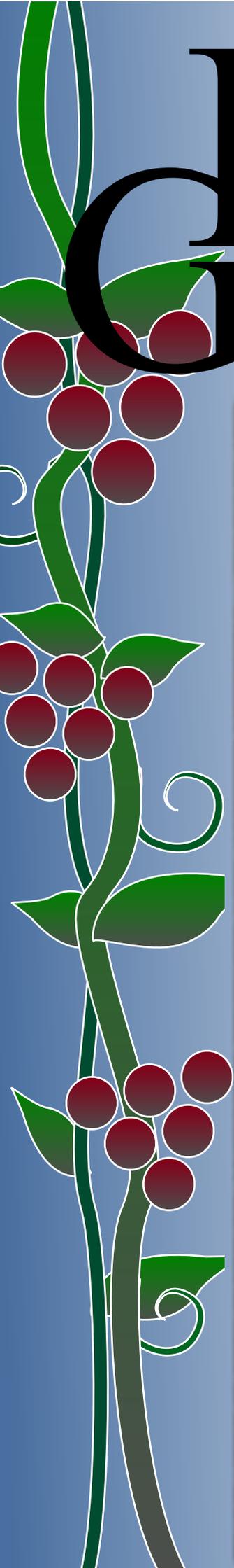
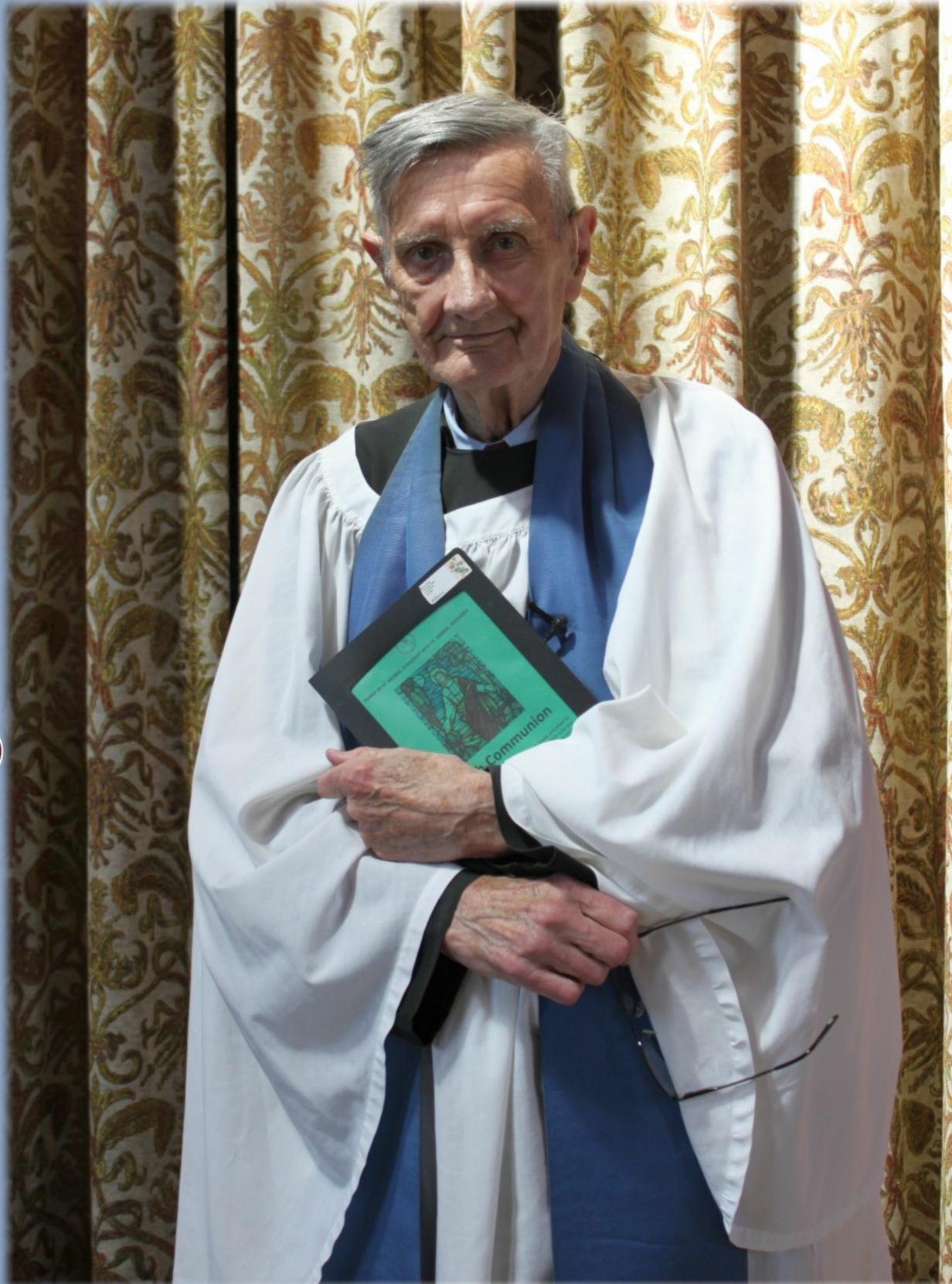


Parish Grapevine

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



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.
Reader	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	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	Other Groups and Activities		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			
St George's Primary School		Deputy Wardens			
Headteacher	Deborah Grindrod 480 8657	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.			
		Junior Choir			
		James Hibbert 07365 519207 Practise 6.30-7.30 on Thursdays in the vestry; sing on Sundays for 10.15am service.			

Front cover photo

RIP Michael Coupe,
a licensed reader for over 60
years, who sadly died last
month.

(photo by Andrew Regan)

**Services and events
in October:
see page 6**

From the Editor:

Dear Readers,

SINCE THE LAST edition of *Grapevine*, I have remembered the lines from *Hamlet* where King Claudius exclaims to his wife, "When sorrows come, they come not in single spies, / But in battalions." Claudius is sorrowing over the deaths and misfortunes that have struck his kingdom. Over the last few weeks, we have mourned the deaths of three much-loved and longstanding friends of the church, in Michael Coupe, Ann Jones and Irene Hinde, among other sad losses in our parish. Along with the continuing and, apparently, increasing virulence of Covid, September has been a time of great sadness and worry for many. Even our anticipation of Christmas has been tinged with fears that we may not be able to see family and friends as we normally would.

And yet we do still have things to rejoice over! The lovely early autumn weather for one, with cool and fresh mornings and evenings, but with midsummer sun to warm us in between. Despite the sadness of not being able to attend funerals as we would have wished, there was still the joyfulness of Siân and Jamie's wedding in St George's to celebrate, even without the usual numbers able to attend. We can meet again in church on Sunday mornings, and listen to the beautiful singing and organ-playing of talented singers and musicians. The Gospel is still being preached, and our services are continuing to be seen and heard around the world.

In a time of fear and worry for the people of Judah, the prophet Nahum told them, "Look! A messenger is coming over the mountains with good news! He is bringing a message of peace." Because of this, they should continue to, "celebrate your festivals, O people of Judah, and fulfil all your vows". The Psalmist echoes those words of hope and encouragement, and extends them to all people everywhere, when he declares, "Praise the Lord, all you nations. Praise him, all you people of the earth. For he

loves us with unfailing love; the Lord's faithfulness endures forever. Praise the Lord!"

The previous psalm (116) also offers wonderful words of consolation for times of grief and worry. "I love the Lord because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy." And, very specifically for our congregation just now, "The Lord cares deeply when his loved ones die."

Praise the Lord!

I am watching the excellent television adaptation of J.G. Farrell's novel, *The Singapore Grip*. Its setting, just before and during the Japanese attack on Malaya and Singapore in 1941 and 1942, reminds me of an old friend who died some years ago. He was quite newly married, and his wife was expecting their first child in 1942. When the war in the Far East broke out, he found himself on a troop ship diverted from the Middle East to Singapore. He got there a few days before the surrender, and found himself, along with thousands of other prisoners, herded into Changi jail, near the site of the the new airport. He spent the next three and a half years as a slave labourer working on the islands around Singapore. One day he had just had enough, and declared that he wouldn't work the next day as it was his wedding anniversary. His friends tried to change his mind, knowing that he would be executed. He was adamant, though, and insisted that he would refuse to go to work. Prayers were said for him. At dawn on the next day, a Japanese officer with other guards came into their hut, as usual. Unusually, he was smiling. "Today," he said, "You have a holiday! It is the Emperor's birthday."

My friend survived the war, and returned home to his wife – and little girl.

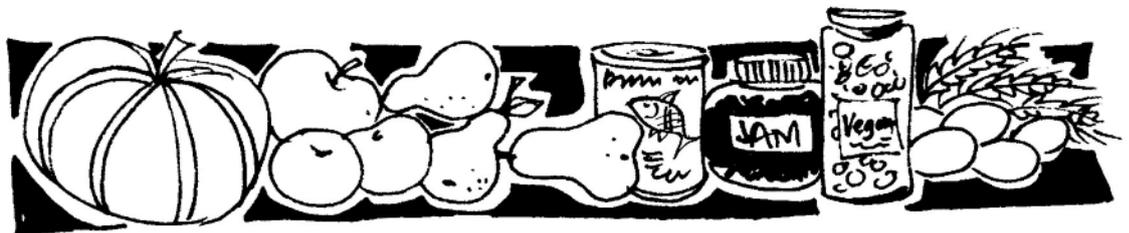
Praise the Lord!

God Bless!

Richard Parr.

Editor.

Harvest Festival is on
Sunday 11th October
(See pages 6 and 23)



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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



Janine writes:

Patience, my mother used to tell me, is a virtue. She spoke about this as though patience was a good and necessary thing. I picked up the phrase as a child, completely unaware it came from Scripture. Nevertheless, patience felt neither good nor necessary to me. Patience meant waiting, and for no

good reason as far as I could see. It meant waiting for tea; waiting for birthday presents; waiting for holidays; waiting for pocket money, and waiting to grow up so I could do all the things I was too young to do!

But as I did grow up, I realised that patience is not just about waiting. It's more than that. Patience is about how we wait and why. Patience is about weathering the storm and knowing that there will be calmer seas soon. Patience is about looking for the positives in what can seem a very frustrating situation. Patience is about accepting that the wait will be worth it and that there is probably a very good reason to wait. Patience is also about allowing events to unfold without attempting to control them.

Over the summer I, along with many other ordinands and deacons across the country, have waited to be ordained. We have waited as dates have come and gone, as new guidelines have scuppered well-thought-through plans, and promised services have been changed or cancelled. As the summer rolled on, we hung onto every word from Boris Johnson; we tried to decipher if the new rules for weddings and funerals would translate to ordination services; and we came to dread the email

dropping into our inboxes from the local diocese with the heading 'Ordination arrangements'.

Yet as we waited, something else happened. We began to appreciate the extra time we had. The delay has given us time to think more deeply about the oaths we are about to take and what it means to be ordained a priest. It has also meant Bishop Mark, the new bishop of Chester, will be in post for our ordinations. It is through exercising patience that the diocese has designed a creative and unique ordination service in two parts. The first part will take place at Chester Cathedral and the second part will take place in our local churches the following day. This means I get to share this occasion with the whole congregation at St George's Church.

The temptation was to rush into a quick ordination service earlier in the summer, and that was certainly what I had hoped for back in July. But that would have been wrong. Exercising patience means we have ended up with something much more beautiful and personal than we could have hoped for, and we enter priesthood much more prepared than we were in the chaotic days of early lockdown. So, it has all turned out well in the end.

My mother was right – mothers usually are! Patience is a virtue, and it is both good and necessary. The Christian journey we walk is not an easy one. Fortunately, it is not one we walk alone. Learning patience doesn't just make our life easier and less frustrating for us. It also teaches us that we do not control everything around us. As we read in Ecclesiastes 3:1 "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven." Patience is learning to accept God's timing. The more we do that, the more we depend on God. As I move towards my priesting, that is a good lesson to learn and one that is well worth the wait.

Blessings, Janine

**Stay in your bubble
and travel hopefully!**



Photo by Angela Foulkes

Parish News Roundup

Holy Baptism

None last month

Holy Matrimony

5th Sep Siân Williamson and Jamie MacDonald

Funerals

10th Sep Keith Griffith
22nd Sep Michael Charles Coupe
24th Sep Rex Martin
25th Sep Ann Jones

Communion Flowers were sponsored as follows:

Main Altar:

6th Sep for all those going back to schools and colleges
13th Sep from the Staley family, for birthday memories of Kevin
20th Sep from Peter Pilbeam, in loving memory of Margaret Pilbeam
27th Sep from the Buxton family, in loving memory of Vera

Side Chapel:

20th Sep from Sandra Nobel, in loving memory of George and Dorothy Newitt

Recent Wedding



Siân Williamson and Jamie MacDonald were married on Saturday 5th September.

Parish News Roundup

90th Birthday celebration

Geoffrey Oldham celebrated his 90th birthday with a sunny Clacton day on 29th August with his five children all together, plus visits from grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

He was most grateful and moved to receive so many lovely cards from friends of St George's Church. He will treasure them. He wishes you to know he remembers everyone in his daily prayers and is always glad of parish news. So many wonderful memories.

Janet Neilson

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.

Message Board

I hadn't heard from Tril since June, despite a couple of emails to both her and her daughter. I tried one more time before resorting to an airmail letter and, lo and behold, there was a reply this morning (22nd September) apologising and promising a newsletter.

Rosie

If you are one of those people who has been decluttering your home during lockdown, there is an opportunity to drop off your unwanted furniture, clothing and other items at a St Ann's Hospice Drive-thru Donations day. This will be taking place on Saturday, October 10th between 10am and noon

Parish News Roundup

at St Ann's Hospice's Distribution Centre,
Bankfield Industrial Estate
Unit A1, Coronation Street
Reddish SK5 7SE.

Janine's Priesting

The Grapevine Committee would like to send their best wishes for Janine's priesting, both at Chester Cathedral on Saturday 3rd October, and here in St George's on **Sunday 4th October** (see Janine's letter on page 5 for more details of this unique two-part event.)

Services at St George's in October

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 10.15am (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**)

Harvest Festival Service will be at 10.15am on on Sunday 11th October. Donations in aid of Wellspring would be very welcome, either of money or items of food, but please choose these only from the list on page 23.

November 2020

Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Fri 16th Oct**
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

A Tribute to Father Conn Botta, Founder of The Wellspring (Stockport)

FATHER CONN BOTTA ("Conn") was the parish priest of St Joseph's R.C. Catholic Church off St Petersgate Stockport and he often spent his lunchtimes walking around his parish and, in particular, around the shopping precinct in the centre of Stockport.

Dressed in his priest's habit, he felt comfortable talking to those he met and, in particular, he noticed the same people frequently sitting on benches in the precinct. He would talk to them and learned that many of them were homeless and hungry.

Behind his church and the adjoining primary school was a plot of land belonging to the church. He learned of a former Sea Scout hut in Reddish which was no longer used but which could be donated to his church for use as a soup kitchen for the homeless and disadvantaged. He called a meeting of his parishioners and asked whether they thought that it would be a good idea to remove the hut from Reddish, re-erect it on the land behind the church and open a soup kitchen for the homeless and disadvantaged. The congregation agreed that it would.

Conn then appointed Brendan Cojeen, a member of the congregation, to be the chairman of a committee to carry out the necessary work and open the soup kitchen. It was to be open every day of the year. The committee decided that the congregation was not large enough to provide the necessary volunteers and invited other churches and organisations to provide volunteers. A team was assembled and the work commenced.

They called the project "The Wellspring" and it opened in 1991. Conn insisted that the food would be free to anyone who asked for it. They asked churches, schools and the population of Stockport generally to donate food and they did and still do. Clothing was also offered to those in need of it and was and is given free. Those who attend The Wellspring are called "members" and their number grew and grew.

In 1993 the committee decide to ask for volunteers to open in the evenings from Sunday to Thursday. I attend St George's Church, Heavily, and saw a notice there asking

for volunteers and applied to be one. I was accepted and became a volunteer every alternate Wednesday evening and continued in that role until the Corona Virus struck and caused us to close. By that time we had employed staff to manage the project and help to house and solve other problems of our members. Our work continues but we cannot open our dining room. We provide breakfast and lunch as take-aways and we operate as a food bank until times improve.

We became a charity in the 1990s and then became a limited company charity more recently.

When I became a volunteer in 1993 Conn was still heavily involved in the day-to-day work. In those days when you were allowed to smoke in dining rooms Conn would busy himself helping to feed and to clear tables with a Woodbine constantly in his mouth. The front of his black surplice was grey with ash. He wouldn't allow any clearing of any table while other members were eating. This was possible then, but would have been impossible in the period before we closed down, when we frequently provided lunch for over 100 members. Conn always cared for our members.

We outgrew our Sea Scout hut but had been saving money for new premises. Stockport M.B.C. granted us a lease of the land on which our present building stands at a nominal rent, and we moved into our present premises, built to our design, in 2008.

Conn's father was a Dutch colonial official in the Dutch East Indies when they were invaded by the Japanese. Conn was seven years old spent five years in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp and therefore knew all about hunger and lack of food and other things that we call necessities. He cared deeply for our members. He was moved by his church to Glasgow in the 1990s and I never saw him again, but his spirit remained and still remains in The Wellspring. Sadly Conn died recently aged 87.

*John Hardy
vice-chairman and director of
The Wellspring (Stockport) Limited*

Churches report rising food bank demand as a result of pandemic

NEARLY 100,000 households sought food aid from the Trussell Trust's network of food banks for the first time earlier this year, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Demand is surging further this autumn, as a result of the economic fallout from the virus.

The research comes after food banks run or supported by Church of England churches reported rocketing demand during lockdown with some opening food banks for the first time while some opened new food banks after lockdown.

Just two examples:

Hackney Church in East London was distributing parcels with enough food for 1,000 meals a week at start of lockdown. This figure rose to 8,000 and 9,000 meals a week in June, after the church opened a second food bank. It has since served 120,000 meals.

In Co. Durham, the Shildon Alive food bank, founded by St John's Church, has seen demand surge by 500 percent during lockdown.

A Tribute to Richard Heap

RICHARD WAS CALLED to the bar in 1963, and although we were in different chambers in Manchester, in the early 1960s we came to know each other on the Northern Circuit and especially in our daily lives in the courts in Manchester and other parts of the North. His genial good humour enlivened my day, whenever we met at court or in the street, and his calm and steady approach to cases and gentlemanly determination were an example to us all.

Richard started life at the Bar in chambers at 26, King Street, Manchester, and it was there that he completed his year's pupillage under the tutelage of Desmond Bailey, who later became a judge. In that year – a period of introduction to the profession and of training – there blossomed Richard's innate sense of fairness and his love of the law.

It must have been a delightful time to be in those chambers. The other members of the chambers were giants; some of them later became judges. In their knowledge of the law, and their conduct of their cases, they were confident but not arrogant, and they approached their clients and their cases with a balanced fairness. And all this would have added to the nurturing of Richard as a young pupil and barrister. And Richard's own courage must have been fortified by living and working with them.

A magistrate has related to me something which can be added, as to Richard's determination and fairness. At

a magistrates' court on one occasion when Richard was prosecuting a criminal case, it became clear that Richard was advising the prosecuting authority that they had no case and that it should be abandoned, while the prosecuting authority was unwilling to accept that advice and wished to pursue the case. Richard stood firm; he had expressed his view and he could not properly continue with the prosecution. Eventually his advice was accepted, and the case was dropped.

And Richard's conduct of all the cases that day drew admiration.

At Bolton Crown Court I myself was present and witnessed the following, which happened outside the courtroom. Richard was holding the brief for the prosecution, and a young barrister came to him, announced that he was defending, and in somewhat strident and dismissive terms told Richard that the case of so and so, naming it, decided by the Court of Appeal, meant that Richard had no case. Richard listened calmly, and then carefully explained to his opponent that the Court of Appeal case was no longer good law, having been overruled, and so he proposed to carry on with the prosecution. His opponent looked things up, and had to agree with Richard, and his stridency collapsed. Richard knew his law, and stood by his decision.

Richard was a kind man, and a good friend.

John Rowe

Green grow'th the holly

A MUSIC MANUSCRIPT from about 1515 and attributed to King Henry VIII has the words:

*Green grow'th the holly,
So doth the ivy,
Though winter blasts ne'er so high
Green grow'th the holly.*

The next three verses take us through spring, summer and autumn, so this is clearly not a Christmas carol, unlike the familiar 'The Holly and the Ivy'. What may not be known is that holly and ivy are two of the very few native evergreen trees, and in past times must have been especially popular in providing greenery during winter months.

With its shiny spiky dark green leaves, holly is surely one of the most easily recognised trees in this country. Though often bushlike, holly can grow up to ten metres high with a straight trunk and pyramid shape. It is *dioecious*, meaning each tree is either male or female, explaining possibly why the one in your garden never has any berries!



Nowadays we associate holly with Christmas wreaths and garlands, cards and carols. Pre-Victorian times saw holly branches used as Christmas trees, with the spiky leaves representing Christ's Crown of Thorns and the red berries as drops of blood. Holly brought into the house was regarded as protection against evil spirits and as a refuge for good 'faeries' who would guard the residents of the house in return.

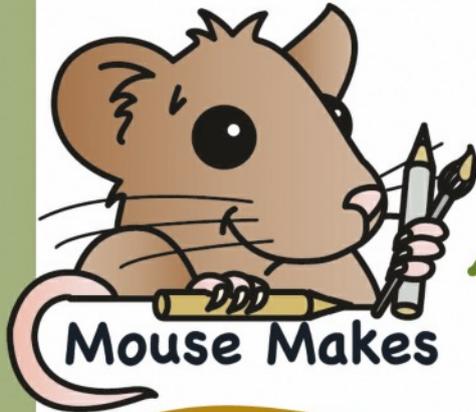
It is interesting to note that where no person or animal brushes by a holly, the leaves lack all spines except the one at the tip. This includes upper leaves on mature trees. A bit like people – be nice and they won't be scratchy!

Back to 'Green grow'th the Holly'. The final verse ends:

*The God of life can never die,
Hope! Saith the holly.*

How wise. Where would we be without hope?

Kirsty Steele



"GOD is the **one** who gives seed to those who **plant**, and He gives **bread** for **food**. And GOD will give you spiritual seed and make that seed grow. He will **produce** a great **harvest** from your goodness."
2 Corinthians 9:10

Jesus said:
 "The kingdom of heaven is like a _____ **seed** that a man took and sowed in his **field**. It is the _____ of all the seeds, but when it has grown it becomes a tree, so that the wild _____ come and nest in its branches."

Read
Matthew 13:31-32

Jesus said:
 "You do not need more **faith**. There is no 'more' or 'less' in faith. If you have a bare kernel of faith, say the size of a poppy seed, you could say to this sycamore tree "Go jump into the lake" and it would do it."
Luke 17:6

So the one who plants is not important, and the one who **waters** is not important. Only **GOD** is important because He is the one who makes things grow."
1 Corinthians 3:7

Look out for seeds in the park and garden and in your kitchen store cupboard.

How many different seeds can you find?

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

Find the words in **bold** on this page in the word search



Christmas Tree Festival

IT'S THAT TIME of year again, when I write a cheery article advertising the Christmas Tree Festival, persuading you to enter a tree, volunteer to do a spell on the door, behind the café, selling raffle tickets, wrap parcels for Father Christmas, etc.



Well, I'm going to do it all over again this year, while saying to you, 'but it's all going to be different'. Obviously we can't have our usual jam-packed church of people wandering round, stopping for tea and cakes, sitting to listen to small, eager children singing Christmas songs and indulging in a few raffle tickets and a go on the chocolate tombola.



This year, trees will not be packed close together like this

So what are we planning? Firstly to open for just two days, the Friday and Saturday of our usual week, that is 27th and 28th November. We will have no more than 50 trees so that we can space them out with larger gaps in between. That should hopefully spread people out at a two-metre distance as they go round. We also will need a National Trust-type booking-in system so that we don't have too many people in the building at one time. To achieve a constant flow around the building, besides a strict one-way system, we actually don't want any pinch points where folk will congregate. So no stalls, performances or café.

However we haven't given up on stalls, raffles and refreshments, we just intend to move them outside into the North Avenue. There hopefully we will have gazebos where people can buy hot drinks, packs of cakes, burgers, etc. A raffle will be happening, and you should be able to buy the all-important accessory for Christmas 2020, a Christmas-themed mask! It would be wonderful to have those clever outdoor solar lights wound round the trees, and trees with battery lights adorning the gazebos. Have you got the vision yet? My idea of perfection would be a hot chestnut seller.



'And what about the restrictions?' I hear you ask. Firstly if things stay as they are at the present and outdoor groups remain at six, we should be able to go ahead. We have checked it out with the Church authorities. However, as plan B we are going to video each of the trees with a little explanation about the group who have put it up. Those videos will be turned into an online presentation so that those who can't venture out can enjoy it and if we are suddenly locked down again it will be there for everyone to enjoy. Modern technology allows us to accept online donations from anyone who is happy to do that.

So, yes please, I do need your help. Have you got a gazebo we can borrow or some outdoor lights, preferably that don't need hooking up to the mains? Can you bake cakes or sew masks and most importantly, can you spare an hour or two of your time? I know that some of our faithful volunteers from previous years won't be able to help this time, but perhaps you could?

Hazel Jenkins

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Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

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Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 23)



Crossword

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

Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end' (Psalm 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest (Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the — ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ' — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a — !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had

avision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)

- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)

4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — ' (John 3:3) (5)

5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)

6 'He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)

10 Ruses (anag.) (5)

11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)

12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)

13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)

14 'This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)

15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)

18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)

20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)

21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)

22 Bats (anag.) (4)

23 'You strain out a — but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

Service to Celebrate the Life of Michael Charles Coupe

Tuesday 22nd September 2020 at 12 noon

Music as we come in: Elegy. Thalben-Ball – original by Walford Davies.

Words of welcome from Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall, vicar of St George's Church.

Welcome to St George's Church as we celebrate the life of Michael Charles Coupe.

Michael was someone who has made an impact on all of us as family members and friends but also as someone who has accompanied us on our journey of faith. His wisdom was dispensed if requested, never forced. He was insightful and caring. He took time to seek out those who were lost or new to church and he made a difference over his almost 62 years of licensed reader ministry. We are truly blessed to have known him.

Thank you for being here today.

We must remember that God's love and power extend over all creation. Every life, including our own, is precious to God. Christians have always believed that there is hope in death as in life, and that there is new life in Christ over death.

Even those of us who share such faith find that there is a real sense of loss at the death of a loved one. We will each have had our own experiences of their life and death, with different memories and different feelings of love, grief and respect. To acknowledge this at the beginning of the service should help us to use this occasion to express our faith and our feelings as we say farewell, acknowledge our loss and our sorrow, and reflect on our own mortality. Those who mourn today, need support and consolation. Our presence here today is part of that continuing support.

Michael gave specific instructions to James, our Director of Music, regarding what he wanted for his funeral. The first of the hymns for today is a particular favourite of Michael's and he had it at the special service to celebrate his 60 years of licensed ministry as a reader.

Lord Christ, who on our heart didst bear the burden of our shame and sin.

We hear some thoughts from Michael's friends and family.

Tribute from Rita Waters – Licenced Reader

I first met Mike Coupe when St Mark's Edgeley joined with St George's and St Gabriel's and became Stockport South West Team in 1994. I was a member of St Mark's.

Mike would often come over and take the morning prayer service which we had on alternate Sundays. The

older members especially enjoyed Mike taking these services because his sermons were down to earth, related to everyday life and they could identify with them.

I became a parish assistant (now known as a pastoral worker) and I started working alongside Mike with the pastoral visiting group and also at the Open Door on Wednesday evenings at St George's, where people could come and have a cup of tea or coffee and meet up with other people. They could come and talk to a trained Christian listener who could, if necessary, put them in touch with the Christian Counselling Service.

My time as a parish assistant encouraged me to want to become more involved in the parish and this is where my friendship with Mike really grew and his support of me was invaluable. When I started the Reader Training course and I needed a mentor, who better could I have than Mike, with his wealth of experience as a reader?

Mike was not just my mentor – he was my friend and a very good friend; he was a lovely and godly man. Rest in peace Mike, and may you rise in glory. Amen.

Tribute from Glenys Sellers

I first met Michael at 2 o'clock on Saturday afternoon of the 13th of October 1975 at Chester Cathedral. The occasion was the annual service for lay readers, as they were then called, when new readers, of which I was one, were presented with their licence of permission to officiate at churches in the Chester Diocese.

I remember feeling rather uncomfortable and conspicuous at the service as it was in the very early days of allowing women to be admitted to the reader ministry.

Part of my duties as representative reader in the 70s and 80s was to organise readers to assist vicars with the administration of Holy Communion and also to take services of morning and evening prayer. I think Michael and I, together with a small handful of other readers, kept services going for the small congregations at a number of churches in the diocese. The scheme was called 'Rent a Reader' and Radio Manchester asked me to tell listeners about it on their Sunday morning programme.

After my ordination it was such a pleasure to be asked to join the ministry team here at St George's especially as it enabled Michael and me to renew our old friendship and reminiscences of years gone by, which we were very good at!



What a joyous occasion it was in September 2018 to celebrate with Michael his 60th anniversary year as a reader in the Church of England. He had worked with five incumbents here at St George's and I'm not being disrespectful to them if I say he had a few stories about them all. Such dedication and commitment he had to God's work in this parish of St George! He will be remembered with affection and respect by many, many people. In later years health problems became more acute for Michael. That, combined with the overwhelming sadness of losing his beloved daughter, Elizabeth, was devastating for him. Thanks be to God for all that he meant to family, friends and colleagues, and for his life of dedication and commitment to St George's Church and community. Amen.

Tribute from Mike's son, Tony

Today is a day to celebrate Dad's life so no tears please.

Dad simply the best (Tony)

Wearing his Manchester City scarf and hat when going shopping, just to wind me up. I'm a United fan but I didn't mind.

Loved me, loved all his family and friends. When you had Dad as a friend you had a friend for life. He also loved his church.

Faith

Dad had trying times but his faith pulled him through. We always called Dad Mr St George's. It is where he felt at home. We used to call it the big house down the road.

Hope

Dad hoped for a better world. No war, every kid had enough food and fresh water to drink. No poverty or hunger. Sadly we still have these problems.

Dad was born in Didsbury. Sent away with his Mum to Kent during the war. His Mum was a house cleaner for a bishop down in Kent.

Dad did his National service in the army. When he started work he was a map designer to begin with. Then he found a job with the NHS, and stayed with the NHS for over 30 years.

Dad loved his cricket and used to spend Sunday watching cricket at old Trafford. City was his team but he only went a couple of times but he always looked out for the score on the Match of the Day and had fun with me on how well City were doing winning cups.

Dad had a sense of fun as well. When it came to food, his favourite saying was "I haven't had my pudding yet". This after he had a sleep after lunch.

Dad was very independent, living on his own for more than 20 years. After Mum died, most of the time Dad was OK on his own, but later on in life he found living on his own more difficult so we began the weekly shopping trip.

They were the nice days we spent together. Always home then a cup of coffee,

Dad is at rest now and I know he will always be in our hearts as we get on with our lives. That's what Dad would have wanted. He is reunited with the only woman he ever loved – My Mum.

Elaine

Michael particularly enjoyed being part of the evensong service and he has selected **Psalm 67 for our service today**. We hear the choir sing.

We welcome back the former vicar of St George's, Reverend Canon Alan Bell, who is going to read our Bible passage from 1 Corinthians 13: 4-13

In an article written by Kim Regan, our ordinand, following an interview with Michael for his 60th anniversary, we see some of Michael's sense of fun, laughter and joy – mentioned by Tony in his eulogy – even from being a small child. (*See page 18 for this interview*).

Michael was a delight to work with. He still had a sense of mischief about him, even as a grown-up. He mucked around with his friend and colleague Peter and the pretend stern looks given by yours truly simply floated over their heads as they just grinned wider and carried on.

He was visionary and loved to be asked to help with research in planning a new course or idea. We appreciated his thoroughness and his willingness to get stuck in and try something. He was always worth listening to.

Our next hymn, based on the words of St Patrick's breastplate. **"I bind unto myself today the strong name of the Trinity"**.

We pray for those who mourn: for Anthony and Tracy, for John, Simon, Mark, Ben, Tanya, Sarah and Richard and for precious great-grandchildren, other family members and friends. God of all wisdom, grant to all those who grieve the spirit of faith and courage, that they may have the strength to meet the days to come. Cherish that love you have had with Michael and cherish what you have today as we give thanks for all that Michael has given to us over the years – his gift of love. Amen.

Michael's favourite prayer by St Ignatius of Loyola:

Teach us good Lord, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will. **Amen**.

Support us, O Lord all these days of this wondrous and troublous life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then Lord, in your mercy, grant us safe lodging, a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Our final hymn which the choir will sing: **“Thou whose Almighty Word”** Let there be light.

Words of Commendation

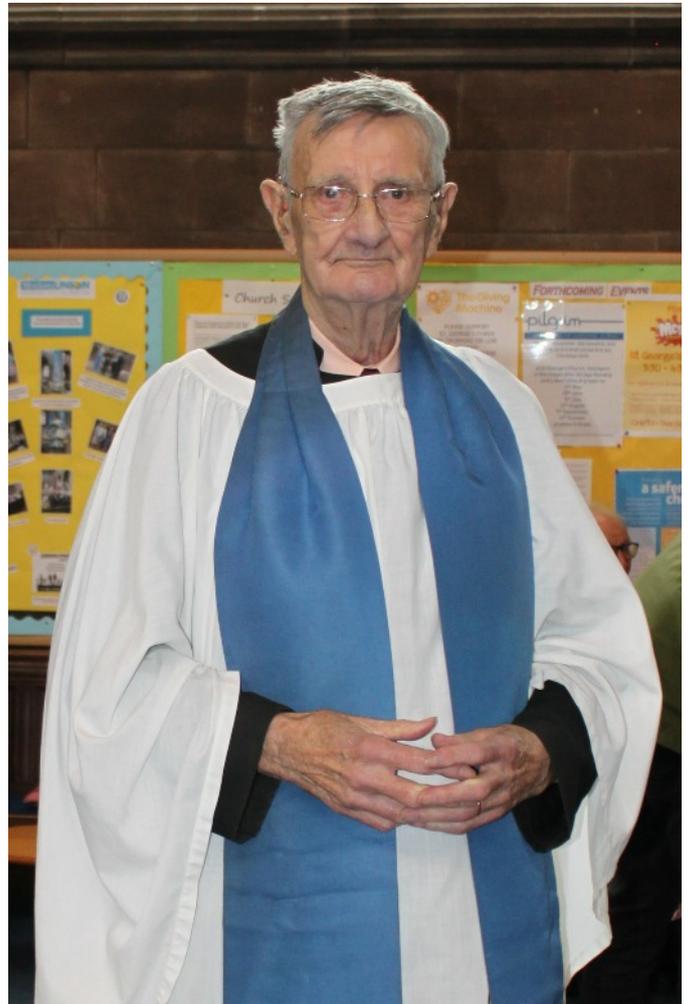
Go forth upon your journey from this world, dear child of God
Into the hands of the Father who made you
To find life in Christ, who redeemed you
To rejoice in the Spirit who renews you.
May the heavenly host sustain you
And the company of the redeemed enfold you
May peace be yours this day
And the heavenly city your home. **Amen.**

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace;
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation;
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen

Music as we leave: When I survey the wondrous cross

Rosie Stead



Photos of Michael taken in 2018 at the 60th anniversary celebration of his becoming a reader

(Kim Regan)

Jean is always up for a spin on the dancefloor

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Michael Charles Coupe: 60th anniversary as a reader

This interview with Michael Coupe was published in *Grapevine* in October 2018, on the remarkable occasion of his reaching the 60th anniversary of becoming a reader, and is reproduced here again for our readers.

IT HAS BEEN MY great honour to interview Michael Coupe, who celebrates his 60th anniversary of readership on Sunday 16th September this year. A bishop will preach and there will be tea and cake!

Being a reader with, sometimes, heavy pastoral responsibilities has kept Michael very busy over these past 60 years, but one of the things that spurs him on is people's thankfulness for the work he has done. Many times he has heard people say, "but you were there when..."

Asked how he became a Christian, Michael said that from his earliest years his Auntie Bessie had taken on the responsibility of seeing to his spiritual and cultural needs. While his mother was busy seeing to the family, his Auntie Bessie, who was a Sunday school teacher, always took him to church and to other places where he could soak up some culture.

For a number of years the family lived in Manchester and Michael worshipped in local churches there. Michael could be quite impish as a young boy. Once, when he was very young and attending The Church of the Holy Innocents in Fallowfield, during Harvest Festival he proudly brought forward the family offering of fruit in a large basket. After handing it over, but before the vicar could take it away, Michael leaned forward and took a lovely bright red apple off the top and took it back to his pew! The family was mortified. The embarrassing episode may well have prompted the family to move churches!

God's hand has been apparent throughout Michael's life, notably in encounters with well-known churchman, Canon Wilfrid Garlick. Canon Garlick was the rector at St Nicholas in Burnage, the family's next church, where Michael sang in the choir.

Michael was born in Didsbury and lived there until circumstances forced the family to move to the vicarage in Blackrod where his parents served the vicar and his wife, then to an aunt's home in Blackburn. From there they moved to Bishop's Court, Salford, where his dad served as chauffeur and odd job man at the bishop's residence. It was in 1947 at the time of the bishop's retirement that Michael's dad died overnight. Wilfrid Garlick took the trouble to travel from Sheffield to Salford to comfort Michael's mother. In all these moves the presence of the Church in one form or another was evident. Bishop Warman and his wife took Michael and his mother to Orpington in Kent where Michael's mother continued to serve as housekeeper. Michael finished his education there and started work with the Ordnance Survey in 1949. Michael and his mother returned to Stockport in 1950 where the church grapevine told of a potential vacancy for

a housekeeper with one of the wardens at St George's. National Service interrupted Michael's career from 1951 to 1953, but his return to St George's afterwards allowed him to renew his friendship with a certain young lady called Valerie. They married in 1956. In the years that followed, Valerie and the couple's two children, Elizabeth and Anthony, were very supportive of Michael's work with the church.

The constant need to move with Ordnance Survey did not suit Michael so he joined the staff at Prestwich Hospital as a stores clerk at a time when the hospital had 3,000 patients. Posts followed at the Christie Hospital, Withington Hospital and finally at Wythenshawe Hospital where he remained until he retired.

Michael became interested in becoming a reader even before he was married and it was while Canon Garlick was at St George's that Michael began his reader training.

At that time the training for readership was not as well organised as it is now, nor was the service for licensing readers. The service was held – as it is now – at Chester Cathedral, but it was simply tacked on to the end of evensong and took place after the choir had gone home!

Some of your readers may remember the reader, Harry Avery. He was treasurer of the Chester Diocesan Society of Readers. Harry wished to retire and suggested to the bishop that a certain Michael Charles Coupe might be prepared to take on this mantle of Elijah as someone who simply could not say "no" to a bishop. After a few years this post led on to Michael becoming the secretary of the Society.

Over the years, Michael has preached throughout the deanery and into Cheshire as far as Winsford. When Michael retired from Wythenshawe Hospital, Canon John Roff asked him to take over the organisation of a pastoral visiting team. His work has often involved a good deal of pastoral work.

Tellingly, Michael's favourite hymn is called "Caring." It is in a hymn book that we rarely use. The final verse is as follows:

"That ours may be the holy task; to help and bless, to heal and save; this is the happiness we ask; and this the service that we crave."

His favourite prayer is by St Ignatius of Loyola:

"Teach us good Lord, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will."

This prayer sums up Michael's commitment and devotion to his varied and extremely busy working life

beautifully. As he puts it, "When you become involved with Church you never know where it is going to take you."

As a postscript to our interview, Michael said

"Being a reader has as much to do with the world outside the parish and the church." Michael doesn't believe in coincidences and he always asks the question "Why was I there?"

While he was working at Wythenshawe Hospital he was there to support a police chief inspector after the Airtours plane caught fire at Ringway. Everyone at the hospital – the staff and the police force – had a rôle to play, as friends and relatives came in to enquire about their loved ones, only some of whom were still alive. Michael thought his role in the situation was to pray so he prayed intensely for several hours. Afterwards he said he had never felt so tired in his life.

According to Michael, anyone who considers becoming a reader needs a sense of humour and patience. One sows and another reaps. (John 4:37). We all look for instant success and it always has been so. Even dear Auntie Bessie would have wished for larger numbers in Church. A few years back Michael visited a neighbour whose husband had died, and in talking about her husband she said he had attended Sunday

School at Holy Innocents at Fallowfield. She brought out a Bible that her husband had been given as a reward for regular attendance. On looking inside the front cover, although the signature was that of the vicar, the dedication was in the handwriting of Michael's Auntie Bessie. Only God knows how fruitful her ministry had been.

St George's and St Gabriel's churches offer Michael their grateful thanks for his 60 years of faithful and loving service. Do join us for the celebration!

Kim Regan



*Michael with Elaine, at his readership 60th anniversary celebration
(Kim Regan)*

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Order of Service for the funeral of Ann Jones

25th September 2020, St George's Church at 11am

The service was conducted by Revd Dr Janine Arnott – Assistant Curate at St George's Church

Musical director – James Hibbert Cantor – Lauren Bird

Entrance music: *Nimrod* from Enigma variations (Edward Elgar)

Welcome and introduction

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ, who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father.

Grace and mercy be with you.

Welcome to St George's Church this morning and welcome to all those who are watching at home online via our live stream. We gather together today, in person and in spirit, to remember before God our sister Ann. To give thanks for her life, to honour her life, to commend her to God, to commit her body to be cremated, and to comfort one another in grief.

Prayer

Let us still our hearts and minds and pause in prayer as we begin our service.

Father God, as we come before you today to say farewell to Ann, comfort us in our mourning, give our troubled hearts the light of hope, and strengthen in us the gift of faith, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Hymn: *Be Still for the presence of the Lord* – soloist Lauren Bird

Reflections on Ann's life were given by family and friends

Ann's son, Michael, gave the first tribute

He spoke first of the death of Ann's sister, Marion, who had died a few months earlier, and the family were still coming to terms with this, which made Ann's sudden death on the 5th September all the more heartbreaking.

Everyone said what a lovely person Ann was – her friends from Guiding, Scottish Country Dancing, colleagues, family, friends. She was supportive, a good listener and had an innate sense of fun, accompanied by a twinkle in her eye.

Ann taught at Pendlebury, Avondale and gave extra tuition at home to pupils (and her sons) when they were struggling with Maths.

But one of Ann's greatest pleasures was travelling to many distant places, both with Marion and Ruth (a friend from Guides). She also took pleasure in puzzles and crosswords – there was always a crossword or conundrum and workings out on the table at home.

She was involved in Guiding for many years and also enjoyed Scottish Country Dancing – which Mike was told

she was quite good at! Ann performed many roles at St George's church but she particularly enjoyed Handbell ringing and there will be an opportunity to hear their musical tribute later.

Ann's proudest moment was being at her son, Simon's, passing out parade when he joined the RAF. But there was always relief when he returned home from overseas exercises.

In summing up Mike echoed the many words describing Ann, in the messages the family had received – Helpful, Caring, Loving, Supportive, Considerate, Inspirational and Loyal.

Ann will be sadly missed.

Tribute from Ruth, an old friend from Guides, living in Canada but her words were spoken by Jean Fone, another friend.



Ruth met Ann when they joined Guides, aged 11, and they supported each other through many sad and happy times together ever since.

They both enjoyed Geography and travel and in the late 1950's, having paid £3 each, they went on the back of an open lorry with their Guide company, to their first Guide camp in Chester. From memory, it rained every day!

When Ruth had the opportunity to work in Canada, she worried about her mother, who was in a Care Home here in England. But Ann stepped in and made sure that she visited Ruth's mother regularly for 10 years, until her death. This gave Ruth great peace of mind.

In retirement Ann, Ruth and Marion travelled extensively, hiking around the world – Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Egypt and South America and shared many amazing times.

In Guiding there is a song:

Make new friends, but keep the old
One is silver, and the other is gold

Ann was truly a Gold Friend to Ruth.

Jean Fone also added a few words of her own

Jean spoke of the holidays she and Ann enjoyed in Llandudno, walking around the Great Orme, sharing good meals and the gin and tonics on the verandah at the end of the day. They also visited the Llangollen Eisteddfods and learnt that they shared the same taste in the music of Karl Jenkins.

Jean then read the Celtic prayer:

Deep peace of the roaring wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you

Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the gentle night to you
Moon and stars pour their light on you
Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world to you
Deep peace of Christ Amen
Rest in peace, Ann.

Tribute from Hazel Jenkins, a friend from Guides and St George's church

I first met Ann in the back of a furniture lorry 60 years ago. In those days you could hire a lorry, load it with camping equipment, pile all the Guides in sitting on top of tents etc and off you went to camp. So we met at my very first Guide camp and then when her sister Marion, reopened the unit here at St George's I was quick to transfer into the unit and our lives have been a mixture of Guiding and St George's ever since.

Ann's Guiding career continued in Moore where she lived when she was first married and she ran the Guide unit there. Then when the family returned to Stockport she was secretary to a couple of committees and then Division Commissioner for Stockport South i.e. this area. After that she became secretary to the outdoor activities adviser who happened to be me and I'll blow our own trumpet here and say that we made a great team. Probably our biggest job was organising all the activities for a week in camp for a thousand girls including international visitors at the County International camp, Cosmic, held at Tatton Park in 1992. It involved sitting every evening at the computer for weeks, learning very rapidly about databases to ensure every girl had the activity she wanted at each session throughout the week. And we did it!

A Guiding activity that I wasn't involved with was the creating of the County Standard. Ann offered the attic of her house for the embroiderers to use so every week the boys would see a procession of ladies traipsing up the stairs to make what is a very lovely piece of art. Latterly I had hoped to get Ann into the Trefoil Guild, but we meet on a Thursday evening and that was Scottish Dancing night, so I was still working on that.

At St George's Ann and I helped John Horton, our previous Director of Music, to run an after school music club for pupils from our primary school. John would spend time singing with them and we would teach them handbell ringing. It was lovely to watch the children grow in confidence as their abilities improved. Which brings me to the handbells: when they were discovered in a box in the ringing room in the tower, we decided to raise £13,000 to have them restored and Sue Burt, Ann and I were very much at the fore of the fundraising, with concerts, car boot sales, recipe books etc as well as getting grants. She very much enjoyed ringing and was good at it and we all enjoyed playing in services as well as in care homes and at the Christmas Tree Festival.

Ann was a good organiser and liked things to be sorted out logically, so our music was sorted logically, and she

always made sure she knew who was ringing which bells while most of us stood there saying 'I can't remember which bells I had for this piece'.

She was involved in so much here, it's hard to make a list, she was a member of the baptism group, she would help with Messy Church and if there was tidying up or washing up to be done she was there. However perhaps for me, my mental picture will be of her standing by the south porch door, pulling it open and welcoming people in, whether it was to a service, the craft fair, the Christmas Tree Festival or a baptism.

We'll miss you Ann.

Tribute from Peter, Ann's gentleman friend from Scottish Country Dancing, read by Janine in his absence

Peter and Ann met at Scottish Country Dancing, whilst attending venues around the country.

They nurtured their friendship, although they lived 200 miles apart, by meeting at SCD events and enjoyed taking foreign holidays away together. His tribute was very personal and poignant but ended with love from himself and family and that Ann Rest in Peace, until they met again.

Poem: *Learning* (Author unknown) Read by Annabelle – Ann's son, Philip's wife

After a while you learn the subtle difference between holding a hand and chaining a soul and you learn love doesn't mean leaning and company doesn't always mean security. And you begin to learn that kisses aren't contracts and presents aren't always promises and you begin to accept your defeats with your head up and your eyes ahead with the grace of a woman, not the grief of a child. And you learn to build all your roads on today because tomorrow's ground is too uncertain for plans and futures have a way of falling down in mid-flight. After a while you learn that even sunshine burns if you get too much. So you plant your own garden and decorate your own soul instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers. And you learn that you really can endure, that you really are special and you really do have worth. So, live to learn and know yourself. In doing so, you will learn to live.

Music: Bizet – Duet from the Pearl Fishers

Reading: John 13:34 (Janine)

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

Sermon: Rev. Dr Janine Arnott

A very short Bible reading: *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another; but I'm sure you will agree, a powerful one.*

1 Corinthians describes love as this: *"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or* (continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends”.

It is rare in our broken world to see such love, to feel such love or to know such love. So, when we find it, we want to hold onto it, to feel it, to know it. It's that gentle powerful Christ-like love that everyone who knew Ann talks of... *patient, caring, a good listener, considerate, inspirational* – Christ-like qualities that shone through Ann, and that is why Ann was loved by so many. That is also why parting is so painful, and why losing Ann is so painful for all who knew her.

You don't stop loving someone when they have gone from this world, and you don't stop feeling their love. The very love that shone through Ann is so powerful that it has overcome death – Ann remains in the hearts of everyone that knew her – you, all of you here today continue to feel her love and so Ann remains with us as more than a memory, she remains deep in our hearts today and always because love never ends. **Amen**

Hymn: *The Day Thou Gavest, Lord Has Ended* (Cantor Lauren Bird)

Prayers

Loving God, who has blessed us all with the gift of this earthly life and has given to Ann her life and her gentle, strong and loving character. We thank you now for her life, for every memory of love and joy, for every good deed done by her and for every sorrow shared with us.

In death, we thank you for the rest in Christ Ann now enjoys, and for the glory we shall share together.

For those who mourn

Merciful God, we come to you in shock and grief and confusion of heart.

Help us to find peace in the knowledge of your loving mercy to all your children, and give us light to guide us out of our darkness into the assurance of your love.

We especially pray for Michael & Dara, Phillip & Annabelle, Simon & Claire, Alan, Maureen, Megan and

Libby, Barbara and Ruth and Peter; for Ann's church family, for those she knew through dancing, through guiding, and through her music, and for all those who knew her and were touched by her life. Amen

Music was part of Ann's life and in recognition of her love of handbells, the St George's handbell ringers, who Ann played with, now play 'O lord hear my prayer'

Blessing

As we go from this place, may the love of God draw you to him, the power of the Lord strengthen you, and the mercy of the Lord comfort you now and always

Exit music: *Amazing Grace*

At the Rowan Chapel

Entrance music: *Gabriels Oboe* (Ennio Morricone)

Prayers

Hymn: *Make me a channel of your peace* (Aled Jones)

The Nunc Dimittis

Poem: *Let me go* (Christina Rossetti) Read by **Simon Jones** – Ann's Son

When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me
I want no tears in a gloom filled room
Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little, but not for long
And not with your head bowed low
Remember the love that once we shared
Miss me, but let me go.
For this is a journey we all must take
And each must go alone.
It's all part of God's perfect plan
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick at heart
Go to the friends we know.
Laugh at all the things we used to do
Miss me, but let me go.

Hymn: *The Lord's my shepherd*. Brass Band arrangement

Rosie Stead

Recipe of the month: Quick, Easy and Healthy Fish Curry

This, as the title suggests, is very easy and quick to make, ideal when you are in a hurry.

1 teasp vegetable oil
2 onions, finely sliced
5cm/2in piece fresh ginger, peeled and grated
2 cloves garlic, peeled and finely chopped or grated
1 teasp ground turmeric
1 teasp ground coriander
1 tabsp medium curry paste or powder
4 tomatoes
400 ml fish stock (from a cube is fine)
200g/7oz raw shelled king prawns
300g/11oz white skinless fish such as cod, haddock, pollock, cut in 2.5cm/1in cubes

200g/7oz frozen peas

Heat the oil in a large pan over a low heat. Add onions, with a good pinch of salt, cover and cook 15 mins until softened. Stir in garlic, ginger, turmeric, coriander and curry paste/powder.

Stir in tomatoes and stock and simmer 5 mins. Add the prawns, fish and peas, then cook 3-5 mins, stirring carefully to prevent the fish breaking up. The prawns should be bright pink and the fish opaque.

Check the seasoning, then serve with rice or naan bread.

Pamela Ferguson

Socialising with the family, 20-20 style

Angela Foulkes



(see page 6 for details of our Harvest Festival service)



HARVEST FESTIVAL



WISH LIST

- COFFEE
- SUGAR
- BISCUITS
- CEREAL
- TINNED CUSTARD
- TINNED RICE PUDDING
- TINNED VEGETABLES
- TINNED POTATOES
- TINNED MEATS (SANDWICH MEATS SUCH AS HAM AND CORNED BEEF)
- UHT/LONG LIFE MILK
- CEREAL BARS
- CRISPS
- BOTTLED WATER

Due to the current Covid situation, we respectfully request that only items specified on this Wish List are donated during Harvest.

Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword

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

Poppy Appeal 2020

Look out for the Poppy Appeal again this year, but not so much via street collections. Instead, the Royal British Legion will focus on contactless donations, as a safer way forward during the pandemic.

One such method will be 'point of sale donations'. This means that when you shop at your supermarket and reach the till or online, you may be invited to round up your total to the nearest pound to help the Poppy Appeal.

A spokesman for the Royal British Legion said: "The Poppy Appeal 2020 is very much still going ahead", but that "the safety and wellbeing of our volunteers, staff and members is paramount.

This means that collectors who fall into the vulnerable category have been advised "not to take part in activity on behalf of the Poppy Appeal that would expose them to any additional risks while coronavirus is still present."

And yet the need is still huge: "Members of the Armed Forces Community are suffering significant hardship as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak and we at the Royal British Legion will do everything we possibly can to support them."

The things they say

ON THE JOURNEY to school on his first day back, after six months home schooling, Arthur, aged seven, announced that he was a bit 'nervecited'!

Rosie Stead



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