

# Parish Grapevine

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Chester

80p

*Parish of St George, Stockport.*

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

March 2014

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

Regular readers may remember a series of articles I have previously written on the subject of renewing old friendships. This commenced when I was suddenly inspired to telephone an old pal with whom contact had been lost for years, apart from the mandatory exchange of Christmas cards usually containing a brief update on our respective family affairs. He was pleasantly surprised and we arranged to meet for an informal lunch get-together. And what fun it was – all the old sayings, jokes and recollections simply flooded back and we agreed we should meet again when mutually convenient. Success! But not for long – sadly he was soon to succumb to a serious health issue of which I was not previously aware.

In the meantime, encouraged by the initial success of my first venture, I contacted two other old friends, with similar positive results. A fourth was added on my learning that he had moved back to the area but was not at all well. We each benefited from these renewed associations.

I am prompted to return to this theme by the recent passing of my sole remaining old friend whose funeral I attended recently. I was privileged to be invited to say a few words and my short address was entitled "Happy memories" – and they were! The lesson learned from these experiences has taught me to do things NOW – and not to put off doing something that is lurking at the back of your mind. It could, and often does, turn out to be too late. So, having lost all these dear old friends, I count the blessing of the many newer friends made over more recent years, with a fair degree of confidence that most are likely to outlast me in the longevity stakes.

In the February magazine I expressed my sympathies to the unfortunate fellow-countrymen and women who had been flooded out, some since before Christmas. Who would have thought that the situation would have remained unchanged, and even worsened in some locations, another two months or so later? How very fortunate we are to have escaped such excesses in this part of the country, although the gale-force winds and rain in the afternoon and evening of Wednesday 12th February gave us just a taste of what others were having to endure week after week.

Now – some good news: we have a new curate lined up to commence operations with us with effect from 1st July. Chris Moore introduces himself on page 6 and, together with his family, can be assured of a very sincere warm welcome. Many hands make light work but I'm sure there is some catching up to be done before full normality can be said to have been restored. Where are all the volunteers we seek – from leaders for the Sunday Club and people to read the lessons etc. to assistant/deputy magazine editor and additional Garden Gnomes plus helpers for the Praise and Play at St Gabriel's? I think we'll have to devote a page in the magazine to "Situations Vacant" if this continues. I'm well aware of the saying "If you want something doing, ask a busy person" – trouble is that all our busy people are already stretched to the limit and it is to newcomers (to volunteering) that we have to turn. Maybe the item on page 15 entitled "Volunteers have a longer, happier life" might help in encouraging some favourable responses. Fingers crossed!

God Bless. Sincerely yours,

Mark Lane. Editor

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

<b>Vicar of St. George's</b>	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall 456 9382	<b>Bible Study Group</b>	meets in church in Lent on Wednesdays 11.15am. Contact the clergy	<b>Mothers' Union</b>	meet in the Parish Room, 2nd Monday of the month, 7.30pm Christine Berry 01625 874546
<b>Curate</b>	Vacant				
<b>Assistant Priests</b>	Rev. Glenys Sellors 483 0359 Rev. Sandra Woodhead 01663 765708	<b>Brownie Guides</b>	for ages 7-10 years: meet in the Parish Room, Thursday evenings. 6.30 - 8pm. Rachel Lockett 775 2755, Evonne Lomas 292 8216 or 07956 674241	<b>Open Door</b>	in church every Wednesday from 7 - 7.45pm for anyone who would like company or a chat Michael Coupe 612 0222
<b>Parish Office</b>	480 2453			<b>Pastoral Visiting Team</b>	meets every month and visits the sick and housebound across the parish Michael Coupe 612 0222
<b>Magazine</b>	Mark Lane 439 2282	<b>Chancel Guild</b>	meets on 2nd Tuesday in the month from 9.30 - 12 noon, and cares for the Chancel Edna Tootell 483 5753	<b>Praise &amp; Play</b>	meet every Monday 9 to 11am in church. Story time at 10am. For 0-4's and their carers Janet Neilson 483 9025 Pat Wilke 376 2494
<b>St George's</b>					
<b>Pastoral Worker</b>	Audrey Manzano 494 7054	<b>Choir</b>	sing for services at 10.15am and 6.30pm, practise in the vestry on Thursday evening John Horton 339 5031	<b>Press Officer</b>	Mark Lane 439 2282
<b>Readers</b>	Michael Coupe (emeritus) 612 0222 Peter Hall 456 9382	<b>Church Cleaners</b>	meet on first Tuesday from 9.30am to 12noon Dorothy Walton 483 3088	<b>Rainbow Guides</b>	for ages 5-7: meet in the Junior Hall, Fridays 6.15 to 7.30pm Trisha Brown 07403 353 175 Susan Kirkland 0785 4101918
<b>Director of Music</b>	John Horton 339 5031	<b>Church Flowers</b>	Isobel Garlick 440 9272 Marjorie Lees 483 3676	<b>Scouts</b>	for ages 10½ -14. Meet in Trinity Methodist on Wednesday evenings from 7-9pm Bill Frith 439 3232
<b>Church wardens</b>	Steven Kelly 439 9458 Judith Swift 483 8681	<b>Church Gardeners</b>	meet on Tuesdays from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm	<b>Singing Group</b>	sings at All-Age Service about once a month Everyone welcome to join Debbie Heaton 483 4643
<b>Deputy Church Wardens</b>	John Hayden 483 2367 Andrew Regan 440 0408	<b>Cub Scouts</b>	for ages 8-10½: meet in Trinity Methodist Fridays 7.15 - 8.45pm. Bill Frith 439 3232	<b>Sunday Clubs</b>	meet during the Family Eucharist at 10.15am Sue Burt: 483 6446, Debbie Heaton: 483 4643
<b>Treasurer</b>	Stephen Jones 439 6690	<b>Coffee Mornings</b>	in the Parish Room from 10.30am on Wednesdays Dorothy Thompson 474 7058	<b>Sunday Creche</b>	<b>The Creche</b> is in the Lady Chapel
<b>Secretary</b>	Hazel Jenkins 483 4679	<b>Fellowship of Marriage, Women's Fellowship</b>	meet on 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from 2pm in the Parish Room Edna Tootell 483 5753	<b>Family Eucharist</b>	<b>The Children's Corner</b> is at the back of church
<b>Bookings for Parish Rooms</b>	Parish Office (above) or Andrew Garlick 440 9272	<b>Guardians of St George</b>	keep the church open during the week	<b>Website</b>	submissions, updates and corrections Andrew Regan 440 0408 andrew@andrewregan.org.uk www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk
<b>St George's Primary School Head teacher</b>	For ages 5-11 years Mark Quinn 480 8657	<b>Guides</b>	for ages 10-14: meet Thursdays in the Parish Rooms 7.30-9pm Jane Brocklehurst 07801 843810 Heather Worth 477 2388	<b>St Gabriel's</b>	
<b>Verger</b>	Ian Staley 456 3093	<b>Guild of St Raphael</b>	meets once a month to pray for the sick Olga Jones 439 6690	<b>Churchwardens</b>	Frances Farrar Shirley Bailey c/o 456 8749
<b>Deputy Verger</b>	Nigel Collison 477 3715	<b>Linen Guild</b>	maintains the church linen Tril Sutherland 480 5397	<b>Secretary</b>	John Sutcliffe 286 2301
<b>St George's Play Group</b>	meets in the Meeting Room Monday - Friday, 9 - 11.30am and 12.30 - 3pm for ages 3 years and upwards Joanne Shannon 07591541389	<b>Magazine Editorial Group</b>	meets monthly to plan the subsequent issue Mark Lane 439 2282	<b>Treasurer</b>	Pat Margetts 483 0270
<b>Regular Church Groups and Activities</b>					
<b>Beaver Scouts</b>	for ages 6-7: meet in Trinity Methodist Fridays 6-7pm. Bill Frith 439 3232	<b>Medical Missions Committee</b>	raises funds to help support the Church Mission Society Christine Berry 01625 874546 Kathleen Heawood 01663 762402	<b>Bookings</b>	Shirley Bailey 456 8749
<b>Bell ringers</b>	meet in the Tower on Sundays at 9.45am and Mondays from 7.45pm. Anne Mayes 485 6477			<b>Regular Groups and Activities</b>	
<b>Bible Reading Fellowship</b>	Notes are ordered on request Ian Staley 456 3093			<b>Praise and Play</b>	meet every Friday 9.30-11am in church. Story time 10am. For 0-4's and their carers Marie Flint 483 2321



## Elaine writes:

### “Can I have a moment of your time please?”

A question from the person in the shopping mall trying to sell you a phone or satellite TV or the individual who wants you to complete a questionnaire or the stranger who is asking because they need some help and our response may be to hasten

ever quicker in the opposite direction.

We're too busy, too distracted to give that moment to others and sometimes to we omit to give that moment to ourselves.

*What is life if full of care we have no time to stand and stare? WH Davies*

#### Take a moment

Getting up early is a way of life for many of us but I was pleasantly surprised to note that it was light when I set off for the 8am service. Spring seems to have sprung, the plants are appearing though the dark earth, the grass is growing which reminds me I need to buy a mower and the birds are singing. How many of us miss the minutiae of our scenery by travelling everywhere by car or losing out on the birdsong by having earphones in or simply not stopping to look around us or smelling the flowers?

#### Genesis 1:9-12

*And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.*

If God took a moment to take a look at His Creation, surely we can follow His example and do the same.

#### Live in the moment

Even in church we can be guilty of thinking about what we've got to do later. The peace and sanctity of the service passes us by because of the ever-increasing list of things to do in our heads. Our distractions feed into other people. We chat in the communion line waiting to be fed and when we've been fed we chat to the people around us.

*Psalm 46:10 “Be still, and know that I am God!”*

Stillling ourselves, and our tongues at this important time, helps us to rest in God's presence and enables us to be open to His peace and respects the needs of those around us.

Living in the moment helps us let go and let God deal with our worries. (*Matthew 6:25-34*) and we can hand them over to Him and He will make our burdens light (*Matthew 11:28-30*).

#### Hold onto the moment.

So many aspects of life involve us rushing from one job to another, another place, another face, and we fill the days so full that everything passes by in a blur. We forget the innocent pleasures which light up the day. From when my daughters were born, I wrote faithfully in a journal everything that had happened from the ordinary to the glorious. I did that every single day until they were 18 years old and they have a record of occasions I would have forgotten had I not committed them to the page and to my heart.

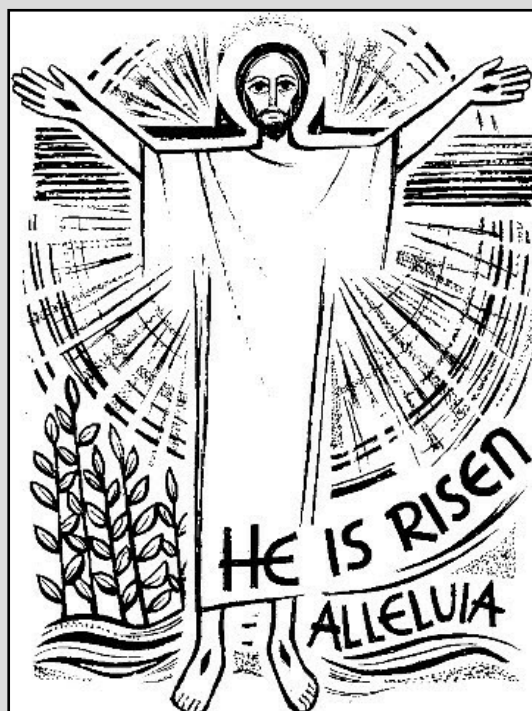
*Luke 2:19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.*

I was in the car the other day and noticed a determined toddler take his early steps in the grown-up world. His Daddy was walking slowly alongside him. The little one found a puddle, walked right in it and his face lit up with joy; that brief gesture was echoed in a smile by his father, a shared moment which he will tuck away and remember.

This Lent perhaps you might offer God “a moment of your time”. Stop, think, reflect and pray. Give thanks for what He has given you, try something different, take a risk, come to a service that you've never been to, be part of a study group, engage in Holy Week in a way you've never dared to before, offer yourself in His service in any of the ways asked about in the notice sheet and in all that, take a moment simply to be.

With every blessing

Elaine



See **page 5** for details of events in Lent, Holy Week, and at Easter, at St George's and St Gabriel's

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Beechwood Cancer Care Centre presents:



## Beautiful Butterflies

2014

### Ladies Lunch and Fashion Show

**Friday 21 March 2014** 11.30am - 4.00pm

The Mere Golf Resort and Spa,  
Chester Road, Knutsford

**Tickets £55.00**

Hosted by Chelsea Spokes from Key 103 with special guests  
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For further details contact the fundraising team at Beechwood:

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✉ [fundraising@beechwoodcancercare.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@beechwoodcancercare.co.uk)

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# The Parish of St George, Stockport with St Gabriel, Adswood

## Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2014

**There are many services and activities which will enable us to share in the journey through Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Please do come and join us.**

*Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall - Vicar  
petera.hall@care4free.net*

### All at St George's

**Ash Wednesday 5th March** *with imposition of ashes*

10am Said Holy Communion service

8pm Holy Communion Service with hymns

**Wednesdays in Lent** *in the Lady Chapel*

*10am Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer*

### The following Wednesdays in Lent

11am to 12.30- Lenten Study *Chocolat*

8pm to 9.30pm - Lenten Study *Chocolat*

*12th March – Giving Up*

*19th March – Giving Out*

*26th March – Getting Wise*

*2nd April – Getting Real*

*9th April – Growing Up*

*This study is based on the film Chocolat and we will be using the book "Christ and the Chocolaterie" by Hilary Brand*

### Every Thursday in Lent in the Parish Rooms

12-1pm Lent Lunches – *Simple lunch of soup, filled roll and hot drink £5*

**Saturdays in Lent** *in the Lady Chapel St George's*

**Lenten Prayer Breakfasts** - *Breakfast served from 9.30am and session begins at 10am ending at 11am. No charge, although donations appreciated.*

### Human nature – a Christian's dilemma

#### 8th March 2014

"Difficulties with Human Nature" *Speaker:* Dennis Armstrong

#### 15th March 2014

"Nature or Nurture?" *Speaker:* Chris Dawson

#### 22nd March 2014

"*Human Nature Renewed*"

*Speaker:* Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall

#### 29th March 2014

"Human Nature – A Summary" *Speaker:* Peter Hall

**Mothering Sunday 30th March** *with giving of flowers*

8am Holy Communion at St George's  
9.30am Morning Service at St Gabriel's  
10.15am All-Age Service at St George's  
6.30pm Taize service at St George's

### Tuesday 8th April at Foxhill Conference Centre

9.30-3pm Women's Day Retreat. Further details from Elaine. Men's retreat day October 25th

### Palm Sunday 13th April *Giving of Palm Crosses*

8am Holy Communion at St George's

9.30am Holy Communion at St Gabriel's

10.15 Procession of Palms, Parish Communion and dramatic reading of the Passion of Christ at St George's

3pm Ecumenical service for Palm Sunday

### at St Ambrose RC church Adswood

6.30pm "The Crucifixion" John Stainer at St George's

### Holy Week

#### Monday 14th April at St George's

8pm Taize-Style Holy Communion service with readings and poems followed by refreshments in the Parish Room.

#### Tuesday 15th April at St Gabriel's

8pm Way of the Cross. A journey with Jesus to the cross

#### Wednesday 16th April at St George's

8pm Tenebrae Service – contemplative service of the shadows where the narrative of the journey of the cross is accompanied by the extinguishing of the candles.

#### Maundy Thursday 17th April at St George's

8pm Holy Communion of the Last Supper.

#### Good Friday 18th April at St George's

1-2pm An opportunity for quiet prayer and reflection

2-3pm Children's Easter activity in the parish rooms

2pm The Passion of our Lord with St George's Choir

3pm Tea with Hot Cross Buns in the parish rooms

#### Easter Day 20th April

8am Holy Communion at St George's

9.30am Holy Communion at St Gabriel's with Easter Eggs for the children

10.15 Festival All-Age Communion at St George's with Easter Eggs for the children

6.30pm Festival Evensong at St George's

## Parish News Roundup

### Holy Baptism

We welcome into the church family:

26th Jan: Fiona Louisa Nicol (adult)

23rd Feb: Lily-May Louise Carol Peers

George Thomas Stephen

Higgins

Hope Holly France

### Holy Matrimony

None

### Funerals/Burials of Ashes

4th Feb: The funeral of Mary Rothwell Innocent at Stockport Crematorium

7th Feb: The Burial of Ashes at St George's of Frank Astley Goddard

14th Feb: The funeral of Barbara Muriel Barlow at Stockport Crematorium

19th Feb: The Burial of Ashes at St George's of Elizabeth Chidley Higson (Betty)

26th Feb: The funeral of Kathleen Hiles at Stockport Crematorium

### Main Altar/Lady Chapel Flowers were by:

2nd Feb: High Altar Flowers : Barbara Lee-Wood

*'In memory of Loved Ones'*

16th Feb: High Altar Flowers : The Stephenson family

*'In memory of Loved Ones'*

### Floodlighting was sponsored by:

2nd Feb: Margaret and Gordon Sharrard for their grandson's birthday.

### Dates for your diary:

7th Mar (Friday): Women's World Day of Prayer at St Mary's Church in the Market Place, Stockport

2pm "Streams in the Desert" - praying for Egypt

The speaker is Revd.

Margaret Tait

3rd Mar: Parish lunch at the Puss in Boots 12.30pm.

5th Mar: **Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent**

17th Mar: Afternoon Tea at the Plaza

8th Apr: Deanery confirmation service at St Saviour's 7.30pm.

**(Note this was incorrectly stated to be taking place on the 4th in our February issue)**

## Parish News Roundup

12th Apr: Bishop Robert's leaving service at St George's 11am

### **St George's News:**

**Our new curate Chris Moore introduces himself:**

I am looking forward with great



anticipation to being with you at St George and at St Gabriel's from 1st July as Assistant Curate, and grateful to Elaine for the opportunity to introduce myself and my family to you through 'The Grapevine'.

I am married to Avril, and our son, Calum, is in the first year of an engineering course at Brunel University in Middlesex. Avril's career has been in both nursing and midwifery, whilst I have spent the last thirty years as a property agent specialising in the hotel market, working around the UK and abroad.

Avril and I are originally from Belfast and London respectively, and we have moved around the country with work, settling in Warrington about thirteen years ago. That was about the time that Elaine took over at St Matthew's at Stretton, which has a lot to do with the reason I find myself writing this note.

Avril, Calum and I enjoyed the church at St Matthew's and it was with Elaine's encouragement that I explored ministry in more detail. I lapped up the Foundations for Ministry course and subsequently trained over three years for Ordination, a wonderful experience, which took place in 2012.

My first curacy was at St Matthew's and I was priested last year at Chester Cathedral.

I am really looking forward to joining you all at both churches in what will be my first full-time role in ministry. Avril and I visited St George's for

## Parish News Roundup

Elaine's induction and since then for both the Christmas Tree Festival and the Carol Service. We have enjoyed a very warm welcome on all of those occasions and are now looking forward to getting to know you rather better this summer.

Warmest wishes

Reverend Chris Moore

### **St Gabriel's News:**

St Gabriel's reports "Not much news but plenty going on with 'A new beginning' involving a lot of sorting out". We await further information on developments. Many people in our area are not 100% in various ways and we are doing all we can to help out. Don't forget – if you know someone who lives alone – on the first and third Mondays of the month they can enjoy a three-course lunch for just £3. Contact Helen on 0161 476 1262 for further details.

### **Rise to the Challenge!**

Come along and bring your friends to learn how we can help you to live healthier for longer!

Thursday 6th March, 2pm – 4pm

St Gabriel's Church

Clover Avenue, Adswold

Stockport SK3 8QA

FREE entry

Visit a wide range of information stalls for advice about keeping safe, living well, getting out and about more

Join in some gentle exercise

Relax with friends and enjoy FREE refreshments

Enter a FREE prize draw to win a variety of prizes

Visit the Healthy Stockport website at [www.healthystockport.co.uk](http://www.healthystockport.co.uk)

## April 2014 Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Friday 14th March**

Committee meeting: **Tuesday 18th March**

## Mothers' Union

10th March: Stockport Samaritans.  
7.30pm in the Parish Room.

## Fellowship of Marriage and Women's Fellowship

13th March: "My cameo brooch".  
Mrs Sallaway

## Message Board

### Magazine Subscription

A reminder to all those of you who pay for the Grapevine magazine annually, in January: Magazine subscription is now due: **£8** for the 10 issues – Gift Aid is not applicable

## Lenten breakfasts and lunches

The **2014 Lenten Breakfasts** will be held in St George's Lady Chapel on the first four Saturdays in Lent: 8th March, 15th March, 22nd March and 29th March. The theme will be:

"A Christian's View of Human Nature"

The sessions will start at 9.30am. As usual this will begin with breakfast, and the session proper begins at 10.00am and will finish between 10.45 - 11am, depending on how the discussion goes.

The four speakers will be Dennis Armstrong, Chris Dawson, Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall, and Peter Hall.

The **Lenten Lunches** will be held on Thursdays during Lent from 12-1pm in the Parish Room at a cost of £5 for soup, a filled roll and hot drink.

## Women's World Day of prayer

Women's World Day of prayer service on Friday 7th at St Mary's Church in the Market Place at 2pm. The Revd Margaret Tait will be speaking on the theme "Streams in the Desert" - praying for Egypt. This service is open to men, women and children.

## Good news for 'Praise and Play' at St George's

THE FINAL TOTAL was printed in the MEN newspaper on Tuesday February 11th.

We have been allocated £127.71 following our collection of 6112 tokens for The Manchester Evening News Wish List. This is a wonderful start to our new year and will enable us to purchase some new tables for the growing number of children we have every Monday at St George's.

Thank you very much to everyone who collected tokens for us! We are delighted with our achievement and the fact it has raised our profile in the Greater Manchester Area through the newspaper reports and photos.

More photos to follow in the future!!

*Janet Neilson*

Forget your mistakes but never what you learned from them.

*Anon.*

## The Wellspring is short of:

Tins of custard  
Tins of ham and pork  
Tins of stewed steak and minced beef and onions  
Fray Bentos tinned pies (known by us as "landmine pies")

Many thanks for your further help and many thanks to the members of the congregation at St George's who keep us supplied.

*John Hardy – on behalf of The Wellspring (Stockport).*

## Service of Remembrance and Commemoration

In previous years this has been held on Easter Day but the service has been moved to November, to be closer to All Souls' Day. Can you please put in your diaries that this special and very moving service will be held at St George's on Sunday November 2nd at 6.30pm.

## St. George's floodlighting – sponsorship request form (return to Stephen Jones. 2, Nevill Road, Bramhall, Stockport. SK7 3ET)



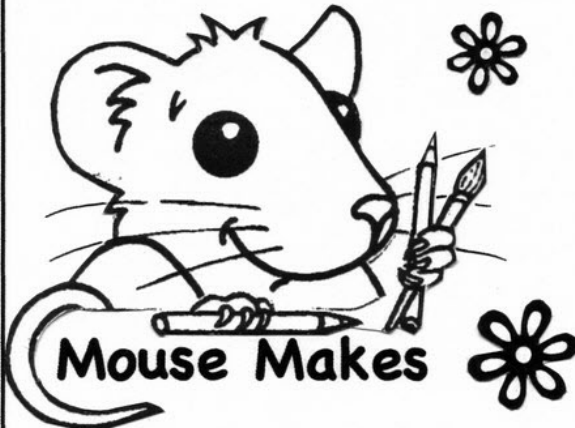
Name ..... Phone No .....  
Date of evening requested ..... £10/£..... donation enclosed (Please make cheques payable to St. George's Church)  
Reason for request (if appropriate) .....

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

*I wish Gift Aid to apply to the enclosed donation and I confirm I will pay in this tax year an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the amount that all charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs to which I give will reclaim for this year (25p for each £1 given). I understand that other taxes such as Council Tax and VAT do not qualify.*

Full Name ..... Address .....

Post Code ..... Signature ..... Date .....



The 4th Sunday in Lent  
is celebrated as  
**Mothering Sunday.**  
Originally families would  
get together for a special  
service at the 'mother'  
church, often at the local  
cathedral.

Today Mothering Sunday  
is celebrated as a family  
day, a time to say '**thank  
you**' to our mothers and  
to all who look after us.

There are many wonderful Mothers  
in the Bible, look up the Bible verses  
and find out who they are....

Matt 1:16    **M** \_ \_ \_  
Num 26:59    \_ **O** \_ \_ \_ \_  
Luke 1:57-60    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ **T** \_  
1 Sam 1:20    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ **H** \_  
Genesis 4:1    \_ \_ **E** \_ \_  
Gen 25:21-26    **R** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
Gen 21:1-2    **S** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



Thank you Mum  
for all you do,

For all your  
love and care,

For helping me  
as I grow up,

For all your  
loving prayers.

For teaching me  
about Jesus,

Of how he loves  
me too.

Thank you Mum  
for loving me,

**I LOVE YOU!**

A bookmark gift for Mother's Day. Cut out the  
bookmark above, glue onto card and colour in.



## News from Stockport Grammar School

Congratulations to Stockport Grammar School's Upper Sixth as they celebrate offers from prestigious institutions across the country, including seven places at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

The following girls and boys are delighted with their offers from Oxford:

Dan Blears, Biochemistry at Trinity College  
Meredith Ellis, Mathematics at Oriel College  
Matty Hughes, Chemistry at Hertford College  
Ben Oldfield, French & Philosophy at St Hilda's College  
Tasmin Ray, Chemistry at Lady Margaret Hall College  
Will Spence, PPE (open offer)  
and Jenny Johnson has an offer to read English at Selwyn College, Cambridge university.  
(all from Stockport)

Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Jo White said: "So far this year, we have had a fantastic set of university offers, not just those for Oxbridge but many more for prestigious institutions across the country including UCL, Imperial College London, LSE, King's College London, Bristol, Durham and Warwick for courses such as Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Natural Sciences, Law, Medicine, English, Languages and Economics."



## Warhorse Director entertains Alumni of Stockport Grammar School

150 former pupils and staff gathered at the Royal Institute of British Architects in London for an exclusive Q and A evening with Old Stopfordian (former SGS pupil) and award-winning National Theatre Director **Marianne Elliott**.

Deputy Headmaster David Howson led the conversation with Marianne who is renowned for her critically-acclaimed productions, including *War Horse* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*. His thought-provoking questions led into a lively discussion followed by questions from the audience.

Before talking about her professional career, Marianne was reminded of her portrayal of Maggie Hobson in *Hobson's Choice* during her time in the Sixth Form at Stockport Grammar, about which one reviewer stated: "communicated great warmth and her big eyes sent out waves of emotion and tenderness."

The evening continued the new tradition of London receptions which commenced with the 525th anniversary celebration at Goldsmiths' Hall and leads the way for further *Old Stops* events in the capital.



Marianne Elliott is pictured with David Howson

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## Jane English sings songs for St George's.

"It was a dark and stormy night". Concerns were that we would not get sufficient numbers to meet our expenses but supporters of the Organ Restoration Fund did not disappoint and more than eighty people attended the recital. Thank you for attending.

Jane English sang beautifully. Her choice of songs varied from more serious Wolf to light-hearted Flanders and Swann.

In between, we listened to Purcell, Faure and Handel, to name a few. The audience enjoyed Jane's singing and was equally as appreciative of Tim Kennedy, the accompanist, who stepped in at the last minute and did a fantastic job. Jane described the connection between some of the songs she sang, her father, Michael English, and St George's.

It was this connection that had prompted Jane to offer this recital in honour of her father and to raise funds for the church organ restoration fund. After expenses, we believe approximately £800 was raised. This included ticket sales, refreshments and raffle.

The Organ Restoration Fund committee would like to convey their grateful thanks to Penny Bisby for initiating the event and for working tirelessly to ensure its success and to all the other friends and committee members who helped by selling tickets, refreshments and raffle tickets. Thanks also to everyone who helped set up before and take down afterwards.

Most importantly, a huge thank you to Jane English for so graciously donating her time and talent to entertain us.

We will be announcing, shortly, our programme of entertainment for this year.

*Phoebe MacLeod*

## Book Review

### *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis

WELL KNOWN for his fantasy novels *The Chronicles of Narnia*, C.S. Lewis is probably the most widely read Christian spokesman of our time. Even these children's books have a Christian undertone. Although he described himself as a 'very ordinary layman of the Church of England', in fact he was a deep thinker and scholar able to express his ideas both directly and indirectly through fiction, allegory and satire.

Published originally in 1942 with Britain at war, *The Screwtape Letters* are an ironic exploration of temptation, sin and salvation. They sound a bit heavy don't they! In fact they are fun and, because of their letter format, able to be read and digested in small chunks. Each letter is just over four pages in length.

The letters are from Screwtape, a senior devil, to his nephew Wormwood, a 'junior tempter', who is seeking to undermine an adult who has recently become a Christian. The letters are Screwtape's advice on how best to do so. The

letters are one-way. What Wormwood has been up to and the mistakes he has made are inferred from Screwtape's responses. These responses are an opportunity to comment on human beings, their naïve beliefs, and the discrepancy between what they profess and how they behave.

Wormwood is always trying to get the man back into the fold of Our Father Below and Screwtape urges him to avoid allowing the man to think and work things out: "It is funny how mortals always picture us as putting things into their minds: in reality our best work is done by keeping things out." He urges him to distract him by appealing to his feelings and instincts. Remind him that it is lunch time just at a crucial moment when he might be following a train of thought that might lead him closer to 'the Enemy' (God). Never use argument as this will awaken "the patient's reason; and once it is awake, who can foresee the result?"

Although written some 70 years ago, *The Screwtape Letters* are still a powerful and perceptive commentary on our attitudes and behaviours as human beings and particularly on us as human beings struggling with what it means to be Christians.

*Chris Dawson*

## Adjusting to change

*'As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him...' 2 Corinthians 3.18*

WE ALL WARM to the idea of perfecting our characters; what we hate is the process. In the meantime, we form habits, and then our habits form us, and it is hard to change. Yet without change, there is no growth. But if you have the right attitude, every change (whether positive or negative), will be a growing experience. It's up to you!

Consider this: trees need more than one season to produce fruit. Rainy seasons are growing seasons too, and they always come before harvest. You don't have to like the rain, you just have to understand its purpose.

The Bible says that Christians are being changed into Christ's likeness. (2 Corinthians 3.18). But to be like Jesus, you have to follow wherever He leads. That means following Him through the wilderness of temptation, the complete surrender of your will to God and, finally, to the place of crucifixion. There's no other way! To walk with Him means you'll be in a different place tomorrow than you are today. The question is: are you willing to follow Him all the way? Take a moment and consider your answer, for it will determine your destiny.

## What pensioners really want

WITH SPRING on the way, here is good news: pottering around the garden is a pensioner's favourite pastime, according to a recent poll. Gardening is the hobby which gives 38 per cent of over 65s the most pleasure in life. This is followed by going for walks, reading a newspaper, talking to friends and listening to the radio, according to the charity Age UK. "Having a positive attitude and being able to enjoy the little pleasures of life is really important for our well-being," says Age UK. 'The cheerful of heart has a continual feast,' observes Proverbs (15:15).

## So, what is an Archdeacon, you ask?

THE BISHOP'S EYE (*oculus episcopi* in Latin) is how archdeacons have long been described. The metaphor still stands, though times change and even archdeacons evolve.

Bishops are responsible for hundreds of churches and cannot keep up with all of them on their own. Archdeacons help; but they do it in their own right, not because it has been delegated to them by the bishop. They fulfil a lot of important administrative functions that keep the Church in good order.

Churchgoers are most likely to come across their archdeacon when their parish has a new vicar. Under Canon Law, archdeacons 'induct' new parish priests, who have been chosen and agreed by the parish and the bishop, at the new vicar's first service in the parish.

Churchwardens and members of PCCs (Parochial Church Councils), on the other hand, get to know their archdeacons better, as they are deeply involved in any changes to church buildings.

Every five years, churches have to be inspected by an architect. Archdeacons are responsible for making sure that happens. They, or a deputy, must also survey the church and tell churchwardens of any defects in the walls and fabric of the building, or the ornaments and furniture, they need to correct. They can order that items of architectural, artistic, historic or archaeological value that are at risk be removed to a place of safety.

Every year, archdeacons must hold visitations, and legally admit the churchwardens elected at annual parish meetings.

To make changes to church buildings usually means the vicar and churchwardens getting a faculty, the Church version of planning permission, from the Chancellor, the senior legal officer of the diocese. Archdeacons are important: they can explain the likely attitude to what the vicar and churchwardens want to do; they can order the

removal of objects added without a faculty; they can even issue faculties themselves where there is no real change to how the church or churchyard looks.

Where a church wants to try a change in their building, the archdeacon can grant a fifteen-month licence. When it runs out, the church must apply for a faculty or put things back as they were. When it's a minor change, the archdeacon can give permission under what's called the "*de minimis*" rule, without the need for a faculty, as long as it's on the Chancellor's list of what counts as minor.

Archdeacons spot when parish boundaries may need to change and negotiate with all the interested parties when such a pastoral re-organisation is necessary. Bishops can ask them to check on parishes where the relationship between, say, priest and people has broken down and take steps to improve relations or recommend a formal enquiry. They can, if need be, call extraordinary meetings of PCCs.

Archdeacons look after the rules and regulations that maintain the Church's theology of order, resolve differences of interpretation, avoid disputes and facilitate the work of the Gospel. You might see them as a cross between planning officer, family counsellor and community police officer.

## A Smile

The thing that goes the furthest toward making life worthwhile,  
That costs the least and does the most...is just a pleasing smile;  
The smile that bubbles from the heart, that loves its fellow men,  
Will drive away the clouds and gloom and bring the sun again.

There is no room for sadness, when we see a cheery smile,  
It always has the same good luck, it's never out of style,  
It spurs us on to try again when failure makes us blue,  
The dimples of encouragement are good for me and you.

Anon

□



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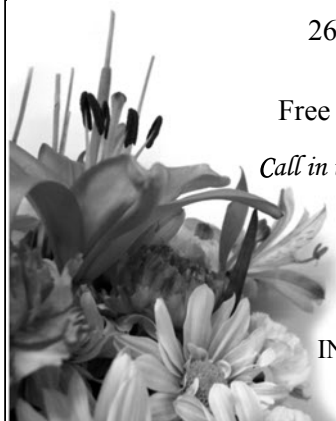
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## Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

## Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 23)

## St George's Parish Rooms

*Are you an organisation that would like facilities to hold a fund-raising event, social event, activity or meeting? Or perhaps you're a Mum or Dad looking for a venue for a children's party?*

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*For prices, further information and bookings, please contact: Andrew Garlick 440 9272 or the parish office 480 2453.*

## Crossword

1		2			3		4		5		6	
7					8							
	9			10		11		12		13		14
15												
16												
17	18			19	20		21					
			22								23	
24								25				
26							27					

### Across

- 1 The earth is one (6)
- 4 'On a hill far away stood an old — cross' (6)
- 7 'I am the — vine and my Father is the gardener' (John 15:1) (4)
- 8 The Caesar who was Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1) (8)
- 9 'Your — should be the same as that of Christ Jesus' (Philippians 2:5) (8)
- 13 Jesus said that no one would put a lighted lamp under this (Luke 8:16) (3)
- 16 Involvement (1 Corinthians 10:16) (13)
- 17 Armed conflict (2 Chronicles 15:19) (3)
- 19 Where the Gadarene pigs were feeding (Mark 5:11) (8)
- 24 What jeering youths called Elisha on the road to Bethel (2 Kings 2:23) (8)
- 25 The Venerable —, eighth-century Jarrow ecclesiastical scholar (4)
- 26 8 Across issued a decree that this should take place (Luke 2:1) (6)
- 27 Come into prominence (Deuteronomy 13:13) (6)
- 2 Sexually immoral person whom God will judge (Hebrews 13:4) (9)
- 3 Gospel leaflet (5)
- 4 Physical state of the boy brought to Jesus for healing (Mark 9:18) (4)
- 5 Tugs (anag.) (4)
- 6 To put forth (5)
- 10 Nationality associated with St Patrick (5)
- 11 Leader of the descendants of Kohath (1 Chronicles 15:5) (5)
- 12 'After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping — heel' (Genesis 25:26) (5)
- 13 At Dothan the Lord struck the Arameans with — at Elisha's request (2 Kings 6:18) (9)
- 14 'Peter, before the cock crows today, you will — three times that you know me' (Luke 22:34) (4)
- 15 Spit out (Psalm 59:7) (4)
- 18 'When I —, I am still with you' (Psalm 139:18) (5)
- 20 Concepts (Acts 17:20) (5)
- 21 Thyatira's dealer in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (5)
- 22 Does (anag.) (4)
- 23 The second set of seven cows in Pharaoh's dream were this (Genesis 41:19) (4)

### Down

- 1 Where some of the seed scattered by the sower fell (Matthew 13:4) (4)

## Food, glorious food!



1. The laid-back approach



2. The DIY way



3. Both work quite well!



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## Garden Gnomes - March

IN COUNTRY FOLKLORE there is an old prayer which says "Oh Lord, protect us from a mild January". As we know, January was mild, windy and very, very, wet. This meant that getting onto the soil or grass without a board was a definite 'no-no'. However, we were very lucky compared with gardeners and farmers in south west England and Wales who could not even see their gardens and fields for water.

This little prayer above expresses both a hope and a warning that winter has yet to come. The hope is that we may have a very mild winter and an early spring but, as I write this at the beginning of February, I see the clematis buds are starting to swell and some of the camellia buds starting to show colour, not a good sign at this time of the year since, as sure as 'eggs are eggs', when we do start to get hard frosts, they will be knocked back. Also, as we know, most plants and trees need a period of dormancy and this has really not happened this year – so far! Last year, winter did not really loosen its grip until the middle of April as a result of which apple trees, for example, had a long period of rest and produced, for most people, a very good crop.

By the time you are reading this in March the weather could be so very different, but it is perhaps a good thing that we do not have any say in the weather since we can be sure that, whatever we chose, we would not please everybody, if anyone else at all.



In the church garden the mild weather has enabled the team to undertake the major task of sorting out the compost heaps – spreading the compost and clearing the jungle near to the north boundary wall. The poplar trees which were on this boundary had begun to rot from the inside and have been taken down, and the trunks broken up for ease of removal. The rest of the jungle, which consisted of nettles and you-name-it, is gradually being removed but it is a lengthy job. Once this has been done we shall have to consider what to do with the cleared area. Perhaps turn it over to the growth of wild flowers maybe?

The normal task of clearing leaves and rubbish has continued, as has the edging of lawns although the growth of grass has slowed considerably.

One thing is certain, and that is that a gardener's work is never done, but it is good exercise and gets you out into the fresh air. Why not join us? We meet every Tuesday between 9.30 and 10am with a generous coffee break to look forward to at about 11am.

*B Gnome.*

## Volunteers have a longer, happier life

VOLUNTEERING may be as helpful to you as it is to the people you help: a recent study has found that it may well improve your health and make you happier.

People who volunteer report having lower levels of depression and higher levels of well-being than average, while some research even suggests that it promotes a longer and healthier life.

A review of 40 papers on the subject by researchers at the University of Exeter has found that volunteers were a fifth less likely to die within the next four to seven years than average. They have lower depression and higher levels of well-being and life satisfaction.

Volunteers often say they want to 'give something back' to their community, but experts say they struggle to explain the benefits that volunteers apparently receive. An estimated 22.5 per cent of people in Europe devote part of their spare time to volunteering, compared with 27 per cent in America and 36 per cent in Australia.

As St Paul wrote to the Galatians, "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Gal. 6:10)

## Expecting a Baby!

THE ADVENT SEASON perhaps made you wonder: how did Mary feel when she was expecting her first child? The huge responsibility of knowing that the Saviour of the universe was growing inside her and that it was her job to keep Him safe, alive and kicking!

Those of us who have had children will remember the great expectation we felt; and how we did everything possible to keep ourselves healthy so that nothing hindered the development of the baby within us. Expectant mothers take regular health checks, keep an eye on weight gain, blood pressure and any other health issues. They can also often sit talking to their 'bump', dreaming of what their baby will one day become.

Let's make it our prayer that Christ will continue to grow in our hearts unhindered in any way. May the seed of His spirit planted in us grow, watered by his word, to bear much fruit of righteousness. May God grant us the grace to avoid and remove from our lives anything that may taint damage or corrupt the precious seed of faith that grows within us. May our lives be regularly checked against, and found in tune with his holy Word.

*May we always walk in step with you, Jesus. May your Holy Spirit and your precious Word always be the fresh air we breathe. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## The Great War: THE TRENCHES

THE TRENCHES are the defining visual image of the Great War. Both sides created them when it became obvious that for all the 'pushes' and counter-attacks not much was happening geographically. A hilly ridge would be taken, at enormous human cost. A month later it would be recaptured. The trenches stretched for hundreds of miles across northern France, once the earlier ones in southern Belgium were abandoned, and they became 'home' to hundreds of thousands of soldiers.

The trench was a narrow but deep ditch, designed to shield the men who were on look-out duty from enemy fire. Behind the trenches were the living quarters - dug out of the earth, usually with roofs of corrugated iron, where there were bunks for sleeping and rudimentary facilities for washing and eating. Hot food came from the Company cook-house behind the lines. 'Too much bully beef', my father complained - corned beef, to us. Very nice as an occasional choice, but a bit unexciting as a regular diet. Surprisingly, perhaps, to those of us who only know of the War from films and books, in between major outbreaks of fighting the trench provided an adequate if modest degree of normality. Every day, my father told me, the newspaper seller would visit with copies of the *Daily Mail*. No escaping from the football results and news from home.

The trouble was that periodically the senior officers would decide that it was time for another desperate attempt to dislodge the enemy. Bayonets would be fixed, ashen-faced young men would line up in the trenches awaiting the signal - usually a blast on a whistle - which would summon them to climb the steps out into the open, there to face, inevitably, the devastating fire of the German machine guns. It was some time into the War before the Allies were equipped with these deadly weapons, and it was the multiple, sustained rain of bullets that caused most of the casualties.

Above all this was the constant barrage of the big guns, firing from both sides but well behind the lines. Their thunderous roar could be heard at times far away across the Channel in Kent. Most of the shells simply exploded in the soft soil of Flanders or the Somme - they are still being ploughed up by farmers today, a century later. But some were what became known as 'direct hits', and those could be devastating.

In the midst of all this - the mud, the stench, the noise and the imminent possibility of death - were the soldiers themselves. Among them moved the medics, the nurses, the chaplains - agents of care and compassion in a world which seemed to have gone mad. Some soldiers simply couldn't stand it. 'Shell-shocked' was the diagnosis in those days. The wonder is that anybody could.



THE GREAT WAR  
1914 - 1918

## Woodbine Willie - bringing love with cigarettes and the Bible

HERE'S a 'saint' that the Church of England remembers from the 1st World War - the Rev. Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, MC, or 'Woodbine Willie', as everyone knew this popular, much-loved army chaplain on the Western Front.

Studdert Kennedy (27 June 1883 – 8 March 1929) had been born in Leeds as the seventh of nine children. After reading divinity and classics at Trinity College Dublin, he'd studied for ordination at Ripon Clergy College, and served his curacy at Rugby. By the time war broke out in 1914, Studdert Kennedy was vicar of St Paul's Worcester. He soon volunteered to go to the Western Front as a chaplain to the army. Life on the front line in the trenches was a desperate affair, but soon Studdert Kennedy had hit on a way of bringing a few moments of relief to the stressed-out soldiers: as well as good cheer he gave out copious amounts of 'Woodbines', the most popular cheap cigarette of the time.

One colleague remembered Kennedy: "He'd come down into the trenches and say prayers with the men, have a cuppa out of a dirty tin mug and tell a joke as good as any of us. He was a chain smoker and always carried a packet of Woodbine cigarettes that he would give out in handfuls to us lads. That's how he got his nickname. He came down the trench one day to cheer us up. Had his Bible with him as usual. Well, I'd been there for weeks, unable to write home, of course. We were going over the top later that day. I asked him if he would write to my sweetheart at home, tell her I was still alive and, so far, in one piece... years later, after the war, she showed me the letter he'd sent, very nice it was. A lovely letter. My wife kept it until she died."

Kennedy was devoted to his men, so much so that in 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross at Messines Ridge, after running into no man's land in order to help the wounded during an attack on the German frontline.

During the war, Kennedy supported the British military effort with enthusiasm, but soon after the war, he turned to Christian socialism and pacifism. He was given charge of St Edmunds in Lombard St, London, and took to writing a number of poems about his war experiences: *Rough Rhymes of a Padre* (1918) and *More Rough Rhymes* (1919). He went on to work for the Industrial Christian Fellowship, for whom he did speaking tours. It was on one of these tours that he was taken ill, and died in Liverpool in 1929. He was only 46.

His compassion and generosity in the face of the horrors of the Western Front were immortalised in the song 'Absent Friends': "Woodbine Willie couldn't rest until he'd/given every bloke a final smoke/before the killing." He himself had once described his chaplain's ministry as taking "a box of fags in your haversack, and a great deal of love in your heart."

David Winter



## Don't give up Chocolat for Lent!

Sorry, was that a printing error? No we want you to take up Chocolat.

We would love you to come to our Lent course which this year will be using the book "Christ and the Chocolaterie" by Hilary Brand and referring to the DVD "Chocolat". Elaine and Peter have several copies of both at present and it would be worth watching the DVD first at home to be able to relate the course to the film, so please ask to borrow them.

Each session will be held on Wednesdays in Lent starting on 12th March in the Lady Chapel at St George's. The morning session will run after the 10am Holy Communion service and Coffee time and will start promptly at 11am and finish promptly at 12.30.

The evening session is also on Wednesdays and will start promptly at 8pm, finishing promptly at 9.30pm.

The sessions will be a mix of DVD clips and discussion. You don't have to have an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Bible but come with an open mind and heart to journey through Lent with others.

It would be very helpful if you could let Elaine or Peter know if you need us to get you a copy of the book otherwise feel free to purchase your own in advance of the sessions which are as follows:

*12th March – Giving Up – the prelude to change*

*19th March – Giving Out – the power of a gift*

*26th March – Getting Wise – the possibility of change*

*2nd April – Getting Real – the power of acceptance*

*9th April – Growing Up – the process of change*

## Holy Week Retreat

Foxhill is an intimate conference centre, near Frodsham in Cheshire. It is an ideal venue for day or residential retreats, conferences and study breaks.

The centre offers a personal and bespoke service to all guests. The house is in a rural setting which makes it an ideal location for groups or individuals to meet, relax and be refreshed. Foxhill is situated in some of the most stunning countryside in the whole of Cheshire.

A women's day retreat has been booked there in Holy Week on Tuesday 8th April from 9.30am to 3pm. The cost of £20 includes all materials, coffee on arrival and at 11am, a light lunch and an opportunity of a hot drink before we leave.

It is important to let Elaine have expressions of interest, and application forms will be available at the back of church, which need to be returned to her via the parish office before Tuesday 1st April. Cheques may be made payable to "Foxhill Conference Centre". In cases of financial difficulty, please speak to Elaine in confidence.

Advance notice of a men's retreat on Saturday 25th October from 10am to 4pm and a women's Advent retreat on 16th December 9.30-3pm both at Foxhill.

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## Computer hints and tips

THIS IS THE FIRST “Hints and Tips” of the New Year, and I hope all is well with your computer.

This edition is devoted to some reflections on what I have been finding recently in people’s computers. I don’t mean the occasional dead spider in the PC’s case - I will be referring to the contents of hard drives.

**Internet Places.** We all need reminding occasionally that the PC keeps a record of where we go on the internet. It is, of course, possible to remove your internet history, but your Internet Service Provider (ISP) keeps a permanent record. I’m not trying to frighten you, just alert you to a fact of internet life. But it is worth reminding younger users of your PCs, for example, that it is possible to find where they have been surfing.

I mention this in the context of a couple of customers lately who acquired computer problems after other people had been using their computer. It is now one of my standard questions: “Are you the only one who uses this PC?” Often the answer is: “Well, my grandson [or similar] uses it when he visits. He seems to know more than me about it.”

That may be true, but it is also true that I have had a few customers lately who have “acquired” some unwanted software, and occasionally some malicious malware.

Because I have clauses in my Terms and Conditions that emphasise my commitment to respecting your privacy and confidentiality, I do not examine the internet history. But if a customer specifically asks for information about internet history it is possible to provide it.

Please ask if you require that kind of feedback. Otherwise, discretion is the name of the game!

**PUPS.** No, I’ve not become a dog breeder! PUP stands for Potentially Unwanted Program, and I am removing a lot of them lately. A typical scenario goes like this: I notice an icon on the desktop for a program that I know is a PUP. I ask the customer if she/he has installed that program. The usual answer is No. I then point out that they did install it, but they may have been unaware that they had. PUPs can be malicious, or they can just be a waste of space. Both types are very common. So, how do they get in? One way is that they come bundled with something else that you chose to download. Sometimes, you are updating a program, and if you don’t un-tick a box you get other stuff as well. It is important to read the small print.

Another way is by hitting the wrong download button. Sometimes there are multiple download buttons on a software website, and as you try each one to find the one you really want, you have mysteriously acquired a load of rubbish!

Hovering over a download button with your pointer will sometimes tell you what you are about to install if you click it. There is no merit in doing things quickly on such websites – take your time, read the small print, check/uncheck any tick boxes you can see, and find the right download button.

Sometimes you are on a website and it is promoting a program that will make your PC go faster, clean out your registry, flush the RAM, and so on. In reality, the program is very unlikely to do all those things, and may even be what is known as “scareware”, in that it tells you that you have hundreds of problems, so now pay some money and the problems will be solved. Any program that offers you the earth is too good to be true, and could possibly do damage to your PC.

**Browser Hijackers.** A Browser Hijacker changes your homepage. It can also mess with some of the settings in your browser. If you have installed more than one browser (e.g., Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome) it will make changes in all of them.

I get cross with Browser Hijackers – I want to choose my homepage, not some anonymous malicious software creator. (Rant over! But did you feel the anger???) Some of them can be difficult to remove, as they embed themselves in your browser add-ons. Resetting your browser to its original default settings can work, but you need to know your way around your browsers to find where to go to restore the original condition.

**Final Thoughts.** I do my bit via Hints and Tips to keep you alerted to issues and problems. Perhaps next month I’ll focus on more positive aspects of PCs and the Internet.

In the meantime, by all means do what you can to keep yourself safe and in charge, but when the going gets tough, there’s always TLC. I don’t mind being your fall-back position, but I can also be your first line of defence. This edition is a reflection on recent jobs for customers. Those reflections inform my own work, to make it better for all who use TLC.

Regular service anyone???

To be even more up to speed, follow me on Twitter (@TLCServicing), and “like” my Facebook page (search in Facebook for TLC Computer Servicing).

Till next time, enjoy your computer, hopefully problem free.

Chris Turner. TLC Computer Servicing.

See advertisement on p4

## It's time to change indeed

DO SOME PEOPLE in our churches not change simply because we don't expect them to? They 'came in from the cold'; they got their 'get out of hell free card'; they were marked with that heavenly bar-code - so what more can we really expect of them? They attend, they tithe, they sing and, of course, they avoid certain scandalous behaviour that may bring that heavenly bar-code into question. But since we did not expect any ongoing transformation they live at the low levels of change that we suggest by our silence.

In Galatians 4:19 Paul seems to be waiting on tenterhooks for the expected change of his readers. Some may even call this sort of language very high expectations indeed: "My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you..." He seems to be suggesting that morphing into ever greater degrees of Christlikeness is normal. It seems to be an expectation of all of God's people and any delay or stalling of the process should become the real shock in our churches.

Do you remember those Power Rangers, so much a part of children's TV in the 1990s? They popularised the famous shout, "It's morphin' time". That well-known call meant that they received unusual power to change and do extraordinary things.

Now imagine a church liturgy that began with the call, "It's time to change" to which the congregation responds with an enthusiastic "It's time to change indeed". Now before you roll your eyes and join the call to move churches, allow this curious liturgy to play with your imaginations for a while.

When Jesus told us that the Kingdom of God has arrived He was not talking about a distant event that happens after death. He meant now and He meant His people to be the signposts to that new reality through their changed lives. In Matthew 21:43 Jesus says, "Therefore I tell you that the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit..."

And what are those fruits of the Spirit? Love, joy, peace... the sort of fruit that should be expected in growing measures from people living in His Kingdom or under His reign. If you like, we are becoming "free samples of Jesus" to a world in rebellion against Him.

So why do we settle for less? Perhaps it's because we hear that the church in the UK is shrinking and so we panic and assume that all of church life should be about getting more bums on seats. And instead of raising the bar of our expectations of transformed lives living under the power of the Kingdom of God (a very powerful evangelistic tool in itself) we have lowered it and settled for the minimum requirements for getting out of hell.

But the call of the gospel was never meant to be just a means of escape; it is a call to join the mission of God. And God's mission into this world is a transformative mission that needs people who are starting to look and

sound more like the Jesus they proclaim. It's time to change indeed - all day and every day.

## The Way I See It: MINE'S BIGGER THAN YOURS

125 YEARS AGO the Eiffel Tower was opened. It was actually the entrance arch to the 1889 World Fair and named after its builder, Gustave Eiffel. At 324 metres it was then the tallest structure in the world. Indeed, it kept that title until 1930, when the Chrysler Building in New York marginally eclipsed it. However, very few buildings no matter how tall have eclipsed its global appeal. Its 250 millionth visitor clocked in three years ago. As a cultural icon of France and as a defining image recognised worldwide it is unsurpassed.

Of course since 1930 there have been many taller buildings erected in various parts of the world - America, Europe, the Far East and the Middle East. We've got some pretty big ones in London, for that matter (though 'pretty' is perhaps not the right adjective for many of them). We're still obsessed with size. Human beings of the male gender still like to claim that they've caught the biggest fish in the lake (even if it got away). 'Mine's bigger than yours' is a standard playground claim, be it a conker, gobstopper or bruise on the shin.

It's a trait beautifully captured in the story of the Tower of Babel in the Bible (Genesis 11:1-9). It probably relates to a period when men in the Middle East were very keen to build ziggurats - great rectangular stepped buildings, sometimes topped with a temple. In the biblical story human beings (men, I'm sure) had the bright idea of building one so big that it would have its top in the heavens. Thus, they hoped, they would 'make a name for themselves'. Their plan was thwarted by the Lord, who 'confused their language', leaving the would-be builders at odds with each other and the project hopeless. 'They left off building the city', Genesis wryly observes.

It's a strange story, but it neatly captures a familiar human ambition, the desire to be 'top'. Over the centuries, it has caused enormous suffering - jealousies, wars, plots, revolutions and assassinations. In the long term it cannot bring happiness or satisfaction. When Jesus caught His disciples arguing about rank and status, asking 'who is the greatest?', he soon put them right: 'Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all' (Mark 10:33,34).

Lent starts early in March, a time, perhaps, for reassessing our ambitions - including any lurking desire to be the 'greatest' or own the 'biggest'. Small is beautiful, and so is the role of the faithful servant. I must admit, however, that I still love the Eiffel Tower (and secretly wish I'd built it).

*David Winter*

## God in the Arts

*The Rev Michael Burgess surveys a work of sacred art that can be found in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam...you can see the image by googling the title of the painting and the artist.*

### **‘He gave us eyes to see them’: ‘The Two Mothers’, by Dutch sculptor Frans Stracké**

THE RIJKSMUSEUM re-opened last year after a decade of restoration, and this sculpture can be found on the first floor. It is a statue of a young mother and focuses our attention on the fourth Sunday of Lent which we know as Mothering Sunday. This is the day when we traditionally give thanks for three mothers: mother Church, our own mothers and mother Mary – three mothers, who each watch over their offspring with love and care. Motherhood of course is a mixture of joy and sometimes sorrow. The pride and happiness of seeing children grow go hand in hand with worry and concern over their wellbeing. As an Italian proverb expresses it: ‘Little children headache; big children heartache.’

When we look at the life of our Lady in the Gospels, we meet there times of joy and times of worry and sadness. In the Middle Ages the Church proclaimed the seven joys of Mary – those key moments in her life from the Annunciation to her Son’s Resurrection – but also the seven sorrows of Mary. There we think of the flight to Egypt and losing the 12-year-old Jesus on pilgrimage, through to the cross of Calvary, and realise how much Mary would have known of loss and sadness as a mother.

In the sculpture called ‘The Two Mothers’ we see a vivid depiction of the joys and demands of motherhood. The work was created in 1893 by the Dutch sculptor, Frans Stracké. He is now remembered for his impressive memorials, which are on a grand scale, but in this intimate scene he has portrayed a young mother with a child carried on her left arm. The other mother is the dog at her feet who is looking up to her new-born puppies, nestling in the folds of her clothes. It seems a gentle, sweet scene. But we look again and realise there is a world of hardship and struggle here. The mother is barefoot: she has been fishing in the sea with a net. But there are only two fish in her pocket and the net behind is empty. And yet there is a purpose in her step and a calm resilience in her young face.

The dog is worried over her puppies. The mother has to look after her own child as well as the new litter. A world of demand and responsibility sits on her shoulders. Both child and animals call on her love and care, and she wants the best for them all. It is that over-arching love and care that we give thanks for on Mothering Sunday: the love and care of our mothers and those who are concerned for us, of mother Mary watching over her son’s growth to maturity and ministry, and of our mother the Church, feeding us in the sacraments and guiding our pilgrimage through life.

We think of that maternal care that has nurtured us in our families and in the family of the Church – a care that remains constant, true and watchful on whatever path we take through life. It is a care that reveals the truth of another proverb – this time from Spain: ‘An ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy.’

## We are not proselytisers!

Prebendary Richard Bewes considers the difference between evangelists and proselytisers:

*“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves” (Matthew 23:15 KJV).*

A LEADER of another religion once told me sternly that Christian students in London - in their witness to fellow students about Christ - were ‘proselytisers.’ Besides the principle of free speech in Britain, I pointed out that there is a difference between evangelising (which his own belief-system practised) and ‘proselytism.’ All too often, Christians are accused of ‘proselytising.’ Nothing of the sort. There is a difference between proselytism and evangelism. What is it?

In the verse quoted above, Jesus was condemning the Pharisees. The King James Version ‘proselyte’ is preferable here to the blander word ‘convert’ of the New International Version. Although a *proseelutos* was indeed a Gentile recruit won for Judaism, the process was not an attractive one. The Jewish historian Josephus tells us that one Jewish high priest, John Hyrcanus (134-104 BC), even offered Idumeans the alternative of death, exile or circumcision. (Some modern religions behave in this heathen way). When, later, the Roman Empire illegalised such measures, then every other possible art of persuasion was attempted.

The result was extremely low-grade ‘converts’ – in Jesus’ opinion, twice as hell-bound as their masters. It became a Jewish saying that no one should trust a proselyte, even to the twenty-fourth generation. As the German theologian H.J. Holtzmann put it, the more converted, the more perverted.

‘Unworthy witness’ is what marks out Proselytism from Evangelism.

In 1970 a helpful study document - Common Witness and Proselytism - was produced by an international Church assembly - It stated that Proselytism involves unworthy MOTIVES (concern for our own clique rather than for God’s glory), unworthy METHODS (force, bribery, psychological pressure) and an unworthy MESSAGE (the distortion of beliefs – either of others or ourselves – to achieve the desired result).

By contrast, for a definition of Evangelism, the 1989 ‘Manila Manifesto’ of Billy Graham’s great congress came up with this: ‘to make an open and honest statement of the gospel, which leaves the hearers entirely free to make up their own minds about it. We wish to be sensitive to those of other faiths, and we reject any approach that seeks to force conversion on them.’

Learn this distinction. One day you are going to need it!



## Marriage Preparation Sessions

These sessions will be held on three Sunday afternoons; 9th, 16th and 23rd March and cover three basic areas which affect all relationships – Commitment, Communication and Conflict.

Each session will be held at St. George's Church in the Lady Chapel from 2pm-4pm and coffee and tea (and cake!) will be provided. No one will be expected to give away any intimate details or asked any questions that they may feel uncomfortable about. It's an opportunity to think, reflect and discuss. It's also suitable for people who have been married for ages or who are thinking about getting married.

Please let Elaine know if you are coming to ensure that there is enough material for everyone.

## Recipe of the month: Fresh fruit brûlée

*This is a very easy pudding and special enough for a dinner party. It is also delicious.*

227g/8oz strawberries, washed and sliced  
125g/4oz white grapes, washed and halved  
170g/6oz fresh pineapple, skinned and chopped  
8-10 ratafia biscuits  
400ml/14 fl oz crème fraiche  
125-175g/4-6oz soft light brown sugar  
fresh mint, to decorate (optional)

Arrange the strawberries, grapes and pineapple in a heatproof dish approx. 900ml/1½ pint capacity. Place the ratafia biscuits on top. Spoon over the crème fraiche right up to the edge of the dish to seal the fruit completely.

Sprinkle the sugar evenly over the top and place under a pre-heated hot grill for 1-2 minutes until the sugar has caramelised.

Decorate with mint, if using, or some fruit.

Serves 4.

**Variations: use other types of fruit; add 2-4 tablespoons fruit juice or alcohol (liqueur, brandy or sherry); substitute Greek yoghurt for the crème fraiche.**

*Pamela Ferguson*

## Cleric John Wesley's little-known occupation as a man of medicine

AS ONE of the founding fathers of Methodism, John Wesley is well known throughout the world as a Christian evangelist, but his experiments into producing cures for the sick are not often talked about – until recently.

An exhibition revealing the surprising and illuminating history of Wesley's wild and wonderful medical ideas toured the country last year, visiting Epworth, Bristol, Launceston, Englesea Brook, London and Newcastle. The exhibition, entitled 'Wesley and Well-being', explored Wesley's medicinal manual, *Primitive Physic*, which was so popular in its day that it was republished 23 times, making it an 18th century best-seller.

Although some of his "cures" were denounced by 18th century critics as "possibly deadly", his thinking was occasionally ahead of his time: honey is used in many of his remedies, even though its antiseptic and antibacterial properties have only recently been confirmed by science. It was only in the 1700s that medicine in Western Europe began to be a respectable profession and care for the sick was not seen as an extension of the pastoral care provided by the Church.

When Wesley's *Primitive Physic* was published in 1747, doctors were still more likely to kill at a price than cure for a fee. Wesley wanted to put the knowledge of curing diseases into ordinary people's hands. Some of his remedies, such as holding a live puppy over the stomach to cure colic, sound comic to us today. But, to Wesley's credit, if he thought a critic's claim was well-founded, then he would make changes in the next edition.

Wesley opened free clinics in London and dispensaries in London, Bristol and Newcastle. He took remedies and cures from other published medical books and re-wrote them in plain English. He tried to make all the remedies cheap and easy to get hold of and he asked his preachers to sell his book, encouraging them to add their own cures. He provided remedies and preventions on a range of ailments and diseases, from headaches to the plague, and gout to obesity. His 'cures' ranged from advising people to exercise around two to three hours a day in order to "soften the evils of life" to drying and powdering a toad into small pills in order to help ease asthma.

Dr Richard Vautrey, Former Vice-President of the Methodist Conference and a practising GP, said: "John Wesley took the command to 'love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind' seriously, working to ensure that Methodists were not only nurturing their spiritual health but looking after their physical health as well. Whilst some of his ideas belong in the 18th century, many are as relevant today as they were then. Today, we would all do well to follow his advice by increasing the amount of exercise we take and reducing the amount of salt in our diets. By doing so whilst our hearts may still be "strangely warmed" – as Wesley's was – they won't overheat!"

## Church fears end for parish papers

The following item appeared on the Daily Telegraph on January 27th 2014:

*Church leaders fear for the future of parish magazines, as one of the oldest is due to close after 115 years.*

*The parish magazine at the Brontë's former home of Haworth, West Yorks, is thought to have first gone on sale around 1899, growing from a single page into a 12-page magazine.*

*The current edition will be the last after the church, which hosts a busy website, found that only half of the 200 copies being printed were sold.*

*"It is costing us a lot of money, and like all organisations we have to make hard decisions about spending", said the Rev. Peter Mayo-Smith, the vicar of Haworth.*

*"We recognise certain groups of people really love paper so we might go to a quarterly glossy, magazine, rather than [writing about] who is doing the tea rota and who is handing out the hymn books."*

*He added that the exact age of the magazine was unknown but that its roots may extend back to the Brontës.*

*In 2009, the Church of England celebrated 150 years of parish magazines. Now, there are signs that many are changing from monthly publications to more expensive, quarterly magazines.*

*The Bishop of Bradford, the Rt Rev. Nick Baines, a communications expert of the Church, said "The whole media world has changed. People look at a church on the internet, not wandering around buildings.*

*If we are trying to communicate more widely there are other, more imaginative cost-effective ways.*

*What we should not be is slaves to nostalgia and see if there is a better way of doing things.*

*The other thing is you have to have the people to produce a church magazine, which can be a problem these days."*

*A recent report for the Church of Scotland pointed to the decline for church magazines in general.*

*"One of the questions the Church will have to face is whether we wish to duplicate in print news items which inevitably appear instantly in electronic form," it warned.*

*A subsequent editorial article was printed the following day:*

*When he rowed in the winning eight for the Grand Challenge Cup at Henley, John Erskine Clarke might have thought he would never equal the achievement. That was in 1849, but the same energy informed his future life as a parson. The east wall of his church in Derby fell down during a service, so he rebuilt the whole church. His lasting legacy was to launch a parish magazine in 1859, the first of its kind.*

*Like Church of England parishes, covering every inch of the countryside, parish magazines reflect national life.*

*Personalities jostle for space in their pages – a Linda Snell on falcons or a Christine Barford on baking – and no item is too trivial for notice. News of the demise after 115 years of Haworth parish magazine is seen by some as a straw in the wind. But volunteering is a British virtue, and wherever there's a volunteer, the mag will go on.*

*Hear! Hear! – and so say all of us. Tea and hymn book rotas my foot - the very cheek of it! Ed.*

## Godspell at Stockport Grammar School

19th March to 22nd March 2014.

Performances at 7.30pm

*Godspell*, one of Broadway's most enduring shows of all time, is based on the Gospel According to St Matthew. The parables of Jesus come humanly and hearteningly to life.

Featuring a sparkling score by Grammy and Academy award-winning composer Stephen Schwartz, *Godspell* is the timeless tale of friendship, loyalty and love that has touched theatregoers all over the world.

Boasting a string of well-loved upbeat songs, led by the international hit *Day By Day*, *Godspell* is a ground-breaking and unique reflection on the life of Jesus, with a message of kindness, tolerance and love.

Created by John-Michael Tebelak as a college project in 1970, it was re-scored by Stephen Schwartz before moving to off-Broadway in 1971 and then to Broadway in 1976 after becoming one of the longest-running off-Broadway musicals. The show was recently updated once again for Broadway and was received with rave reviews and packed houses.

This Stockport Grammar School production is not just dusting off some 30-year-old period piece. Through months of fun and energetic rehearsals it has been brought up to date with a very fresh and contemporary feel. The cast have put their very own personal spin, personalities and culture to a play that speaks to each of us, no matter what our beliefs of humanity, community and friendship.

### Tickets are priced £10 adults, £5 children

If you would like tickets to see *Godspell* please send a cheque (payable to Stockport Grammar School) to the Music department, Stockport Grammar School, Buxton Road, Stockport, SK2 7AF, stating your name, contact details and which performance you would like tickets for. Please call 0161 456 9000 if you have any questions.

## Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword solution

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

## Church Service Times

### REGULAR SERVICES AT ST GEORGE'S:

#### Sunday

8am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.15am Parish Communion (Common Worship)  
with Crèche and Sunday Clubs

6.30pm Evensong (BCP)

#### Wednesday

7pm Open Door (Vestry)  
(Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings).

Daily 8.30am Matins

### St George's Opening Times:

Mon and Tue: 9.15am to noon

Wednesday: 9.30am to 11am  
and 7pm to 9pm

Saturday: 9am to 11am

### REGULAR SERVICES AT ST GABRIEL'S:

#### Sunday

9.30 am Holy Communion

## LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFASTS

### HUMAN NATURE: A CHRISTIAN'S DILEMMA

8 March 2014

"Difficulties with Human Nature"

Speaker: Dennis Armstrong

15 March 2014

"Nature or Nurture?"

Speaker: Chris Dawson

22 March 2014

"Human Nature Renewed"

Speaker: Canon Elaine Chagwin Hall

29 March 2014

"Human Nature – A Summary"

Speaker: Peter Hall

All the Breakfasts are held in the Lady Chapel  
on Saturday Mornings

Breakfasts are served from 09.30

The Session begins at 10.00. The speaker has  
the floor for twenty minutes when an open  
discussion follows.

Breakfast ends no later than 11.00

## Oh What a Lovely War!

This coming November we will be commemorating the outbreak of WW1. On the Friday and Saturday before Remembrance Sunday, 7th and 8th November, we will be performing the musical Oh What A Lovely War.

An exciting challenge! Amongst other events and attractions, we anticipate having an exhibition of WW1 posters. More details and how people can be involved will be announced later.

Any thoughts and ideas to Chris Dawson, 429 7880.

## Did I mean what I just said?

The following are genuine notes left for milkmen. You know what they mean, but.?!

- ~ Dear Milkman: I've just had a baby, please leave another one.
- ~ Cancel one pint after the day after today.
- ~ Please don't leave any more milk. All they do is drink it.
- ~ Please close the gate behind you because the birds keep pecking the tops of the milk.
- ~ Please cancel the milk. I have nothing coming into the house except two sons on the dole.
- ~ Please bring me a form about cheap milk, as my boyfriend has made me stagnant.
- ~ Please do not leave milk at no. 14 as he is dead until further notice.

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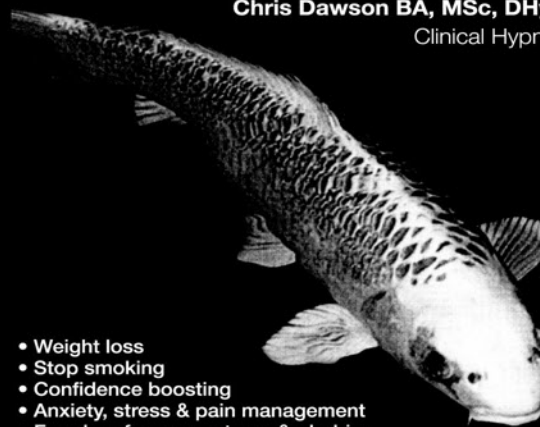
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Grapevine committee meeting: Tuesday 18th March.

Contributions to the Editor: Mark Lane, 10 Walmer Drive,  
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