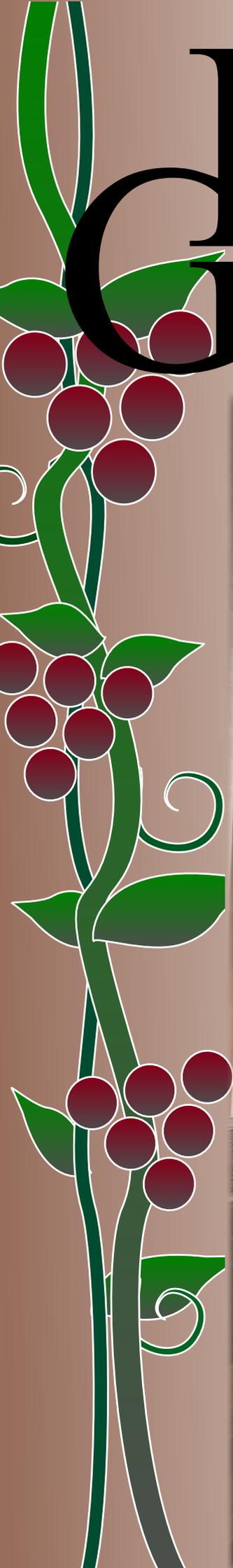


A monthly round-up of
news, views, events
and services at
St George's, Heaviley,
SK2 6NU,
and St Gabriel's, Adswold
in the
Parish of St George, Stockport.
www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk



Parish Grapevine



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	Meet on 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9.30-12 noon to care for the chancel.		

Front cover photo

St George's Church
chancel and sanctuary
(photo by Andrew Regan)

**Services and events
in September:
see page 9**

From the Editor:

Dear Readers,

I DO ENJOY a good love story, even when the ending is sad! – *Romeo and Juliet*, for example, where we know from the start of the play that it will end badly for our ‘pair of star-crossed lovers’ – providing we listen to the Prologue’s opening speech! Despite knowing the ending, we always hope against hope that it might end happily; that Juliet will run away with Romeo to Mantua, or that she will wake up in time to stop Romeo from drinking the poison!

I have just finished reading Tim Pears’s wonderful series of novels entitled *The West Country Trilogy*. They are set before, during and after World War One, and the central characters are Leo and Lottie, a boy and girl from very different backgrounds and classes, who are drawn together initially by their love of horses. All three novels are beautifully written and highly evocative of their settings, particularly those scenes set on the Devon/ Somerset border. Leo and Lottie certainly have their trials and tribulations, but I won’t spoil the ending by revealing whether the trilogy ends happily. The last book, however, is called *The Redeemed*, which may, perhaps, offer a clue.

Leo’s story reminded me quite a lot of the adventures of Jacob recounted in the book of *Genesis*. Like Leo, Jacob was certainly a wanderer, and he too fell in love, with Laban’s beautiful daughter, Rachel. Laban seems far from the ideal father-in-law, but Jacob is quite prepared to work for him for seven years – without pay – if at the end of this he can marry Rachel. The writer of *Genesis* summarises his feelings simply and beautifully: ‘his love for her was so strong that it seemed to him but a few days.’

God’s love for us is, of course, at the centre of our Christian beliefs and experience. It has perhaps been hard, at times, especially recently, to keep that truth central in our lives. The ongoing coronavirus

outbreak, the dreadful disaster in Beirut, and the horrible story of the brutal murder of PC Harper, with the lack of any contrition shown by his killers, all seem tragic stories without any possible happy endings. The recent commemoration of VJ Day also reminded us of the terrible hardships that POWs, in particular, suffered at the hands of the Japanese. Yet those accounts also often reminded us of the heroism, unselfishness and compassion shown by so many of those prisoners towards their comrades, as did the remarkable accounts of those men and women who were able to forgive their captors, offering them food and water when they in turn became prisoners, and in some cases establishing long-lasting friendships.

The Jesus who told his disciples not to be afraid, because ‘the very hairs on your head are all numbered’, is the same Lord who quietly brought back to life Jairus’s daughter, without fuss or drama, and who then remembered to tell her parents to give her something to eat! We can be completely sure that our loving God is, ultimately, in control of everything, and that therefore happy endings are guaranteed!

It has been so good to be back in church, even with a masked congregation! I have had news recently of a much-loved member of our church family, Frances Farrar, who helped for so many years with *Grapevine*. Frances is in a care home near Coventry where her son, Ian, tells me she is much loved and appreciated. He described her as happy and content, and surrounded by a little court of admirers! Quite right, too!

We hope that you all keep safe, well and cheerful. We hope to be back in print form very soon!

God bless!

Richard Parr.

Editor

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GRAPEVINE would like to thank all our loyal advertisers

for their understanding and backing during this difficult period.

If you can, please continue to support them.

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:

Raindrops keep falling on my head....

This is the face of optimism. Even though the rain was slinging it down. Even though we were drenched from head to foot. Even though he had a perfectly good technical-quality raincoat. This is Aneurin, who at four years old, was confident in the ability of this large leaf to keep him dry as he held it over his head.



I'm singing in the rain. Just singing in the rain...

On another rainy day, high up on the moors of Lancashire, we were returning home after a day out on the hills. I noticed an ice cream van, parked at a road junction and I wondered how the ice cream man was coping, optimistically waiting for the queue of people that hadn't materialised, and who were yet to stop him and buy one.

I just love that optimism. The sun may not be shining, the clouds may be in the skies, but they are determined to make the most of what they are given, patiently waiting until their fortunes change.

Is optimism something we are born with or something that we have to work at?

I am usually an unfailing optimist. I always think in terms of opportunities and possibilities. I always see the

best in people. I am interested in what might be.

That said, there have been times during this time of coronavirus restrictions when my optimism has been sorely tested: the seemingly never-ending wait for the coronavirus to be brought under control.

The restrictions on seeing those we love. The

avalanche of legislation. The absolute exhaustion, both physical and mental, when things have to be reimagined in order to connect with the church family and to help keep them safe.

There have been times of great blessing and joy but there have also been times of darkness and challenge.

It's very easy to assume that people have come through all of this unscathed, especially if they appear to be optimistic, upbeat and cheery, as none of us really knows what goes on behind closed doors.

Our expectations of people because of their roles or levels of expertise can be so far removed from the reality of this coronavirus marathon, and whilst some are plodding on, there will be others dragging their feet and yet others whose blistered and aching limbs make them want to throw in the towel.

It's important for us to keep a look out for those who we tend to feel are strong or who cope, or who are deemed to be resilient, because all of those qualities come at a cost.

They may be trying to dance in the rain, but they are likely to get soaked whilst they do it.

I am minded to reflect on a passage from Lamentations 3.22, 23:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his compassion never fails: every morning they are renewed.

God's steadfast love is firm, unshakeable and it never stops, day after day after day, and even though we might be weary, even though we might be struggling to hold it together, God's love, steadfastness and compassion is there for us as the sun rises again in the morning.

Journey with those who are still on the marathon. Pass them the water bottle so that they may drink deeply. Share some energy bars so that they can keep going. Shout words of encouragement so they know they are valued and appreciated. Assume nothing but affirm everything. Share their optimism that the sun will come out soon.

With every blessing, Elaine



Parish News Roundup

Holy Baptism

None last month

Holy Matrimony

None last month

Funerals

5th Aug Lillian Lyons

14th Aug David Mark Thomas

19th Aug Esther Wagstaff

24th Aug Catherine Marie Powell

Burial of Ashes at Stockport Cemetery

20th Aug: Ronald James Norton

Communion Flowers were sponsored by:

2nd Aug Happy Birthday to Simon Pennicott-Hall

9th Aug In memory of Olga Jones, who would have been celebrating her 53rd wedding anniversary

16th Aug from Andrew Garlick and Angela, in loving memory of Isobel

23rd Aug from Marjorie Lees, for family and friends

30th Aug for the bellringers

The Choir will return on 6th September for morning worship on Sundays, and Choral Evensong will be live streamed on the last Sunday in the month at 4pm, starting 27th September. Please see page 19 for more details.

The delayed Annual Parochial Church Meeting is scheduled for the 25th October, hopefully straight after the morning worship. Please pencil this date in your diary. Further information and guidance will be released in due course as to how this might happen.

The Electoral Roll is being revised in preparation for the APCM. If you are eligible and did not complete an Electoral Roll form last year there are forms on the table in the coffee area in church. Changes of address can be noted on the Electoral Roll in the coffee area or emailed to electoralrollofficer@stgeorgestockport.org.

Parish News Roundup

Praise and Play @St George's

Autumn Term 2020

"I am with you always"

Words from our Praise and Play display board in church.

Following prayerful consideration of all the factors involved in running this group on Monday mornings during this challenging time of Covid-19 restrictions, we have decided to postpone the restart until it is safer to open.

Our relaxed service and play is a mixture of social and prayerful activities which involve a lot of singing, sharing toys and musical instruments, which means that it will be extremely difficult to implement social distancing with adults. We already struggled with the logistics of the space, hand-washing for toddlers, and toilet facilities, when our average numbers were 25 children and 25 adults each week.

Currently a number of the leaders, who are volunteers, would be unable to mix with the group because of health- or age-related concerns either for them or their immediate family members.

The chapel we use is also used by the church on Sundays and Wednesdays and if used on Mondays would create the need for additional cleaning.

We will notify you when it is possible to restart.



Parish News Roundup

However, you are welcome to join us with your children at Holy Communion on Wednesdays at 10am and at 10.15 on Sundays.

Please do be in touch with us if we can help you in any way or if you'd appreciate a phone call or email message.

Golden Wedding Congratulations!

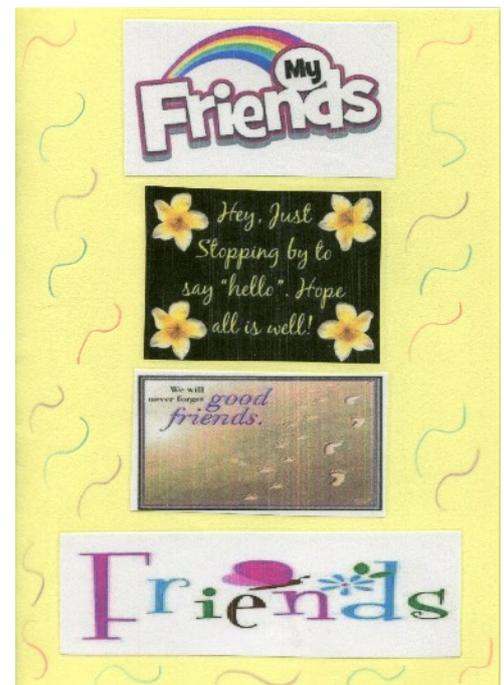
Congratulations to Hazel and Dave Jenkins on their 50th wedding anniversary, celebrated on 8th August.

Jean Davison

Those members of the congregation who remember Jean may be interested to know that she is no longer living in Cale Green Nursing Home. She has been moved to:

Appleton Manor, Lingard Lane,
Bredbury, Stockport, SK6 2QT.
Telephone: 406 7261

She remains well and cheerful, and has sent the card below to all her friends at St George's.



October 2020

Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Fri 18th Sep**
Committee meeting: via email

Teams 4U



IN 2006 DAVE COOKE founded Teams4U to enable many others to be able to have the opportunity and experience of working with and supporting vulnerable children and their families.

Teams4U has since expanded in several different countries, supporting various different projects through partnerships with local individuals and organisations. <https://teams4u.com/>. Dave says: "I set up Teams4U because I wanted to give people who wanted to help the opportunity to give more than just money". We can help Dave and those families by filling a shoebox for this year. Shoeboxes will be available in church from 13th September and need to be returned by 1st November.

Can we ask you to secure the **shoebox** with an elastic band and put on it a post-it note or some clear indication of the date you returned it to church? Thank you.

Below are some suggestions of what you might put in the box for children and young people aged 3-5, 6-11 and 12+ boys or girls.

Practical supplies:

Toothbrush and toothpaste
Hairbrush/comb
Facecloth and soap
Stationery/pens/pencils/paper

Gloves/hats/scarves
Stationery pack
Craft Pack
Sewing Kit.

A few small gifts:

A soft toy
Ball
Game
Puzzle
Bubbles
Musical instrument i.e. harmonica/recorder
A photo of yourself

Please don't put in any:

Medicines or food (unless chocolate or sweets.)
No military-themed toys or clothing. No dangerous items such as knives or razors, no novels, although picture books and comic books are OK.

If filling your own shoebox is a bit much, can we ask you to contribute to a **Community Box**, placed in church, whereby you can add any of the above supplies list. You may want to start up a **Home Box**, as long as it's no larger than a boot box, to be filled with items such as candles, cooking utensils (no knives), new plastic containers, tea-towels (preferably decorative), hairbrush, small toiletries, plastic utensils, bowls and cups, small Christmas decorations, small decorative items, soap, washing-up cloths, clothes pegs, headscarves, new socks/underwear, jewellery, make-up. A £2.50 donation would be very much appreciated for each box.

Thank you

St George's floodlighting – sponsorship request form (Please return to the treasurer, Steven Kelly, 5 Holly Road, Bramhall, SK7 1HH).



Name

Phone no

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

Reason for request (if appropriate)

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

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £..... to St George's Church, Stockport. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Title..... First name or initial(s).....Surname.....

Home address:.....

Post Code

Signature.....

Date

Hidden Creatures – a different sort of quiz

This letter home from a summer camp is as full of wildlife as you hope your tent will not be! Most of them straddle two words, as in 'loving_nature' with its lurking 'gnat'! (25 at last count)

Dearest Mother, dearest Father,

No, not from Camp Grenada – just my joke! We do get up at a very early hour, but I have enjoyed every minute of the three long days. You will be glad to know that I have everything I need, hardly surprising as we went through my kit ten times at least! (No sign of Roger, by the way – did he really want to come?)

We came later than the other groups – just in time to have a go at bowling before bedtime. (I rather think some of the others were annoyed that we could catch on to it so quickly. Seeing scowling faces felt great! Most of the guys were nice to be around, but a few still felt jealous, even when we explained about our local park!

Next morning, it was a bit chilly as we set out, taking boxes of groceries to local house-bound people. Don't laugh, but being unselfish felt really good! My box wasn't taped up properly, so I was lucky not to drop everything on the old lady's doorstep!

The adventure park and the cliff-climbing went fine. It was properly managed, Mum, and I didn't even get cramp! I couldn't make much of croquet – no surprise there. To a dancer like me, the disco tonight is the scariest thing ever. I'll need a whole new twist of fate to emerge uninjured!

Until Saturday. Love to everyone,

Kevin

Angela Foulkes

Answers on page 21.

Recipes of the month

Courgette and Tomato Pesto Pasta Bake

An easy recipe using courgettes and tomatoes which should be plentiful at this time of year. When I made it I happened to have some mascarpone cheese to use up so substituted that for the crème fraiche and cream cheese. I also used parmesan instead of mozzarella because I wanted the extra flavour. You could also make it with cheddar.

300g shell or other short pasta
1 tbsp olive oil
12 cherry tomatoes (number can be varied as desired)
1 tbsp fresh oregano leaves or other herb
150ml vegetable stock
150ml crème fraiche
150ml cream cheese
1 tbsp wholegrain mustard
finely grated zest of 1 lemon
100g pesto
2 large courgettes, trimmed and sliced finely into ribbons
6-8 sundried tomatoes, roughly chopped
50g grated parmesan (or cheddar)

Heat oven to 190C/170 fan/mark 5.

Cook pasta in plenty of boiling water until al dente.

Heat olive oil in a large frying pan and cook cherry tomatoes over medium heat for 3-4 minutes until they

blister. Remove from heat and stir in oregano, stock, crème fraiche, cream cheese, mustard, lemon zest, pesto, courgette ribbons, sundried tomatoes and some seasoning.

Drain the pasta and return to the pan. Add the courgette mixture and stir gently to combine. Turn into a 2 litre ovenproof dish and sprinkle with grated parmesan. Bake in the oven for 20 minutes until it is bubbling. A few minutes before the end of cooking time, heat grill and put the dish under to grill until the top is golden.

Serve with a green salad if liked.

Easy Amaretti Biscuits

2 egg whites
175g caster sugar
150g ground almonds
2 dessertspoons Amaretto

Preheat oven to 170C/150 fan/gas mark 3. Line two baking trays with baking parchment.

Beat egg whites until they form firm peaks. Add sugar, almonds and Amaretto. Mix with a large metal spoon to make a smooth paste.

Put teaspoonfuls of the mixture on to the lined trays at least 1in/2.5cm apart. Bake for 18-20 mins until lightly golden. Cool completely on the tray.

Pamela Ferguson

Services and events at St George's in September

Live streamed services and events

Mondays to Fridays: Morning Prayer at 9.30am

Every Sunday: Compline at 9pm

On the first weekend of each month:

Friday: Messy Church Bake off at 1pm

Saturday: Messy Church Craft at 1pm

Sunday: Story time at 5pm

Services in church

Wednesdays:

Morning Prayer at 9.30am (also live streamed)

Holy Communion at 10am (Book of Common Prayer)

Private prayer in the chapel 11am to 12 noon

Sundays:

Holy Communion at 10.15 (Common Worship, also live streamed)

Private prayer in the chapel 11am to 12 noon

On the last Sunday of each month:

Sunday: Choral Evensong at 4pm (also live streamed.
Choir and Clergy only)

Like a Phoenix Rising from the Ashes

IT HAS BEEN some years now since the developers were in touch with me about a proposed new development on the site of the old St George's vicarage. At that stage they were sounding out my opinion and expressed a real desire to involve the community in their deliberations.

Many meetings and conversations later, they came up with a design that wasn't met with overwhelming approval, so, undeterred, they put together a new design which looked to fit the bill.

That didn't get past the drawing board stage and a new plan, incorporating the façade of the old vicarage itself was given the green light.

Steve O'Connell, the site manager, has been an absolute gentleman and has done everything in his power to ensure that his team have worked alongside the ministry of our church.

Our new neighbours, from Tyson Construction, have worked alongside us, respecting the times when we have had to use the church building for funerals and where the north avenue, which they have been using for access, has been required for other things.

It has been impressive to see their progress and we look forward to even newer neighbours in the years to come.

Elaine



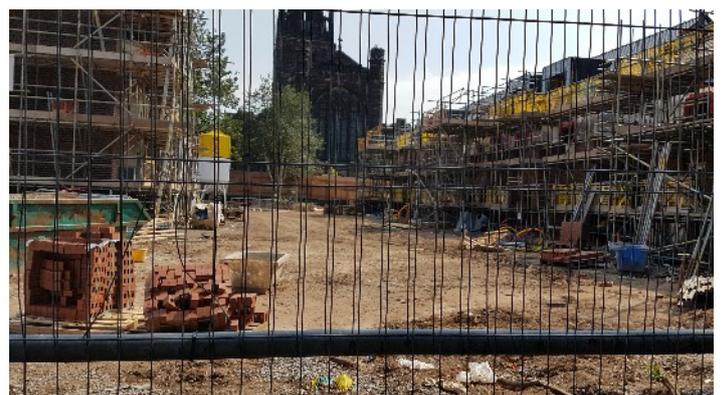
February



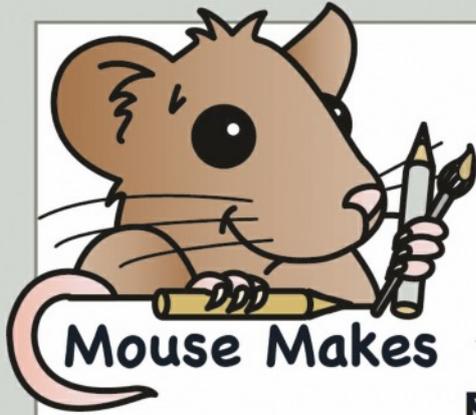
July



May



August (photos by Janet Neilson)



Mouse Makes

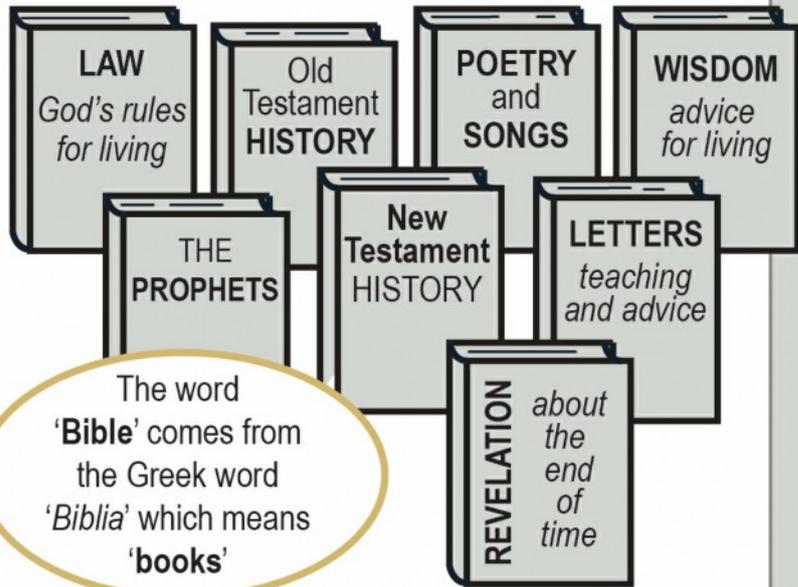
BIBLE WORDS

The Bible words in **BOLD** type on this page are also hidden in the word search, can you find them?

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

The **Bible** is a collection of **books** that took over 2,000 years to write! The books were written by many different people, all helped and inspired by God. The Bible has books about:

There are **66** books in the Bible. How many can you name?



The word '**Bible**' comes from the Greek word '*Biblia*' which means '**books**'

God speaks to us today as we read the Bible. The Bible encourages us, corrects us and shows us how to live, it also describes itself as:

- Mirror**
James 1:23
- Food**
Hebrews 5:12- 6:1
- Honey and Gold**
Psalm 19:10
- Light**
Psalm 119:105
- Rain**
Isaiah 55:10-12
- Seed**
Mark 4:14
- Hammer**
Jeremiah 23:29
- Fire**
Jeremiah 20:9
- Sword**
Ephesians 6:17
- "God said..."
Living Word
Hebrews 4:12

...but most of all The Bible teaches us about **God** and how we can be friends with Him.

The Footpath Challenge

AS WE WERE settling into our daily lockdown walk routine, we realised that it gave us the opportunity to make use of a map which had been sitting on the shelves for a number of years. It was a map of the Bramhall, Cheadle Hulme and Woodford area which showed all the footpaths, but we had never really had the time or the inclination to explore very many of them, so we decided to rectify this. Needless to say, the map was out of date as new roads and new housing estates had been built since it was published! However, we now had a mapping app called View Ranger (www.viewranger.com) to help us plot our route each day and so our lockdown project was born, to 'bag' the footpaths. We quickly discovered that we could easily walk four to five miles a day using new footpaths each time. We frequently noted other paths to be explored on another occasion.

Some of our walks have explored our parish boundaries. Walking along the Ladybrook Valley from Bramhall Park towards Cheadle Hulme Steve pointed out where the parish boundaries of St Michael's Bramhall and All Hallows Cheadle Hulme met on one side of the stream and where St George's Parish and All Saints' Cheadle Hulme met on the other side of the stream. Another day, as we walked up Bridge Lane away from the Bramhall Green roundabout towards part of the Fred Perry Way that leads to Woodsmoor, on the right-hand side of the road we crossed from St Michael's parish into Norbury parish. Then we crossed the road into St George's parish and just as we reached the footpath crossed into St Saviour's. On this walk we discovered Mirlees Field which readers in the Woodsmoor area are probably familiar with, but which we hadn't visited before. We walked back along Bramhall Moor Lane to the roundabout near Hazel Grove swimming pool and walked down Wallbank Road into Happy Valley, crossing into the parish of St Thomas, Norbury and then back into St Michael's on the way! (See Steve's companion article on page 16.)



Lois negotiating the rather low railway bridge by Poynton Brook

Other walks featured golf courses. Exploring a different section of the Fred Perry Way we walked along the edge of Bramhall Golf Course (which wasn't open); however, another walk took us through Bramhall Park Golf Course (which was open). On a walk around the old Woodford Aerodrome, having passed Woodford Church we walked along the edge of the Avro Golf Course and along various footpaths which took us as far as Adlington Hall. On the homeward-bound leg of this walk we walked through Adlington Golf Course. I suppose we shouldn't have been surprised at just how far the former Woodford Aerodrome extended, but we had never had cause before to explore it. On this walk we also found ourselves doing a bit of limbo dancing to get under the railway on the footpath that leads from Poynton Brook back to Woodford and Bramhall. Walking alongside the former runway we observed bikers make good use of it. Continuing the sporting theme, we also explored footpaths that crossed cricket grounds and others near rugby grounds and school sports fields.

An unexpected discovery was a large nature area behind Total Fitness at Handforth Dean, between the A34 and Woodford. It seemed as if most people we encountered on our walks here early in the lockdown, whether they had come from Bramhall or from Handforth Dean, hadn't previously been aware of its existence either. We visited it three times on our walks as it is crisscrossed by a number of paths. It has a variety of different habitats and early in the lockdown when there was very little traffic it was very tranquil and we felt as if we were much further out in the countryside. We first visited it as we completed a circular walk from our house. A second walk took us through the nature area and over the A34 on the footbridge to Tesco and Marks and Spencer. The third time we followed a footpath through a wooded area beside the A34 that leads to an underpass and eventually back to Tesco, back over the A555 and past Chester Croft mobile homes park on our way back to Bramhall.

We hope this gives a flavour of our project. Being blessed with such good weather for much of this time we enjoyed our daily walks which covered a radius of roughly two miles from our house. After about a month of lockdown we realised that we needed more time to bag all the footpaths, but we didn't really need 12 weeks! We haven't kept a tally of just how many miles we walked but we reckon we were walking around 30 miles a week. There was one drawback to most of our walks which was that they didn't pass a café doing takeaway coffee and cakes. Sorry, Peter.

Lois Kelly

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Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

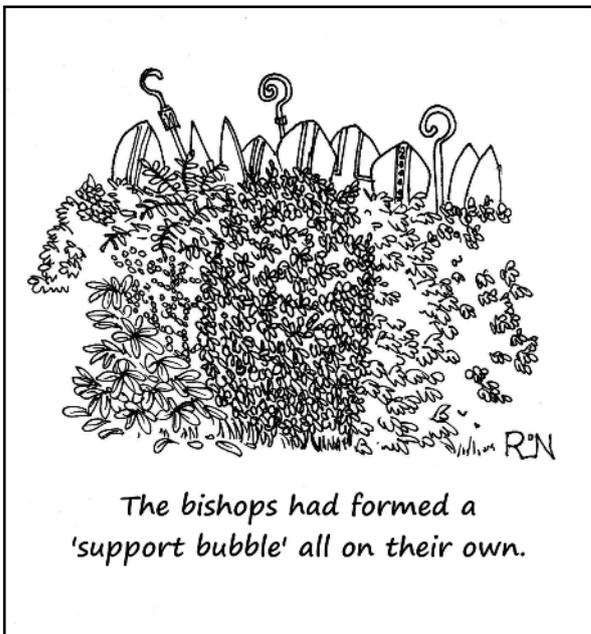
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Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 23)



The bishops had formed a 'support bubble' all on their own.

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

- 8 Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
- 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
- 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4)
- 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have —' (Malachi 1:3) (5)
- 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)
- 16 'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)
- 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
- 22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
- 24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the —' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
- 25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

Down

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
- 2 See 24 Across

3 Underground literature

- (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
- 4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
- 5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus —' (John 11:35) (4)
- 6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
- 7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
- 12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
- 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
- 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
- 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
- 17 Braved (anag.) (6)
- 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
- 20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
- 21 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)
- 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

Richard Cartwright Heap

March 30th 1940 – July 24th 2020

WALTER RICHARD CARTWRIGHT HEAP, known as Richard to all, was born on March 30th 1940 in Birch Hill Hospital, Littleborough, Rochdale to Walter and Cynthia Heap. The family owned a dyeing and finishing mill, "Samuel Heap", in Rochdale. Richard lived for a large part of the war with his grandmother and mother at Wistaston. Richard's sister Patricia – Auntie Plynne – was born six years later.

Richard's lifelong love of stamp collecting began when he was six. His mother had gone into an antiques shop and, to keep Richard quiet, she bought him a small packet of stamps – little did she know then what she had started. He later went on to specialise in stamps from Madeira, kindled from Mum and Dad's honeymoon on the island, and also Bermuda and Masonic stamps.

When Richard was eight he went to board at Mostyn House, a preparatory school at Parkgate on the Wirral. It was there that Richard started a lifelong interest in bird watching – sitting on the sea wall at Parkgate, identifying all the different birds on the marshes. At boarding school he also developed a lifelong dislike of gravy and showers! Auntie Plynne recalls the time when he was in a dramatic production at Mostyn House – as a child Dad had blonde curly hair – and he was playing Androcles. Auntie Plynne shouted out, 'Mummy, Mummy, the man is going to kill Richard.' Needless to say Richard was not best pleased that his sister had spoilt his finest hour on the stage.

When Dad was 12, the family moved from Milnrow to Stockport and, shortly after that, when he was 13, Dad won an entrance scholarship to Stowe school in Buckinghamshire. He was very proud of the fact that he gained a science prize for writing an essay on water birds when he never had a science lesson at school. Dad also contributed to an account of the birds of Stowe.

When Richard was 18 he decided that as he had been away at school for much of his childhood, he would return home and go to Manchester University to read law. Here Richard joined the Manchester University Conservative Association and later went on to become

chairman. He was also a member of the national committee of the Federation of Conservative Students.

Richard graduated with an LLB (Hons) in 1962 and he was called to the Bar, to the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple in 1963, where he was awarded a major scholarship. He was elected to the Northern Circuit and two days later returned to Stockport. On his election to the Northern Circuit, he was proposed by Joseph Cantley QC who became the Hon. Sir Joseph (Donaldson) Cantley. He was seconded by Desmond Bailey who later became His Honour Judge Desmond Bailey. Dad then practised at four different Chambers before joining Kenworthys in 1988. Returning to Dad's career at the



Bar, he continued to practise until he was 70 working mainly for the Crown Prosecution Service prosecuting their criminal trials. He spent some considerable time sitting as a deputy circuit judge and assistant recorder.

At the age of 25, in 1965, he became a local councillor for the St Thomas' Ward in Stockport. Not only the only Conservative ever to hold that seat, he was also re-elected with a 25% increase in his majority. It was a tiny ward and in order to canvas door to door, Richard – knowing full well that the residents didn't open their front doors in case it was the landlord collecting rent – went through the alleys into the back gardens dressed in his barristers pinstripe trousers, black coat and bowler hat, and knocked on all the back doors,

thereby engaging the residents in conversation and persuading them to vote for him.

When he was 29, in 1969, he became north-west area Young Conservatives chairman and that is how he met Janet as they served on the national committee together.

Dad had a strong and resolute faith and gave great service to St George's, Stockport. He became a sidesman in 1967 and served for nearly 50 years until his declining health meant he had to step down. He was a member of the PCC (later DCC) and PCC secretary for five years. He was a lay patron of the living for over 25 years and to quote Dad he was "a lover of the Book of Common

Prayer and the Authorised Version – King James.” He also managed the church archives for many years.

Alongside all of his other interests Richard became a freemason in 1967. He was a member of Davenport Lodge, Davenport Chapter, Northern Bar lodge and a founder member of Stowe Lodge. He was also a member of Manchester Lodge for Masonic Research and became an honorary member of the Lodge of Concord. He held various past Provincial ranks and Grand rank. He was the author of various articles and booklets on philately and freemasonry.

Mum and Dad married in the August of 1976. She moved north and they bought a house in Davenport, where they were to live for next 42 years. I was born two years later in 1978.

Judging (pardon the pun) by the letters, emails and cards we have had from those at the Bar, Richard was clearly more than well respected. One such letter said:

“A gentleman in every sense of the word. I have fond memories of him both in court and the robing room. In court a man of impeccable manners but firm and forthright. In the robing room a kindly soul who always had time for you, especially the very junior. It was people like Richard who made the Bar such a lovely place to work; a terrible shame there are so few like him left.”

There were also messages from several former pupils – those just starting out at the bar.

One former pupil wrote “He was kind to me when I was a young barrister. As I grew more confident and more experienced, he was always on hand to give valuable advice and encouragement. He was, too, one of the great characters of the circuit. Ebullient, friendly, charming, with an engaging sense of humour. Never pompous. Never full of his own importance. Modest, approachable, courteous and delightful. Too often these days we see people trying to behave as they think others would want them to be. Richard was not interested in that. He was what he wanted to be and he was comfortable in his own skin. I shall miss his wit, his civility and his old fashioned (that is no criticism) maverick charm.”

Little did those pupils know that Dad used to call them Puppies – because like a puppy, pupils needed training.

Speaking of puppies, Dad was a great lover of dogs. When Mum got married to Dad she also took on Jasper, an English setter, and when I was about six, we got Sam – an English spaniel – who was completely untrainable. You could often hear Dad yelling across the playing fields ‘Samuel, Samuel’, which was apt as the Bible passage we will hear shortly from the book of Samuel was one of Dad’s favourites.

We used to call Dad a Victorian gentleman; he had an avid dislike of technology. We bought him a mobile

phone for Christmas one year. It remained in the safe, unopened in its box until it was obsolete. When I left to go to university, Dad – or GBDB as I called him – wrote to me every single week, and that continued until he moved to Longridge. If I rang up to speak to Mum and Dad, he used to say ‘it’s in the letter’, rather than speak to me.

Now most of you will know that Dad didn’t drive. Well that isn’t quite true. He drove a three wheeler in the days before you needed a licence. Auntie Plynne recalls coming back from an evening out dressed in full evening apparel when the three wheeler ran out of fuel. Auntie Plynne had to push it up the hill at Davenport station and then leap back in as it went down the other side. She reckons Dad lost one or two girlfriends that way. Dad used to get public transport everywhere but Marcus remembers that he took this to its limits when he once flagged down JJA 1, the mayor’s car, to ask for a lift. Dad had no concept of the highway code. After I had passed my test, I used to give him a lift. ‘Throw me out here’, he would say in the middle lane at Davenport station when the lights were changing to green!!

Ten years ago, very shortly after he retired, Dad had a mini-stroke and that started the decline of his health and the start of his mobility problems. It didn’t stop him walking me down the aisle of St George’s in the July of that year, when I married Kai. When Alan Bell asked “and who gives this woman to be married to this man,” Dad said “I do” at the speed of light. At the start of the reception, we held a traditional Chinese tea ceremony. In Chinese culture this is where the bride and groom kneel in front of their elder relatives and give them a cup of tea to show respect. In his Father of the Bride’s speech Dad said, and I quote, “The tea ceremony... hmmm... interesting one... my daughter broke the habit of a lifetime... I’m not at all sure how sincere it was. I reminded myself when I was practising that if I had a particularly stupid judge, to keep within the bounds of propriety, I used to say “with the greatest of respect” which roughly translated meant, ‘look you silly old fool – think again’ and so, as I say, I reserve judgement.”

He was delighted when Noah was born in 2015.

His love of bird-watching continued and we enjoyed family holidays as a fivesome on Texel, one of the Friesian islands on the north coast of the Netherlands. Up until last autumn he and Mum enjoyed days out bird watching at Martin Mere where Dad kept a note of every bird seen.

Mum, Auntie Plynne, Kai, Noah and I thank everyone for their kind words and support. We are grateful to you for being with us today – be that physically here in church or on the live stream which we know is being watched by many across the country – and in Paris!

*Edited version of the address given by Alethea,
Richard and Janet’s daughter*

Parish Boundaries

AS A CHURCHWARDEN, you come across all sorts of useful, and sometimes not so useful, information. All the more so during an interregnum, when as part of drawing up the Parish Profile I had to produce a small-scale map of the parish.

At that time St George's parish was bordered by nine other parishes (since reduced to eight when St Mary's and St Thomas' joined forces with St Luke's Brinnington to form the new parish of Stockport and Brinnington). This means that there are eight "tri-points" around our parish where three separate parishes meet, and as part of my exercise during lock-down I have sought out a number of them.

The website "A Church Near You", achurchnearyou.com, provides a very accurate mapping of parish boundaries in built-up areas, but seems a little more approximate when the boundary follows a stream or crosses fields. Within these limitations I tracked down the four tri-points nearest my home in Bramhall.

Two of them lie on the walk described by Peter Hall in last month's magazine. The stream through Bramhall Park (the Lady Brook) appears to be a boundary: on the north-east side, travelling north-west St George's parish gives way to All Hallows Cheadle Hulme, whilst on the south-west side, St Michael's Bramhall gives way to All Saints Cheadle Hulme. There seems to be nothing on the ground to give any hint as to the exact point, but I estimate that these two tri-points are about 260 metres apart, so St George's has only a short boundary with All Saints.

Follow the same stream upstream through Bramhall Park and you come to Womanscroft Bridge on Bridge Lane. Bramhall Green roundabout is in St Michael's Parish, whilst over the bridge we have St George's on the north side, and St Thomas' Norbury on the south, and the photo shows Lois standing at the edge of St Michael's Parish,



looking across the road into St George's. Walks through Happy Valley may be accessed either from the junction with Valley Road (St Michael's) or just a little further along Bridge Lane, via Headlands Road (St Thomas').

Just a little further along Bridge Lane, on the north side of the road, you reach the Fred Perry Way, a 14-mile footpath which crosses Stockport from Woodford to North Reddish. I have yet to complete the northern section of the path, but the path from Bridge Lane towards Woodsmoor is the boundary between St George's and St Saviour's Great Moor, and is a very pleasant walk (see Lois Kelly's article on page 11). The next photo shows the author in the middle of the road



opposite the entrance to the footpath, this being the tri-point of St George's, St Saviour's and St Thomas'. This tri-point is about 194 metres from Womanscroft Bridge, so the boundary between St George's and St Thomas' is the shortest between St George's and any of its neighbouring parishes.

And what of the four other tri-points? The All Hallows/Edgeley and Cheadle Heath tri-point is where the Cheadle Hulme to Stockport railway crosses the goods line coming south from Manchester, not far from St Gabriel's Church; Edgeley and Cheadle Heath gives way to Stockport and Brinnington further along the railway line towards Stockport Station (just south of Booth Street). Following the St George's boundary further, Stockport and Brinnington ends and St Alban's Offerton begins at a point on Hempshaw Lane, not far from the former Maitland Street Chapel (originally a

daughter church of St George's) and St Alban's meets with St Saviour's Great Moor along Dialstone Lane, close to the Methodist Church. So I think that the southerly four offer the better walking opportunities!

Steven Kelly

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Eating in the 50s

FOR THOSE of you who are old enough to remember, enjoy. For the rest, treat this as a history lesson!

Very surprising how time and memory has taken its toll. Have things really changed this much in our time?

EATING THE FIFTIES CONSIDER THAT:

Brown bread was something only poor people ate.

Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.

Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Eating raw fish was called poverty not sushi.

Only Heinz made beans.

Pasta had not been invented.

Curry was a surname.

A take away was a mathematical problem.

A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.

All crisps were plain; the only choice was whether to put on salt or not.

Rice was milk pudding, and never part of our dinner.

Condiments consisted of salt, pepper, vinegar and brown sauce.

Frozen food was called ice cream.

Prunes were medicinal.

None of us had heard of yogurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible.

People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy.

Indian restaurants were found only in India.

Seaweed was not recognized as a food.

Pineapples came in chunks in a tin: we only saw a photo of a real one.

"Kebab" was not even a word, never mind a food.

Water came out of a tap, anyone suggesting bottling it and charging for it would have become a laughing stock.

The one thing that we never ever had on our table was elbows!

contributed by Kate Stephenson

Garden Gnomes Update

2020 HAS NOT BEEN the best year for the Garden Gnomes! It seems strange to be writing about the winter months on a warm, sunny day, but we seemed to have a lot of cold, wet Tuesdays early on in January and February. Then, of course, Covid-19 restrictions came into force and we couldn't even go out to see how the spring-flowering bulbs were doing. I wonder if those holes, which Viv and I dug in the front lawns for daffodils, yielded any results? We shall have to wait for Spring 2021 to find out.

With restrictions easing we were able to meet in groups of not more than six from late June. Thanks must go to Walter who, while shielding with Rosie, has kept in touch and organised our meetings. What a task awaited us!

The weeding fairies (aka our churchwarden, Hazel and husband Dave) had been out and made a start on the paths around the church, but the flower beds were in a very sorry state indeed. However, with a lot of hard work from a very small group (often no more than four) the grounds are now beginning to look much better. Fortunately the grass had been mowed regularly so that helped. A couple of ladies passing by last week complimented us on how well the gardens were looking.

Thanks to the hardy geraniums which survived the winter, and Dorothy's care for others in her greenhouse, we have had a good show of colour. The shrubs and bushes in the Memorial Garden are high on the list for trimming back.

Tuesday mornings have not been our usual without Jean's coffee and chocolate biscuits, plus having no access to the church building has meant we must bring all our own tools and beat a hasty run for home when nature calls!

However, we still manage to gather for a socially distanced chat and (our own) coffee around 11am and to set the world to rights. For several weeks we found the north porch was fairly sheltered from the cold, damp winds, then more recently we needed to be sheltered from the hot sun. The vagaries of the British weather!

We are able to repeat our annual appeal for spring-flowering bulbs, and a tub will be in the front porch for any contributions from the beginning of September. We would like to replant the area lining the North Avenue and your generous donations will be very gratefully received.

As usual we are appealing for help as our numbers are very low. Please do consider coming along (with your own tools) for a couple of hours on a Tuesday morning.

A few September jobs for your own gardens:

Sow hardy annuals for flowers early next summer.

Lift gladioli corms, dry them off, then store in a frost-free shed or garage over winter.

Plant wallflowers, pansies, forget-me-nots and other spring bedding in pots and borders.

Collect ripe seeds from your favourite flowers and store in labelled envelopes ready to sow in the spring.

Plant up containers for autumn/winter interest.

Lift, divide and replant congested clumps of perennials.

Plant spring-flowering bulbs. (I think seeing these this spring kept a lot of us going through the full lockdown.)

Trim conifer hedges to neaten them up and control height.

Leave sunflower seedheads in place for birds to feed on.

Gnome Kate

How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange time?

IT SEEMS a very long time since Sunday 15th March. That was the last time the choir sang for a Sunday service at St George's.

We finished singing for evensong that evening not knowing we wouldn't sing together in church again for a very long time.

Now that the government guidance has changed I'm pleased that members of the choir will be able to sing again for the first time on Sunday 6th September at the 10:15am service.

Given the nature of the guidance I'm afraid it'll only be the choir allowed to sing. Congregational singing is still a little way off resuming again, however, rest assured, we'll do our best to sing on your behalf. We've decided not to include any hymns during the morning service for the foreseeable future. I realise how tempting it would be to join in and sing along to all of our favourite hymns. That time will come and I look forward to the day we can sing together again as a church community.

The choir won't be back to full strength for quite a while yet, however I'm incredibly grateful to those who have said they'll return in the short term to provide music for our services.

These are difficult times for us all, but hopefully the music offered on your behalf will benefit us all in some way until such a time as we can all sing together again.

James Hibbert
Director of Music

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Lindisfarne

WHEN CAMPSITES were allowed to open on 4th July, we headed north in our motorhome to Northumberland. We love the coast, but the pictures we'd seen on the TV news of overcrowded beaches on the south coast and the fact that Wales was still closed to us English informed our decision to head north. The last time we'd been to Northumberland was 25 years ago and in February, so this was a voyage of adventure. Our base was Beadnell just south of Seahouses, and what a beautiful area! For those of you who don't know that coast, it is stunning, with endless sandy beaches and magnificent castles such as Bamburgh and Dunstanborough. We enjoyed coastal walks and a socially-distanced castle visit to Bamburgh. An item of interest in the museum at Bamburgh was a letter written in 1853 which referred to Archdeacon Thorpe, obviously not our own previous incumbent! However, the highlight of the trip was our day on Holy Island or Lindisfarne.



The island is linked to the mainland by a causeway which is completely covered at high tide, so tide tables need to be consulted before setting out. There is a large car park near the little village of Lindisfarne and it's easy to explore the island on foot. Perched out on the furthest promontory is the castle, a National Trust property which was built in 1550 and has enjoyed a chequered history, being remodelled in 1901 by Sir Edward Lutyens and passing into the ownership of the Trust in 1944. Like most National Trust properties, it hadn't yet reopened following lockdown.



Lindisfarne Priory and the adjacent St Mary's church is perhaps the centrepiece of the island and although the priory grounds were closed we could see into the ruins, and the church was open for private prayer and visitors. Christianity first came to the island in 635 AD when King Oswald brought Aiden, a monk from Iona, to be the first bishop of his realm. Oswald gave Aiden and his fellow monks the island of Lindisfarne to establish their monastery, and sometime in the 670s a monk named Cuthbert joined the monastery. He eventually became Lindisfarne's greatest monk-bishop, and the most important saint in northern England in the Middle Ages.

When Cuthbert died he was buried in the church, and 11 years later when the coffin was opened his body was discovered to be still intact. This led to Lindisfarne becoming a major centre for pilgrimages until Vikings started their raids along the Northumberland coast. A band of monks retreated inland carrying Cuthbert's body with them, and about 160 years later Cuthbert was reburied in Durham. However, there continued to be a monastic presence on Lindisfarne until the Reformation. There is a striking sculpture in the church by Fenwick Lawson called *The Journey*, showing six monks carrying St Cuthbert's body on their travels. The sculpture in the church is in elm wood and a bronze cast is in the grounds of Durham cathedral.



Northumberland is certainly an area of Britain to which we will be returning.

Hazel Jenkins

Reuniting a Precious Diary

WE GET SEVERAL email requests for information at the vicarage every year. We are usually asked whether we have the Wedding Register for a particular year, because someone is researching their family tree and wants to see their parents' or grandparents' details. In most cases we have to reply that the registers are at the Cheshire Records Office in Chester. We can check if the wedding was mentioned in the Parish Magazine, but that is the limit of our involvement.

This request was very different. For a start it came from our Facebook page rather than email, but it was the content which was so exciting. An RAF pilot's World War 2 diary from 1943/4 had been found under the lining paper in a drawer in a chest of drawers bought at an auction in Ludlow. There was no name in the diary, but the writer was born on August 9th and was marrying his fiancée, Helen Coller, at St George's Church on Thursday 11th May 1944.

From this information, they believed the diary belonged to Leonard H Banks, who was stationed at RAF Kirmington in North Lincolnshire (just a few miles from where both Elaine and I were born.) Also mentioned in the diary was Helen's brother, David Lonsdale Coller. Helen was to be a bridesmaid at David's wedding to Betty and she had shown her dress to the diarist.

What they wanted to do was to return the diary to a relative if at all possible.

The first bit of fortune came when I realized that I had the 1944 Parish Magazines at home. They were not in the church as I was in the process of looking for any articles about the Georgians' Athletic Club. A quick scan through the June 1944 magazine, and I could confirm that Leonard Hacking Banks of Brook Avenue, Alderley Edge, married Helen Coller (sic) of 182 Bramhall Lane on May 11th 1944.

I contacted Angela, who had made the original request, and under normal circumstances that would be the end of things. But a World War 2 Diary? I decided to dig a little more and see if I could help find a relative. Elaine and I have been researching our own families for about 35 years now, so I know a few websites and techniques that might help.

Firstly, look for direct descendants. This is not as hard as it seems as the General Records Office (GRO) information has been transcribed by dedicated genealogists and is freely available online at FreeBMD.org.uk. Also, births are always registered with a mother's maiden name, so it is possible to search the entire collection for children with the surname Banks, having a mother's maiden name of Coller. This, I suppose, was the second piece of fortune – we had an unusual name rather than a popular one such as Smith!

There were no children born in England or Wales, but I did discover that Leonard was born in 1907 and his fiancée, Helen, in 1923. I also discovered that Leonard died in Leominster in 1988, but I could not find any registration of death for Helen before 1993, when FreeBMD ends. I did however manage to trace both families back to grandparents, just in case.

Next, was to look for possible nieces and nephews, by tracing David and Betty's line. Nothing. I drew a big, fat zero, not even finding a marriage registration and yet we knew that Helen Coller had shown Leonard the bridesmaid's dress for the wedding.

In desperation I started to look for Family Trees registered on Ancestry.co.uk for Leonard, Helen and David. I managed to find just one for Leonard, so I contacted the owner. Maybe she would have some information. She replied that she had a little information about Leonard, but not a great deal, though he did have some very famous cousins – none other than Joanna David (born Joanna Elizabeth Hacking) and her children Emilia and Freddie Fox. So, there were living relatives, though distant.

In further desperation I googled "David Lonsdale Coller" and somehow I managed to find an entry from 1949 for St Mark's, Worsley which read "Jane Elizabeth Coller - [Child] of *David Lonsdale Coller* and Betty godparents: Helen Banks..." David and Betty HAD married and HAD children. I went back to FreeBMD to look for Jane's birth registration.

Jane's mother's maiden name was Sharples, so now to look for Betty Sharples' wedding, and it revealed that she had indeed married David Lonsdale Coller, but his name had been mis-transcribed as David L Collen. A transcription error had thrown us off the scent. Further searching revealed four girls born to David and Betty, three in the Manchester area and one in Ashford in Kent. One of the girls had died in infancy, but at least two of the others had married and had children. I could now give Angela a list of possible close relatives, but without any addresses.

I also sent the information to Serena on Ancestry. One day later I got an excited reply about the third girl, Penny, who had married and whom she had found on Facebook. She had left a message for her.

Just hours later, a second message came through from Serena, "I have found them!" She had a reply from Penny telling her that her sister Josephine sees Helen Banks every week. She is 97 and very much alive.

Hopefully, very soon, Helen Banks will see her husband, Leonard's wartime diary written over 65 years ago, possibly for the very first time?

Peter Hall

Answers to Hidden Creatures Quiz on p. 8:

moth dog eel ewe kitten frog ant camel goat owl rat cat cow bear louse hen bitch ox ape fish wasp ram emu toad newt.

A Nightmare Journey Just after Lockdown

IN JULY I went to visit my daughter and her family in Cambridge, having been invited to form a bubble with them. It was the first time I had been away since lockdown began in March. As I had driven so little for the previous six months, first while I was getting over a hip replacement and then because of lockdown, I decided I would avoid the motorway and take the scenic route over the Peak District and then go down the A1 beyond Newark. This is a route I know very well and have regularly been driving over the last 34 years.

All went well to begin with, once I had got through the roadworks beyond Disley which caused delays, not what I wanted at the beginning of my trip. However, these turned out to be nothing compared with what was to come. I stopped briefly at Waitrose in Newark to buy some water, which I had forgotten to bring, and to use their facilities. The significance of this will soon become obvious.

After Newark I joined the A1 but had not gone far when the traffic came to a halt. Before long an ambulance came along and squeezed its way between the two lanes of traffic. 'Accident ahead' I thought 'I hope it clears soon'. Perhaps it was a good thing I didn't then know what lay ahead – the traffic became stationary just after 5pm and didn't get going again until 11pm!! What do you do when you are stuck in traffic for six hours? Well, I listened to the radio, did some sudoku, both on my phone and in a book, I texted my daughter to let her know the situation, and also texted and spoke to friends. I read a book and filed my nails. I would have been glad of some

knitting or sewing but had none. I listened to the traffic news but heard nothing useful.

In due course a woman came from the car ahead and told me what she had been able to find out. Her husband, who was not with her, had investigated and said there was an accident just north of Grantham, where a car going on the opposite carriageway had come over the crash barrier and somersaulted onto another car, causing the accident. My informant thought there was a fatality. From time to time we moved, perhaps a hundred yards or so. People got out of their cars and wandered around. By this time it was raining too.

It began to get dark. We continued to sit there in our individual cars, occasionally moving forward a short distance. Finally, the moving forward was more steady and we arrived at a place where a gap had been made in the crash barrier and all traffic was being directed through to the other side of the road. The left hand lane was full of lorries and long articulated vehicles which could not easily make the turn so they had to go backwards and forwards until they were round. Then, of course, we were facing the wrong way and going north when we wanted to go south. My immediate thought was to stop at the first petrol station I came to, fortunately quite soon – and they had a loo! While there, I ate some of the quiche I was taking with me and then set off on my final leg to Cambridge. I had to do two long sides of a triangle but at last I found myself back on the A1 and facing in the right direction.

Pamela Ferguson

Stockport Grammar raises funds for Chester Zoo

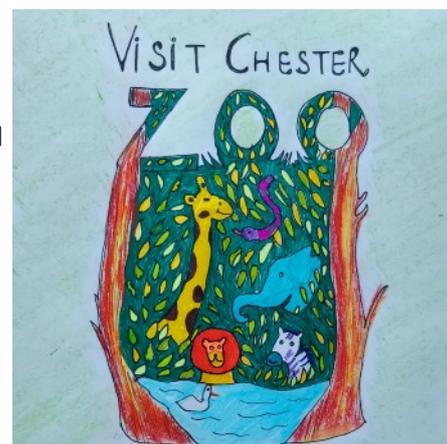
STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL'S Junior and Senior Eco-Committee produced an imaginative way of raising funds for Chester Zoo by creating a book filled with pictures, poems and experiences of the attraction.

Pupils from Pre-Reception right up to the Upper Sixth highlighted the impact that Chester Zoo has had on so many of the SGS community, with staff members also sharing their thoughts.

The UK's biggest zoo faced permanent closure due to the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions put in place – 97% of the attraction's revenue comes from visitors.

They put out a plea for help from the public with their Chief Operating Officer Jamie Christon saying at the time: "We've tried to stay positive during this pandemic. Our conservationists have continued to prevent extinction, our virtual days have cheered up the nation and our learning resources have helped out thousands of home schooling families. We wanted to remain a beacon of hope but Chester Zoo is very much fighting for its future."

All proceeds from purchases of the book will help the zoo to stay open and you can order your copy by visiting stockportgrammar.co.uk/news-and-events/news/eco-schools-book-raises-funds-for-chester-zoo/.



It has been a busy time for the Eco-Committee – earlier in the year they handed in a petition to 10 Downing Street focused on reducing carbon emissions and planting trees.

Stockport Grammar School is committed to minimising our environmental impact and offering our pupils, their parents and everyone who visits the school a safe and healthy space.

Holy Days: 29th September

Enter all the angels, led by Michael

WHAT IS an angel? Easy, people think: a shining figure with glorious wings, who appears from time to time to do some mighty work for God or bring a very special message from him.

Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings, which owe more to stained glass windows than the Bible.) But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are 'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to categorise them in this spectacular way. After all, the three apparently ordinary men who visited Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son even though she was long past child-bearing age had none of those outward embellishments. Nevertheless, Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.

The Bible is full of angels, from the early chapters of Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation, and often they had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'. In many stained glass windows he's seen with a sword, because in a vision in Revelation he led the angelic host who fought and defeated Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, an angel of the Lord appeared to Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John the Baptist. An angel – Gabriel – appeared to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the Son of God. An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph, the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to go ahead and marry his fiancée, Mary, and later – also in a dream – warned him not to go back to Bethlehem. A 'young man', whom we take to have been an angel, was sitting in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the startled women that Jesus wasn't there – he had risen (Mark 16:5).

Without going into every biblical reference to angels, those should be sufficient to show that the word covers an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to the Hebrews speaks of those who practise hospitality as sometimes 'entertaining angels unawares'. Sometimes people recognised angels for who they were, and sometimes they didn't. Angels, quite simply, are God's agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of his will. Sometimes they are human; sometimes they seem to be spiritual beings.

Perhaps we could even say that anyone, in any situation, who is at that moment God's 'messenger' to us, or serves us graciously, is an 'angel'. So, when we say, 'Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my prescription', we may be nearer the heart of the matter than we think!

Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword

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



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- * Press * to listen to Archbishop Justin Welby's message.
- 1 Press 1 to listen to 'Hymns we Love' (this is a series of short talks based on well-loved hymns).
- 2 Press 2 to listen to our Hymn Line (these are recordings of different hymns on a daily loop).
- 3 Press 3 to listen to our Prayer Line (prayers that are specific and relevant to the Coronavirus crisis).
- 4 Otherwise, please press 4 for more options.
- 5 Press 5 to listen to the Church of England's weekly service.
- 6 Press 6 to join in with traditional morning and evening prayers.
- 7 Press 7 to listen to the latest Government advice on the Coronavirus.
- 0 Press 0 to return to the main menu.



contributed by Pat Durnall



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