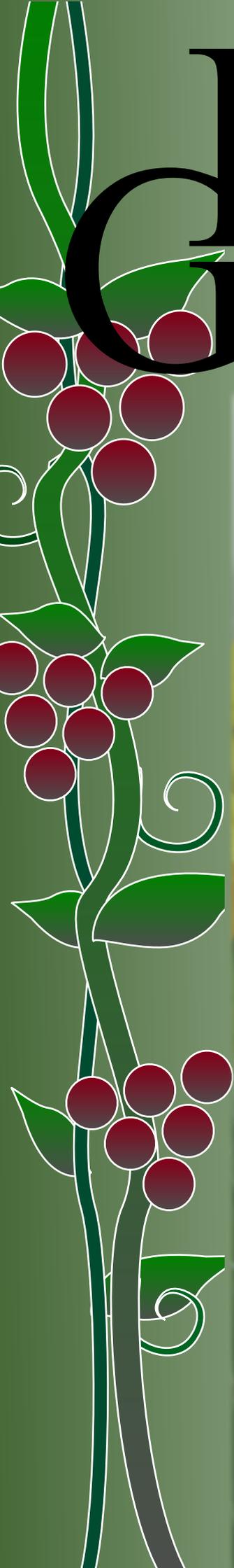


Parish Grapevine

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	Junior Choir	James Hibbert 07365 519207 Practices: Wednesday and Thursday 6pm–7.30pm in the vestry during term time. Sing for Sunday services at 10.15am and 4pm.	Bible Study Groups	<i>contact the clergy</i> Study groups and courses are arranged from time to time.
Associate minister	Rev. Dr Jenny McKay 01606 891564 <i>jenny@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</i>	Praise and Play	Lois Kelly 439 9458 For 0–4s and their carers. Meet every Tuesday in term time, 10–11 in the Parish Rooms.	Choir	James Hibbert 07365 519207 <i>actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</i> Practice: Thursdays 7.30pm–9pm in the vestry during term time. Sing for Sunday services at 10.15am and 4pm.
Readers	Peter Hall 456 9382 Rita Waters 487 3620	St Gabriel's	Festival services	Church Flowers	Jean Hayden (<i>donations</i>) 483 2367
Churchwardens	Andrew Regan 440 0408 Hazel Jenkins 483 4679	Uniformed Groups with connections to St George's	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall 456 9382	Church Gardeners	Walter Stead 430 2449 Meet on Tuesdays 9.30-12.30.
PCC Secretary	Lois Kelly 439 9458	Rainbows	Uniformed Groups with connections to St George's	Coffee Mornings	Olwen Smith 483 6548 after the 10.15am service, in church.
PCC Treasurer	Andrew Regan 440 0408 <i>treasurer@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</i>	Brownies	Trisha Brown 07403 353 175 Sue Kirkland 07854 101 918 For girls aged 4-7. Meet Fridays 6.15-7.30pm in the Parish Room.	Cursillo	Usually meet on last Wednesday of the month. 7.30pm at different venues.
Parish Office	480 2453			Handbells	Andy Clark 483 3703 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.
Magazine Editor	vacant			Linen Guild	Pat Rigley 487 1999 Maintain the church's linen.
Safeguarding co-ordinator	James Hibbert 07365 519207			Magazine Editorial Group	Meet monthly to plan future issues. magazine@stgeorgestockport.org.uk
Website	www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk			Mothers' Union	Pat Durnall 483 4837 Meet on 2nd Monday of the month in church at 2.15pm. In April, meet on first Monday.
Webmaster	Peter Hall 456 9382	4th Stockport Scout Group	Rachel Lockett 07712 302342 Lianne Warburton 07815 482603 For girls aged 7-10. Meet Thursdays 6.30-8pm in the Parish Room. To sign up to Brownies or Rainbows please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk and click on "Join us"		
St George's Primary School					
Headteacher	Deborah Grindrod 480 8657				
St George's Deputy Wardens	John Hardy 01663 764 462 Will Hesson 480 0630				
Director of Music	James Hibbert 07365 519207 <i>actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</i>	Squirrels	Sarah Johnson 07930 243 159 Meet at: Bridgehall Community Centre Siddington Avenue SK3 8NR		
Associate Director of Music	Roger Briscoe <i>brogerdom16@gmail.com</i>	Beavers			
Vergers	Lee Howarth Mary Howarth	Cubs			
Bookings for Parish Rooms	Parish Office or 480 2453 Judith Swift 483 8681	Scouts			
St Gabriel's					
Contact:	Parish Office 480 2453				
Bookings	Parish Office 480 2453				
Children's Activities		Other Groups and Activities			
St George's Children's Corner	Available for children (and parents) during services. Equipped with books, crayons and soft toys.	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.		
Sunday Clubs	Ask for Louise, Eliza or Andy at the 10:15 Sunday service. Eliza 07967 798453 Louise 483 3703	Bible Reading Fellowship Notes	Janet Neilson 483 9025 Notes are ordered on request.		

Front cover photo:

Daffodils in late March
(photo by Andy Clark)

Services in April:
see pages 6 and 23



40 Days with Labyrinths

THROUGHOUT MARCH, as part of my Lenten journey, I have been following a book called “40 Days with Labyrinths” by Fay Rowland. I always like to read a Lenten course booklet and use it

as part of the quiet and learning experience, before the fullness of Easter arrives with its promise of new life and the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Each day there is a spiritual reflection with a labyrinth to “walk”, colour or decorate. Labyrinths, no matter their form, always lead you on a journey towards a destination, through winding ways and twisting tracks, but always onwards. It is not the daily liturgy but sometimes we need to try different experiences as we grow as Christians and it is a way to “clear the head” and listen to God speaking on a more personal level. There have been a number of courses and events running in church as well, and I hope that you have found the right way for you, to deepen your Christian experience over the Lenten period.

Easter is the highpoint of the Christian calendar. However, the one difficulty is that Easter is massive and world-changing, but only if it is seen in the light of the human condition, life, suffering, and death. And then there is the tricky business of the Christian claim that Jesus is still alive and active in billions of lives today. If you were creating a global religion from scratch you wouldn’t start with all this. It can seem far too complicated.

One of my work colleagues recently asked me to explain what the Easter story meant. When I had finished, he said that he wasn’t sure if there was a God, but he certainly agreed that the story of Jesus provided everything we needed to live a good life; there was no doubt that he was a really “good guy” and you couldn’t argue with his main messages. He concluded that he would go on thinking about it and might even contemplate it further while walking a real-life labyrinth!



Labyrinth at St Fin Barre's Cathedral, Cork

This experience got me thinking about “normal life” and the Christian message and how it can be very difficult for non-believers to engage with our Christian story. We all have to choose a way to live. I suppose in my workspace there are two stories going on, as there are, no doubt, in countless other workplaces.

The first story says: *A very long time ago, there was a series of accidents. Energy and matter and molecules collided and somehow, you are here today. By accident. Your fate is random and only fleetingly important to you and a few loved ones.*

The second story says: *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. And you are here, not by accident, but because he designed you and loves you and wants to be in a relationship with you.*

The first story goes on: *The fit live, the weak die, the vocal and the strong dominate. Survival is the game. Look out for number one.*

The second story goes: *Blessed are the meek, the poor and the peacemakers. Greater love has no one than this that he lay down his life for his friends.*

The first story concludes: *You die. You decay. The end.*

But the second story doesn’t have an end. *For Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”*

In church, we celebrate that second story daily, especially over Holy Week and Easter. It is your story and mine. By sharing that wonderful Gospel message, your words may have the power to turn someone else’s life around, and to open their hearts to faith. Never forget that.

You are very welcome to come and experience our wonderful Holy Week and Easter Services with friends and families. May you be richly blessed during Easter and beyond, with opportunity to talk about your faith to others, amidst all the chocolate of course!

Jenny

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- P 23 Puzzle solutions, Regular Service Times and Look to this Day

The 3 Peak Challenge Achievement

WE ARE DELIGHTED to celebrate Andy Chilton's amazing success in completing the National 3 Peak Challenge in under 24 hours. Andy works as one of the fabulous Higher Level Teaching Assistants at St George's School and we are so proud of him and his achievement.

He describes why he embarked on such a gruelling challenge: "Recently, our friend has been diagnosed with a rare form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. He's currently receiving treatment at Christie's. Cancer affects everyone in some form or another. We decided to try and complete the National 3 Peak challenge in under 24 hours to raise money for The Christie as they help our friend through those tough times. The Peak Challenge consists of climbing Ben Nevis 4,413 feet, Scafell Pike 3,210 feet and Snowdon 3,560 feet, all in 24hrs. The time includes driving from each country as well. We completed the 3 Peak Challenge just in the nick of time."

If you want to add anything to Andy's sponsorship, please go to: [URL: https://tinyurl.com/27e9fn77](https://tinyurl.com/27e9fn77)



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Matilda Josephine Vickers' Baptism

THESE ARE PHOTOS from Matilda Josephine Vickers' baptism on 12th March. Parents Matthew and Victoria. Godparents Ashley, Constance and Annalise. There's also one with grandparents (Right hand side as you look at the picture) Paul and Tracy, Emma and Christopher on the left hand side. Family and friends commented that it was such a special day and that they felt very welcomed at St George's. A few of the guests said that this was the loveliest christening that they had ever attended.



St. George's, Stockport

Welcome to the Warm Space

Wednesdays 11am-1pm

Join us every Wednesday this winter
at St. George's Church warm space.



- Free hot drinks and biscuits
- Hot soup available
- Join in with a simple craft
- Or just have a chat and some companionship



Parish News Roundup

Holy Baptism

- 12th Mar Matilda Josephine Vickers
 26th Mar Myles Thomas Jackson Pritchard

Holy Matrimony

None last month

Funerals

- 5th Mar Jane Winifred Alison Bean
 Burial of ashes at St George's Garden of Remembrance.
 6th Mar Jemima Jackson. Service at the Cypress Chapel.

Communion Flowers were sponsored as follows:

- 5th Mar from Dorothy Walton, in loving memory of our parents.
 12th Mar from Joan and Jim Izard, for their parents.
 from Ted and Edna Etchells, in celebration of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.
 19th Mar from John and Betty Atkinson, to celebrate their wedding anniversary.
 26th Mar in memory of Olga Jones.

Parish News Roundup

Holy Week and Easter services 2023

- Palm Sunday 2nd April:
 8am Holy Communion
 10.15am Palm Sunday Communion with reading of the Passion
 4pm Palm Sunday celebration service
 Monday 3rd April
 7.30pm Taizé Communion
 Tuesday 4th April
 7pm to 9pm Easter Messy Church for adults (in the Parish Rooms)
 Wednesday 5th April
 7.30pm Tenebrae Service
 Maundy Thursday 6th April
 7.30pm Maundy Thursday communion
 Good Friday 7th April
 2pm Good Friday Reflection (Hot Cross Buns to follow)
 Easter Eve Saturday 8th April
 10am to 12noon Easter Messy Church (Parish Rooms)
 7.30pm Easter Eve Vigil and renewal of Baptism Vows (Cakes to follow)
 Easter Day Sunday 9th April
 8am Holy Communion.
 10.15am Easter Sunday Communion (Easter Egg Hunt to follow)
 4pm Easter Sunday celebration service
 9.30am Wednesday Morning Prayer and 10am Holy Communion are in the Parish rooms during April, along with Warm Spaces until 1pm
 Sunday services: 8am, 10.15am and 4pm in church

Parish News Roundup

Mothers' Union

This month we are meeting on **Monday April 3rd** as our regular second Monday of the month falls on Easter Monday. On the 3rd April we welcome Kim Regan with a multimedia presentation entitled 'God of majesty, suffering and joy'. Please feel very welcome to come along at 2.15pm in the Parish Room.

Marion would like to share the following message:

Thank you to all of you for your many good wishes, cards and presents as I left at the end of February. They were all really appreciated. Although I am now retired, I have loved working for the community at St George's and hope to continue to do so, albeit in a different way. Regards, Marion.

Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings:

Please contact the vicar:
 Telephone: 0161 456 9382
 or email:
 vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk

May 2023

Grapevine magazine dates:
 Deadline copy date: **Fri 21st April**
 Committee meeting: Tue 25th April

St George's floodlighting – sponsorship request form

(Please return to Andrew Regan, 153 Acre Lane, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, SK8 7PB).



Name Phone no

Date of evening requested £20 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

St George's Mothers' Union

WE HAVE HAD a very interesting year so far.

January saw us enjoy an afternoon tea. We decided to try to provide our own teas. Having successfully sourced the boxes in sensible quantities from Home Bargains on Castle Street, the members were asked to choose their sandwich fillings. So we were set to go. We raided Marks and Spencer's, Aldi and Sainsbury's (other supermarkets are available!) for sandwiches, scones and cakes, and back to the Parish Room where willing helpers packed the boxes and labelled them. The room had been set out by several kind elves and fairies and by the time the members and guests arrived it all looked very festive. Pat D provided us with a quiz based on flowers, which was challenging to some of us! Then tea, which was enjoyed by all and not much washing up!! Those who couldn't eat everything took it home and enjoyed it later.

February saw a complete change when we welcomed Helen Harrison, an MU member from Congleton, who takes part in a scheme involving 'Virtual Babies'. They have four 'babies' who are programmed to act as human babies and they need to be fed, changed and comforted. They are intended to give people the experience of what it is like to have the care of a baby and how dependent they are on others. The dolls are very lifelike and Helen has been taken to task by people when they see her leave 'babies' in their car seats alone on the back seat of her

car!! The dolls cost around £1000 each. It was interesting during discussions to hear how people's opinions and experiences have changed over a very short period of time and how sex education in schools has altered since most of the members had been in school.

A change again in March when Angela Foulkes from church came to speak on 'Ear Friendly'. She started by explaining by word and pictures how we all hear and how the aids have altered over the years and how people are more aware of the problems and difficulties people with impaired hearing have to overcome and how we can help each other. As we get older our hearing does suffer, and it can be very frightening to be in a situation where we do not know what is being said. It was very helpful to hear that others have the same problems and we are not alone, thank you Angela.

We have been collecting items for 'Bags of Education' These are bright red bags provided by Chester Diocese Mothers' Union into which we put items such as exercise books, pen, pencils, crayons, coloured pencils, scissors, glue, ruler, water bottles, soap and flannel. We don't realise that children in some countries have to provide all their own equipment – we are so used to having it provided for us if necessary. We were able to fill three bags and here is a picture to show members and the bags before they were sent off. Thanks to all who helped.



Bill Frith – Over 50 years in Scouting

ON THE Who's Who page in this church magazine there are many names and the jobs for which they are responsible. Over time names come and go, but some have appeared for many years – one of whom is Bill Frith, who, in 1969, started as Assistant Scout Leader to Mrs Preece, who was Akela, with 4th Stockport Scout Group at Cale Green School. Here Bill began more than 50 years' association with Scouting.

As an eight-year old, Bill joined his local Boys' Brigade at St Peter's as a Life Boy – the equivalent to a Cub. Whilst attending Avondale School as a 13-year old, St Augustine's started a Scout Group and Bill joined that for two years, until the Scout Master left and the Group was transferred to 8th Stockport, St Marks, Edgeley. He remained there until he was 16 and started work.

Sometime later, a friend mentioned that there was need for a helper at 4th Stockport Scout Group at Cale Green School. Bill applied and received his 1st warrant – permission to hold the position as Leader – and so began his involvement with the Scout movement.



Linnet Clough Scout Camp



During Canon Biddell's ministry, in the 1970s, the Group moved to St George's Parish Room, when they could no longer afford the rent at Cale Green. This is probably when Bill's name first appeared as the contact on the Who's Who page. The Group remained there for many years, until Alan Bell's time, when they moved to Trinity Methodist church on Bramhall Lane.

Pending the sale of Trinity, the Group re-located to Bridgehall Community Centre, and, from December 2022, Bill Frith's name disappeared from our Who's Who page, replaced by Sarah Johnson, Group Leader at Bridgehall – with Bill as Assistant Group Leader.

During his Scouting career, Bill has held numerous positions – Cub Leader; Scout Leader; Assistant Beaver Leader; Group Scout Leader and, since last year, he has also become Assistant Squirrel Leader, helping with the 4–6 year olds on a Saturday morning. He has also received many awards – a Bar to the Silver Acorn for 25 years' service in 1995 and a Silver Acorn in recognition of Special Distinguished Service in 1998, also a 50 years certificate in 2019. He was invited down to St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, on two occasions – following awards.

There will be many boys and girls (and Mums and Dads) who will be appreciative of the work Bill Frith has done for



over 50 years, instilling in them a spirit of adventure, teaching them basic survival skills and reminding them always to be thoughtful and caring towards others.

In the September 2022 edition of Grapevine, we reported on a big District event – the Jubilee Celebration Camp at Linnet Clough – which 600 members of the Scouting movement gathered and witnessed Bill receive his 50-year service award. Linnet Clough, in Mellor, was acquired when a Manchester Scout Group lost its camp site, due to Manchester Airport requiring the land to build its second runway. The money from the sale was used to buy Linnet Clough which is now available for use by all the Districts in the Greater Manchester area.

Bill has attended many Scout Camps, at home and abroad, and has helped out for 15 years at Linnet Clough Scout Camp on their service teams. There is to be a big celebration at Bobby's Farm Scout Activity Centre, near Chorley, over the Coronation weekend, May 6th 2023, which just happens to be Bill's 40th Wedding Anniversary. Where will he be spending it, I wonder...

Rosie Stead



Bishops' Visitation to Stockport Deanery 13th to 15th March 2023

BISHOP MARK, Bishop Sam and Bishop Julie undertook a visitation to Stockport Deanery, spending three intensive days visiting schools, church activities, and charities. They were accompanied by Melanesian brothers, Head Brother Augustine Paekeni and Elder brother Harry Reynold, from

Fanalei have relocated to the mainland. Yet now, their new communities are once again threatened by rising water levels. In 2014, floods in the capital of the Solomon Islands, Honiara, displaced 10,000 people.



I met with Bishops Mark and Sam and the Brothers the next day. The Brothers told us about a research study that they are funding that uses a citizen science approach to collect data on the effects of climate change. This involves the recruitment of clergy and lay people to measure regularly parameters such as water level at high tide, temperature and rainfall, so that there is a systematic record of short-term and longer-term changes. These monitoring activities are led by 'green apostles', often members of the clergy. By gaining an insight into how climate change is affecting the islands, it is possible to start to plan for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

We went on to discuss what we have been doing as a church to map our environmental

the Solomon Isles. This is a region of the world that is acutely affected by climate change.

On 13th March they visited St George's Primary School and met with members of the Eco Council who asked them about life in Melanesia, and the brothers told them about how climate change is affecting their lives and livelihoods. The island communities are at the mercy of rising sea levels and the so-called king tides that constantly threaten to inundate the areas in which they have settled. For example, the community of Fanalei, an island village of around 150 people, was inundated by flood waters over three nights in 2009, causing the people to flee for their lives, leaving behind their ruined houses. Since then more residents of



impacts, and Bishop Mark shared some of the experiences of churches in the diocese that have achieved the Gold Eco Church award. There are some interesting ideas around heating the person rather than the whole church that we need to explore. When they were at the school the Eco Council had highlighted air pollution as a major concern, given their proximity to the busy A6; this is one of my areas of research and teaching, and I have done some public engagement work in this area. It would be interesting to explore this further with the school as we could do some research to assess the extent of the problem and investigate measures for mitigation.

Andy Clark



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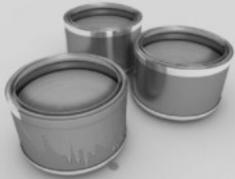
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Martin's message

THIS IS Martin with Aneurin at Euro Disney.

It's Martin's 7th birthday today and he would like to say the following:
"Merci et grâce à tout le monde, j'ai plus d'une centaine cartes postales"



'All Change'

THE LAST SET of Special Stamps bearing the late Queen's profile, was issued on March 9th 2023. This set of eight first class stamps honours 100 years of a legendary locomotive – The Flying Scotsman. Many of the images depict the Flying Scotsman on its journeys through scenic landscapes.



There is also an additional set of four stamps depicting a colourful collection of 1930s posters and advertisements, featuring the Flying Scotsman.

The first set of 1st class Special Stamps to show the silhouette of His Majesty King Charles III was issued on March 23rd 2023, and depicts some of the most popular flowers to be seen in gardens across Britain. King Charles is known to be an keen gardener so these floral stamps, the first featuring his image, mark a significant milestone in British philately.

Rosie Stead



Is That Really You?

Did you know that...

you will need to show photo ID at the local elections in May?

From Thursday, 4th May 2023, the UK Government has introduced a requirement to show photographic ID when voting in person at polling stations. In Stockport, this means you will need acceptable photo ID in order to vote in the upcoming local elections on Thursday, 4th May 2023.

Which forms of ID can you use to vote?

A wide range of ID can be used, including passports, driving licences, blue badges, disabled bus passes and more. The ID does not need to be in date but will still need to look like you.

If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID, or you're not sure whether your photo ID still looks like you, you can apply for a free **Voter Authority Certificate** by **5pm on Tuesday 25th April**.

To apply for a Voter Authority Certificate, log on to: gov.uk/register-to-vote. Scroll down to:

Apply for photo ID to vote – click
Voter Authority Certificate
Apply for photo ID to vote

You do not need ID to vote by post. Proxy voters will need to show their own ID, but won't need to show the ID of the person they are voting on behalf of.

All this information, and more, was obtained from a leaflet enclosed with the recent Council Tax bill.

Ringing for the King

THE BELLS in many church towers will be rung to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. The St George's ringers will meet on Coronation Day to ensure that our bells are rung for this very special occasion.

On the following afternoon, during our Parish celebrations, we plan to offer those interested in doing so an opportunity to visit the ringing room and (under the

necessary supervision) chime a bell. Each person who does so will, for a donation to tower funds, be provided with a commemorative certificate to record their participation in ringing for the King.

For further details contact Andrew Mayes:
andrewmayes1@outlook.com

Bishops and Melanesian brothers at the Funky Monkey



The Bishops of Chester and Stockport and the Melanesian brothers visited the Funky Monkey café after their visit to St George's School's collective act of worship on 13th March (see also page 10).

Storytime March 2023

Liam's Lair by Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall

LIAM WAS a teenager – well, almost a teenager, as he approached the countdown to his 13th birthday in 28 days' time.

He was confident and outgoing when at school. He appeared to have a number of friends who he was happy to meet outdoors. He was a member of the local swimming club, and everything seemed to be going well.

At home, Liam was a different boy. He confined himself to his bedroom for the main part, with a less than discreet sign on his door which left people in no doubt that they weren't welcome in his domain.

He didn't invite people back for tea or to watch video games or to do homework. Once he was in through the front door, he sought solace in his room and shut himself in.

His bedroom, to be charitable, was more than messy. Sweet wrappers and the remains of chocolate bars created a mosaic of crunchy colour underfoot.

He had carved out a well-worn path of pinkish carpet which allowed him to travel between bed and bathroom and back again.

Things he'd ordered online, which he felt he needed at the time, were stacked up in piles, teetering against the end of the bed, still unopened.

The six economy packs of pens, he bought, just in case they ran out, were gathering dust on the window ledge

waiting for a time when he needed 120 things to write with.

The sports socks, in a colour he hated, but at a price he liked, lay unworn, still in their packets, in case he might ever have the inclination to go out on a run.

Favourite things from childhood lay damaged in the corner of the room waiting to find their way out to the bin or to be repaired.

Cards and letters, dog-eared and discoloured. Long forgotten football players stared out from half-finished sticker books. Ornaments and trinkets he didn't really like, and probably didn't want, found space on the bookshelves along with a liberal sprinkling of dust.

He knew something needed to be done; the amount of dust in general, and cat hairs, in particular, generously donated by Fluffy, the large Maine Coon, who found refuge under his bed, was starting to affect his asthma.

And yet Liam was comforted by his clutter. The familiarity, if all that was important to him was gathered around like a wall against the world.

He liked his things around him, familiar things, comforting things which reminded him of important times.

People didn't seem to understand.

He was asked, repeatedly, to sort things out. He became oblivious to his Mum's requests, which became pleas, which became threats to stop his allowance, time on the computer or trips out.

It didn't make any difference though. He'd tried to make a start on it, in fact several times, but it all became too exhausting and depressing.

In fact, the whole thing was getting him down and the thought of throwing away, or giving away, any of his precious treasures made him feel panicky.

It had been like that since his Nan died a year or so ago. Things he used to enjoy seemed to have lost their sparkle. Everything seemed grey.



It was an effort to do anything.

Nan had been the one who was there when his Mum went to work for a few hours. She used to bake with him, tell him stories of what it had been like when she was a little girl.

She gave him things that she'd picked up from the local second-hand shops which she thought he might like and he, in turn, used to write thank you cards to her which he knew she kept in her "special place" bottom drawer in the kitchen cabinet. They were returned to him after she had passed, and he just didn't know what to do with them, so they were stuffed behind the mirror.

He found that buying things with his allowance made him feel better, for a bit of the time at least, but it seemed to have got out of hand.

His Mum was struggling herself, and Liam's bedroom situation just seemed to add to the mountain of things that she had to deal with in the house, with her job, and in her heart because she was feeling really sad and couldn't seem to shake the feeling off.

Mum's friend Steph, who was a nurse, came round for a coffee one day and, whilst Liam was resting in his bedroom, he could hear his Mum crying.

He crept downstairs, anxious as to what he might discover. Steph saw him as he got down to the hallway and called him in to the kitchen.

Mum was red-eyed and her face was blotchy. Liam wondered what had happened and tentatively approached the table.

Mum put her arms round him and gave him a huge hug. He was a bit startled as he'd been avoiding all of that as it made him feel upset, and he didn't want to cry in front of everyone.

Steph poured him an orange juice and invited him to sit down. She explained to Liam how his Mum had been trying to put on a brave face after Nan had died and how she felt that everything was piling on top of her.

Between sniffles, Mum shared something of how she had been feeling and how she was going to the GP to see if they might be able to help.

Gently, Steph asked Liam how he was feeling. He croaked out "all right, I suppose" before collapsing into full-scale snotty tears.

It took some time for both Liam and Mum to work through how they both felt after Nan's death and, bit by bit, life returned to full colour.

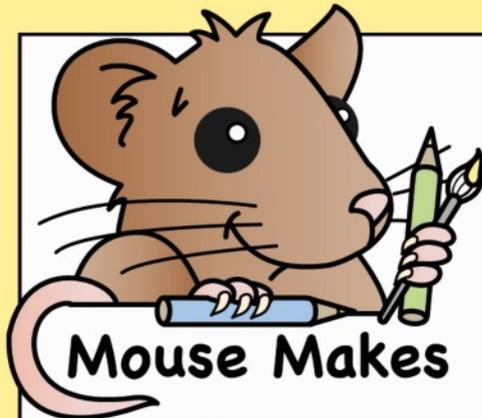
Mum felt she could manage things better and, with Mum's help and understanding, they steadily sorted out Liam's bedroom. It still felt like his place, but it eventually became somewhere where he felt confident enough to bring his friends round to visit.

Are Compostable Cups Good for the Environment?

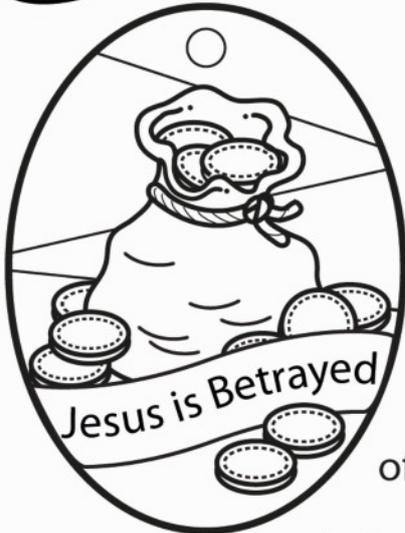
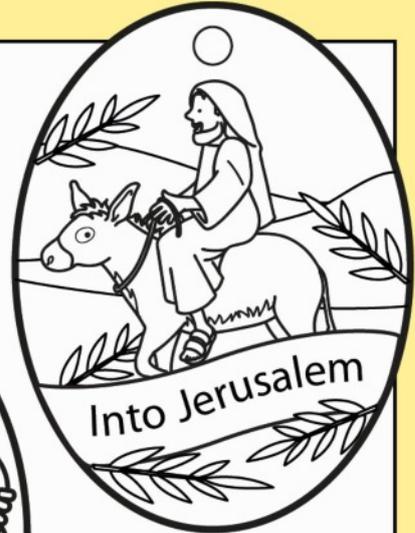
IN THE LAST few years we have become more aware of the environmental problems associated with single use plastics and the need to seek out alternatives that have a lower impact on our environment. A major problem in both the UK and across the world is the rise in take-away hot drinks, with UK citizens alone throwing away 2.5 billion single-use cups a year. This has significant impacts on the environment through the use of energy and material resources and the waste produced. In church we have moved to using compostable cups, which have the potential to reduce the impacts associated with the waste by offering the option of turning the waste into useful compost. However, the problem is that the compostable cups cannot be recycled in the green food and garden waste bin because they break down much more slowly than the other waste. This means that the compostable cups that we use in church have to be disposed of in the general waste, which mainly gets sent for incineration or landfill. We could reduce our impact by taking a reusable cup to church each week as this would limit the amount of waste produced.

Andy Clark



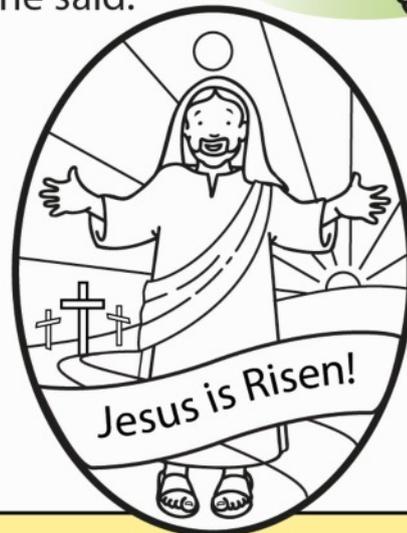
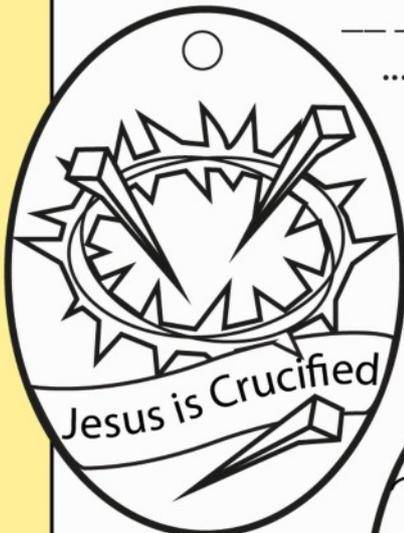
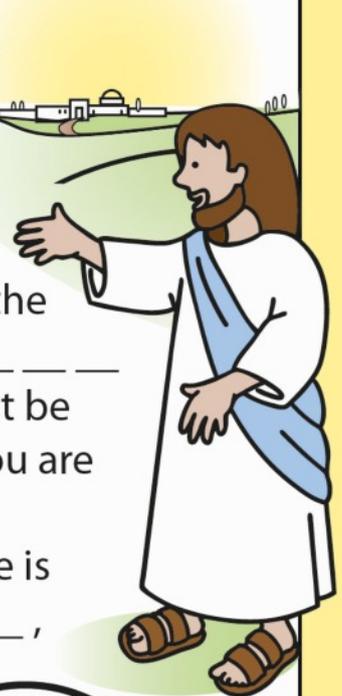


HE IS RISEN!
Read the story of
The Resurrection in
Matthew 28:1-20



An _____
of the Lord came down from
_____ and going to the
_____ rolled back the _____

... the _____ said, "Do not be
_____, for I know you are
looking for Jesus who was
_____, He is
not here; he has _____,
just as he said."



Glue this page onto card. **Cut** out the ovals then **colour** in. Punch a hole at the top and **hang** up for Easter

Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

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Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

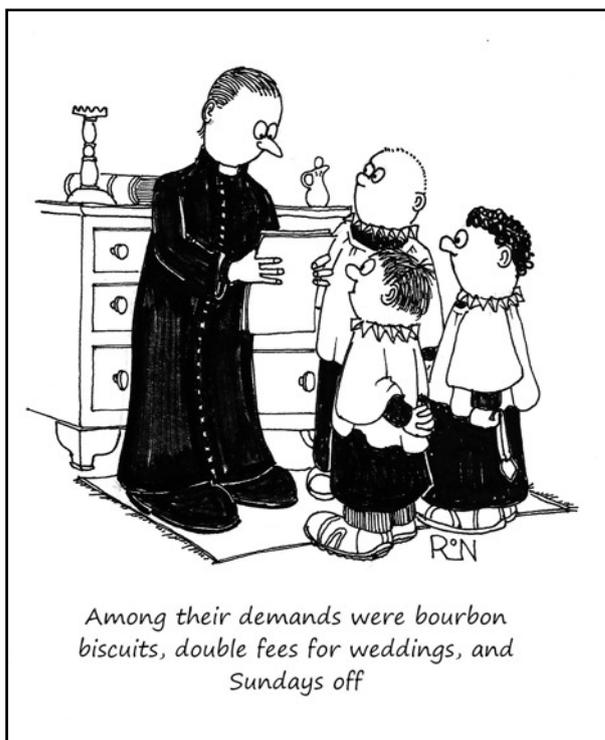
Across

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

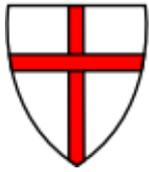
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

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



Among their demands were bourbon biscuits, double fees for weddings, and Sundays off



Music Scheme – April 2023

Sunday 2 nd April – Palm Sunday			
10:15am	Parish Communion	4:00pm	A Service of Readings & Music for Palm Sunday
Introit:	Sanctus and Benedictus – Schubert	Introit:	Ingrediente Domino – Malcolm
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening	Hymns:	128 All glory, laud, and honour 30 Lift up your heads, you mighty gates, Ride on, ride on, the time is right;
Hymns:	433 Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising, 109 It is a thing most wonderful 129 Ride on, ride on in majesty!	Anthem:	And didst thou travel light – Shephard
Anthem:	Ave verum corpus – Mozart	Anthem:	There's a wideness in God's mercy – Bevan

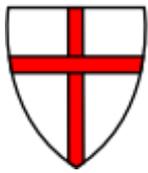
Thursday 6 th April – Maundy Thursday		
	7:30pm	Holy Communion
	Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening
	Hymns:	SP58 Prepare a room for me, 318 O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray 322 Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast,
	Anthem:	Verily, verily I say unto you – Tallis

Friday 7 th April – Good Friday		
	2:00pm	A Service of Readings & Music for Good Friday
	Hymns:	119 O sacred head, sore wounded, 123 There is a green hill far away, 112 My song is love unknown, 127 When I survey the wondrous cross
	Psalm:	22. 1-21
	Anthem:	Drop, drop, slow tears – Gibbons
	Anthem:	O Saviour of the world – Goss

Saturday 8 th April – Easter Eve		
	7:30pm	Easter Vigil Service
	Exsultet:	Plainsong
	Gloria:	Missa Stopfordiensis – Mayes
	Hymns:	SP73 This is the night of new beginnings, 136 Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen...

Sunday 9 th April – Easter Day			
10:15am	Parish Communion	4:00pm	Choral Evensong
Setting:	Mass of St Thomas – Thorne	Hymns:	157 The day of resurrection! 162 Ye choirs of new Jerusalem, 159 The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Hymns:	147 Jesus Christ is risen today, 137 Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and... SP80 See, what a morning, gloriously bright, 160 Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,	Responses:	Wilby Psalm: 114
Anthem:	This joyful Eastertide – arr. Ledger	Canticles:	Evening Service in B flat – Stanford
		Anthem:	The Easter Song of Praise – Shephard

Sunday 16 th April – The Second Sunday of Easter / Low Sunday	
10:15am	Parish Communion
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening
Hymns:	145 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! 136 Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen... In Christ alone my hope is found, 527 New songs of celebration render
Anthem:	Christ the Lord is risen again – Foster
No Evening Service	



Music Scheme – April 2023

Sunday 23 rd April – The Third Sunday of Easter	
10:15am	Parish Communion
Setting:	Mass of St Thomas – Thorne
Hymns:	140 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing 305 I come with joy, a child of God, 468 I danced in the morning 548 One more step along the world I go,
Anthem:	Draw us in the Spirit's tether – Friedell
No Evening Service	

Sunday 30 th April – The Fourth Sunday of Easter			
10:15am	Parish Communion	4:00pm	Choral Evensong
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening	Hymns:	157 The day of resurrection! 600 Thou art the way: by thee alone 20 Saviour, again to thy dear name we raise
Hymns:	600 Thou art the way: by thee alone 517 Loving Shepherd of thy sheep, SP314 The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want. 609 To God be the glory,	Responses:	Ferial Psalm: 29
Anthem:	The Lord is my shepherd – Goodall	Canticles:	Evening Service in D – Brewer
		Anthem:	This joyful Eastertide – Wood

Junior Choristers

IT WAS REALLY wonderful to see all of our Junior Choristers singing together for the 10:15am Mothering Sunday service on Sunday 19th March. During the morning service two of our choristers, Anya and Noof, were presented with their surplices thus making them full members of the choir. As can be seen here, the Junior Choir is really thriving with 14 members to date. The choristers work incredibly hard to learn music for Sunday services but it's quite clear that they're also having a great time as well!

*James Hibbert,
 Director of Music*



Garden Gnomes – April 2023

THE EARLY MESSENGERS of spring have been with us in the church gardens for some weeks – first the snowdrops, followed by the crocuses and then the daffodils, whose bright colours give our souls a lift.

Other early spring arrivals are the camellias, which, at the time of writing, are coming into flower. Their blooms are a favourite of mine, and hopefully there will be no late frost to kill them off, as so often happens. Elsewhere, the forsythia is flowering with its cheery yellow display. On a practical note, forsythia needs pruning immediately after flowering if you are to avoid being left with what the RHS plant guide calls ‘a shapeless shrub with an untidy habit’ – sounds like a teenager!

This is the time of year when our garden work is changing from tidying up the leaves, twigs and, in some cases, branches, which the high winds have spread around in recent weeks, and the constant battle with weeds and moss on the paths. We are glad to report that the crocuses and daffodils we planted earlier in the ‘125 Centenary’ bed at the east end of the church garden have done well, and we hope to have a good display of dahlias in the bed around the A6 notice board in due course.

Now we are entering into a period of the interesting work of planning what else we want to grow in the coming months. However, preparing the ground elsewhere in the gardens will involve some energetic physical activity as our compost heaps are in need of some ‘attention’ before we can put the product on the various flower beds. It is all part of making the appearance of our church grounds attractive to our

church members, visitors and the general public who pass by.

Our other regular ‘contribution to the wellbeing of society’ takes place at about 11am each Tuesday, when the Gnomes, and the church maintenance volunteers, come together for coffee (or tea) and biscuits, and generally put the world to rights for half an hour (albeit with limited effect unfortunately). We always welcome new helpers – whether knowledgeable gardeners or, like me, someone to do the less skilled, but necessary, basic tasks. It all contributes to keeping the church and its surrounds presentable and looking cared for, when members of the congregation and visitors come along.

To close – just one or two reminders of jobs to do in our home gardens in the coming days. Now is the time to give some attention to our lawns. Mowing: starting off with a high cut, and then gradually reducing the height over frequent repeated mowings. Aerate and scarify, level off bumps and hollows, and apply feed, weed and moss killer.

It’s time to complete pruning roses. Tie back climbing and rambler roses to simplify pruning later. Newly planted roses will need watering if we have problems with spells of dry weather later. Dahlias can be planted towards the end of the month. Lily bulbs should be planted soon, also carnations, pinks and sweet peas. Prepare the ground for gladioli and chrysanthemums. Those are just starters – you will no doubt have your own particular favourites.

So here’s wishing you a good growing season whatever your preference from the bountiful store of God’s natural world.
Novice Gnome

Recipe of the month: Chocolate Amaretto Roulade

This is a pudding for a special occasion, perhaps Easter Sunday, despite which, basically, it's a glorified Swiss roll!

5 large eggs
8oz/225g caster sugar
6oz/175g plain chocolate such as Bournville
½ pint/300ml double cream
2 tablespoons Amaretto di Saronno
Icing sugar to dust

Note: it's important to whisk the whites before the yolks unless you wash and dry the beaters in between. If you do not wish to use alcohol you can substitute vanilla essence for the Amaretto.

Line a 12" x 8" Swiss roll tin with baking parchment.

Separate the eggs, putting the yolks in a large mixing bowl and the whites in a smaller one. Whisk whites to snowy peaks. Meanwhile melt the chocolate together with 3 tablespoons of water in the microwave or a double boiler and stir together.

Beat the yolks, gradually adding the caster sugar until the mixture is pale and smooth. Beat the melted chocolate into the yolk/caster mix with a balloon whisk. Fold the egg whites into the chocolate mix using a metal spoon, being careful to lose as few bubbles as possible in the process. Pour into the lined baking tray and spread level.

Bake at Gas Mk 4/180C/170C fan/350F for about 20 mins until top is firm.

Leave to cool in tin then refrigerate for several hours.

Take a piece of baking paper a little bigger than the tin and sprinkle with a dusting of icing sugar. Turn the roulade out on to it and carefully peel off the lining paper from the base. Whip cream and Amaretto/vanilla until stiff and spread over the roulade. Roll up the roulade from the short side using the paper to help. It will crack a bit but don't worry.

Dust with icing sugar and carefully lift, perhaps with a spatula, on to a serving plate.

Pamela Ferguson

Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword solution:

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

Regular Services at St George's

Services in church, with congregation:

Sundays:

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.15am Parish Communion (also live streamed)
4pm Choral Evensong (last Sunday of the month, also live streamed)

Wednesdays:

9.30am Morning Prayer (also live streamed)
10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Services which are live streamed only:

Mondays to Fridays: 9.30am Morning Prayer (also in church on Wednesdays)

The church will also be open for individual private prayer in the chapel on Wednesdays and Sundays from 11am to 12 noon

Look to this Day

LOOK TO this day for it is the very life of life. In its brief course lie all the truths and realities of our existence: the glory of action; the bliss of growth; the splendour of beauty; for yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow is only a vision. But today, well-lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well, therefore, to this day.

Call to Worship read by the Chaplain at Stockport Grammar School's Founders Day



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