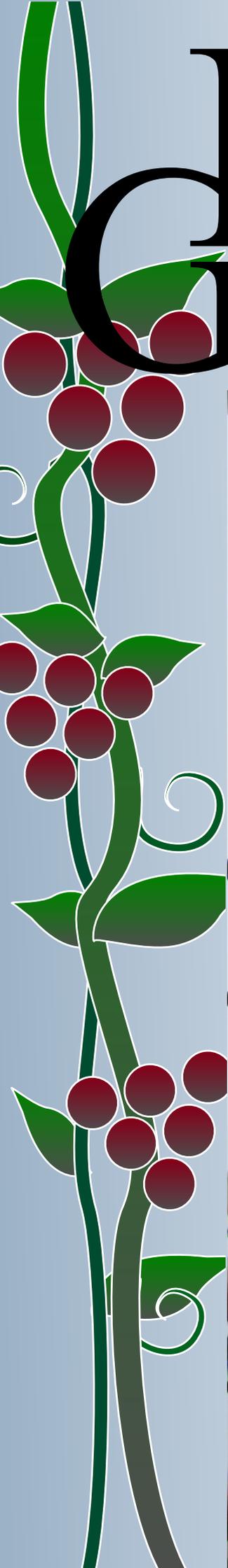


Parish Grapevine

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



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

Vicar	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall <i>vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</i> 456 9382	Praise and Play	Parish Office 480 2453 For 0-4s and their carers. Meet every Monday in term time, 9-11 in church. Story time at 10am.	Choir	James Hibbert 07365 519207 <i>actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</i> Practise Thursdays 7.30-9pm in the vestry. Sing on Sundays at 10.15am and 4pm services.
Assistant Curate	Rev. Dr Janine Arnott <i>rev.janinearnott@outlook.com</i> 612 1048	St Gabriel's		Church Cleaners	Dorothy Walton 483 3088 Meet on 1st Tuesday of every month 9.30-12 noon.
Readers	Michael Coupe (Emeritus) 612 0222 Peter Hall 456 9382	Messy Church	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall 456 9382 For children and their parents. Meet occasionally, usually Saturday mornings.	Church Flowers	Marjorie Lees 483 3676 Jean Hayden (<i>donations</i>) 483 2367
Pastoral Worker	Audrey Manzano 494 7054	Uniformed Groups with connections to St George's		Church Gardeners	Stan Berry 439 4641 (<i>mobile: 07786 548204</i>) Meet on Tuesdays 9.30-12.30.
Churchwardens	Andrew Regan 440 0408 Hazel Jenkins 483 4679	Rainbows	Trisha Brown 07403 353 175 Sue Kirkland 07854 101 918 For girls aged 5-7. Meet Fridays 6.15-7.30pm in the Parish Room.	Coffee Mornings (Weds)	Olwen Smith 483 6548 Wednesdays from 10.30am in the Parish Room.
PCC Secretary	Andrea Webb Reilly 07400 883938	Brownies	Rachel Lockett 775 2755 Voni Walker 07956 674 241 For girls aged 7-10. Meet Thursdays 6.30-8pm in the Parish Room.	Cursillo	Irene Hinde 456 1892 Usually meet on last Wednesday of the month. 7.30pm at different venues.
PCC Treasurer	Steven Kelly 439 9458	Guides	Heather Worth 07894 507 466 For girls aged 10-14. Meet Thursdays 7.30-9pm in the Parish Room.	Handbells	Debbie Heaton 07981 331 758 Play for All-Age and Taizé services, plus other special events. Ringers of all ages (with or without experience) always welcome. Rehearsals in church arranged around the ringers' availability.
Parish Office	Marion McCall 480 2453	Beavers	Bill Frith 439 3232 For boys and girls ages 6 and 7 Meet Fridays 6-7pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church.	Linen Guild	Pat Rigley 487 1999 Maintain the church's linen.
Magazine Editor	Richard Parr 439 8644	Cubs	Bill Frith 439 3232 For boys and girls ages 8-10½. Meet Fridays 7.15-8.45pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church.	Magazine Editorial Group	Richard Parr 439 8644 Meet monthly to plan future issues.
Safeguarding co-ordinator	Will Hesson 480 0630	Scouts	Elizabeth Goodred <i>Elizabeth.goodred@stockportscouts.org.uk</i> For boys and girls ages 10½-14. Meet Wednesdays 7-9pm at rear of Trinity Methodist Church.	Mothers' Union	Pat Durnall 483 4837 Meet on 2nd Monday of the month in church at 2.15pm.
Website	www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk			Singing Group	James Hibbert 07365 519207 <i>actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</i> Sing about once a month at the All-Age Service, with one practice beforehand. All welcome.
Webmaster	Peter Hall 456 9382				
St George's Primary School					
Headteacher	Deborah Grindrod 480 8657				
St George's Deputy Wardens					
	John Hardy 01663 764 462 Will Hesson 480 0630				
Verger	Ian Staley 456 3093				
Director of Music	James Hibbert 07480 111 179 <i>actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</i>				
Bookings for Parish Rooms					
	Parish Office or 480 2453 Judith Swift 483 8681				
St Gabriel's					
Secretary	John Sutcliffe 286 2301				
Bookings	Parish Office 480 2453				
Children's Activities					
St George's Children's Corner					
	Available for children (and parents) during services. Equipped with books, crayons and soft toys.				
Sunday Club	Louise Clark 483 3703 For children of nursery and school age. Meet during the 10.15am Parish Communion service most weeks during term time.	Other Groups and Activities			
Junior Choir	James Hibbert 07365 519207 Practise 6.30-7.30 on Thursdays in the vestry; sing on Sundays for 10.15am service.	St George's Bell ringers	Anne Mayes 485 6477 Practise Mondays 7.45-9pm. Ring on Sundays 9.45-10.15am. Meet in the tower.		
		Bible Reading Fellowship Notes	Janet Neilson 483 9025 Notes are ordered on request.		
		Bible Study Groups	<i>contact the clergy</i> Study groups and courses are arranged from time to time.		
		Chancel Guild	Edna Tootell 483 5753 Meet on 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9.30-12 noon to care for the chancel.		

Front cover photo
Magnolias in bloom
(photo by Louise Clark)

From the Editor:

Dear Readers,

‘DO NOT DREAD the disease that stalks in darkness, nor the disaster that strikes at midday’.

These words from Psalm 91 seem particularly appropriate at the moment. We have all been affected by the terrible Coronavirus pandemic that is sweeping the whole world. Some of us may have been infected, others know friends or family who have or have had the disease, and we have all seen our normal lives disrupted by the lockdown and social isolation.

It’s hard to reconcile the beautiful Easter weather we have experienced – and still are enjoying – with the daily numbers of people infected and the death tolls. How will it end, and when? It is probably true to say that very few of us have ever celebrated Easter under such strange and trying conditions. The economic forecasts are dire, and the world we have become used to has changed, possibly forever.

And yet... we also read daily of inspiring stories of self-sacrifice and heroism, ranging from wonderful NHS staff, to the courage and modesty of Captain Tom, our newest Number One in the charts! If we are able to go out for daily exercise, people are much more willing to smile and wish you “Good morning.” We can hear the birdsong much more distinctly; skies are far less polluted, and many people are making extraordinary efforts to help their neighbours, particularly those who are elderly or infirm. I read the other day of the Cape Town gangs from the shanty towns who have given up their internal feuding and drug-dealing to join together to deliver food to rival gangs – prompted by the teaching of a Christian priest. There is still much to be thankful for.

I am sure that we all echo the words of Psalm 42, when the psalmist mourns that, ‘My heart is breaking as I remember how it used to be: I walked among the

crowds of worshippers, leading a great procession to the house of God, singing for joy and giving thanks’. But we can still share in worship, thanks to the efforts of Elaine, Peter and others to bring us online services. These services, and others like them, are also being shared by thousands of other people, from all over the world! We are also able to talk to friends and relatives by phone, texts, emails, and even Skype if (in my case) you have a technologically-savvy daughter! So many people are doing so much to help us through this crisis. And as Christians, of course, we know that we are never alone no matter what our circumstances are. “I am with you always.” “The Lord is my light and my salvation – so why should I be afraid?” We have still celebrated Easter despite the unfamiliar circumstances. We can be sure that, through Christ, we also have risen to new and eternal life, and that darkness, no matter what form it takes, can never be triumphant or victorious. Once again, Hallelujah!!!

Elsewhere in this issue of *Grapevine* you will see our thanks expressed to our advertisers for being with us electronically. I should also like to add my personal thanks to Kevin, our wonderful printer, who remains as helpful and cheerful as ever. “Blue Moon”, indeed, Kevin! A particular thank you also to Andrew for masterminding the practicalities and difficulties of an electronic magazine, rather than the print version we are used to reading. And also to Rosie, Judith, Angela and everyone else who continues to work so hard on *Grapevine*, sending out emails, making phone calls, writing copy, etc. As I wrote earlier in the editorial, we have a great deal to be thankful for!

Keep cheerful, keep well and keep safe.

God bless you all. Richard Parr. Editor.

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Grapevine magazine is in digital form

Please note: Grapevine magazine will be published in **digital form only** during the current coronavirus restrictions. Copies can be downloaded from our website at www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk



Elaine writes:

I was reading something the other day which really struck a chord,

“Once you start stripping back, you never know what you’ll find”.

It took me back to when we were at a previous vicarage. The previous occupant had lived there for 29 years and so the diocese embarked on a process of modernisation before we moved in.

For quite a while, the floor boards were up, a cement mixer had pride of place in the living room and, once the major work had been completed, we had to embark on the decorating.

The big job was to strip off the wallpaper from most of the rooms. Other parts of the house just needed a lick of emulsion. That was sorted out by the parish and I paid for the paint and paper.

I don’t mind stripping off wallpaper, generally. It’s a therapeutic job and you can easily see how much progress you’re making – or not. One of the bedrooms, the smallest, was the most challenging. Using a steam stripper, I peeled back decades of wallpaper, adhered to the wall like a giant chewed toffee and twice as difficult to remove.

I ended up bending back the paper: first a fine Kraft paper had been overlaid with paint, then vinyl paper overlaid with gloss, then Anaglypta paper with more gloss and then a flowered print. It came off in slices – eventually.

If that wasn’t problematic enough, my desperate endeavours to loosen the paper round the light switch resulted in me picking the whole switch front and attendant wiring out of the wall. It was not fastened in, and worse still, the square surround, which I thought was part of the plastic switch, turned out to be fashioned out of a piece of cardboard!

The only redeeming feature of all of this was that my skin had never been better because of the huge amount of steam I’d had to use to remove so many layers of paint and paper.

“Once you start stripping back, you never know what you’ll find”.

Lent and Holy Week was very much a time of stripping back – stripping back of ourselves and of the familiar characters in the Bible passages. Even Jesus himself was

stripped bare both physically and metaphorically and our engagement with him and those who made up the narrative leading to his death on a cross has been a raw time of encounter.

Perhaps we have discovered things about ourselves we hadn’t realised. Perhaps we had been burying things deep beneath, and that time of reflection has allowed us to peer behind the carefully masked façade to admit to who we truly are and what is important in our lives.

We need to acknowledge what makes us tick, our reluctances, our passions and our regrets, so that once we are back to basics (or factory setting) we can be who we are really meant to be.

The disciples would have been close observers of Jesus during his ministry on earth. During that time, they made mistakes, lacked trust, doubted, worried, were fearful, misguided and unsure.

Jesus would have been a close observer of the disciples. He let them make their mistakes and challenged them when they were out of order. He forgave those who had let him down. He affirmed those who struggled with the truth of his ministry but ultimately and importantly he accepted them for who they were.

That’s the great thing about Jesus. He accepts us exactly as we are, but he also knows us better than we know ourselves.

Realising that is important as it is then that we can trust in the Lord because we don’t have to cover ourselves in layers. We don’t have to pretend. We just have to be.

At the end of this month we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, the coming of God’s Holy Spirit: so many people there, full of their own concerns, doubts and short comings, differences and difficulties, and yet they were released; they were transformed by the power of God’s Holy Spirit upon them.

We too can be released and transformed as we give ourselves to God, with nothing to offer but our wholehearted love for him.

“Once you start stripping back, you never know what you’ll find”.

I pray that in these times of challenge, you will find your true selves and take the opportunity to give everything you are to God.

With every blessing, Elaine

Services and events during coronavirus restrictions

See **page 9** for details of online services and events from St George’s in May during the current coronavirus restrictions.

Parish News Roundup

Holy Baptism

None last month

Holy Matrimony

None last month

Funerals

19th Mar Dorothy Crowther

14th Apr Ishbel Brown Lees

14th Apr Ben Garnett

16th Apr Olga Freda Jones

Flowers in church would normally have been sponsored by:

Main Altar Flowers

5th Apr from Peter Pilbeam – in loving memory of Margaret

12th Apr from Dorothy Thompson – in loving memory of Allan Thompson

19th Apr from Hazel Jenkins – in loving memory of Harry and Vera James

26th Apr from Marjorie Lees – for Geoffrey

Lady Chapel

26th Apr In loving memory of John Puddifoot – from Janice and family

Sanctuary Pedestal

5th Apr from Kathleen Heaward – in loving memory of Bertha Heaward

talkRADIO

Many congratulations to Elaine on her interview with talkRADIO on Easter Sunday. As one would expect, she was highly articulate and very personable in presenting her views. Well done, Elaine! St George's is proud of you.

Responses to live-streamed services and events

Rose Chegwin: I have been watching all the live streams coming from your parish and found them very enlightening. I loved the Easter communion but can't fault any of them. I particularly love the Messy Church for the children. It's fun but also includes prayers the children can understand.

I also watch Nicola's Story Time – keep it up. I think you would go a long

Parish News Roundup

way to find a church with so many interests and so many people who want to be involved. Also the numbers of people who have watched is amazing, with views over one thousand. It shows people are getting comfort at this awful time. Keep up the good work.

Charlotte Dunn: We're enjoying the live stream services on Facebook from St George's Church. My children have been extremely entertained by the Messy Churches and we've been making every craft we can. I've been watching the sermons and even sharing them with friends.

Elizabeth (7) said, I really liked making the cross. It made me think about church and I wrote my thoughts on it. I also liked the flatbread one and can't wait to make it one day. Christopher (5) said, " Yes, it was good". Short and sweet!

Virtual Messy Church



Virtual Messy Church was a big step out in faith for both Janine and myself.

Learning how to live stream services was one thing but talking whilst working with unfamiliar resources at the same time was quite a challenge.

For Palm Sunday, I did a short session based on making a palm cross out of paper, ably assisted by my beloved husband, Peter. That seemed to go off all right and my niece had shared the post with others, which meant that she had orders coming in asking her to make the crosses for friends and their mothers.

For the duration of Holy Week to Easter, I decided to take my sessions in the direction of the Great Easter Bake off.

Parish News Roundup

Nigella Lawson I am not, but it was really interesting to try and interpret the theme of the day – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day – through food.

Everything had to be pre-tested, so my family had to dine out on two portions of whatever I had tried to foist on the unsuspecting public!

Making flatbread to try and explain the Passover and what we understand by Maundy Thursday elicited a positive response, and despite some dodgy internet connection on Good Friday, making me look as wobbly as I felt, people still tuned in to find out how to make hot cross bun biscuits. For both of those sessions, Messy was the keyword as the dough stuck to my fingers, the surface, the rolling pin... !

Easter Sunday was a culmination of the journey we'd been on, so I took the chocolate for a walk over some flavoured demerara sugar. It was no great hardship to polish off two sets of the chocolate crunch that emerged.

From being roundly apprehensive about live-streaming Messy Church (even though it was my idea) by the end of the week it felt more relaxed and, dare I say, enjoyable. The upshot of that is we are going to be doing Virtual Messy Church every Friday at 1pm in the form of a Bake Off and on Saturday at 1pm a craft-based Virtual Messy Church. Come and join us.

Elaine

Have you ever been to Messy Church?

If you've never been to Messy Church then you're missing out!

Messy Church is 'church, but not as you know it'. It's an all-age informal service based around art and craft activities. Think of craft, action songs, stories, and fellowship – all washed down with juice, tea and coffee, and plenty of biscuits.

The Messy Church team love Holy Week. It's a great opportunity to tell the Easter story to children in fun and creative ways and the Messy Church session on Good Friday is always

Parish News Roundup

popular. But what happens when the church building is closed?

"We go online," said Elaine.

"On Good Friday?" I asked.

"On every day in Holy Week," replied Elaine.

So that is what we did. Every day at 1pm – live!

Leading Messy Church sessions online was a little daunting. Not everything that works well in a church building works well during a live streaming. We can't move around as much and the sessions need to be much shorter. My dining room became a temporary studio for art and craft while Elaine took over her kitchen.

It was a huge learning curve but we had a wonderful time. We made palm crosses, Easter cards, 'Spy' wax drawings, an Easter garden, and Elaine even baked live on air!

We also learned a new verse to help us remember how much God loves us and we declared that out loud each day:

God is good, all the time.

All the time, God is good.

If you've never been to Messy Church then now's your chance. You can catch up on all our services including rainbow hearts for the NHS and the Great Passover Bake Off on the church Facebook page here: [stgeorgeschurchstockport](https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgeschurchstockport).

Janine

Recipe follow-up

You may remember in the March issue a recipe for ginger spiced crunch biscuits, which called for 3 tablespoons of ground ginger. A decision was made to reduce the quantity, I can't remember by how much. I decided to try it with the full amount of ginger, something to do in lockdown! It was fine, though quite a fiery biscuit. I had only made a half quantity, to try it out, which was just as well as I ended up eating a great many of them. I shall be larger by the end of this!

Just thought I'd let you know in case you ever felt inclined to have a go.

Pamela

Florence Nightingale

12th May 1820 – 13th August 1910

Florence Nightingale is probably best known as 'The Lady with the Lamp', especially after a portrait, featured in the London News on 24th February 1855, showed her checking the welfare of patients during the night, carrying a lantern. But Florence's first real interest was statistics and mathematics and she excelled in both mathematics and science, particularly loving recording and organising information.

In 1837 the Nightingales took Florence and her sister, Parthenope, on a tour of Europe, intended to refine and educate gentlewomen in the 19th century. Florence was still more interested in maths and stats, but it was during this time that she became convinced that God had 'called her' to his service and, by 1844, she had decided that nursing was that calling.

Nothing would sway Florence from her mission to nurse, and she defied her parents' wishes and continued to visit hospitals in Paris, Rome and London. So, in 1850, realising that his daughter was unlikely to marry, Florence's father finally relented and allowed her to train as a nurse in Germany.

In August 1853, she became superintendent at a women's hospital in Harley Street – after nearly a decade she had fulfilled her ambition of becoming a nurse.

Also in 1853, the Crimean War broke out – a war between Britain, France and Turkey on one side and Russia on the other. Newspaper reports from the front line told horror stories of the appalling conditions in British army hospitals. In 1854, the Secretary of State appointed Florence to take 38 nurses to the military hospital in

Scutari, Turkey. Conditions were filthy and she set her nurses to work cleaning the hospital and, using funding from Britain, made sure the soldiers were properly fed and clothed. But still the death toll rose, until it was discovered that the Barrack Hospital was built on a sewer and the patients were drinking contaminated water. Once this was flushed out and ventilation improved, the death rate began to fall.

Florence introduced a strict new hygiene routine and ordered that every nurse should be careful to wash her hands frequently during the day – and their faces too would be even better.

On her return home in 1856, Florence found that she had become something of a heroine, but was very wary of her celebrity status and kept a low profile. She met with Queen Victoria to discuss ways to improve military medical systems and, as a result, huge reforms took place. Thousands of lives were saved and it is thought that her legacy as the founder of modern nursing, and as one who transformed healthcare, laid the foundations of today's NHS. In 1907 Florence became the first woman to receive the Order of Merit, an award founded by Edward VII to reward exceptional service.

Florence is still being remembered today with the opening of NHS Nightingale hospitals up and down the country to cope with the Covid-19 outbreak. The 200th anniversary of Florence's birth will be celebrated on 12th May, the date which now marks International Nurses Day.

Rosie Stead

June 2020

Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Fri 15th May**

Committee meeting: via email

Holy Week Streamed Services

THE RESTRICTIONS placed upon us all by the lockdown have been unprecedented. There has never been a time when we've been confined to our homes during the day with trips out limited to one trip to a shop or an hour's exercise each day. Even during the second world war people were allowed to go about their business and meet each other or go to church. In fact, only ONE service at St George's was ever cancelled during the whole of the first and second world wars, and that was evensong on the night a bomb landed and exploded in the school grounds causing windows to shatter at the church and at the old vicarage.

So, for the church to be closed to public access was unprecedented and it begged the question, how do we continue to communicate and support the people of the parish?

At first, we thought we would be able to stream services from the church itself. The first-ever streamed service consisted of Elaine presiding and Janine preaching, with James Hibbert as cantor and Andrew Dean on the organ and Hazel Jenkins as camera person. All of them were practising social distancing, but even this was short-lived when new guidelines called for just one nominated

person to be allowed into church. Streaming therefore moved from churches to being from homes, offices, living rooms, kitchens and caravans, all being sequestered as make-shift film studios!

Thus, over the last three weeks we have streamed five Communion services, 18 morning prayers, 8 messy churches, 4 story times and 3 complines as well as individual evening services for Holy Week. We didn't know whether we would have an audience beyond a handful of our usual congregation, but we noticed immediately that the morning prayer services were being viewed by huge numbers compared to the number who attended in church: we were getting over 200 views, where we would normally get 4-8 people in church. The first home-streamed Communion service was viewed by over 1200 people – what was going on?!

Fortunately, the Facebook platform we are using does provide us with more nuanced metrics than just the number of views. It turns out that a view is counted as someone watching the stream for more than three seconds, but drilling down through the metrics, there are more meaningful ones, and these are shown below for the Holy Week services:

Service	Views >3 s	Views >30s	Views > 60s	2019 Church Figures
Palm Sunday Communion	490	88	66	75
Messy Church	202	49	34	
Story Time	262	42	22	
Compline	388	41	32	
Monday Morning Prayer	408	46	25	4
Messy Church	118	31	21	
Taizé Communion	148	43	26	36
Tuesday Morning Prayer	269	32	24	1
Messy Church	77	22	16	
Journey of the Cross	115	35	28	6
Wednesday Morning Prayer	119	28	23	3
Messy Church	92	27	17	
Tenebrae	142	40	34	14
Thursday Morning Prayer	153	32	18	2
Messy Church	687	154	113	
Maundy Thursday Communion	145	35	27	39
Friday Morning Prayer	163	40	30	4
Messy Church	204	37	27	30
Good Friday Reflection	207	94	70	56
Messy Church	318	56	31	
Saturday Service of Light	235	80	66	21
Easter Day Communion	871	218	171	133
Messy Church	223	50	31	
Story Time	206	27	15	
Compline	109	23	20	

We can also see where the viewers are from:

April 12th Easter Day Communion (37:36)

Country	Minutes watched	People	Average mins watched
United Kingdom	2611	836	3m07
USA	10	7	1m26
Spain	17	3	5m40
India	1	5	0m12
Australia	2	4	0m30

We also had views from Bangladesh, Bermuda, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Guatemala, Ireland, Jersey, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Qatar.

All of this makes for interesting and encouraging reading. We have not publicised our presence on the internet except through the weekly Lance and members of the congregation sharing it with their Facebook friends.

We have not boosted the site by paying Facebook to advertise it, and yet people from around the world are viewing and joining in.

It may be that we need to be more innovative in our streamed services. Looking at the number of people who initially view the site but then go elsewhere, is there something we can do to keep them interested? We have tried to be more interactive by sharing a virtual peace in the middle of the service. People watching can type "Peace be with you" as a response, but maybe there are other ideas we can embrace.

Finally, our experience may also have implications for the future. When normality resumes, how will our experiences of being church in lockdown have shaped how we share the Gospel? Will we return to the quite insular way of being in church – "You in your small corner and I in mine" – or will we embrace the new possibilities that God has shown us in this time of trouble?

Peter Hall

Live-Streamed Services and Events from St George's in May

Whilst our church buildings are closed, the real Church and its people are very much engaging with and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Please do join us.

All of the services and events below will be streamed live on Facebook. Please search for our Facebook page @stgeorgeschurchstockport to find us. The services and events can also be played back on demand after the live stream has ended.

Sunday 3rd May: 10.15am Holy Communion
5pm Story time for children
9pm Compline

Monday 4th May: 9.30am Morning Prayer

Tuesday 5th May: 9.30am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 6th May: 9.30am Morning Prayer

Thursday 7th May: 9.30am Morning Prayer

Friday 8th May: 9.30am Morning Prayer
1pm Virtual Messy Church

5pm Celebration of VE Day

Saturday 9th May: 1pm Virtual Messy Church

Sunday 10th May: 10.15am Holy Communion
5pm Story time for children
9pm Compline

Monday 11th May: 9.30am Morning Prayer

Tuesday 12th May: 9.30am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 13th May: 9.30am Morning Prayer

Thursday 14th May: 9.30am Morning Prayer

Friday 15th May: 9.30am Morning Prayer
1pm Virtual Messy Church

Saturday 16th May: 1pm Virtual Messy Church

Sunday 17th May: Rogation Day
10.15am Holy Communion
5pm Story time for children
9pm Rogation Day Compline

Monday 18th May: 9.30am Morning Prayer

Tuesday 19th May: 9.30am Morning Prayer

Wednesday 20th May: 9.30am Morning Prayer

Thursday 21st May: Ascension Day
9.30am Morning Prayer
7.30pm Holy Communion

Friday 22nd May: 9.30am Morning Prayer
1pm Virtual Messy Church

Saturday 23rd May: 1pm Virtual Messy Church

Sunday 24th May: 10.15am Holy Communion
5pm Story time for children
9pm Compline

Monday 25th May: 9.30am Morning Prayer

Tuesday 26th May: 9.30am Morning Prayer

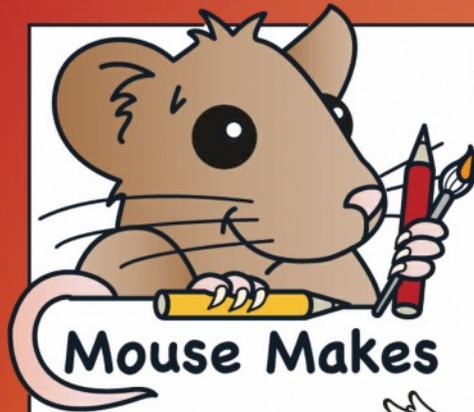
Wednesday 27th May: 9.30am Morning Prayer

Thursday 28th May: 9.30am Morning Prayer

Friday 29th May: 9.30am Morning Prayer
1pm Virtual Messy Church

Saturday 30th May: 9.30am Pentecost Breakfast Service
1pm Virtual Messy Church

Sunday 31st May: 10.15am Holy Communion
1pm Virtual Messy Church for Pentecost
5pm Story time for children
9pm Compline



"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.



If we live by the Spirit, let us also behave in accordance with the Spirit"

How many other words can you find using the letters from:

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT?



Read *Galatians* 5:13-26



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

Which symbol goes with which fruit?



- LOVE • CARE • CHERISH • JOY • DELIGHT • PEACE • ACCORD
 AGREEMENT • UNITY • CALM • CONTENTMENT • REST
 PATIENCE • TOLERANCE • KINDNESS • COMPASSION • HELP
 GOODWILL • GENEROSITY • GOODNESS • HONESTY • INTEGRITY
 FAITHFULNESS • LOYALTY • TRUST • GENTLENESS • CONSIDERATE
 SELF CONTROL • RESTRAINT • FRUIT • SPIRIT • LIVE • SERVE

AND ALSO! WARNING! FOR CHILDREN ONLY!

No one over 14 is allowed to enter this quiz unless given permission by and assisted by A CHILD!

THESE QUESTIONS are all about BOOKS. Some are quite easy, others quite hard. When you have solved all the questions, or as many as you can, please send your answers to me at the Editor's email address:

ricmar77@gmx.com

The answers, and the names of everyone who has entered, will be in next month's *Grapevine*. There is also a chance for you to write something for *Grapevine*, as you will see at the end of the quiz.

Good luck, and have fun!

1. What is the name of the only member of Enid Blyton's *Famous Five* who is not a boy or a girl?
2. In Philip Pullman's *Dark Materials* books, the heroine is originally called Lyra Belacqua. But what new name is she given, and who gives it to her?
3. In the *Harry Potter* novels, what are the names of the four houses at Hogwarts?
4. C.S. Lewis wrote a series of stories about the Kingdom of Narnia. Can you complete these titles? *The Lion, the Witch and ...; Prince ...*
5. Which authors wrote *The Jolly Postman* and *The Jolly Christmas Postman*?
6. Who wrote about the adventures of Tom Kitten and Pigling Bland?
7. Which fairy tale character was 'the most beautiful child on earth', but was told to "Let your hair down"?
8. What is the name of 'The Mystery Cat' who features in a famous poem – and musical?
9. What was the name of the dragon who guarded the treasure in *The Hobbit*? And who killed him?
10. What is Paddington Bear's favourite breakfast (and lunch and tea!)?
11. Which famous detective lived at 221B Baker Street?
12. What is the name of the series of books by Philip Reeve which describes moving cities that eat other cities?
13. What famous American writer took his pen-name from a term used on Mississippi steamboats?

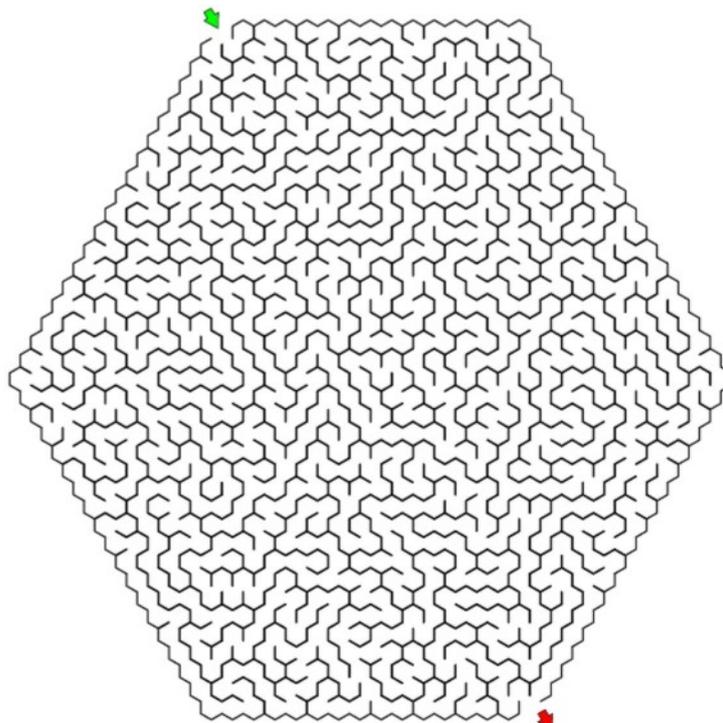
Would you like to tell me the name of your very favourite book, and write a few lines about why you like it so much? You don't have to do this to enter the quiz. However, if you do... !

We will publish your answers in the magazine, so please remember to **include your name**. You may give your age, too, if you like, but you don't have to.

THANK YOU!

Maze

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Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

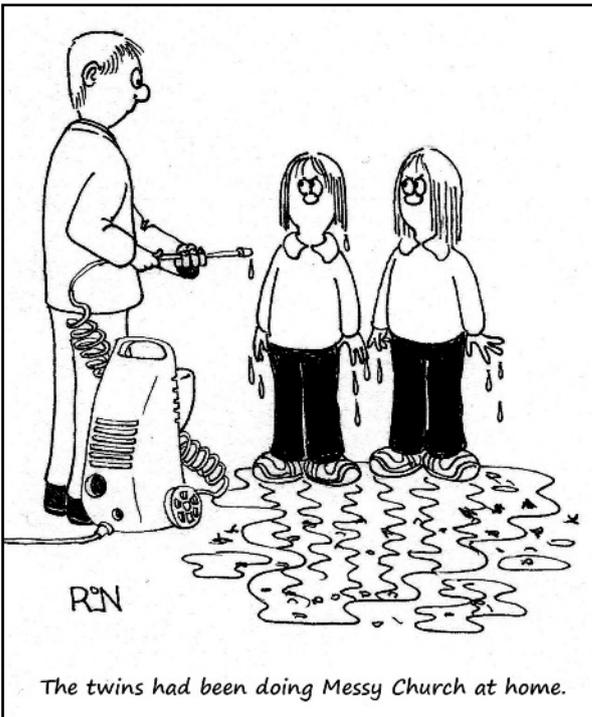
© 2014 KrazyDad.com

Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 23)



The twins had been doing Messy Church at home.

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			

Across

- 1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)
- 3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
- 9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
- 10 Group of eight (5)
- 11 The cell into which the Philipian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)
- 12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
- 14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)
- 17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)
- 19 Attend to (3,2)
- 22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
- 23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)
- 24 Rule of sovereign (8)
- 25 Test (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
- 2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
- 4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
- 5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
- 6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
- 7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
- 8 Minister of religion (6)
- 13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
- 15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
- 16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
- 18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
- 20 Establish by law (5)
- 21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

Nice habits!

“Nice people, with nice manners,
But got no money at all.

They have such nice habits – they keep rabbits –
But got no money at all.

THIS SONG, famously sung by Flanagan and Allen, dates from 1939. Those of us who also date from that period may remember thinking that it might have been written about us and our parents. There seemed to be little money around, though children old enough to have pocket money told us that there wasn't much to spend it on, anyway. As for rabbits, they were certainly a popular choice of pet during and after the war, being so cheap to feed – and fooling children into weeding their own garden and all those nearby! If, when *anno domini* eventually took its toll and pets became Sunday lunch, nobody mentioned it!



Songs played a large part in everyone's lives during the war, perhaps having the same role as today's social media. Many families found comfort, perhaps therapy, in the thoughts of blue birds replacing buzz bombs, reunited couples gathering lilac, and the simple thought, "We'll meet again." The image of family and friends gathering round the piano belongs very much to this time, and children joined in as lustily as anyone else. Admittedly, they would not understand the full import of getting 'lit up' when the lights went on in London or even of 'rolling out the barrel.' The poignant irony of the "D-Day Dodgers", written in 1944 about the Italian campaign and sung to the tune of 'Lily Marlene', was, of course, lost on children.

There were mocking songs, like the one about the Siegfried Line, and adaptations, "Run, rabbit, run!" becoming "Run, Adolf, run", but it seems surprising that a chirpy little song like 'Nice people' could be used against us in the propaganda war that was the soft underbelly of the conflict. It was seen as a ready-made opportunity for emphasising how badly Britain was doing in the war, and insulting versions of the lyric were broadcast on the Wednesday and Saturday slots used by Nazi propaganda. Not for the first time, Germans were left bewildered at the British sense of humour, as the images of monocled, top-hat-wearing effete toffs caused nothing more than laughter.

The image of a rabbit would take very little adaptation to become a weapon, this time a benign one, in our present war against the deadly coronavirus:



Small children could colour or enhance a picture, and would love to see it displayed. Whether on bathroom or classroom door, or even on windows, it would promote only the nicest of habits!!

Angela Foulkes

Thanks to Emily Battersby for staging the pictures and to Isabelle Battersby for photography.

DO YOU KNOW?

Which book about RABBITS has this as the opening sentence:

“The primroses were over.”?

Part 1 of the story is called "The Journey".

If you are really clever, do you know who wrote it?

Letting Go

JESUS ROSE from supper, laid aside his garments, and girded himself with a towel. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and began to wipe them with the towel with which he was girded (John 13:4-5).

You can't wash someone's feet with one hand. You've got to let go of everything and bend down and do it with both hands, as Jesus did at the Last Supper, as Jesus did when he abandoned everything and gave his life away for us.

Lord, you humble yourself.
You bow down like a servant.
You give yourself away for us.
Teach us how to learn from you
How to love
How to hold nothing back
How to give ourselves.
Fill us with that Spirit of yours,
that Spirit of loving and serving
All our brothers and sisters
sincerely, without counting the cost.

*Prayer Card from the Liturgical Institute,
Trier.*

The inspiration for this simple line drawing came after going to a "Stations of the Cross" service at St Cross Church in March 2005 and remembering part of a chapter from a book, "Sharing the Darkness" written by Sheila Cassidy, which is about the nature and cost of Christian discipleship in the front line of caring. She describes how patients in a hospice were washing each other's feet.

They were showing genuine, sincere love and care for each other by using both hands in a gentle, kind way and there was also lots of fun and laughter. Sheila Cassidy explained how humble and deeply touched she felt after sharing the experience.

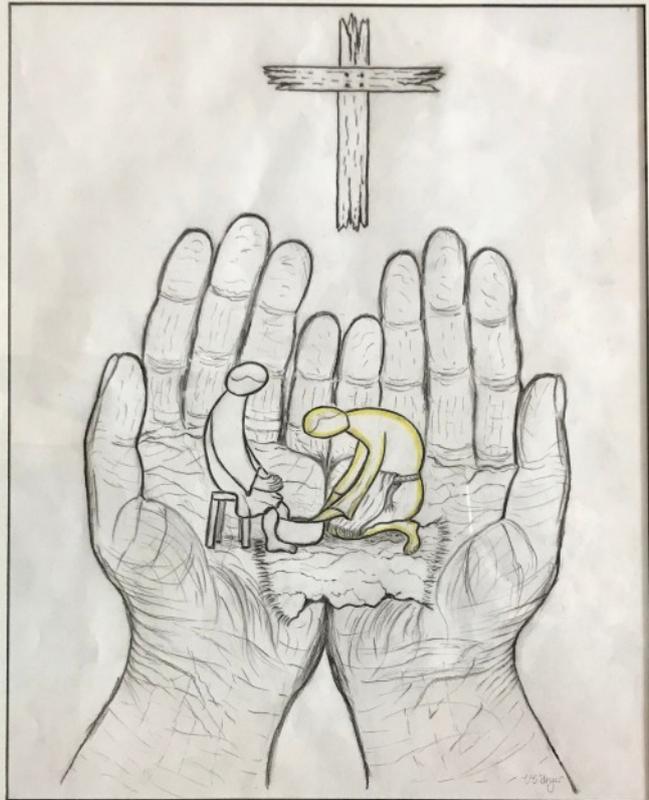
At the time of reading, it had a profound effect on me which will stay with me always.

The hands in the drawing represent God's hands; although they are drawn from my own hands they could be anyone's, male or female. The two images in the hands represent Jesus and a disciple but they have no features and could be anyone, male or female.

The hands encircling the two images show love and care for people in need.

Val Fryer 2005.

Val gave me this picture when I was vicar at St Matthew's, Stretton and St Cross, Appleton Thorn. It shows the gentle servanthood of Jesus and encourages us to let go and give of ourselves.



Val, by nature, is a very quiet person. She used to be part of our Faithcourse Bible Study Group and would take in all that was said but was shy of contributing. We talked about prayer one session and she took away a book about prayer and calligraphy which turned her life upside down.

It unlocked her creativity. She started to paint and draw and moved on to read the Bible in church, facilitate the Bible Study group, give testimony and lead worship. She trained as a pastoral worker, using her gifts of quietness and stillness as an asset.

On the occasions when people were unwell through depression or anxiety, Val was the one that I would ask to go. She was the perfect listener – attentive and physically still. She taught us how to listen better, to be present with someone in every respect and to use gentle humour to ease the way for those who needed her help.

In short, she was transformed and instead of Val viewing her quietness as a stumbling block, she realised that it was a valuable and God-given gift, to simply be.

Thanks to Val for allowing me to use this image as part of the HeART course over Lent and for the opportunity for us to use it in our magazine.

Elaine

A day in the life of an NHS worker

Rachael is one of many Community IV Therapy Nurse Specialists. Their offices are at Manchester Royal Infirmary and also at Longsight Health Centre.

What is the objective of the service you provide?

Its aim is to facilitate earlier discharge from hospital, avoiding readmission and it is a known fact that patients thrive better in their home environment.

What time does your day begin?

I get up at 6am, breakfast and leave the house at 7–7.10am. I carry a kit bag containing all the items needed for the day's work – thermometer; oxygen saturation probe; stethoscope; blood pressure cuff and syringes, cannulas and IV-giving sets. There is a sharps bin in the car and one in each patient's home. The patients have been discharged from hospital with the antibiotics and diluents required to complete the course started in hospital.

What time do you visit your first patient and what protective items do you have to wear?

We visit our first patients at 8am, taking in the kit bag and, at the first visit, a cardboard box with necessary requirements – overshoes, masks, aprons and gloves. Otherwise, everything required is already there. All administration, that used to be completed on our iPads during the visit, is now done in the car after each visit. This is to avoid cross contamination. Having sanitised my hands I ring the doorbell and, once the door is opened by either the patient or carer, I advise them to move away, I go in and shut the door using my foot. Once in a room with the patient I put on mask, gloves, overshoes and apron.

Then how do you proceed?

I sanitise my hands and swab the blue tray which will hold all the IV requirements, and then open the sterile dressing pack. I then wash my hands, put on gloves and prepare everything required for that patient. Then I take off those gloves and put them in a bag for disposal, sanitise my hands, put on another pair of gloves and either cannulate the patient or access the line already fitted, administer the IV drug, which can take anything from 10 minutes to an hour. This gives me time to assess the patient, do observations and write in the patient's notes, which are already at the house. Gloves off, into disposal bag, sanitise my hands, put on clean gloves to remove the IV and flush the cannula. Non-medical items go in the polythene disposal bag and everything else goes in the sharps bin at the patient's house.

What happens next?

I clean everything that I've used with a clinell wipe, place clean equipment in a clear ziplock bag and leave with that patient. I stand by the front door, remove gloves, apron, mask and overshoes and place in the plastic

disposal bag for the family to dispose of. I clinell wipe the door handle, disposing of the wipe before sanitising my hands again as I leave. The family close the door after me as I leave the house with the equipment bag, which I put in the boot of my car. I sanitise my hands again and get in the car, deal with the admin on my iPad and move on to the next patient.

What if there's a problem, say the patient is unwell or you're not happy with the observations?

I would ring a colleague, who may have visited that patient earlier, to establish how they had found them or ring the consultant at the MRI for advice and it may involve sending for an ambulance, in which case I wait until it has arrived. Other problems that cause delay are if a cannula needs replacing before the IV drug can be administered or bloods have to be collected from a patient and taken to the MRI. As there is only one entrance in operation at the MRI at the moment I have to join the queue of cars bringing people for appointments, whose drivers then go and look for valuable parking spaces. I can bleep an MRI nurse whose primary job is to assess patients suitable for discharge. If she/he is available they would come and meet me and take the bloods to Path Lab for me, otherwise I have to find a parking space and hand deliver the bloods. This can take some considerable time. Then on to the next patient some 20 or 30 minutes away.

How many patients do you visit each day?

On the busiest day, on a 12-hour shift, perhaps 12. It is more usually seven or eight. Everything is taking longer in these worrying times.

What time do you get home and what precautions do you have to take there?

I'm home about 9pm, but if I've been delayed it could be later. I let myself in with my key, remove my shoes and leave them by the door, take everything out of my pockets and put the contents in a polythene bag. I take off my uniform, folding it inwards as I do so so as not to touch the outside, and put it into a bag already prepared by the door. Shower, hair wash, clean the shower pull, light switches, door handles, iPad, phone, and keys with a clinell wipe. Clothes in the washing machine, bag in the rubbish. Dinner time!

I conducted this interview with Rachael as she sat on a garden chair in our front garden and I sat on a cushion in our porch. It was a freezing cold afternoon but she insisted on coming across with some shopping and a freshly-made tea loaf. I hope this has given you an insight into the commitment the NHS workers give every day, knowing the risks they are taking.

Rosie Stead

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The Last Surviving Ancient Wonder: Part II

Having spent longer than I intended, reminiscing in Giza, I was reminded by my travelling companion that we still had the tomb of Khufu's son and Vizier, namely Khufu-Ankh to visit, and that we had a taxi driver coming for us in one hour's time, so we had better move on. At this present time, 45 years later, we were due a three-day stay in Cairo, before travelling upstream by boat for a further ten days, taking in many of the lesser-known sites en route through Middle Egypt, including the Red and White Monasteries of the Coptic monk, Shenuti, near the Coptic city of Sohag.

Upon reaching Khufu-Ankh's large Mastaba tomb, situated to the east of the Queens' Pyramids, we had to wake up the Ghafir, who had the keys. He was obviously not expecting visitors that morning and was resting on a bench. The tomb chapel was small, but the beautiful inscriptions indicated that Khufu-Ankh was in charge of agricultural administration throughout the country during Khufu's reign and possibly that of Djedefre, before Khafre, the builder of the 'Great Sphinx', part of Khafre's Valley Temple, representing the guardian of the Necropolis, the Goddess Sekhmet.

Then it was time to leave Giza for the bumpy car ride to Saqqara, past the four ruined pyramids of Abu Sir, to the vast Necropolis of north Saqqara, in order to see the small 5th Dynasty Pyramid of Userkaf and its two small collapsed, subsiding pyramids, where the exposed internal chambers can be seen, due to a recent excavation. Wind-blown sand quickly re-covers the monuments at Saqqara. Then we tramped southwards to the tomb chapel of Princess Idut with its hunting, fishing and butchery scenes. This time we were not so fortunate – a large party of Chinese and Koreans also arrived, all with cameras on the end of sticks, pushing and elbowing, so we hurriedly left.



Saqqara. Userkaf (5th Dynasty) pyramid, with Teti pyramid behind

Djoser's 'Step Pyramid' is in a delapidated state, completely covered in scaffolding, and is now a major, urgent restoration project. To prevent its collapse into the deep vertical burial shaft, stainless steel rods are being inserted through the crumbling masonry above the shaft. The previous access through the Săite Tunnel, built by the



Step pyramid of Djoser, NE corner

Greeks before the Ptolemies, is now blocked off, as is most of the site.

The next site on the agenda was Dahshur, mainly to visit again the two huge pyramids of Sneferu. They are set well back from the desert edge, in splendid isolation, and are in a well-preserved condition. The 'Northern' Pyramid has two high corbelled chambers, now inhabited by a colony of pipistrelle bats, and it certainly smells. The superstructure rises at a shallow angle of $46^{\circ}36'$, but is intact, apart from its limestone casing, and only the capstone (Pyramidion) still exists, lying on the ground. Access is easy along the three-foot-high corridor and ramp.



Dahshur. East face, North pyramid of Sneferu, 4th Dynasty

Then exactly two thirds of a mile to the south stands the well-known 'Blunt' or 'Rhomboid' Pyramid, which for me is the more interesting one of the two. The lower half has an angle of $54^{\circ}21'$. Much of the casing stone still exists, set at an angle of roughly 12° . It has two entrances, one being over 60ft above the ground level and never used. The two corbelled chambers are like elongated cones, but although the superstructure is full of cracks internally, research has shown it to be safe. Of the two monuments, Sneferu was probably interred inside it, possibly with Queen Hetepheres, who was later re-interred at Giza with her son, Khufu, in a deep shaft grave, after her tomb at Dahshur was robbed in antiquity.

Standing well back from the Pyramid in order to appreciate its splendid isolation and sheer size, 336ft high,



Rhomboid pyramid, NE corner, Sneferu, 4th dynasty

with the warm desert wind blowing loose sand against the base, drives home the incredible achievements, done without optical instruments, of these ancient builders, whose structures are still standing. Knowing so little about these enigmatic monuments from the remote past can be vexing, but at least we can be grateful that they still exist for us to admire and speculate upon. Was the mysterious Imhotep responsible for this civil engineering development at Dahshur? Many would like to think so, since in just the space of a hundred years, during the reigns of four kings, the Egyptians advanced from the relatively crude construction of the 'Step Pyramid' to the 'Great Pyramid' (one of the Seven Wonders) at Giza.

Imhotep's memorial has never been discovered, but it might have been at Saqqara, where he probably worked and lived well into his tenth decade.

Then, regrettably, it was time to leave Dahshur and think about a very late lunch at the Memphis Sporting Club at Saqqara, where they make mango tart for dessert, and then back to our floating accommodation at Helwan, south of Cairo, before the third day's early start for visiting Old Cairo, the former Roman city and fortress. This area comprises three Coptic churches, the oldest being Saint Sergius; the oldest synagogue of Ben Ezra and the Coptic and Islamic museums, also the remains of the canal started by Emperor Nero, but never completed, in order to link the Nile to the Red Sea. Unfortunately time is always short, and the following day we embarked upstream for the first night's berthing at Beni Suef, the former French-Colonial style town close to the Fayoum entrance. It is also a point of access to the Fayoum's ancient sites, including three more pyramids and the fascinating waterwheels at Medinet Fayoum – but those will keep for another time.

So, why not conclude with the famous quotation from the Carian-born Greek traveller, Herodotus, who wrote 25 centuries ago, after visiting the Lower Nile Valley and the 'Great Pyramid', "Egypt is the Gift of the Nile" – how right he was, it still is!

James J. Batty

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"Who is this lady?"

'The little bit (two inches wide) of Ivory on which I work with so fine a Brush'

The lady in question is Jane Austen, and the question was asked by one of the vergers in Winchester Cathedral at some time in the 1850s. The novelist had been buried there in 1817, having been brought from her home in nearby Chawton to seek specialist medical help in the city, where she died.



Winchester Cathedral

Although the author of six novels, she died in relative obscurity, with her first and last novels, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, still unpublished. She never made much money from her novels during her lifetime, and would no doubt be astonished at the world-wide fame she has achieved. She would almost certainly have found a caustic quip or two for those admirers who attend the annual Bath Jane Austen Festival, dressing in Regency clothes, eating Regency dishes, and if ladies, possibly on the look-out for an unattached Mr Darcy.

The second quotation comes from a letter written by Jane herself to a favourite nephew, comparing with typical deprecation her own style as a novelist with Edward's own manly style. When I first came to read Jane Austen, as a callow student in the 1960s, I was not at all impressed by either her style or her apparent subject matter. This, after all, was the Swinging Sixties; Beatle mania and Flower Power; student protests and satirical anti-establishment TV shows. I had to read *Emma* as part of my second-year curriculum, but jibbed at what seemed such irrelevant things as carriage rides, walks in the shrubbery and formal dances. When I came back to the novel to read it some months later, before the exams, it was very different. In fact, like Emma's feelings for Mr Knightley, my views were entirely changed! I loved the novel, went on to read the other five; wrote my final dissertation on Austen and her predecessors, Samuel Richardson and Fanny Burney, and eventually joined the Jane Austen Society just before going to spend four months teaching in America. I think I took *Pride and Prejudice* with me, but found, naturally, the bookcases in the house where I was staying full of Austen novels.

I haven't yet adopted an eighteenth-century diet (though the breakfasts sound very appetising!) and when walking in Lyme Park and offering to dive into the lake like Mr Darcy and emerge manly if dripping, Margaret dissuaded me on the grounds that she'd have to wash and iron my shirt. But I do think that Jane Austen is one, if not the greatest, of English novelists. Why? Partly her wonderful humour, enhanced by the clarity and elegance of her style. An early critic suggested that one of the delights of reading Austen is that you get a sense of the author sharing a joke with you, an intimacy that implies the reader and writer are complicit in the story. Austen is also brilliant at creating dialogue that brings her characters to life without the need for any authorial comment. Darcy's infamous put-down of Elizabeth Bennet on their first meeting, for example: 'Turning round, he looked for a moment at Elizabeth, till catching her eye, he withdrew his own and coldly said, "She is tolerable, but not handsome enough to tempt me"'.

We don't need Austen to tell us that he is arrogant, vain and far too full of pride. When Elizabeth, two chapters later, assures her mother, "I believe ma'am, I may safely promise you *never* to dance with him", we get a glimpse of her spirited nature. No man, no matter how handsome and rich, is going to insult her! We also, of course, can guess how the story is going to unfold. Darcy has to lose his pride if he is to win the beautiful Elizabeth, and Elizabeth will have to abandon her early prejudice, as well as her partiality for another man, before she can really understand and appreciate Darcy's real qualities of kindness and goodness.

Jane Austen is a moral writer, in the sense that the qualities she requires, from her heroines in particular, but her heroes as well, are honesty, kindness, self-knowledge, and Christian principles. Austen lived during revolutionary times in Europe, followed by the Napoleonic Wars. Her family was deeply connected to the Navy, with two of her brothers serving and eventually becoming admirals. There are glimpses of this changing world in the novels, particularly in *Mansfield Park* and *Persuasion*, but Jane Austen's conflicts are generally played out in the quiet English countryside. 'Three or four families in a country village is the very thing to work on', she wrote to her niece, Anna, who was attempting her own story. But that doesn't mean that Austen's novels are devoid of drama. Far from it! However, the drama is often internal, with characters facing dilemmas, temptations, pressures from other people, or from their own wrong choices. Seeing clearly, and judging correctly, both about themselves and their feelings and actions, as well as other people's, are the struggles that Austen's heroines have to face in the novels. In these struggles, Austen is able to create as much real excitement, and understanding of human nature as any novelist has done, no matter what their subject or the breadth of their canvas.



Hampshire countryside near Chawton, where Austen lived

Fanny Price, for example, the shy, quiet heroine of *Mansfield Park*, has to overcome neglect, lack of appreciation of her qualities, and the vicious bullying by her loathsome aunt, Mrs Norris.

“I shall think her a very obstinate, ungrateful girl, if she does not do what her aunt and cousins wish her – very ungrateful indeed, considering who and what she is.”

Fanny is being pressured to act in a play that she finds distasteful, not least because she is aware that Maria, one of her cousins, already engaged to be married, is using the rehearsals to engage in illicit lovemaking with a man whom Fanny does not like or trust. Later on in the novel, Fanny herself becomes the object of attentions from this man, the apparently charming Henry Crawford, but who Fanny recognises as shallow and false. Henry, however, is encouraged by her uncle, of whom Fanny is frightened, and even by Edmund, the cousin with whom she is secretly and hopelessly in love. Her situation becomes almost unbearable, especially when she is banished from her beloved Mansfield. Fanny is sometimes seen by critics as too passive, shrinking and silent. Austen’s skill as the novel unfolds, however, is to reveal Fanny as the true heroine she has always been, honourable, loving and true to what she knows is right. She resists all the pressures and temptations brought to bear on her, moral and physical, and eventually is recognised by everyone (apart

from Mrs Norris!) as the embodiment of the true, lasting values of Mansfield Park. Lots of drama there!

Emma Woodhouse, the eponymous heroine of *Emma*, is far from shy and retiring, instead quite certain that she knows better than other people, particularly about matters of the heart. The novel is beautifully constructed, with Austen dropping clues throughout the story about what is really happening. In many ways it is like a detective story, with the reader challenged to solve the clues. Most readers get there before Emma does, but by no means all. It is perhaps the Austen novel that benefits the most from multiple readings. Emma eventually receives the epiphany she needs when told off by Mr Knightley, her older friend and neighbour, when Emma is unpardonably rude to Miss Bates, a much older, poorer and garrulous lady, who Emma, showing off and flirting at the same time, insults at the famous picnic on Box Hill. When Knightley scolds her: “How could you be so insolent in your wit to a woman of her character, age, and situation?” Emma at first tries to laugh it off, but soon ‘felt the tears running down her cheeks almost all the way home’. It is the beginning of a new Emma, although her confusions and misjudgements are not finished yet. But it will lead to the happy – and appropriate – ending that Austen supplies, with the right man finally asking the right question. ‘What did she say? Just what she ought, of course. A lady always does.’

I hope I have written enough to encourage anyone unfamiliar with – or even hostile to – the novels of Jane Austen to give her a chance, or perhaps even a second one. I hope, like me, that you might gain immense pleasure from her novels. Her characters, plots and playful sense of humour, often expressed through irony, but always highlighting her understanding and sympathy for human beings in their foibles and misunderstandings, are wonderful entertainment. She is perhaps particularly relevant in the difficult times we are currently going through. Austen wrote at the end of *Mansfield Park*:

‘Let other pens dwell on guilt and misery. I quit such odious subjects as soon as I can, impatient to restore everybody, not greatly in fault themselves, to tolerable comfort, and to have done with all the rest.’

Richard Parr

Recipe of the Month: Cheese and Onion Flapjacks

I found this recipe online, can't remember where, tried it and liked it. I think it would be excellent picnic food – when we're allowed to go for picnics again! You could use other nuts if you prefer, and I tried it using ordinary oats as I had no jumbo oats in the cupboard.

50g butter
 6 spring onions, chopped
 200g jumbo oats
 150g carrots, grated
 150g cheese, grated
 50g cashew nuts, roughly chopped
 3 tbsps mixed seeds
 2 medium eggs, beaten

Heat oven to 200C/180F/gas mk 6

Line 8-9" square tin with baking paper

Put butter in a large pan with spring onions and heat gently until melted and starting to foam. Off the heat stir in oats, carrots, cheese, nuts, 2 tbsps seeds and eggs. Season. Mix all together. Press down gently in tin, smoothing the top with the back of a large spoon. Sprinkle with remaining tbsp of seeds. Bake for 25-30 minutes. Cool in the tin for 10 minutes, then on rack.

Pamela Ferguson

New Zealand – churches we visited

AS I LOCKED up the church after evensong on the last Sunday in January, I remarked to James Hibbert, our Director of Music, that next Sunday I hoped to be going to evensong at the 'Cardboard' cathedral in Christchurch, New Zealand. Everything went to plan and we landed in Christchurch at 2.30pm in the afternoon, arriving in our apartment an hour or so later and I then walked the 15 minutes to the cathedral. There seemed to be an awful lot of cars parked and despite the website assuring me it was choral evensong, when I was handed an order of service by a child in school uniform, I felt this might be plan B. In fact this was the Cathedral Grammar School's service for the start of the new school year. It was exceedingly hot as New Zealand was experiencing similar weather to that in Australia, and the building was packed. Mercifully, the Bishop kept it short and sweet, and although I wasn't sure why many of the pupils were going up for badges and ties, it was interesting to take part.

The cathedral itself was built after the 2011 earthquake, which devastated Christchurch. The building, whose correct title is the Transitional Cathedral, was designed by Japanese architect Shigeru Ban, who took no payment for the project. It is an A-frame whose main struts are constructed of cardboard, as that would absorb impact shocks in the future. Inside, the cross and sanctuary furniture are also made of cardboard. After many years of dispute it has now been agreed to rebuild the original cathedral, at which point the cardboard cathedral will become a parish church.



Transitional Cathedral interior

We hired a motorhome to travel round both islands, so one of the next churches we visited was St Paul's in Queenstown. Queenstown is in a stunning location, on the shores of Lake Wakatipu and surrounded by high mountain ranges, which become ski fields in the winter. The town's origins are from the gold rush era and the first church was a wooden one, built right by the shore in 1863. In 1932 this was replaced by a stone church which will seat 145, and the wooden church was shipped down the lake to another village, where it was re-erected and is still in use today! Inside the church we met with one of the elders of the congregation, who was telling us about his

views on women bishops and prime ministers. Let's just say they didn't fit in with a country which was the first in the world to give all women the vote.



St Paul's Queenstown

From Queenstown we made our way north via Arrowtown, just a few kilometres away, which had been another gold rush settlement. It is well worth a visit for as well as being a charming little place, there is a reconstruction of the Chinatown area. The Chinese were treated very badly by the other inhabitants but by the time the last Chinese inhabitant died, his coffin was carried by someone from each of the Christian denominations as he was so well respected. Arrowtown church was very small and simple with a beautiful stained glass window which summed up the whole area perfectly.



Our next visit was to the Church of the Good Shepherd on Lake Tekapo. This must be one of the most photographed places in New Zealand, mainly because of the view through the plain glass window behind the altar. The church was built in 1935, to serve as



View from the Church of the Good Shepherd

both church and meeting place for all the sheep stations on the Mackenzie highlands, and the view through the window is of Lake Tekapo surrounded by the Southern Alps. As it is so popular there can be a dozen tourist



Church of the Good Shepherd

buses an hour visiting and there are signs forbidding photography inside, in my view a very wise precaution. People would be queuing for the obligatory Instagram selfie in front of the altar. Just don't start me on that subject! However, we went in and sat down as the piped music played 'Be still for the spirit of the Lord', a perfect moment of quiet and reflection. We then started chatting to a chap who was looking after the building, bought the guide book, and before I knew it he was discussing West Ham's progress this season with Dave – really!



Geraldine

My next church visit was in a little town called Geraldine on the edge of the Canterbury Plains. We were camped just across the road so I decided to go to 8am communion before we set off on the next stage of our travels. The service was very familiar, with about a dozen communicants, and afterwards everyone was very friendly and welcoming. I ended up chatting to the churchwarden who told me he had spent a year working and hitching round the UK in 1970. I said we came from Manchester, as most folk have heard of it courtesy of football, and he then said 'Oh I worked in Manchester and lived nearby in a place called Stockport!' It turned out that he had lived with a friend in Heaton Moor – small world.

The last visit of any length was to Nelson cathedral. I can't say that it is the most beautiful building I have ever seen, and I didn't quite get the seemingly random neon light installations inside. However, I was fascinated to see that they had a whole corner dedicated to the Scout and Guide movements. As we were visiting on 22nd February, which was the joint birthday of the Founders, Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, it seemed perfect. Sadly my photos didn't really do it justice.

Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword

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

We did pop into a couple of churches on North Island including one in a little town, Te Aroha, which had an organ considerably older than the church, with an organ case carved by Grinling Gibbons. Another was Christ Church in Russell in the Bay of Islands, which is the oldest surviving Anglican church in New Zealand. After that our next religious visit was to a temple in Bali, but that's another story.



Nelson Cathedral

Hazel Jenkins



Scout and Guide table at Nelson Cathedral



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