

April



2014

Parish Grapevine

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

80p

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

Dear Readers,

HOW WELL do you know Adswood? Unless you live there yourself, or visit friends or relatives living there, it's probably just one of the many local areas that you drive through on your way elsewhere. But it has an interesting history, numerous churches, schools, and many active organisations aimed at helping the not-so-young plus a well-supported food bank.

Adswood's origins and some of the current initiatives are covered in an item written by our new vicar (Elaine) who is taking a keen interest, especially since it is located within the Parish of the Church of St George, Heaviley. We hope to be able to update her information from time to time if the organisers will keep us informed of the latest news. Information can be sent either direct to Elaine at St George's, to churchwarden Frances Farrar at daughter church St Gabriel's, or to me at my address shown on the back cover of the magazine.

Another article appears within that I'm sure will be of equal interest. It concerns The Wellspring which started life as a soup kitchen some 23 years ago and now occupies bespoke new premises near Stockport town centre, offering a whole range of essential services to the homeless. I leave the article itself to explain more.

At Elaine's Institution at St George's last November, she was escorted into the church and presented to the presiding bishop by a Patron of St George's. "Who, and what, is/are Patrons of our church?" I hear you mutter. All is revealed herein in a specially-written article by Rosie Stead with technical assistance from current Patron, Richard Heap.

I am sorry to note that Rev. Glenys Sellors has resigned. She joined us in 2008 and quickly endeared herself to us all. She held the position of Assistant Priest and was one of the wonderfully industrious team that enabled us to offer 'business as usual' through the long interregnum. We wish her well as she resumes her interrupted retirement. I'm sure the Monday Praise and Play children will miss her, as shall we all. Thank you, Glenys, for all you have done for us.

The eagle-eyed might notice a change to some wording on the Floodlighting Sponsorship form which appears, as usual, on page seven. Because our treasurer, Stephen Jones, is retiring, it will no longer be appropriate to send the form and payment to him. Instead, as an interim measure pending the appointment of a new treasurer, forms and payment are to be sent to our vicar, Elaine, whose address now appears on the form itself. Thank you.

We apologise for the absence of the usual Music List from last month's issue and in particular to our Director of Music, John Horton, who goes to a lot of trouble to prepare it for us. I usually receive it from him by email but this time the system failed us. Extra care was taken to ensure the receipt of this month's but it took several attempts before success was achieved. I just goes to show that you can't guarantee receipt even though you know you have sent it!

We're about half way through Lent as I write and I can just see a speck of light at the far end of the tunnel. What joy awaits us at Easter!

God Bless. Sincerely yours,

Mark Lane. Editor

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

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



Elaine writes:

A funny thing happened on the way to ...

Life is about journeys and we are impacted by who we meet, the opportunities that are laid before us and the way we respond to them.

I am very fond of the passage from *Acts 8:26-40* where Philip was sent by an angel of the Lord to a road that led down from Jerusalem to Gaza. Here he encountered an Ethiopian official who was trying to make sense of reading the prophet Isaiah. God's Spirit urged Philip to go and stand beside his chariot and he helped the man to understand the passage and then to hear the Good News about Jesus and it didn't stop there. The Ethiopian official noticed some water and asked to be baptised and after Philip did this, he disappeared from the Ethiopian's sight.

Philip was put in the situation by God for a purpose and often we may feel prompted to visit or phone somebody and when we do, it turns out to be desperately important that we responded. When we see someone or something happens, often out of the blue, we think of it is a coincidence but I would rather see it as a God-incidence.

I mention this because I was out with a friend for a working lunch in an inn which caused me to journey several miles away from here. I needed to go to use the facilities and there I met a lady, which was not unusual seeing as we were both in the "ladies". Anyway she saw me wearing my clerical collar and she started to chat and asked me if I would do something for her. She said she had just been diagnosed with cancer and asked me to pray for her and there, in the snug confines of the ladies toilets, I held onto her and prayed and then we left to go back to our separate tables. We may never meet again, but if she somehow ever reads this then please know I am still praying for you.

Coincidence? I think not, and I am firmly convinced that this encounter had the hallmarks of God all over it.

Sometimes we are privileged to encounter people on occasions of challenge and pain, people who have been there at the right time, said the right thing and held us in their prayers.

As we celebrate this amazing time of Easter we might reflect on some of the early emotions of the followers of Jesus: the confusion they felt; the uncertainties they experienced. I am put in mind of another journey, this time of the road to Emmaus *Luke 24:13-35* where the two people were walking and reflecting on the happenings in Jerusalem. Jesus came to join them, although they didn't recognise Him. Jesus allowed them to talk through the

events of the past few days and then challenged them to think further, and went on to interpret things in the Scriptures about Himself. As they arrived at the village Jesus made as if to go on and they invited Him in to join in a meal.

Verses 30-32 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

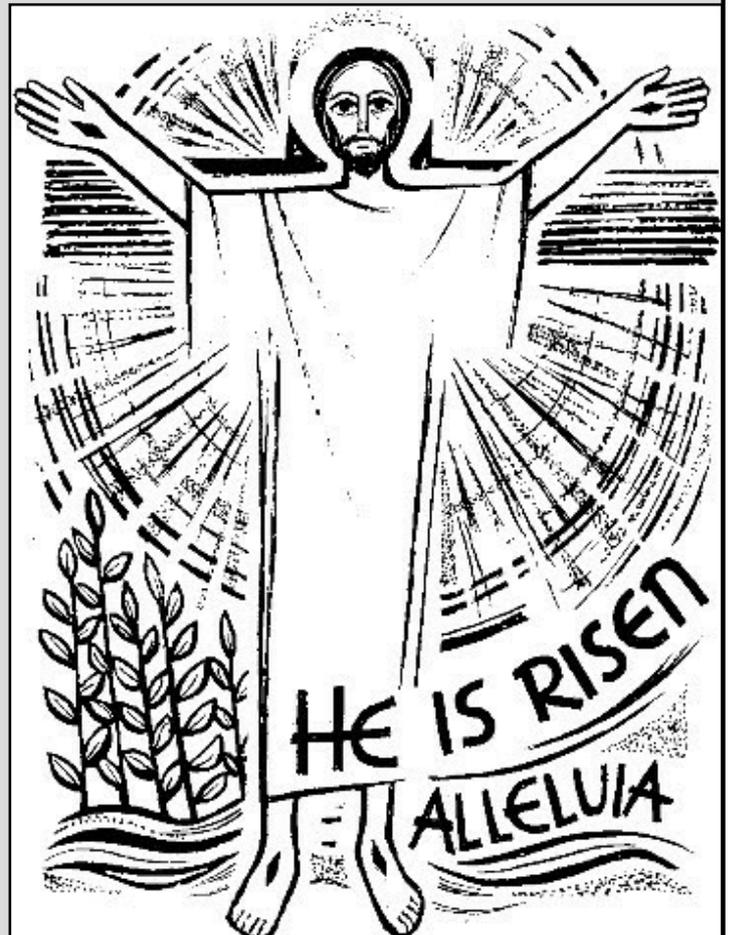
Their hearts and their eyes were opened and they rushed back to Jerusalem to tell the others. Jesus is alive!

Jesus is active in our lives and continues to encounter us in different ways in the many and varied paths that life's journey takes. He speaks the words, He provides the people and He meets with us when we feel that no one understands and walks with us in the hills and valleys of our existence.

Jesus is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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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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

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*

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*

Tuesday 8th April at Foxhill Conference Centre

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

See item at end of next column

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 Taizé-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

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

6.30pm Festival Evensong at St George's

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.

Parish News Roundup

Holy Baptism

We welcome into the church family:

8th Mar: Rebekah Sheridan Brazier
(Adult)

Ryan Lee Marshall (Adult)

9th Mar: Effie Rose Humphreys

Holy Matrimony

None

Funerals/Burials of Ashes

26th Feb: at Stockport Crematorium.
Kathleen Heil

6th Mar: Mary Rothwell Innocent.
Burial of ashes at Stockport
Cemetery

17th Mar: Joan Grundy. Burial of ashes
at St George's

Main Altar/Lady Chapel Flowers

were by:

2nd Mar: Lady Chapel flowers, Edna
Tootell, *In loving memory of
Norman*

9th Mar: High Altar flowers, Dorothy
and Brian Walton, *in memory
of their parents*

16th Mar: High Altar flowers, Dot Moss,
in memory of David Moss

23rd Mar: High Altar and Lady Chapel
flowers, Joan and Jim Izard,
in memory of their parents

Floodlighting was sponsored by:

28th Feb: Sheila and Rachel, *in memory
of Ian Flitcroft*

7th Mar: Margaret and Gordon
Sharrard, *for their grandson
David's birthday*

Dates for your diary:

8th Apr: Women's Day Retreat.
Foxhill Conference Centre
Deanery confirmation
service at St Saviour's
7.30pm
(with Bridget Malias –
candidate from St
George's)

11th Apr: Stockport Local 50+ Show.
Stockport Town Hall 9am-
3pm

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

14th Apr: **Commencement of Holy
Week**

20th Apr: **Easter Day**

Parish News Roundup

27th Apr: Annual Parochial church
meeting to be held
immediately after morning
service which starts at
10am

3rd May: Café Concert and book
sale 10am-noon (Organ
Restoration Fund event).
See p16 for complete
programme of events

St George's News:

Lenten lunches are being 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.

Annual Parochial church meeting

The Annual Parochial church meeting
will be held on 27th April at St George's
after the morning service which, on this
occasion, starts at **10am**. The meeting
follows on straight after the service. Any
offers of people to stand as sidespeople
and PCC members would be appreciated.

The Crucifixion: rehearsal dates

We will be performing Stainer's *The
Crucifixion* on Palm Sunday (13th
April) at 6:30pm, The rehearsal schedule
is as follows:

Thursday 20th March – 7:30pm-8:30pm

Thursday 27th March – 7:30pm-8:30pm

Saturday 5th April – 11am-12pm

Sunday 13th April – 5pm-6pm

It would be wonderful to see as many of
you as possible, but if you have already
let me know you won't be attending
please disregard this message. *John
Horton. Director of Music.*

Alpha Course

There will be an Alpha Course starting
St Ambrose School, on Friday 25th
April from 1pm to 3.00pm. All are
welcome to attend.

St Gabriel's News:

Rise to the Challenge

This was an event held at St Gabriel's on
6th March and the church was packed to
the gills with people coming to visit to
see a wide range of interesting stalls for
advice about keeping safe, living well,
getting out and about, gentle exercise

Parish News Roundup

and to view what was going on in our
community.

We had some great conversations and
met lots of new people over a cup of tea.
Further information about events such as
this can be found on the website
www.healthystockport.co.uk

Thanks to the Evergreens who
provided us with refreshments.

Dates for your diary:

13th April: Palm Sunday. The
Ecumenical Service will be held at St
Ambrose R.C. church at 3pm.

15th April: Tuesday – at St Gabriels:
The Way of the Cross – a journey with
Jesus to the Cross.

Friday Praise and Play at St Gabriel's

Children at Friday Praise and Play are
looking for help. It is a thriving group
with a regular attendance of 20 children
plus parents and carers.

Do you enjoy telling stories? Could
you spare an hour on a Friday morning
once or twice a month?

Friday Praise and Play children love
singing and playing musical instruments
but we have no adults to make music
with them. Do you play the guitar, piano
or another musical instrument? Could
you spare an hour or two on a Friday
morning once or twice a month?

If so we would love to see you. Come
and discover a friendly, lively group of
children and parents.

Please speak to Lois Kelly, Margaret
Grice or call Marie Flint on 0161
4832321 if you'd like to offer some help,
or find out more. Thank you.

Marie

Easter greetings to all from the Little Flock at St Gabriel's.

*See also "Spotlight on Adswood"
on p.11*

May 2014 Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Friday 18th April**

Committee meeting: **Tuesday 22nd April**

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.

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).

Never drive faster than your guardian angel can fly.

Mothers' Union

Monday 14th April - join with the Holy Week Taize-style service at 8pm in church.

Fellowship of Marriage and Women's Fellowship

10th Apr: Aprons. Mrs Olwyn Atkinson
24th April: No meeting – Easter week

Brings it all back...

Do you know what 'cascading reminiscence bumps' are? You will have experienced them, almost certainly. They are that rush of vivid memories that you get when you hear music that you associate with your childhood, teens and early twenties being played – the songs that open the door on so many events in your past.

Because such memories stretch back to childhood, even the music your parents used to listen to when you were a child will be bound up in this. As a study on the phenomenon at Cornell University puts it: "Music transmitted from generation to generation shapes autobiographical memories, preferences and emotional responses." It confirms other research which found that the music you encounter when you are young will have the greatest impact on your life. The Psalmist knew this: 'Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised...one generation shall commend your works to another.' (Ps 145:3,4)

**Recipe of the month
Spicy red fish stew**

I tried this recipe recently and thought it was very good. You can prepare the sauce ahead if it suits your timetable, and keep it in the fridge for a day or two until needed. If doing this, add the fish after reheating the sauce, just before you serve it. I made half the recipe and used one dried chilli, broken up. I omitted the coriander as I do not like it. If you do not like spicy food you could leave out the chilli.

- 3 red peppers
- 4-5 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 6 banana shallots, or 12 smaller ones, skinned and chopped
- 1-2 cloves garlic, skinned and finely chopped
- 2 400g tins chopped tomatoes
- 1-2 bird's eye chillies, seeded and chopped, or 1 rounded tsp dried chilli flakes
- sea salt
- finely grated zest of 2 limes
- 1 tbsp chopped coriander
- 1.2kg/2.5 lbs cod, skinned and cut into 2cm/1in pieces.

Cut each pepper in quarters and put them, skin side upwards, on a baking tray under a hot grill. Leave until the skin blackens and blisters then put them into a polythene bag for 10 minutes. The skin should then peel off easily. Chop the skinned peppers.

Meanwhile, cook the shallots gently in the olive oil in a large frying pan until they are very soft. Stir in the garlic, tomatoes, chilli and red peppers. Season with salt and simmer the sauce gently for 10-15 minutes. Stir in the lime zest and coriander then add the fish and continue to simmer gently until the fish turns opaque, which it should do in less than 5 minutes. Serve in a bowl with warm bread or garlic bread. Add a green vegetable if you like.

Serves 5-6.

Pamela Ferguson



St. George's floodlighting – sponsorship request form

(return to Rev Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall, 17 Frewland Avenue, Davenport, Stockport. Sk3 8TZ)

Name Phone No

Date of evening requested £10/£..... donation enclosed (Please make cheques payable to St. George's Church)

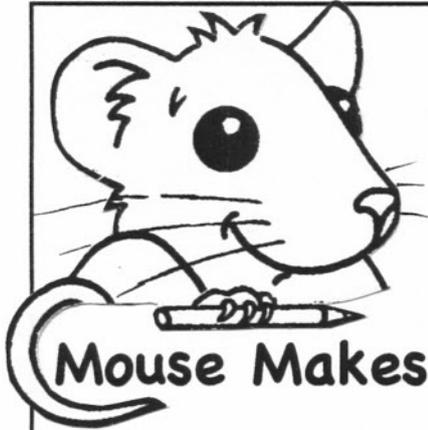
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Glue onto card, colour, cut out the cross and hang up.

HE IS RISEN

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women went to Jesus' tomb. They found the stone rolled away but when they went in they did not find Jesus' body...



Jesus is risen

The angel said;
"Jesus...is not here, for he has risen, just as he said."
Matthew 28:6

Jesus is here

Jesus said;
"Where two or three come together in my name I am there with them."
Matthew 18:20

Jesus will come again

Jesus said;
"I will come back and take you to myself so that you will be where I am."
John 14:3

...Suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them and said,

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"



READ the Resurrection story in **Luke 24** and **John 20** and **21**.

How many people saw the risen Jesus?

JESUS IS ALIVE

News from St Gabriel's Junior Pews

THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS WITH US at the last St Gabriel's messy church back in January, where the theme of the event was 'The Holy Spirit'. We used some of the symbols described in the Bible as the basis for our craft and messy activities. We made windmills, kites, doves and gliders, decorated candles, created art by blowing paint, made flame headbands and a huge display for the notice board using different languages. The church was filled with parents, grandparents and children and there was the usual buzz of happy chatter and laughter as we made new friends, met old ones and explored the text of the Bible in a creative, imaginative way. After listening to the Bible, singing some songs of worship and participating in the paper plane prayer activity we all enjoyed lunch together.



Praise and Play at St Gabriel's on Friday mornings goes from strength to strength and the numbers of children attending are steadily growing. We have been offering a healthy breakfast

(often a choice of cereal, fruit, toast, eggs, cheese, yoghurt) for children and carers to give them a good start to their praising and playing and this continues to be very popular. We've also recently purchased some new resources for the children to play with and learn from, including a fabulous puppet who we've called Alan to help with our storytelling. We would really like



some extra help on Friday mornings, especially with music, but also with setting up and tidying away as well as with the breakfast or storytelling. If you feel that

you'd be able to help in any small or large way please speak to Margaret Grice, Lois Kelly or give me a call on 0161 4832321.

Marie Flint

Local elderly care firm's top rating in UK poll

According to a report in the Stockport Express on 5th March, the largest provider of care for the elderly in Stockport has scored above the national average in an Ipsos Mori poll.

Borough Care, which has 482 residents across 11 care homes in Stockport, scored 98 per cent satisfaction rating – three per cent above the average of 32 surveyed firms in the UK. In reaching the figure Ipsos Mori analysed feedback from 201 of the care company's residents.

Kathy Farmer, chief executive of Borough Care, said "The purpose of taking part in this survey isn't to confirm our strengths but to set benchmarks on which we can improve, identifying aspects of our service we can work on immediately and in the medium and long term".

The survey collated results across four main categories – quality of life, staff and care, choice, and home comforts – awarding a rating out of 1,000 in each section.

See Borough Care advertisement below. Editor

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For more information phone, or see our website - www.boroughcare.org.uk

Who are St George's Patrons?

AT THE INSTITUTION of our new vicar, Elaine, in November 2013, she was accompanied down the centre aisle to be presented to the Bishop of Chester, by a Patron of St George's, Walter Stead. Many people have asked, 'Who are the Patrons; how do you become one and what do they do?' So I made some enquiries ...

In the beginning St Thomas's Church was the local church and, in 1887, the Revd Arthur Symonds was appointed Rector. He introduced High Churchmanship, which did not meet the approval of some of his parishioners, so, in 1890, four of those parishioners met with the Bishop of Chester to see if a new parish could be formed. They were able to tell him that they already had a suitable site in Heaviley, for a new church and its associated buildings, including a school, and that they had the necessary funds for the construction.

The Bishop gave his approval, and by Deed dated 27th March 1891, the Bishop of Chester and William Symonds, (Rector of St Mary's, Patron of St Thomas's and brother of Arthur) vested the patronage of the new parish to five Trustees – the Bishop and four Patrons – in this case, the four applicants.

The first five Patrons were:-

The Bishop of Chester – Francis John Jayne

There was a proviso that 'no Patron, other than the Bishop of Chester, shall be a clerk of Holy Orders', so that no clergyman could appoint a relative, as could easily have happened in those days.

Major George Fearn JP

George Fearn financed the building of the church, the schools and the vicarage. This was one of the largest individual benefactions received by the Church of England during that time. His father was manager and brewer at Bell's Hemphaw Brook Brewery and George joined the firm in 1872. After the death of his father in 1886 and the retirement of Henry Bell senior, George became a partner with Henry's sons, and manager of the brewery.

The church cost £41,372 plus furnishings and architect's fees, twice what George Fearn had indicated he was prepared to pay. He borrowed £21,580 from Wakefield Christie-Miller and repaid by annual instalments, and also called in loans to local businessmen, putting at least one family firm into bankruptcy and hardship. It was thought the final cost could have been £80,000, but it is not recorded.

On George's death, his will stated that the residuary estate should be used for 'planned giving' and the Fearn Trust was set up which provides St George's with much needed financial aid and includes the Preservation Trust.

Wakefield Christie-Miller JP

Christie-Miller donated the land for St George's –valued at £10,000 at the time. He owned large estates in various areas of England and Ireland and bought the Hemphaw Lane estate in 1878. He was senior director of Christy & Sons, hat manufacturers in Stockport since 1797. He left the Stockport area in 1876, when his tenancy of Bramall Hall ended and was living in London at the time of the construction of the church. He did attend the laying of the foundation stone.

Arthur Henry Sykes JP

Sykes was a close relative of Christie-Miller and a partner in the family firm which owned the bleach works in Edgeley. The Sykes family were very active in the town and were responsible for the building of the churches of St Matthew and St Mark in Edgeley. He became chairman of Swain & Company (owners of the Stockport Advertiser) in 1890.

Robert Green JP

Green had joined Christy's as a young man and had risen to the position of joint managing director of the works, a position he shared with his brother, Joseph. He took full charge of all Christie-Miller's affairs in Stockport, including the Heaviley estate.

Those were the original Patrons. The Patrons are self-perpetuating, retiring when they consider the time is right, or when their fellow Patrons consider the time is right. When Eric Thorniley was a Patron, it was agreed that one of their number should have legal training, and so it is today with the appointment of Richard Heap. The other Patrons are Mike Westwood; Stephen Jones; Walter Stead and the Bishop of Chester.

The Patrons are responsible for appointing a new vicar. The Bishop of Chester appoints the Bishop of Stockport to choose suitable candidates, and the Patrons can turn down these choices, in which case they can turn to the Bishop's List (candidates anxious to move on, the 'Itchy Feet' list as it's known!) or advertise the vacancy. John Roff was appointed after advertising; Alan Bell was appointed from the 'Itchy Feet' list (a short list of five in his case, but the Patrons all agreed on Alan), and Elaine came with recommendation from the Bishop of Chester, and the Patrons agreed with his choice after careful consideration. In this case neither the 'Itchy Feet' list nor advertising, (at a minimum cost of £2000), was considered necessary. The PCC can veto the Patrons' choice and can grumble, but the Patrons have the final say.

Most of these facts (and many more!) were obtained from a booklet, *The History of St George's church, Stockport 1897 – 1997*, together with valued help from Richard Heap.

Rosie Stead

Ancient tradition of daily prayer available in new app

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND has recently released its newest free app, to enable people to pray with the aid of their smartphone and tablets. **Daily Prayer** (a new app for iPhone/iPad) allows you to follow the daily pattern of morning, evening and night prayer in the words of the Anglican liturgy, as part of the rhythm of prayer followed by Christians across the globe.

Using text from both *Common Worship* and the *Book of Common Prayer*, the app provides an easy to use platform for accessing the Church of England's Daily Prayer website, which has more than 600,000 views each year. The app offers text for every day of the year, with the ability to select between traditional and contemporary language.

Spotlight on Adswood

Background. Adswood is a suburb of Stockport. The name Adswood is said to be derived from 'Adders wood'. It is believed that during the reign of King Charles the area had been royal hunting grounds and due to the then large population of snakes gave rise to this name which over time was shortened to 'Adswood'.

Adswood has its own coat of arms, a snake wrapped around a tree, which is the emblem of the local Adswood Primary School. St Gabriel's C. of E. Church (home of *The Little Flock*) is a daughter church to St George's and we share the same clergy team.

The council housing estate in Adswood began in the 1920s with the building of Culver Road, situated at the back of the estate towards neighbouring Cale Green. The rest of the housing was built in the 1930s and 1940s. Earlier than this housing a farm and its buildings were on the land.

The modern, well-organised Household Waste Recycling Centre (Civic Amenity Site) on [Adswood Road](#) is familiar to local householders from a wide area, and drivers find the route through Adswood convenient to access the motorway network and through Cheadle to get to Manchester.

Our current vicar, Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall, is new to the area and, taking a keen interest in Adswood, feels it deserves some publicity in respect of all the positive initiatives that are available for its more senior residents to enjoy. This is what she has sent for publication in this April issue of the Grapevine magazine:-

Evergreens

This is a group based in Adswood for over 50s. It is held at St Ambrose's Church hall (part of the church) on Clover Avenue 2-3pm. They have a varied programme and, while there are many people from our neighbouring churches who attend, people don't have to be a member of any church to come along. The programme is as follows:

All on Thursdays -

Apr 3rd Pauline Barton talking about Olympic games

Apr 24th Air Ambulance Service

May 1st A lady with hatpins and stories to tell about them and works with a small school in Africa

May 8th Robinsons Brewery to talk about their 3 generations of brewing

May 29th One of our members is going to show us her wheelchair dancing for which she won an award with her husband.

Meet and Veg

This is another group based in Adswood for the over 50s. It is held in the Community Centre on Garner's Lane from 12.30 to 2pm on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Last serving is 1.45pm. It costs £3 for three courses with a hot drink and a raffle. Transport can be arranged if booked in advance 476 1262. I, (Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall) went the other day and it was fabulous.

Twinkle Toes

This is a tea dance which takes place on the same day and location as the Meet and Veg starting at 2pm until 4pm. It costs £1.50. You don't have to have appeared on Strictly Come Dancing to be eligible but just be someone who likes to meet people and have a bit of fun.

Dates for both of the above:

7th April

No lunch club on 21st April as it is Easter Monday or 5th May as it is a Bank Holiday

19th May

2nd and 16th June

7th and 21st July.

Adswood Art Group

Welcome! Want to paint? Then join us - we meet every Tuesday afternoon from 1 - 3 p.m.

It costs only £1.00 per session and that includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

Everyone is welcome, from absolute beginners to those who have been at it for a number of years. There is a starter kit for new members to use until they decide which medium suits them best, so there is no need to splash out lots of cash on equipment which may never be used. We are mainly self-taught with occasional demonstrations/workshops from professional artists plus the odd trip out to visit galleries and interesting places.

Contact: Kath Ashton 0161 480 187

With every blessing, Elaine

(see also St Gabriel's news on p6)



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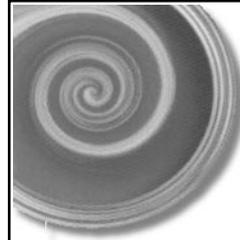
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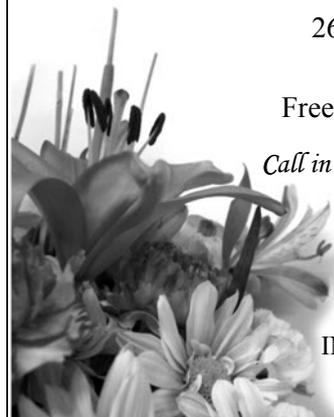
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Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

© 2013 KrazyDad.com

(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?

St George's Parish Rooms may be the answer. We have two rooms available. The larger accommodates 70, the smaller 40. We also have fully-equipped kitchen facilities.

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				

Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the —

- apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

Film Review

A new film, NOAH, starring Russell Crowe, is soon coming to a cinema near you. Here the Ven. John Barton, a former archdeacon of Aston, muses on the biblical story of Noah...

NOAH – the film

A GROUP of 15-year-old boys were once asked what they would do if they were God. Their answers could be summarised in the single word, exterminate. Given divine powers, they would destroy the human race as it is and start again, this time with better raw material. As far as I can recall, they excluded themselves from the prescribed massacre.

Their cure-all was not original. The biblical story of Noah and the Flood pictured the Creator's loss of patience with His handiwork. The human race had transgressed, so would be drowned, except for a representative few who would sail through the deluge and repopulate the land when it became habitable again. Most ancient civilisations also have stories of a flood so destructive that few animals and plants survived it. Excavations in Mesopotamia indicate that there were indeed a series of destructive floods several thousand years BC.

Does the story of Noah have a lesson to teach 21st century mortals? Some speculated that this year's floods in the UK were a mark of the Maker's displeasure: a warning to an immoral nation. Others pointed to climate change, a judgment on us all for abusing the planet. This month sees the release of a new film, "Noah", with Russell Crowe, Emma Watson and Anthony Hopkins. Will it be all doom and gloom?

The Bible story of Noah (Genesis 7-9) ends with the good news of God making an unbreakable contract with His creation: "Never again shall I put the earth under a curse because of humankind, however evil their inclination may be... As long as the earth lasts, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, will never

cease". The rainbow would be an enduring reminder of this promise.

Although the 15-year-old boys' recipe will not be tried, there is no room for complacency. Let the New Testament have the last word, "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3.9)

General Synod approves motion to support Girl Guides promise action

General Synod has recently approved a private member's motion, moved by Mrs Alison Ruoff, on a new promise introduced by Girl Guides UK in September 2013.

Mrs Ruoff asked Synod to agree with her concerns raised by the change in the Promise, that "girls of all ages in the Girlguiding Movement should not suffer discrimination but be able to continue to promise to love God when enrolled". The motion was amended during the debate with the amended motion receiving the support of Mrs Ruoff. She said: "I am only asking that the girls and their leaders be accorded choice when making or renewing their promise."

Synod voted in favour of an amended motion that congratulated *Girlguiding on its recent Centenary, applauded its work in helping girls and young women, but also that Synod believed that "girls and women of all ages in the Girlguiding Movement should be able to continue to promise to love God when enrolled". It also commended the suggestion that "when a member chooses so to do, the Promise may be prefaced with the phrase "In the presence of God I make my Guide Promise".'*

Let those who thoughtfully consider the brevity of life remember the length of eternity. *Bishop Thomas Ken*



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Tribute to Audrey James (Jones) July 1932 – December 2013

Funeral held at St Peter's Church, Shaftesbury
Monday, 30th December 2013

Audrey Jones was, for many years, a member of St George's church and was well known in the Manchester area due to her total involvement in music and singing. This is an edited version of the address given by Richard, one of her three sons.

AUDREY was born in Stockport in 1932, an only child. Her mother was a teacher and her father a window cleaner by day, but also an accomplished musician and dance band leader by night.

At the age of eight, Audrey first became interested in music, which was to consume her for the rest of her life. She was in the church choir and always looked forward to the annual Whit Sunday festival of singing, where she could don a white dress and veil and parade down the church and be a proper 'little exhibitionist!' After the war, her teenage years revolved around Church Youth Club and she developed the strong Christian faith which underpinned the rest of her life and strongly influenced the upbringing of her three sons.

As music, and the teaching of music, was to be her chosen career, Audrey studied at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and did her teacher training at Furzedown College in Tooting in South London. She loved the liberating experience of her time in London and, more than 60 years later, she was still in touch with some of her college friends.

Audrey met her first husband, Arthur, at Stockport's Garrick Theatre, where they were both involved in amateur theatre, and they married in 1954. Audrey had decided by now that her mission was not to teach at a specialist music school, but to raise choirs and performers from scratch in unpromising circumstances. This was to become her life's work.

In the late 1950's Audrey began to attend St George's church in Stockport and she continued to worship there for more than 40 years. She became a member of the Mothers' Union and regularly played at healing services, and her three boys, Richard, Barry and Clive, all became choristers at St George's. The choirmaster, at this time, was Arthur Rooke, and in 1961 he invited Audrey to help with a new choral venture in North Manchester – the North Manchester Girls' Choir. In Audrey's mind it was to give teenage girls, some from poorer backgrounds, something to do in the evenings. The hallmark of the choir was that there was no audition – if you were interested, you were in. It set them apart from the choirs against whom they would eventually compete.

Before long the choir was renamed the Manchester Girls' Choir and became one of the longest-established girls'

choirs in the UK. Audrey was conductor of the Junior section of the choir but, on the sudden death of Arthur Rooke, she was propelled into the leadership of the choir. She didn't know if she could do the job on her own but, during 25 years with the choir, they achieved many prizes in competition, at local, national and international festivals. There were notable successes at the highest choral levels when the choir gained awards at the 'Arezzo Choral Competition (Italy)'; Radio 3's 'Let the People Sing'; BBC Television's 'A Grand Sing' and the coveted International Trophy at Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in the Ladies' Choir class and Youth Choirs class. They also performed concert tours in Switzerland, Norway and the Netherlands.

As well as the Manchester Girls' Choir, Audrey conducted the Great Moor Townswomen's Guild choir in Stockport for decades, and was a member of the Salford Choral Society. Most weeks she would be out all five nights and away on Saturdays at music festivals, but the boys never felt abandoned because she always found time for them. Her vivaciousness was infectious and they were swept along on the crest of her wave. To be taken to Llangollen Festival, for a week, surrounded by her choir girls, was no punishment! Audrey inspired her sons as much as she inspired her choir members.

Audrey retired from the Manchester Girls' Choir in the late 80's but her music continued apace. She became conductor for Stockport's Maia Choir and developed the choir at Great Moor Junior School, where she taught part time for many years. She did a lot of broadcasting with them too – having a regular slot on Sunday mornings on Radio 2 and providing a children's choir whenever Granada TV needed one for 'Stars in Their Eyes'. In the twilight of her career she was appointed a Leverhulme Fellow and toured the country training choir leaders and contributing to University workshops.

When Audrey finally retired, she met, and married, her second husband, Mike, with whom she had taught during her time at St George's school in the 1950's. They enjoyed 13 happy years together before Mike's death in 2007. Audrey then moved from Macclesfield to Shaftesbury, to be nearer her three sons who were all based in the south of England. She became a member of the choir at St Peter's church and was in singing groups, prayer groups and a history group and read stories in the local school – she cared so much for people, sharing in their triumphs and their tribulations.

At the funeral service, which she had helped to plan, her son, Clive, played the recessional music, Widor's Toccata from Organ Symphony No 5, and it will come as no surprise that one of the hymns, sung during the service, was 'Angel voices ever singing'. Audrey's lasting legacy is that many girls today still enjoy that love of singing, which she instilled in them through her boundless enthusiasm, and, hopefully, those girls will pass on their love of music to



So, what is a bishop, you ask?

BISHOPS COME in all shapes and sizes, with different roles and different areas of responsibility, but they all have in common the authority for leading the faithful and the responsibility for caring for their spiritual needs. This is known as the 'cure of souls' and bishops share it with their clergy.

So, when a parish gets a new priest, they don't have sole responsibility for all the souls in the parish. They share the 'cure' with the bishop: and hence the title curate, which, nowadays, is more often used to describe a younger or new priest who is sharing the 'cure' with a vicar or rector, or learning it from them.

Every diocese has a diocesan bishop to lead it administratively and pastorally. He (they are all men currently) is helped by other bishops who may be suffragan, area or assistant bishops. Suffragan and assistant bishops take on certain duties or roles on behalf of the bishop as agreed. Area bishops differ in that the diocesan bishop has given them a piece of the diocese where they carry out all the responsibilities.

Bishops license new clergy and other office-holders, confirm new Church members, preach at special services and take part in major festivals. They spend time with the people of the parish when they can, sometimes visiting church schools and other organisations.

Diocesan bishops have oversight of all the clergy in their area, other licensed ministers, and lay workers. They hold ultimate control over the diocesan budget and its portfolio of assets. This is shared with the bishops and others in regular senior staff meetings.

Bishops may be chairman, patron, governor or committee member of many regional organisations. Many are instrumental in formal, informal and confidential conversations between religious bodies, ethnic groups, the police and social services, commercial and development agencies and local government and regional forums. As community leaders, bishops are increasingly involved in debates about regional assemblies in parts of the country.

Twenty-six diocesan bishops sit in the House of Lords: the two Archbishops and the bishops of London, Durham and Winchester by right of their office, plus the 21 longest-serving diocesan bishops. At least one is present every day and others attend according to the subjects under debate. The two archbishops and the Bishop of London are Privy Councillors.

All diocesan bishops and nine elected suffragan bishops are members of the House of Bishops, which meets three times a year. As a House, they also attend the two or three sessions of the General Synod each year.

Many bishops chair or serve on national and international Church boards and councils, as well as large charities, special commissions or public enquiries. They, with others, represent the Church of England in meetings and affairs of the Anglican Communion and other Church bodies. Most have personal or diocesan links overseas, including commitments on behalf of the archbishops, or as leaders of mission societies.

The archbishops have the biggest roles and responsibilities. Theologically, bishops follow on from Jesus, the servant king, and are the servants of all in their dioceses. That makes the Archbishop of Canterbury, who is 'first among equals' among all the Anglican bishops, the greatest servant of all.

The Organ Steering Committee proudly presents details of its 2014 programme of events.

Four Café Concerts are planned for Saturday May 3rd, Saturday July 5th, Saturday August 2nd and Saturday October 4th. As usual, doors are open 10 - 12 noon, and there will be refreshments and books on sale.

On Wednesday 11th June the Chester St Cecilia Singers will be coming to St George's as part of their spring tour. Their programme will be a celebration of Faith, Hope and Love, and will feature sacred and secular pieces by, amongst others, Morley, Gibbons, Fauré, Finzi and Rutter. Tickets are £8 and £6, available from Penny Bisby (0161 476 4773) and the concert will (subject to confirmation) begin at 7.45. The Chester St Cecilia Singers have an excellent reputation, and this promises to be a memorable evening, and, as a mid-week concert, a departure from our usual format.

To commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, there will be two performances of 'Oh What a Lovely War' on Friday 7th and Saturday 8th November, directed by Chris Dawson.

2015 Advance Notice Calling all Crafters. Moonlight Market on the evening of Friday March 6th 2015. Starting at 5.00pm in the church, this will be a sale of craft, jewellery and indeed all manner of artefacts; the main proviso being that they should be handmade. Book your table and start crafting!

A concert given by the Maia Singers is also *pencilled in* for March 2015. Watch this space.

Summarising:

2014

Saturday 3rd May 10am to 12 noon – Café Concert and Book Sale

Wednesday 11th June at 8pm – Concert by Chester St. Cecilia Singers

Saturday 5th July 10am to 12 noon – Café Concert and Book Sale

Saturday 2nd August 10am to 12 noon – Café Concert and Book Sale

Saturday 4th October 10am to 12 noon – Café Concert and Book Sale

Fri and Sat 7th and 8th November – Oh What a Lovely War!

The Talents scheme and a possible Last Night of the Proms are also under consideration

2015

Friday 6th March – evening – Craft/Moonlight Fair

Saturday 21st March at 7.30pm – Concert by the Maia Singers. *Date to be confirmed.*

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 uses 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 is being held on Wednesdays in Lent starting on 12th March in the Lady Chapel at St George's. The morning session run after the 10am Holy Communion service and Coffee Time and starts promptly at 11am and finishes promptly at 12.30.

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

The sessions are 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 remaining sessions which are as follows:

2nd April – Getting Real – the power of acceptance

9th April – Growing Up – the process of change

The Upper Room

They meet together in the upper room
Gathering together in one accord,
He fetches a towel and washes their feet
And Judas slips out to betray His Lord.

The bread and wine are there on the table
He takes up the bread and breaks it in two
The cup is passed round, each drinking from it
These symbols He says are given for you.

This bread is my body I freely give
This cup is my blood which soon will be shed
They eat and they drink not really knowing
Or understanding of what lies ahead.

A new covenant that night has been made
Where God Himself gives His life for us all
The Life divine in exchange is given
To free mankind from the curse of the fall.

Two thousand years on we come to partake
Of His life poured out to cover our sin
We eat and we drink the bread and the wine
With thankful hearts in remembrance of Him.

By Megan Carter

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April 20th EASTER – the most joyful day of the year

EASTER is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will be still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818 and won't fall again until 2285. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month', but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

Easter faith

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three triumphant words: 'Christ is risen!'

At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, "He is risen indeed!" It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people who have already experienced God, that He does not exist?

Jesus' appearances after His Resurrection

The following list of witnesses may help you put all those references in order....

Mary Magdalene.....	Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18
Other women at the tomb.....	Matthew 28:8-10
Peter in Jerusalem.....	Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5
The two travellers on the road..	Mark 16:12,13
10 disciples behind closed doors	Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25
11 disciples WITH Thomas.....	John 20:26-31; 1 Corinthians 15:5
7 disciples while fishing.....	John 21:1-14
11 disciples on the mountain.....	Matthew 28:16-20
A crowd of 500.....	1 Corinthians 15:6
Jesus' brother – James.....	1 Corinthians 15:7
Those who saw the Ascension...	Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8

Why Easter will never go away

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man did rise?

At the end of St Luke's Gospel we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24.4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then, suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different – excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: "You crucified Jesus, but God raised Him up!"

How did they know this? Because of experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But of course each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue His good name. So did they pretend they had seen Him?

This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our

convictions, we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the ‘swoon’ theory? That Jesus didn’t die on the cross, despite terrible wounds. He recovered in the tomb, and escaped. The disciples nursed Him back to health. But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don’t fit.

If the disciples had been hiding Jesus, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after Him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus’ continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being ‘accompanied’ through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life-changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital present-day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: “He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: ‘Follow thou me’, and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.”

Have a joyful – and a challenging – Easter.

You can’t stop Jesus

THE ANGEL SAID said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen.” (*Matthew 28:5,6*)

Well! With the guards flattened and the tomb opened, the way was cleared for the coming of the women who would be the first witnesses of the Easter event. The fact is, *You can’t stop Jesus.*

Don’t be puzzled by the little differences between the four Gospel writers. They were not required to produce photocopies of each other’s accounts! After all, when did the Battle of Waterloo begin? “At ten o’clock,” said the Duke of Wellington. “At half past eleven,” said General Alava. “At twelve,” according to Napoleon and Drouet, his commander. “At one!” said Marshall Ney. Basically it depended upon where you were standing as the events unrolled.

So with the Gospels. One angel features in Matthew, two in Luke and John; presumably Matthew is concentrating on the angel who was speaking. And the time of day? “At dawn”, says Matthew. “Just after sunrise”, reports Mark. “Very early in the morning,” says Luke. “While it was still dark,” writes John. From these different perspectives the complete picture was being filled out.

Here was the forming of the new Jesus Movement. Nothing was going to stop it. Oh, you can try! Everything seemed over during the Saturday of that weekend. The Troublemaker was dead, the tomb was sealed and guarded, Christ’s followers were scattered – and the chief priests could safely watch News at Ten and go to bed.

And then, another earthquake; the guards are stunned, the stone is rolled back and the shining angels have converted the tomb into a pulpit. Very simply the movement was taking off:

It started with the loyal remnant – the women. On Friday, they had been last at the Cross. Now, they’re first at the tomb. What a reward was theirs!

It continued with the futile resistance (v. 11-15). The religious authorities tried to bribe the guards to keep quiet. Always money, with the enemies of Jesus. But those who try to stop Jesus with money are ultimately left coughing in the exhaust of this movement.

It regroups with the great commission. Verse 16 takes us to a mountain rendezvous in Galilee. The government of the whole universe lies in the hands of the risen God-Man, Jesus Christ! Read verse 18: *What a claim!* – “all authority.” *What a mandate!* – “all nations.” *What a pledge!* “always.”

Why we should be like donkeys?

ARE YOU a pet-lover? Many people own a dog, a cat or a budgie, but most of us don’t own a donkey! Yet in Bible times, donkeys were essential to daily life. They did everything from helping to grind corn, to ploughing, to carrying people, to transporting their belongings. Despite their small frame, donkeys are surprisingly tough. They are content with poor fodder like thistles, and can travel an average of 20 miles a day.

There are two occasions in the Christian calendar where donkeys walk into the picture. At Christmas, Mary travelled the 100 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem on a donkey. And although a donkey doesn’t get a specific mention in the manger story, that same one that transported her was probably there; where else would it have been?

On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Jesus deliberately chose this animal rather than a horse. Why? In Bible times, the horse was associated with war, conquest and worldly might. But the donkey was a symbol of peace and humility. Jesus used this animal to show that he had come with the dignity of the king of peace. His entry into the Holy City also fulfilled Zechariah’s prophecy concerning the Messiah.

Donkeys are hardworking and undemanding. They wait for their master to put them to the work he has chosen for them. And, remarkably, each one bears the mark of the Cross on their backs!

Perhaps that is something we should learn—to wait for Jesus our Master, to be always obedient to Him, to serve Him with all our hearts, and to bear the mark of His grace in our lives.

Wellspring

As a continuing Vice-Chair of The Wellspring I wish to thank the congregation of St George's for the continuing (and increasing) support that you are giving to the homeless and disadvantaged.

We have now been in existence for some 23 years and I have been a volunteer for 21 years come September next. We started life as a soup kitchen, although virtually from the start we gave out clothing and bedding that had been donated to us, and we provided a hot shower.



Then then parish priest of St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Father Con Botter, decided that something needed to be done to

help the homeless people who gathered in Stockport town centre, and found enough members of his congregation, led by Brendan Cojeen our former chairman and now my fellow vice-chair, who were willing to help. An old sea scout hut was found and erected on land belonging to the church. It was realised from the start that the congregation of St Joseph's would not be able to provide sufficient volunteers to run the project and volunteers were sought from other churches and elsewhere, generally.

The project took off and was open every day at lunchtime. After two years they advertised for volunteers to open four evenings in the week. I saw an advertisement at St George's and became a volunteer every alternate Wednesday evening. I continue to be a volunteer and am now team leader and the curry chef every alternate Wednesday.

After a few years it became apparent that we needed a paid employee to liaise between the different teams of volunteers to enable the service to continue, and a manager was appointed.

When he gave his notice to leave us it was decided that we needed two, rather than one, workers and a Project Co-ordinator and a Project Worker were appointed. The two of them found time to talk to our visitors to find out their problems and to see if we could help.

Our workers developed ways of helping and have expanded the work that we do on behalf of our visitors. The original building became too small (and rickety)

and over ten years we raised sufficient money to build our present premises on Harvey Street off Churchgate in the town centre to our design on land donated by Stockport MBC. Included in our premises is a surgery staffed on two days a week by a nurse practitioner and for two hours on two days a week by a doctor. Many people who are homeless are not registered with a doctor. Of recent date we have a dentist who attends once per month.

Our staff find homes for homeless people. They advise on benefit, family, drug and alcohol and other problems

brought to them on a one-to-one basis. We now have three members of staff advising our visitors and we hope to appoint a fourth shortly.

We also employ a chef who ensures that fresh food donated to us by supermarkets and others is used to provide healthy food to our visitors and who supervises the use and cleanliness of our kitchen.

In 2013, 149 people presented as homeless at our centre and 121 of them were successfully supported into accommodation that met with their needs. We work with Stockport MBC, Tameside MBC, Manchester City Council, the local housing associations and private landlords to house people. In 2013 our workers advised in one-to-one meetings on 3,580 separate occasions.

We have developed methods of re-engaging people with society and finding them employment. Our staff spend many hours visiting 'rough' sleepers and providing an outreach service across Stockport. We are open every day of the year and in 2013 we provided around 70,000 free meals. All of our services are provided free of charge to our visitors.

We have approximately 150 volunteers and we are always looking for more. If

you are interested, please telephone us on 0161 477 6344.

When I look back on how we started out and what we can achieve now I am amazed and delighted to be involved in our growing service.

John Hardy





ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, STOCKPORT MUSIC LIST – APRIL 2014

Sunday 6th April – 5th Sunday of Lent			
10:15am - St George's Service		6:30pm – Evensong	
Setting:	Missa Stopfordiensis - Mayes	Hymns:	542 – O love that wilt not let me go 393 – Brother, sister, let me serve you 453 – Great is thy faithfulness 12 – At even, ere the sun was set
Hymns:	499 – Lift high the cross (omit *) SP315 - There is a redeemer 54 – I cannot tell 122 – The royal banners forward go	Canticles:	Mag: 46 Nunc: 61 Psalm: 30
Anthem:	God so loved the world – Stainer	Anthem:	Grow in grace - Archer
Voluntary:	Christus, der uns selig macht, BWV 620	Voluntary:	

Sunday 13th April – Palm Sunday	
10:15am - St. George's Service	6:30pm – The Crucifixion
Setting:	Missa Stopfordiensis - Mayes
Introit:	Sanctus – Schubert
Hymns:	128 – All glory, laud and honour SP51 – Make way! Make way! 112 – My song is love unknown 129 – Ride on, ride on in Majesty
Anthem:	Hosanna to the Son of David
Voluntary:	Ceremonial March - Sumsion

Thursday 17th April – Maundy Thursday	Friday 18th April – Good Friday
10:15am - St George's Service	
Setting:	Missa Stopfordiensis - Mayes
Hymns:	130 – An upper room did our Lord prepare SP294 – Meekness and majesty 318 – O thou who at thy Eucharist...
Anthem:	O Salutaris Hostia - Elgar

Sunday 20th April – Easter Day			
10:15am - St George's Service		6:30pm – Festal Evensong	
Setting:	Mass of St Thomas - Thorne	Hymns:	157 – The day of resurrection 333 – You, living Christ, our eyes behold 145 – Good Christians all, rejoice and sing 16 – Hail, gladdening light
Hymns:	147 – Jesus Christ is risen today 417 – Now the green blade riseth 150 – Love's redeeming work is done 160 – Thine be the glory	Canticles:	Stanford in B flat Psalm: 105
Anthem:	The Strife is o'er - Ley	Anthem:	Greater Love - Ireland
Voluntary:	Carillon-Sortie – Mulet	Voluntary:	Toccata from Suite Gothique - Boellmann

Sunday 27th April – Low Sunday			
10:15am - St George's Service		6:30pm – Evensong	
Setting:	Missa Stopfordiensis - Mayes	Hymns:	89 – O worship the Lord in the beauty... 542 – O love that wilt not let me go 143 – Come ye faithful, raise the strain 17 – O gladsome light, O grace
Hymns:	166 – Crown him with many crowns 174 – Breathe on me, breath of God (248) 140 – Christ is alive! 455 – Guide me O thou great Redeemer	Canticles:	Mag: 45 Nunc: 62 Psalm: 30
Anthem:	TBA	Anthem:	TBA
Voluntary:	TBA	Voluntary:	TBA

**Extracts from
St George's CE Primary
School newsletter Spring
edition
February 2014**



Collective Worship Themes

Our Christian Value this half-term has been **Generosity** and our SEAL theme **Going for Goals**.

Staff News

Parents of children in 1E will be aware that Miss Williams had, until recently, been unavoidably absent for some time for medical reasons, but we were lucky enough to secure the services of Mrs Robinson during that period. Unfortunately, Miss Williams will need to be absent again for a number of weeks in the next half-term, but we have been able to call on Mrs Robinson to take over her class again. Please be assured that your children's welfare and progress are our prime concerns, and we feel confident that these can be sustained during this period.

We have recently made a couple of changes to our teaching assistant staff. Mrs James, after many years of working full time, will be reducing her hours to one day a week and will be sorely missed on the other four days for all sorts of reasons! We have been able to appoint Mrs Helen Nightingale to take over her work in Class 4W. We have also appointed Miss Susanna Roe to work every afternoon as a TA in Class 3T. We hope to start our new staff soon after the half-term break.

If you need to talk to me or any member of staff, we will always make ourselves available. You can usually catch us in the playground at home time, or phone the office to make an appointment if you need a little longer with us.

Theme Launch Days

We have begun theme launches this half-term, in which we engage the children in an exciting way in the themes that are being studied. Recent themed days include Year 5 who had a Greek Day on 24th January.

Year 6 began their theme on World War 2 with a strange man (that would be me!) delivering the telegram announcing that war had been declared, followed by blacking out the classroom windows and building an Anderson shelter.

Other events

Other events this term so far include visits from the Life Caravan to the whole school, a guide dog and his owner to our Reception children, the fire service to Year 6 and two Roman legionaries to Year 3; and visits by Year 4 to a local Baptist church and by Year 2 to 'Eureka'.

We have also had Safer Internet Day for the children, the start of 'Rockahula' after school club and a Maths Evening for parents, which was the best attended subject evening I've ever seen – thank you so much to all those who took the time to come along.

PTA

We held our Cinema Night screening of 'Free Birds' which was enjoyed by a good number of parents and children. Many thanks to Claire Kivell and the PTA team for organizing it.

Activities Roundup

The recent Curriculum Overviews have given an outline of our planned activities this term. There'll be another Activities Roundup in the next newsletter.

Various Activities:



Year 3 on Roman military training!



Year 5's Ancient Greek Olympics

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