar services, plus othe	er special
St George's Prin	nary School			07815 482603 For girls aged 7-10. Meet		events. Ringers of or without experie	
Headteacher	Deborah Grindr	od 480 8657		Thursdays 6.30-8pm in the Parish Room.		welcome. Rehears arranged around t availability.	
St George's				To sign up to Brownies or Rainbows please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk and	Linen Guild	Pat Rigley Maintain the chur	487 1999 ch's linen.
Deputy Warden		01663 764 462 483 9589	4th Stockport S	click on "Join us"	Magazine Edito	rial Group Meet monthly to _l issues.	olan future
Director of Mus				Sarah Johnson 07930 243 159	mag	ssues. gazine@stgeorgestc	ckport.org.u
C	James Hibbert actingdirectorofm			Meet at: Bridgehall Community Centre	Mothers' Unior	Pat Durnall Meet on 2nd Mon	483 4837 day of the
Associate Direct	Roger Briscoe	m16@amail.com	Siddington Avenue SK3 8NR		month in church at 2.15pm.		
Vergers	Lee Howarth	m16@gmail.com	Squirrels	For boys and girls aged 4–6 Saturdays 9–10			
Bookings for Pa		100 2452	Beavers	For boys and girls aged 6 and 7 Wednesdays 5.30–6.30			
	Parish Office or Judith Swift	480 2453 483 8681	Cubs	For boys and girls aged 8–10½ Wednesdays 6.30–8.00			
St Gabriel's Contact:	Parish Office	480 2453	Scouts	For boys and girls aged 10½–14			
Bookings	Parish Office	480 2453 480 2453		10/2-14 Wednesdays 6.30-8.00	Fro	nt cover pho	to:
Children's Activ	ities		Other Groups a	nd Activities		Field of Poppies	
St George's			St George's		Photo by F	Paul Judson (Pari	sh Pump)
Children's Corne	Available for chi parents) during	services.	Bell ringers	Anne Mayes 485 6477 Practise Mondays 7.45-9pm. Ring on Sundays 9.45-10.15am. Meet in the tower.	Servic	es and Ever November:	nts in
Equipped with books, crayons and soft toys. Sunday Clubs Ask for Louise, Eliza or Andy at		Bible Reading Fellowship Notes Janet Neilson 483 9025 Notes are ordered on request.		se	e pages 6 and 2	23	
•	the 10:15 Sunda	N SARVICA		Notes are oracrea on request.			

Christmas Tree Festival 2023 – Your Church Needs You!



SO HERE WE are in November and the days are ticking away until the Christmas Tree Festival. We can't do it on our own and really need as much help as

possible. So how can you help?

There are lots of ways, so let's start at the entrance. Ideally we need someone standing at the door to give everyone a big St George's welcome as they come in and

point them in the right direction. Then we need two people to be at the desk to help people pay their entry money. It will be £2.50 per adult and children come free. They can pay by cash or by card and we will give you a lesson on how to use the card machine. Then just give them a programme and off they go. The desk is a sitting down job.

We have some fabulous raffles to tempt folk as well as various ways to win a soft toy, so we need people to staff that stall. Again it's straightforward and in the quiet bits you can sit down! Last year, with Pat Rigley's super organisation, the raffle was a very successful event.

Peter Smith will need a whole team of people to help run the café so that no-one has to be on duty too long. There will be hot and cold drinks as well as a selection of cakes to tempt people and the café is always popular as a meet-and-greet place. If you are able to bake or donate cakes they would be welcome. Please can we have a list of ingredients with any home-baked cakes.

If you have a first aid certificate and can be a steward, it would be really helpful if you can tell me. We never want to have any accidents or unwell visitors but it does happen and it's good to know who we can call on. It's great to have stewards who are just walking around the church and keeping an eye on things, checking whether anything

What's Where...

- P 2 Who's who
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- P 4 September Baptism
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- P 6 Parish News
- P 7 Wedding of Lauren and David Bird
- P 8 A service to celebrate the life of Kathleen Heaword

needs replacing or bins are full etc. Also Father Christmas will need someone to help him and keep the queue organised.

Peter and I will both put up our signup sheets in a couple of weeks, so if you can spend some time please do sign up, even if you can only spare an hour, it makes such a difference. Please do talk to any of the team if you have any questions – Hazel Jenkins, Rita Waters, Sue Burt, Sue Cordingley, Pat Rigley, Tracey Bennett and John Hayden.

Thank you, Hazel Jenkins

(for Festival dates and opening times, see page 6)



- P 9 St George's Mothers' Union Steady as She Goes, John and Hermione Roff
- P 10 Thoughts on Meditation, Recycling Box – update
- P 12 Recipe of the month
- P 14 Too late...
- P 15 A service to celebrate the life of Jean Norton, Oddfellows Brass Band Concert
- P 16 Storytime Pointing out the obvious

- P 17 Taizé-Style service and Wellspring News
- P 18 Children's Page
- P 19 Puzzles and cartoon
- P 20 Twenty Years of Being a Reader
- P 21 Autumn Half Term in St George's Primary School
- P 22 Music Scheme
- P 23 Puzzle solutions, Regular Service Times, What am I?

September Baptism



MATILDA ESME BURN was baptised on Sunday 24th September. These photographs show her with her Mum Jessica, Dad Aaron and helpful big sister Maddison.





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Elaine writes: Snap!

We knew that we had come to a point of decision. The car, which appeared to be working fine, had come back from its MOT and service with a £700 bill and a £3000 list of recommendations.

We took a few weeks to

think about the next steps. We didn't want the heavy sell practised by some of the larger garages, or the patronising "Do you want me to wrap it in a big bow now?" or "do you want to ask your hubby?" (both true) of some of the smaller garages, so we found ourselves stuck as to next steps.

We drove down Kennerley Road and had to make a choice, to turn right or left onto Buxton Road? At the back of my mind, I remember someone telling me about a company that they'd had a good experience with, so we turned in that direction, just to have a look.

We had various requirements: a decent

sized boot space, more room at the back and the vehicle definitely being less than four years old.

When we arrived at the garage, we were warmly welcomed by the owner and given a seat in the office. He started by telling us that he matched people with vehicles and proceeded to take a list of our requests, made comprehensive notes throughout about our family requirements, including the names of all who had a vested interest in travelling in the car, and asked if we were wedded to any particular colour, which we weren't. He then mentioned an automatic and said he knew by my face that I wasn't keen.

Nevertheless, he took us to see a car which we wouldn't have bothered to look at, by a make we would never have considered, which was only six months younger than our current car, but which had low mileage, and had been impeccably kept by the former owner.

On returning to the office, the garage owner said we could reserve the car for £100 and, if we changed our minds, then he would give us the money back. With no pressure, and no money handed over, he encouraged us to go off for a coffee and have a think.

So, we were there with the possibility of a car that we wouldn't have looked at, which didn't completely fit our

personal brief concerning age and was an automatic, which I had never driven before, and I was quite apprehensive.

Yet, over lunch, we began to see the advantages of this particular car, some of which hadn't occurred to us before, and we called the garage owner back to arrange a test drive. He fitted us in for an hour later.

Peter, who had already driven an automatic, was left in the office, and I was taken round the local area to try out the vehicle, and it was surprisingly easy. I was a convert, which certainly hadn't been the case when I got into the car earlier with more than a bit of trepidation.

I came back beaming from ear to ear and we bought the car on the spot.

Matching people with vehicles was their strapline and it was true. We brought something that we had never envisaged or desired but that was a perfect fit for us.

> How many times in our lives have we been "matched" to a job or rôle that we hadn't envisaged or desired, and it needed someone else to lead us by the nose to something very different because they knew it would be the right thing for us?

How often have we been placed in a situation which we have been challenged

by, but it was only in encountering and engaging with that situation that we could start to see the benefits?

How often have we tried to slam on the brakes when we have been convinced that something definitely wasn't for us, but have been gently persuaded by someone who has the wisdom and discernment to see our gifts and abilities and who knew that it would be a great fit if we'd only just step out and have a go?

We need to open ourselves to the guidance of those around us, those who know us best and those who don't know us at all but can see our potential even after a brief meeting.

We need to open ourselves to God's gentle prompting or even hurtling towards an encounter that we didn't know we needed to make.

We need to allow ourselves to be matched, to step out of our own pre-conceived ideas and take a risk with the unfamiliar.

We might even be surprised at the outcome!

Every blessing

Elaine



Parish News Roundup

Holy Bapti	sm	
15th Oct	Theodore John Blackwell	No
22nd Oct	Zack and Jessica Banfield and Joanne Hibbert	No 'Chr will
Holy Matr	imony	oui
None last	month	The
Funerals		ope chu
5th Oct	Philip Darbyshire (at the Rowan Chapel)	
6th Oct	Alan Charles Mycock	_
13th Oct	Callum Breen	Sta 202
18th Oct	Jean Norton	1st
Burial of a	shes	1st
13th Oct	Alice Ramsbottom	– up
Communio as follows	on Flowers were sponsored	2nc 2nc
1st Oct	from David Gittings, for Margaret.	£1.
8th Oct	from the Stead family, in memory of Leslie and Lucy Williams.	Cel No
15th Oct	from the Buxton family, in loving memory of Elsie and Robert Buxton.	aft we for
22nd Oct	in loving memory of Kathleen Heaword and her parents.	Ple wh rec
29th Oct	from The Garlick family, in loving memory of Wilfrid and Edith Garlick.	will ava boo
	Also, in loving memory of Gordon and Margaret Sharrard.	for Tw i No [,]

Parish News Roundup

Mothers' Union

wember meeting on Monday 13th vember at 2.15pm. Entitled ristmas Flowers', Catherine Brown Il demonstrate ideas for us to use in ir decorations for the festive period. e north avenue and porch will be en for parking and entrance to urch. Everybody is welcome.

Message Board

amp price increases from 2nd October 23

t class from £1.10 to £1.25 – up 15p

t class large letter from £1.60 to £1.95 p 35p

d class remains the same – 75p

d class large letter from £1.15 to .55 – up 40p

Services and events in November

lebration of Life Service. Sunday 5th ovember at 4pm followed by ernoon tea. People are warmly elcome to attend as we give thanks the lives of those people we knew. ease know that all are welcome nether a bereavement has been cent or some years ago. This service Il be live streamed and a list is ailable on the table near the hymn oks for people to write in the names reading out.

ilight Craft Fair. Friday 10th November from 2.30pm until 9pm.

Parish News Roundup

Entrance fee of £2 per adult with accompanied children free of charge. All welcome.

Remembrance Sunday.

12th November: Remembrance Service at 10.15am, followed by laying of wreaths at the War Memorial.

Taizé style café church service. Sunday 12th November at 4pm. Turn up for 3.30pm so we can enable people to be seated and served. Live streamed.

Christ the King Evensong service: Sunday 26th November at 4pm.

Christmas Tree Festival:

Wed 29th Nov: 12 noon to 6pm Thur 30th Nov: 12 noon to 7pm Fri 1st Dec: 12 noon to 8pm Sat 2nd Dec: 10am to 6pm Sun 3rd Dec: 12 noon to 4pm

Father Christmas will be visiting the Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday morning and afternoon and also on Sunday afternoon.

Advent Carol Service: Sunday 3rd December at 6.30pm.

Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings:

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

Dec 2023 – Jan 2024 Grapevine magazine dates: Deadline copy date: Fri 17th Nov Committee meeting: Tue 21st Nov

St George's floodlighting – sponsorship request form (Please return to Andrew Regan, 153 Acre Lane, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, SK8 7PB).

Name	Phone no
Date of evening requested	£20 or £ donation enclosed (Please make cheques payable to St George's Stockport PCC)
Reason for request (if appropriate)	
If you are a taxpayer and would like the church t Gift Aid declaration:	to reclaim the tax on your donation please also complete the following
	eorge's Church, Stockport. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my rence.
Title First name or initial(s)	Surname
Home address:	

Post Code

Signature.....

Date

Wedding of Lauren and David Bird

LAUREN AND DAVID married at St George's Church on Saturday 2nd September. The service was officiated by the Reverend Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall. Music was provided by St George's Director of Music, James Hibbert, and a large augmented choir. *Photographs by Mark Gavin Photography: <u>URL: https://markgavinphotography.pic-time.com/5xJVEX44cgAjN</u>*











A service to celebrate the life of Kathleen Margaret Heaword

29th June 1935 – 17th August 2023

THE FUNERAL SERVICE was held on 13th September and was conducted by the vicar, Rev Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall. After welcoming everyone, Elaine began by saying that some people who have reached the age that Kathleen did, may think there would be little to say about them and there wouldn't be many who would turn up. But in Kathleen's case many people did turn up, family, friends, neighbours, church family and work colleagues and a great many had plenty to say about her.

Kathleen was someone who was statuesque, elegant and well dressed. She had a presence about her which said 'welcome' on the one hand, and 'don't mess with me' on the other. St George's Church was the place where Kathleen formed the bedrock of her strong Christian faith

and the church family was very important to her. When she was unable to attend church, she kept up with technology and watched the service online and remained in touch by phone and emails and visits from friends.

Alison, her goddaughter, spoke of Auntie Kathleen's generosity and kindness – never missing a birthday or Christmas present - and was so proud of all Alison achieved, especially when she joined the WRNS. During a recent spell in hospital, at Alison's first visit, Kathleen asked in her quietly spoken, but forceful way, if she would prepare her eulogy. Never having done one before, Alison was somewhat taken aback, but Kathleen continued by asking that Alison say nice things about her.



Cousins, Brian and Elizabeth, talked of Kathleen's love of holidays, either with her parents on cruises, or with her friends. She organised events including visits to flower shows and canal trips. These events invariably included afternoon tea.

Linda Salt, a church member, recalled that Kathleen took her to 'Discoverers of the Way', a group which met once a week for craftwork, stories and games. Things made were sold at the CMS fair. Marion Johnson remembered that Kathleen had been crowned Rose Queen and made many friends by attending 'At Home' events in the diocese. She was also a great help to Marjorie Lees with the church flower arrangements. Carol Condliffe, music teacher at Stockport Grammar School at the time, spoke of first meeting Kathleen when she visited SGS with a group of ladies who came to see how the Convent School had been adapted for use by the SGS music department. These ladies came from Stockport Ladies Luncheon Club, a society which meant a lot to Kathleen. She was the treasurer for many years, extremely enthusiastic, always beautifully dressed and was still a fully paid-up member!

Neighbour, Sarah, and her whole family, went above and beyond in supporting Kathleen whenever required. Kathleen was regarded as 'honorary grandma' to Jessica and Lucy. Jessica provided a roast lunch every Sunday and Lucy made cakes regularly during lockdown, especially

> chocolate cake. They assisted Kathleen with paperwork and allowed her to share Molly, the cockerpoo, who Kathleen loved.

There were reminiscences from Frances Boaler, who had been a member of staff at Chapel-en-le-Frith Secondary School when Kathleen joined as bursar in the mid 1980s, and remained there until her retirement. Instantly, Kathleen had a presence, being tall, immaculately dressed, with blonde coiffed hair and with an approachable, friendly demeanour which she maintained throughout her career at the school.

Not only was Kathleen an efficient bursar but also an excellent organiser of social activities, restaurant meals, afternoon teas and trips to Chatsworth House to see the Christmas decorations. She also joined several staff on October

half-term breaks to Mallorca. Whilst people's packing varied in efficiency on a sliding scale – mostly things thrown in in haste, not Kathleen's. She was top of the sartorial tree and her suitcase reflected this – tissue paper, padded hangers, heated rollers in their own case...

Kathleen's manner and sense of humour endeared her to many and she was always prepared to 'send herself up' with dry humour. She was unfailingly kind, a great giggler, and good company. She gave everyone a touch of class by her presence.

These, and other comments, reflect how much people valued Kathleen's friendship.

Many happy memories - sorely missed.

Edited tributes.

St George's Mothers' Union – Steady as She Goes

WE STARTED our 2023–24 programme in September with a service of Holy Communion led by Vicar Elaine, who is also one of our members. We welcomed two MU members from St Alban's Offerton; they do not have regular meetings and we were delighted that they were able to join us and hope that they will come again. During the service Vicar Elaine enrolled two new members, Hazel Jenkins and Angela Foulkes. It is delightful that we welcome new members after losing so many members of long standing, and we remember Margaret Sharrard, Margaret Jeffrey, Jean Martin, Olwen Garrido and Gaynor Cartwright.

The October meeting saw us back in church due to problems with the parish room, but it does make parking easier! Members and visitors welcomed Carol and Charlie from 'Steady in Stockport' (Falls prevention and Bone Health Service) a dedicated service that aims to proactively prevent and reduce falls and maintain good bone health for people in Stockport.

Carol started with this acronym.

S T E A D Y forms an acronym to remind us of the risks that contribute to a fall:

S .. Shoes and slippers: are they a good fit and supportive?

T.. Toilet: ease of access, rails correct height and continence issues are looked into.

Tablets: that we have regular medication checks and that no medication will contribute to a fall.

E .. Eyes and ears: making sure that we have regular vision and hearing checks.

A... Activity: it is important that we keep as active as we can so maintaining strength and balance.

D... Diet and drink: that we have a good healthy diet and have an adequate fluid intake.

Y... Your health and your environment: that we have regular checks of our blood pressure, that we stay up to date with checking safety in our homes and that our equipment is safe.

Charlie then provided us with a very informative talk on osteoporosis, and how we can look after our bones. osteoporosis is more common in women than men and occurs when the struts which make up the mesh-like structure within bones become thin, so becoming fragile and breaking easily, often following a minor bump or fall. Calcium and vitamin D are essential; a healthy balance diet will ensure that we keep our bones strong.

Access to 'Steady in Stockport' can be via your GP, health or social care professional or other services like Care Call, Signpost, ambulance service or home care provider.

Both Carol and Charlie provided us with much information and advice; we left more informed and one member was going to buy new slippers!

Our next meeting is on Monday November 13th at 2.15pm when Catherine Brown will delight us with a demonstration entitled 'Christmas Flowers'. This should be a very colourful and delightful event getting us ready for the Festive Season. Catherine is a member of St George's bell ringers. Everybody is welcome and the North Avenue and porch will be open for car parking and access to the church building.



John and Hermione Roff

SOME OF YOU may know that about five months ago John and Hermione Roff moved from Lancaster to London. They now have an apartment right on the north bank of the Thames in the Isle of Dogs. When we were down in London for a family party we took the opportunity to go and visit them. They were very pleased to see us and we spent a lot of time catching up on 'who was doing what now.' Their apartment has amazing views across to the south bank of the Thames at Greenwich and in the picture you can see the Cutty Sark. They sent their best wishes to everyone.

Hazel Jenkins

Thoughts on Meditation

MEDITATION IS for weirdos, not people like me! It's the sort of thing those Hare Krishna people do. All yellow flowing robes and chanting. We don't do that in the Church of England. We're more formal. Sit in rows in nice safe pews. Chanting psalms.

If you have ever sat silently for a moment, whether quietly at home, or taking in the view across a landscape or out to sea, you have touched on the essence of meditation. Meditation is essentially relaxed, focused attention in the present moment. Yes, it's a minority sport, but one which is to be found in all spiritual and religious traditions.

In Christianity meditation is associated with the monastic tradition. Certainly it is the monks and nuns who have kept the tradition alive, a tradition that goes back to the Desert Fathers and Mothers, who in the third to sixth century lived out in the desert landscapes of Egypt, Syria, Palestine and Arabia. There they sought to get closer to God's presence and away from an increasingly materialistic world.

The wonderful thing about meditation is that it is not about achievement, success or failure. It's about 'being', which is simple, but not easy. As human beings we are very focused on doing and our mind is always seeking to distract us. Being with 'what is' in the present moment can help us, like the Desert Mothers and Fathers, become more aware of God's presence.

Our monthly meditation sessions, after the Sunday morning 10.15 service, are an opportunity for anyone to enjoy half an hour of quiet and to see where it takes them. We begin at 12 noon in the chapel. The next session is on 19th November. Everyone is welcome – we're all novices! That's the nature of meditation.

Chris Dawson



Photo by Colton Sturgeon on Unsplash

Recycling Box – update

THE FIRST CONSIGNMENT of goods from the recycling box has now been packed up, collected and delivered to the recycling company. They are currently sifting through all the items and will further recycle them.

This thorough process takes time and they always state it could be a maximum of eight weeks from collection of the recycling before they will send the treasurer a cheque.

They have reiterated that there are only four types of items that they recycle:

Jewellery (all materials, even broken or damaged)

Currency (Coins or banknotes)

Watches (including broken or damaged ones)

Stamps and specified gadgets

Please don't drop loose stamps into the recycling box – put them in a sealed envelope or bag

For future reference, they DO NOT accept any electrical items other than:

Mobile phones, cameras (video, film and digital)

Sat Navs, games consoles (including games and accessories)

iPads, MP3 players

Tablet computers

We look forward to hearing from them.



Rosie Stead



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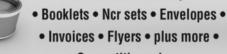
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Recipe of the Month: Sticky Baked Sesame Chicken

8 chicken thighs, with skin

Salt and freshly ground pepper

For the marinade:

2 garlic cloves, peeled and finely chopped

2.5 cm/1 in piece fresh ginger, peeled and finely chopped

3 tbsp orange marmalade

3 tbsp dark soy sauce

To garnish:

2 tbsp sesame seeds

Shredded spring onion (optional)

Mix the marinade ingredients in a large bowl. Add the chicken thighs then set aside for 15 minutes. Season chicken thighs with salt and pepper and place in a single layer in a roasting tin. Roast at 220C/fan 210C/mark 7 for 35 minutes until cooked through, basting and moving the chicken round occasionally. Remove chicken from the tin and transfer to a warm serving dish, keep hot.

Skim the fat off the pan juices then bring to boil on the hob and bubble for half a minute. Spoon the juices over the chicken and sprinkle with sesame seeds and garnish with spring onion if liked. Good served with rice or roast potatoes and a green vegetable or salad.

Serves 4.

Jean is always up for a spin on the dancefloor

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'Too late...'

AS I LOOK through the bedroom window, I can see there are still a few apples amongst the old tree's foliage. They look a good size, with a rosy colour, but are too high to reach with the extending pruning cutter. The combination of a warm spring, followed by a cool and wet August, seems to have thrown the natural growth process out of kilter. As a result, we have had a poor crop of accessible fruit and it seems too late for the tree to recover, which is disappointing. We shall just have to wait till the apples fall to the ground, when hopefully we can collect them before the birds and other garden visitors try to eat them.

Generally, in recent weeks any sunny spells have been limited, and it's too late to expect any 'sitting out' days, so the garden furniture cushions have had to be brought in, all signs of autumn taking over.

'Too late'. It's a familiar phrase we often use without thinking too much about it, but described by my form teacher, in my first year at secondary school, as "the saddest words in the English language", perhaps not an interpretation that immediately springs to mind, but it bears thinking about.

In truth, it is worse than 'what if', where the speaker is thinking of alternative scenarios that might have happened, but, for some reason, didn't.

'Too late' implies the right outcome would have occurred if there hadn't been some delay, due to the action or inaction of someone. It might be a minor error: if we hadn't been late at the bus stop we would have got to the meeting on time, and achieved a better outcome. Or, perhaps looking back further, if in the past we had changed our ways, our habits, as we knew we should, then we would be in a happier and healthier situation now. Whatever the cause, being 'too late' leaves you with a feeling of 'unfinished business.'

Perhaps, with the benefit of 20/20 hindsight, we will know enough to avoid falling into the same trap again, learning from past experience not to put things off. On the other hand, we sometimes have to be patient when circumstances mean we can't do or change things just when we want, to be patient, but nevertheless to be ready for when the time is right.

It struck me that Jesus' parable of the landowner hiring men to work in his vineyard, which Chris Dawson referred to in his Lance blog recently, is relevant here. The landowner goes out early in the day to recruit labour for an agreed rate, equivalent to what a Roman soldier would earn in a day. Some of us will recall that this way of hiring was how dockers, for example, were employed in the immediate post war years, a system of casual labour which became a practice which was subject to much unfairness and corruption.

Jesus tells how the landowner continues to hire at three-hourly intervals. Finally, with only one hour to go, he

finds other men standing around, and asks them why they were doing nothing. Their answer is – no one has hired us – so he sends them off to join the other workers.

It is not clear why they had not been hired – were they too late to join the queue?

Had they been looking for work elsewhere, but chose the wrong place?

What did they expect for one hour's work late in the day?

Whatever the reason, they had not given up hope of finding some kind of employment, and were still willing to work though perhaps feeling the chance to earn a significant amount of pay had passed.

At the end of the day, they must have been delighted to receive a full day's wage, even if their fellow workers were, perhaps understandably, somewhat disgruntled.

The parable isn't meant to be a guideline for industrial relations, even if there are several aspects that do give food for thought – especially, as Jesus points out, not being envious of those who have benefited from someone's generosity in their time of need. Perhaps, the key is that the men had remained hopeful and available when called.

It is usually interpreted as a story of believers and unbelievers being willing to meet God's call to faith and to trust in him, at whatever stage of life they may be. God will welcome them, no matter how late it may seem. It's never too late.

It can also be directed at those who already believe; to remind them that there are others who have been left behind, who may not have been in the right place at the right time; who need encouragement and hope to help them find their way to God.

The underlying truth is that it is never too late for anyone to join in working with God and for God. For some it may be the first time they have heard his call. But it may also be for those of us who have already been working for him, to be open to his call to do something extra, something new.

Our time is in God's hands; so let us be willing to seek employment in his 'vineyard', to do whatever he has planned for us – in Jesus' name.

Walter Stead



A service to celebrate the life of Jean Norton

29th January 1937 – 2nd October 2023

MUSIC ON ENTRY – Mozart's Clarinet Concerto

The service was conducted by the vicar of St George's, Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall, who began by welcoming Jean's cousins, friends from Stockport Sunday School and St George's Church, where she was a faithful member of the congregation, also friends from other aspects of Jean's life. Elaine went on to say how blessed we all were to have known her.

Tribute read by Anne Magee, Jean's stepdaughter:

Jean was born in Stockport and as a child she was brought to Sunday School at St George's. Although she continued to worship there most of her life, she really wanted to go to Heaviley Sunday School with her friends. When she was eight years old, her mother finally relented, and so began a lifelong association with Heaviley and, later, Stockport Sunday School.

Jean had many happy memories of being Junior Queen at SSS, of arranging trips and socials in her youth, of playing

tennis and of arranging numerous Christmas Nativities and May Queens. She remained a Sunday School teacher for over 50 years in the Primary and Junior departments, and in recent years as a Senior Teacher, she was Chair of the Teachers' Committee who appoint the School Inspectors.

Having left school at 16, Jean went to work for the Refuge Assurance Company in Manchester. She was there for 38 years, taking early retirement and enjoying a happy 32 years of a new routine. She had more time for her hobbies, including golf and many handicrafts – knitting, crochet, cross stitch and bobbin lace. She was also an excellent baker and cook. Many have enjoyed one of her celebration cakes for a wedding, christening or special



birthday. Her lemon cheese for the Christmas Fair was legendary and always guaranteed to sell out!

Within four years of retirement, Jean's life was turned upside down when her friend, Ron Norton, asked her to marry him. He didn't get an immediate answer, but they married quietly in 1994. As a family they enjoyed visits to stately homes, the theatre and holidays at a favourite hotel in St Anne's. They even ventured abroad a few times, which was a challenge for Jean as she was claustrophobic.

> They quickly learnt not to speak to her on the plane! Once they both retired they shared a lot of their leisure time playing golf and crown green bowls. They were both dedicated members of Stockport Sunday School's Bowling Club.

> Over the years Jean and Anne forged a great bond so, when Ron died, it brought them both comfort to know that he'd left them the gift of each other.

The service continued with a reading: John 14: vv1-6, read by Judith Curry.

An address by the vicar spoke of Jean's

tenacity in wrestling with situations that were challenging and uncomfortable. Also that Jean spoke a lot about Anne and the evident love she had for her. She was so very proud of all that Anne had achieved and the support that she gave Jean in the darker times. Jean's faith was at the bedrock of how she lived her life. Now she rests in peace.

A poem: Footprints Read by Walter Stead

The service ended with a final hymn, Lord of all hopefulness; the Prayer of Commendation and the Blessing

Exit music – Nimrod

Edited tributes – Rosie Stead

Oddfellows Brass Band Concert for Charity Sunday 10th December 2.30pm – 4.30pm

THE ODDFELLOWS BRASS BAND started life in 1981 as a youth band under the name 'Unity Brass'. Based in Leicester they are sponsored by the Oddfellows, one of the largest Friendly Societies in the UK, and perform a number of free concerts across the country, so all proceeds can go to the District Chairperson's Charity. Our Combermere Branch covers

Stockport, Manchester, Glossop, Leigh and Bolton, and our District Chairperson's charity is the Teenagers and Young Adults at the Christie 'T.Y.A'. The concert to be held in the splendour of St George's Church will play classics as well as some Christmas numbers and everyone is welcome.

Tickets are £5.00 and children are free and will receive a selection box. For more information and tickets please contact Sarah North email <u>sarah.north@the oddfellows.co.uk</u> Mobile 07873 581975



Storytime – Pointing out the obvious

IT WAS ANOTHER long meeting at church, scheduled at the kind of time when it was too early to have a meal beforehand, but too late to grab something afterwards.

Stacey sat down on one of the least comfortable chairs in the hope of staying awake.

The chairs had helpfully been put in a semi-circle so that everyone could see everyone else and would notice instantly if someone had nodded off to sleep.

The chair spaces started to fill up. Not everyone looked excited at being there but put a brave face on it because this was a Churches Together event. People from around the area had come to help plan the big extravaganza for Pentecost Sunday.

A prayer, and then they were invited to peer over at a large, hand-drawn map of the site. The leader of the meeting proceeded to pick up small squares of paper which were meant to represent the marquees.

The only problem, it seemed to Stacey, is that neither the map nor the bits of paper were drawn to any kind of scale. They could have represented a structure the size of a garden shed or a huge public building, but nobody pointed out the obvious.

Stacey's stomach was starting to rumble – loudly – and her friend and colleague, Anne, reached into her bag and carefully slid a chocolate bar in Stacey's direction. Equally carefully, and without rustling the wrapping, Stacey slid out the chocolate and put it into her mouth in small slices every time she leant forward to 'study' the agenda.

Someone put their hand up to ask a question. "Yes," said the leader. A woman in a fetching red coat asked, "I just wonder which direction the sun rises".

Stacey wondered if she had slipped into an alternative reality, especially when people, in fact lots of people, chipped in with their opinions.

"My garden is south facing so I find that the sun rises there at..." Stacey started to fade out as those who were blessed with north -acing gardens, east- and west-facing gardens, offered their thoughts and opinions as to when their garden area got hot.

On and on it went – unbelievably.

Stacey was grateful for the comforting smoothness of the chocolate against her tongue. It prevented her from talking, from laughing out loud at the escalating and rather bizarre conversation that was unfolding before her.

And yet people were captivated, sketches were drawn, angles worked out as if it was a school test, each adding much more inaccurate and out-ofscale information than there was previously.

Stacey was looking for a means of escape. This was all getting frankly ridiculous.

Her mouth was now free of chocolate, as she had managed to finish the bar without being noticed, she hoped.

She coughed quietly. "Excuse me" she said. "Excuse me".

Heads turned in her direction, pens poised in their calculations.

"Yes" said the leader of the meeting.

"Excuse me." Stacey began, feeling a bit hot and redfaced now she had been noticed, "at the risk of asking the obvious..."

"Yes," said the leader of the meeting. "Can I ask why it's so important to know which way the sun rises for this particular Pentecost Sunday event?"

The leader of the meeting turned to the initial enquirer and inclined his head for her to speak.

"The reason why I need to know which way the sun rises", she said, a bit flustered now, "the reason why I need to know which way the sun rises is..."

People were sitting forward on their uncomfortable seats now.

"...is to know where to store the milk for the refreshments to save it going off".

"At the risk of pointing out the obvious," said Stacey, looking at her watch and noticing that 15 minutes had **flown** by on this key topic.

"...is why don't we just get a fridge? We can plug it into the electric circuit that the worship band will be using".

Light had dawned in the faces of the group.

"Good idea," said the meeting leader, "let's move onto item 4. How will we get the marquees up if the wind is blowing from the east?"

Stacey buried her head in her hands. They thought she was praying. Instead, she was allowing herself a silent scream planning her escape. *Elaine*



photo by Dawid Zawiła on Unsplash

<u> Taize-Style Service 12th November</u> <u>Remembrance Sunday (a) 4pm</u>

HERE IS AN opportunity to sit and reflect on the day.

The Taizé style of Christian worship practised by the ecumenical Taizé community in France is characterized by the repetitive singing of simple harmonized tunes, often in various languages, interspersed with readings, prayers and periods of silence.

Music and words will be available if you wish to use them, but there is no need if you prefer to listen and sing, or just listen. The repetition creates a form of prayer and leads to meditative silence. There is no sermon!

The Taizé community in Burgundy, France, was founded in 1940 by Brother Roger and every year over 100,000 young people from around the world make pilgrimages for prayer, Bible study, sharing and communal work. Have you been? Would you like to share a memory?

The service theme for 12th November is for Peace.

The Taizé brothers and visitors are encouraged to live in the spirit of kindness, simplicity and reconciliation.

"Peace be with you!"

Janet Neilson



(photo: Andy Clark)

Wellspring News – Christmas Charity Stall Changes Format

I AM HOPING, once again, to hold the Wellspring charity stall in December. But this year it will be a different format, as I'm not collecting the usual items. Last year our house resembled a charity shop beforehand, and there is always the problem of what to do with the items that remain after several sessions. This year it will be a craft stall for church members to display their talents and who are prepared to donate the proceeds of any items sold to Wellspring. It will be the responsibility of the donor to take home any unsold items, please.

Donations of money are always acceptable. Rosie Stead

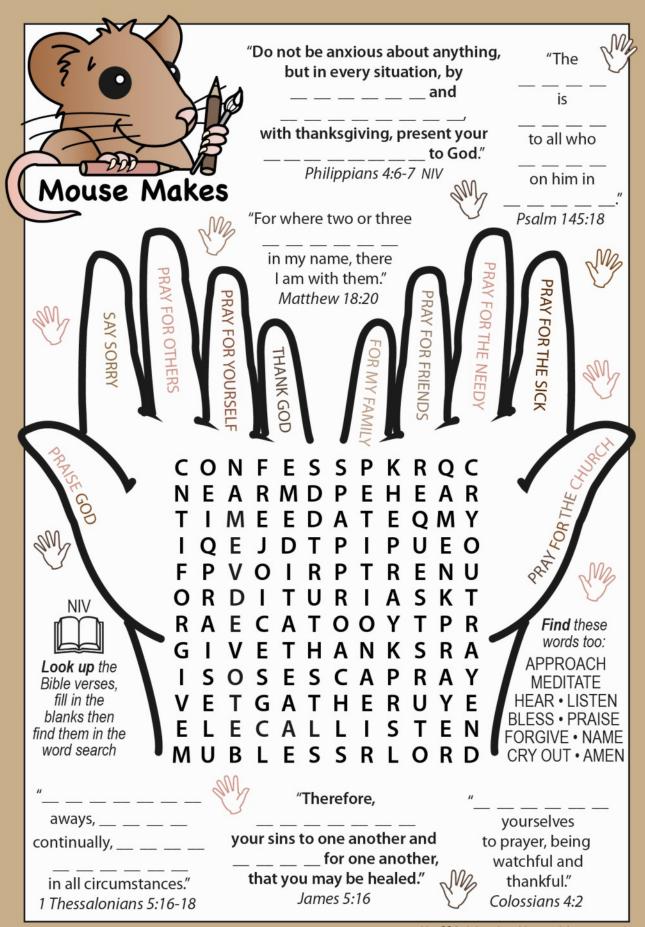






STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

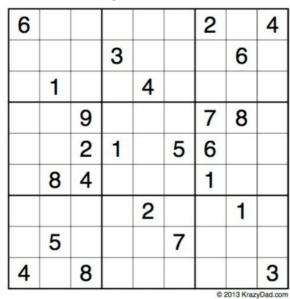
is delighted to sponsor the Children's pages of The Parish Grapevine



Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

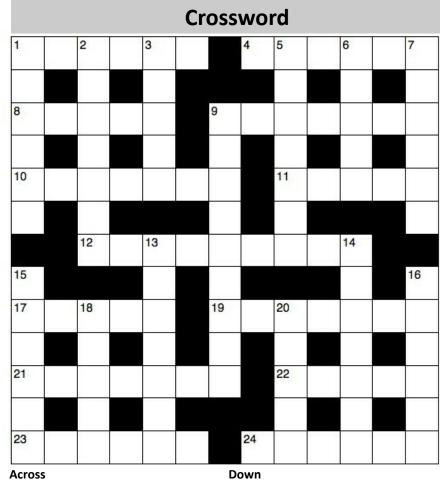
Sudoku puzzle: intermediate



(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 23)



The treasurer still had a trick up his sleeve



- 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when he had given — , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)
- 4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)
- 8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)
- 9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)
- 10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)
- 11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)
- 12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)
- 17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)
- 19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)
- 21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)
- 22 'And feeble as , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)
- 23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John10:3) (6)
- 24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

.....

- 1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)
- 2 'I am not of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)
- 3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)
- Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12)
 (7)
- 6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)
- 7 A three (anag.) (6)
- 9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
 42 Attictude (2 Attictude 2 Attictud
- 13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16 See 6 Down (6) 18 Paste (anag.) (5)
- 10 Paste (allag.) (5)
- 20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)

Twenty Years of Being a Reader

ON THE CHESTER Diocesan website, it states that "Reader training is designed to equip Readers for their future ministry in an ever-changing world. It is demanding both of energy and time." It goes on to talk about formation and information: "You will not simply learn about things, you will be shaped by your learning." And it finishes with details about the training: the first year, completing the Foundations for Ministry course, followed by two further years of Reader Training at Emmanuel Theological College, the training being delivered locally.

That was the theory, even twenty years ago, but it was not quite the route that I undertook!

In 1999, I was a Principal Software Engineer at GPT Marconi working on telecomms equipment and vending machine systems. Elaine had become a curate and we had moved from our own home in Heswall to the curate's house in Greasby on Wirral. I was not particularly happy working at GPT, but they paid well enough and I knew that we would be moving in a short period of time.

Then one day in early 1999, there was a phone message on our answer machine and unusually it was for me. It was from Suzie Minto who worked at the Nazarene Theological College in Didsbury, Manchester. Would I like

to come for an interview for the Oasis Youth Ministry Course?

I telephoned back, explaining that I had not applied to go on the course. I will never forget her reply, "Oh, don't worry about that. Just bring your application form with you."

I was taken aback, but after discussing it with Elaine, I went for interview and was offered a place on the course on the proviso that the practical side of youthwork would be done within the Parish. All well and good, except that I had not even discussed this with Elaine's incumbent, Geoff.

Elaine and I spoke to Geoff about the implications of accepting the offer. The parish would have to pay the course fees, pay me 'pocket money' of £45 per week and provide a youthwork mentor. Geoff said I should talk to the PCC, which I duly did. Not only did they readily agree, but they also agreed to pay the standard mileage for the car journey to and from college. At one hundred miles round trip two or three times per week of term that would be a considerable outlay. For eighteen months I was the youth worker at Frankby and Greasby, before Elaine took up the post of Vicar at Stretton and Appleton Thorn. I continued on the course and after two years gained a Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE) with distinction in Christian Youthwork. I had thoroughly enjoyed the course; however I knew that the Course Co-ordinator had a habit of calling round and inviting people to consider a third year of study, converting the Diploma into a Degree.

I had it all sorted out in my head. I had three concrete reasons why I should not do another year: I did not need a degree, as I had two already; I hated exams and I knew that the final year at the Nazarene College included six written exams and I would have to pay the tuition fees, as I was ineligible for a student loan.

When the day came and the course co-ordinator sat on our couch, she uttered words that melted away any defence. "Have you considered doing the degree, it's only twenty-four weeks' work?" I gave in.

God obviously put these lovely, annoying people in just the right place to goad me into doing the course, but it also allowed me to try new things. One of the final year modules was on homiletics – preaching to you and me –



Linda Buckley, Elaine Chegwin Hall, Peter Hall

and I found I really enjoyed writing and delivering a sermon, even better, was that others said they enjoyed me preaching!

After I graduated, Elaine allowed me to preach at one service. It was well received, but she was shrewd enough to know that to do it properly in the Anglican tradition, I would have to become a reader.

I applied for the Readers' course; I was interviewed, and I then joined as a strange beast. The interviewees decided that I needed 'Anglicising' after three years of being at the Nazarene College, a Wesleyan Holiness Church. I would be required to take a Second-year course on "The Reformation and Cranmer's Liturgy." I would also need to take a third-year course so that I would get to know Readers who would be licenced with me. So, one week I was a second year; the following week a third-year student. My training would take just one year.

With regard to 'Anglicising' I really should have mentioned that not only had I completed 300 hours of study on the Reformation, but I had written a 5000-word essay about Thomas Cranmer. I had also won the College Prize for Church History – I could have taught the module! In October 2003, four years after Suzie Minto's infamous phone message, I was licenced as a Reader in the Church of England. Sometimes our faith journeys can be more circuitous than ever imagined and have very unintended, but fortuitous outcomes.

Twenty years on and looking back, the Reader training was formative rather than informative and for that I was glad. I needed that time to grow as part of a Ministry Team. However, I have to admit that studying at a Theological College was such a privilege and a delight. I still pass the College in Didsbury and think of it as MY alma mater, even though I also studied at Liverpool University.

It also kindled a desire to explain the meaning of some of the more obscure parts of scripture. It is why you will so often hear me preaching from the Old Testament. The Old Testament is so rich and informative. It is steeped in the history of the Ancient Near East, history that is never taught in schools and often ignored in churches, and yet it was the history and context that Jesus knew all about.

Peter Hall

Autumn Half Term in St George's Primary School

A whole new term in school has started, bringing with it lots of excited children going into their new classes. We've been very busy already electing: School councillors, Eco councillors, Well-being Ambassadors and Library Ambassadors. It is very important that the children see the value of democracy and learn how to take on additional responsibility.

Good Frien What makes a good frien	
Take a look at the bowls on the table. Each bowl represents a different quality that makes a good	I friend. Emotion . Action
Which quality do you think you show lots of?	
Which quality do you think you need to develop	
Take a button and put it in the bowl representing the quality you want to develop. If you'd like to, ask God to help you to show this quality this we	Property States

Our school clubs have also restarted and the children have a wide variety to choose from: Yoga, construction, football, jewellery, board games and Eco club - something for everyone.

We have also been setting up our prayer areas for another year. We are looking at ways to make them more interactive and thought provoking – leading to deeper reflection and prayer.

Lastly, on Monday we held our school Harvest Service, this was really well attended by our parents who were incredibly generous with their donations, which are going to The Wellspring. The theme this year was "We help each



other so we rise together". The children did some wonderful singing and excellent Bible readings / prayers. Once again, we were very proud of them.

Janet Langton



Parish of St. George, Stockport with St. Gabriel, Adswood Shining as a beacon for Christ



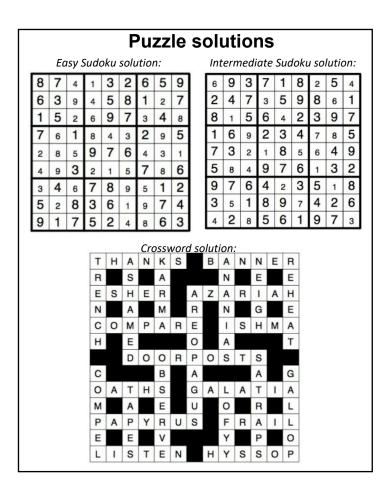
Music Scheme – November 2023

Sunday	Sunday 5 th November – All Saints' & All Souls'			
10:15am	Parish Communion	4:00pm	Annual Celebration of Life Service	
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne	Introit:	Thou knowest, Lord – Purcell	
Hymns:	232 For all the saints, who from their	Hymns:	416 Father, hear the prayer we offer,	
	230 Ye watchers and ye holy ones,		I watch the sunrise lighting the sky,	
	227 Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!		507 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,	
	SP117 Thanks be to God for his saints	Psalm:	23 [Hylton Stewart]	
Anthem:	Give us the wings of faith – Bullock	Anthem	Funeral Ikos – Tavener	

Sunday	Sunday 12 th November – Remembrance Sunday				
10:15am	Remembrance Sunday Service	4:00pm	Taizé Service for Remembrance Sunday		
Setting:	The Hadleigh Service – Ridout				
Hymns:	413 Eternal Father, strong to save,				
	427 For the healing of the nations,	Con Oudou	of Commiss for datails		
	355 I vow to thee, my country,	See Order	of Service for details		
	537 O God, our help in ages past,				
Anthem:	Crossing the bar – Parry				

Sunday	Sunday 19 th November – The Second Sunday before Advent				
10:15am	Parish Communion				
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening				
Hymns:	514 Lord, thy church on earth is seeking				
	448 God of grace and God of glory,	No Evening Service			
	375 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound				
	474 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,				
Anthem:	O taste and see – Vaughan Williams				

Sunday	Sunday 26 th November – The Feast of Christ the King				
10:15am	Parish Communion	4:00pm	Choral Evensong		
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne	Hymns:	165 Christ is the King! C) friends re	joice;
Hymns:	555 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,		568 Sing alleluia forth y	e saints on	high,
	To him we come – Jesus Christ our Lord.		How shall I sing that ma	ajesty?	
	278 Alleluia, sing to Jesus!	Responses:	Rose	Psalms:	93, 97
	497 Let all the world in every corner sing	Canticles:	Evening Service in C – S	tanford	-
Anthem:	King of all ages – Isom	Anthem:	Jubilate Deo in B flat – Stanford		



What am I?

THE ANSWER to last month's 'clerk in Hole Owner' was correctly indentified by many people as 'Clerk in Holy Orders'. Lois's grandfather was an Anglican priest.





This month's puzzle is pictured above and they come as a pair. They are rubbery, hinged and flexible.

A grandchild has taken them to university. No further clues...

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)

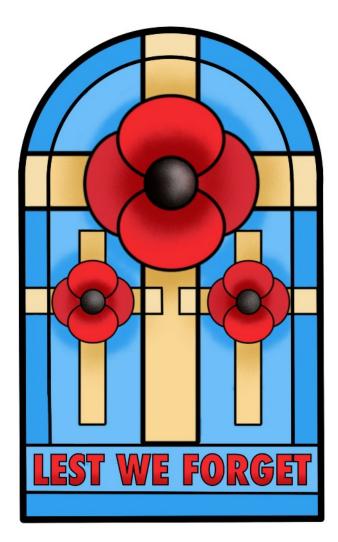
Services which are live streamed only:

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

Remembrance Sunday

is on 12th November



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