THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Diocese of Chester

Larish Trapevine

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

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

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Guest Editorial: Compassion and Communication

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) is big in the news at the moment, especially with the resignation of Geoffrey Hinton, known as the Godfather of AI, from his post at Google. He said that at seventy-five it was time to go, but also that he had concerns about the speed of development and the direction in which AI was going. One of our Contentious Christianity sessions was on just this subject.

I'd heard that Chat GPT-4 would write you an article on any subject. So I thought I would get it to write this editorial for me. I duly joined up, logged on and asked it to "tell me about communication and compassion" – and it did. This is what it wrote – in less than a minute.

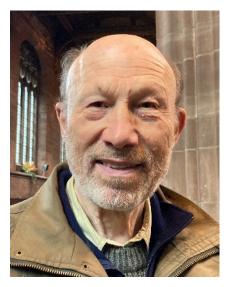
"Communication and compassion are closely related and both are essential components for healthy relationships and interactions with others.

Communication is the process of exchanging information, ideas, or feelings between individuals through verbal or non-verbal means. Effective communication involves not only the ability to express oneself clearly and accurately, but also to actively listen to others and understand their perspectives.

Compassion, on the other hand, is the ability to empathise with others and respond to their suffering with kindness and understanding. It involves recognising the emotions and feelings of others and responding with care and concern.

When communication is combined with compassion, it can lead to more meaningful and satisfying interactions.

Communicating with compassion involves being mindful of the emotions and needs of others, and responding in a way that acknowledges and addresses those needs. This can create a sense of connection and understanding, which can help to build trust and strengthen relationships."



Amazing. But, of course, AI can be used to spread all sorts of ideas and messages. To inflict harm, as well as be a force for good. How are we to respond? Could we start by spreading and practising compassion?

The principle of compassion is, of course, at the heart of the Christian tradition, "Love God and love your neighbour as yourself", as it is at the heart of all religious and spiritual traditions. As The Charter for Compassion founded by theologian and former nun Karen Armstrong says: "We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarised world... It is indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community." In fact it may be a matter of survival.

Chris Dawson

Psalm Reflections

EVERYONE IS most welcome to a series of four Sunday sessions beginning on **25th June at 12 noon**, after the 10.15am Sunday Service. These are short, approximately 30-minute, sessions, where we will meet in the side chapel and reflect and meditate on one or two verses of a psalm. Inspired by a recent Psalms Reflective Day at Foxhill, I was encouraged to revisit the Psalms, and ponder how quiet reflection on them can help us with our strongest emotions

and difficult times. Mindfulness is quite the buzz word these days but the Christian practice of achieving stillness and calm goes back to the Saints and, in particular, Saint Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556). Chris Dawson and I will be running the sessions. Do come along with a drink and enjoy a period of calm before the start of a new week!

Jenny

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Spring Baptisms



WE'VE HAD some lovely Spring baptisms recently. These are photos of Clare and Christian Lloyd with their little boy Alfie, baptised on 30th April.

We also had a lovely morning on 14th May with Harper Rose Hatfield. Here she is with her parents, Daniel and Olivia and her godparents, Sam, Chris, Claire and Alex, and Rev Jenny.

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Elaine writes:

Holidays allow the time and luxury of engagement and reflection without having to keep to a diary or time scale.

Meandering, looking with an undefined sense of purpose other than to simply explore.

Peter and I had the

opportunity to do that over a few days spent in Italy. Whatever the weather, be it scorching sun, heavy rain, violent thunder and lightning along with hailstones the size of mint imperials (we had them all), we went forth to encounter the scenery, artwork and buildings, most of which was utterly spectacular.

One of the first places we went to was Milan Cathedral. It's so easy to get complacent about yet another large ecclesiastical edifice, especially when you're in my line of work, but this was something else.

It was jaw droppingly awe inspiring. The pillars were like a forest of ornate stone, reaching to the far recesses of the carved ceiling. Even though there was the inevitable restoration work going on, it could not detract from the glorious majesty of all that was around which was spacious, welcoming and honouring to God.

The stage was set as if for the theatre, awaiting the promise of amazing things to come.

Breathtaking, amazing, glorious and irritating...

Just a minute, what was that? Irritating? Yes indeed. What appeared to be, at first glance, a number of people's arms raised up in praise to our heavenly Father

God when in reality, those arms had a camera phone or selfie stick attached. Instead of drinking in the atmosphere, they were more concerned with getting the best shot (of themselves) in the best light and at the best angle.

That in itself might be manageable but not when it carried on irrespective of the disturbance to people trying to pray or, irrespective of the fact they were blocking the view to the holy of holies.

For them there was no time for pensive reflection – instead, a moment to style the jacket, flick the hair and strike a necessary cute pose. The curse of the random snapper. Living life through the lens instead of living life has become a staple in today's society. We photograph our food before we've even tasted a morsel of it. We'd rather illegally try and film a concert or performance instead of engaging in the joy of being part of what is being offered. Even the excitement of seeing the bride walking down the aisle is diminished by the fact that a hastily-taken snap is uploaded to social media before the groom has even clapped eyes on her.

What stops us being in the moment? Or staring open mouthed at something truly amazing, and honouring that time with our attention?

It started me thinking about those times of real awe in the Bible, and there are lots, but let me select one more recent occurrence, as we remember Pentecost.

The beginning of Acts Chapter 2 reads

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. (NRSVA)

What a sound! What a sight! What an experience! Can you imagine yourself in that place even just for a moment? Try that in your time of prayer, and encounter God through his Holy Spirit in a way that will knock your socks off!

It makes me think what would have happened at that amazing scene at Pentecost if those early followers had reached for their version of a camera phone instead of being overcome and overwhelmed by the power of God's Holy Spirit?



What if they'd been so preoccupied with their need to get the best angle or best shot, that they missed the whole point of what was happening? What if they were sticking on Google translate (or the equivalent) instead of trusting God that they would understand each other's language?

Living life in full colour rather than through the lens is something to be celebrated in real time, and the things worth remembering will be remembered in our hearts and minds and voices, in our joyous descriptions, as we share our good news as well as the Good News of Jesus Christ.

With every blessing, Elaine.

Parish News Roundup

Holy Baptism

7th May Archie Baines Laura Hepburn

14th May Harper Hatfield

Holy Matrimony

None last month

Funerals

11th May Melanie Staley, service at St George's.

Communion Flowers were sponsored as follows:

- 7th May from the Roughley family, in memory of Dorothy Thompson.
- 14th May from the Grundy family, in memory of Ken and Joan Grundy.
- 21st May in fond memory of Gaynor Frances Cartwright, from her friends.
- 28th May from Mike and José Westwood, in memory of Nellie Westwood.

Mothers' Union

We are meeting on **Monday June 12th** at 2.15pm in the Parish Room when we welcome Julia Maunder from Independent Options. This organisation is based in Hazel Grove and works to empower people with a

Parish News Roundup

wide range of disabilities, to enable them to reach their potential and lead fulfilling lives. Please do come along and join us for what should be a most informative and interesting talk. Everyone is most welcome.

Future events

Archdeacon's Visitation

Wednesday 28th June 7.30pm at St George's: Archdeacon's visitation for church wardens. Sidespeople are requested to attend and anyone else who would like to come. Assistance with light refreshments needed.

Celebration of Marriage service

You are very welcome to attend our Celebration of Marriage service at St George's on **Sunday 2nd July** at 4pm. Bring some guests along with you and stay back for a hot drink and biscuits so we can share some time together.

Message Board

As mentioned in the May magazine, a large recycling box will be arriving soon and will be placed at the back of church. There will be accompanying leaflets explaining what items are recyclable and, when the weight is 10kg or more, the contents will be collected, sold on and 75% of the sale proceeds will be given to our church. Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings: Please contact the vicar: Telephone: 0161 456 9382 or email: vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk

July-August 2023 Grapevine magazine dates: Deadline copy date: Fri 16th June Committee meeting: Tue 20th June

St George's floodlighting – sponsorship request form (Please return to Andrew Regan, 153 Acre Lane, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, SK8 7PB).

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Date of evening requested		£20 or £ donation e	nclosed (Please make cheques payable to St George's Stockport PCC)
Reason for request (if appropria	ate)		
If you are a taxpayer and would Gift Aid declaration:	like the church	to reclaim the tax on your d	onation please also complete the following
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Title First name or initial	(s)	Surname	
Home address:			
Post Code	Signature		Date

Parish News Roundup

This is all part of our bid to become recognised as an Eco Church and achieve either Bronze or even Silver status. *Rosie Stead*



Afternoon Tea for the Coronation of King Charles III – Sunday 7th May



(photo by Richard Nesfield)



(photo by Louise Clark)











All photos by Andy Clark, except where indicated







Facts and Figures about the Coronation

THERE WERE a great many facts and figures quoted throughout the coverage of the Coronation, but I was interested in the history of the crowns and the designs on the Queen Consort's dress, so thought I'd share them with our readers.

The St Edward's Crown and the Imperial State Crown are two invaluable components of the United Kingdom's Crown Jewels. The St Edward's Crown, the oldest and most sacred of the Crown Jewels, was crafted for King Edward the Confessor in the 11th century. Since then it has been used to crown every English monarch. The Imperial State Crown, on the other hand, was crafted for King George VI's Coronation in 1937.

King Charles III switched from the St Edward's Crown into the lighter Imperial State Crown before he processed out of Westminster Abbey at the end of the Coronation service. As the most important crown in the collection, it is set with 2,868 diamonds; 17 sapphires; 11 emeralds; 269 pearls and four rubies. It is said to be worth between £3 billion and £5 billion.

For past coronations, the frame of the St Edward's Crown was fitted with rented jewels, but at George Vth's Coronation in 1911 it was permanently set with rubies, sapphires and semiprecious stones including amethysts, garnets, topazes and tourmalines. It is worth more than £45 million.

It is extremely heavy, 4.9lb, so is worn only briefly, being replaced with the Imperial State Crown after the ceremony. Edward VII had intended to wear the St Edward's Crown in 1902, but he was still recovering from an operation for appendicitis on Coronation Day, so opted to wear the lighter crown.

Queen Camilla was crowned with the Queen Mary's Crown. It was the first time in almost three centuries that an existing crown was used at a Coronation of a Consort, instead of a new crown being commissioned. Camilla is said to have made the decision to wear Queen Mary's Crown rather than a new one in the interests of 'sustainability and efficiency'. This is taking 'Recycling – Reusing' to a new level. It is laden with 2800 diamonds set into its platinum frame. The crown also features large diamonds, including one given to Queen Victoria in 1856 by the Sultan of Turkey.

The Queen consort made a resplendent entrance to the ceremony at Westminster Abbey, in a couture gown. It appeared there was more to the custom gown than met the eye. Among the stunning gold and silver embellishments, featuring delicate garlands of abstract wild flowers from fields and hedgerows, and the four emblems of the United Kingdom – shamrock, daffodil, thistle and rose – were the names of her children and grandchildren, subtly embroidered near the bottom of her skirt. There were also two gold terrier pups, thought to represent Beth and Bluebell, Charles and Camilla's rescue dogs from Battersea Dogs' and Cats' home.

Reuse – Recycle. You could argue that the same St Edward's Crown has been reused at each crowning of English monarchs since the 11th century; the Imperial State Crown since 1937 and the Queen Mary's Crown was also a reused item at this coronation, a drop in the ocean of the unbelievable cost of this event.

Looking back at coronations over the last 200 years, the costs vary greatly and all have been adjusted for inflation and in today's money:

George IV in 1821 cost £20.9M – This coronation was a magnificent and expensive affair, representing his flamboyant lifestyle.

William IV in 1831 cost £3.6M – this coronation had a budget of £30,000 as William had an inbred dislike of ceremonial and so did away with a whole litany of symbolic acts, going back to the Middle Ages.

> Victoria in 1838 cost £6.2M – This coronation was budgeted at £70,000 to achieve a compromise between the two previous extremes.

Edward VII in 1902 cost £19.1M

 The date set for this coronation was 26th June 1902, but, three days before, a telegram marked "OFFICIAL" was

dispatched around the Empire, with the news that the Coronation was postponed as the King was undergoing an operation for appendicitis. On 26th June itself, a 'solemn service of intercession' was held at St Paul's Cathedral, which was attended by many foreign dignitaries who were in London for the Coronation. The Coronation was held eventually on 9th August 1902.

George V in 1911 cost £17.4M

George VI in 1937 cost £24.8M – the most expensive coronation of the last 300 years.

Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 cost £20.5M

Charles III in 2023 - While Buckingham Palace has not yet announced an official figure for the cost of the Coronation, it has been speculated and widely reported that it will hit between £50 and £100 million. The significantly higher price tag is partly due to the added costs of security. Sadly, a sign of the times.

Sources: Wikipedia, The Sunday Times, The Independent, The National News, Westminster Abbey

Garden Gnomes

I AM SURE we all enjoyed the King's Coronation last month. It was an uplifting day. The UK does organise such pageants brilliantly. The King is known to be very interested in gardening. I was lucky enough a few years ago to book on a tour of Highgrove House gardens in Gloucestershire, the King's country residence. He has 11 gardeners and has an interest in rare wild flowers. The garden has a four-acre meadow with over 100 plant species, many endangered. It is well worth a visit, though this has to be booked well in advance. fact, it spreads easily, and having a very long tap root makes it hard to remove. With climate change we have milder winters generally and so bees are active until much later in the year, and need later-flowering plants to provide nectar. Ivy produces copious yellow-green flowers and is a vital resource for a number of insects in the autumn, and again we have ivy in the church garden. In June foxgloves (digitalis) are a rich source of nectar for bees. Most of us are familiar with watching bees climb up into the flowers of the foxglove, disappearing from sight.

June is a very busy time for gardeners. Summer bedding can be planted both in pots and borders with little risk of frost. Do not forget to water regularly to promote good root growth and healthy plants. The new stems of climbing and rambler roses need to be tied in horizontally which will encourage fresh flowers. If you have clumps of pinks or carnations they do tend to go woody over time. It is a good idea to take cuttings from non-flowering shoots which should root easily. Put a number of cuttings round the edge of a plant pot filled with peat-free compost and in a few weeks select the strongest. Now is also the time to lift and store tulip bulbs after flowering.



Bearded Iris by Louise Clark

If you have a compost bin June is a good time to empty it, mix the contents and then return to the bin. This will allow oxygen into the contents and will aid decomposition.

Bees are very important insects as far as the garden is concerned and vital for the agriculture of this country. There are 25 species of bumble bee and 250 species of solitary bee. One of the bee's favourite plants in summer is borage. We have a lot of that in the church garden. In

The St George's Gnomes are gardening outside but there is an increasing world of indoor plants. Supermarkets now sell thousands of moth orchids which are bought in full flower, and I suspect may be thrown away after the flowers die. However, with a little care it is not difficult to nurture these plants and be rewarded with new growth and flower spikes. When the flowers are dying, if the flower spike is still green, cut it back to a node just below the lowest flowering point. It should start to regenerate and flower again within a year. Cut any brown stems down to the base. Unless the roots look too congested the plant will not need to be repotted. A lot of the roots are aerial. Do not cut off these roots if they are silver or green as they are an important source of sustenance for the plant. You will need to feed them with specialist orchid feed.

Read the label carefully for the feeding regime.

Work is at last drawing to an end on the site of the former vicarage. All the lorries on the north avenue and the churned mud made gardening beyond that area very

problematic, but hopefully when the work is finished we will be able to reclaim that area. It will be quite a lot of work and, as there are only a few of us, we would welcome any new recruits on a Tuesday morning.

Peter B

Covenant prayer from the Methodist community

I am no longer my own but yours.

Your will, not mine, be done in all things,

Wherever you may place me, in all that I do and in all that I may endure;

When there is work for me and when there is none;

When I am troubled and when I am at peace.

Your will be done

When I am valued and when I am disregarded;

When I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;

When I have all things, and when I have nothing

- I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you as and where you choose.
- Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. May it be so for ever.
- Let this covenant now made on earth, be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.

St George's C of E Primary School

WE HAVE BEEN busy this term working hard with the whole school community to develop a deeper understanding of our school vision and how it is expressed through the life of our school. Part of our vision is "Bold in action" but what does this mean in the life of our school?

Last year, after several collective worships which had conservation and caring for our planet as their theme, the children requested that we set up an Eco council. The council started to research climate change and realised to their shock the dramatic effects that climate change is having on Melanesia. Rising sea levels are causing great damage and hardship to these beautiful islands. Armed with their research, the children together designed a PowerPoint and wrote a collective worship to explain to the rest of the school the problems Melanesia is facing.





Imagine our excitement when we were told that we were lucky enough to be hosting a visit from two Brothers from Melanesia, Bishop Sam and Bishop Mark. The Eco council talked to their classes and came up with a list of questions, prayers and songs to present to the Brothers. On 27th February we finally got to meet them: it was a lovely occasion, the Brothers were so generous with their answers and time. We learnt first-hand about their life and what it is like to be a Christian in Melanesia. We found out how they and Bishop Sam and Bishop Mark had become Christians. What a wonderful morning.

Eco council came away inspired and are busily conducting energy audits and trying to raise awareness of how we can be "Bold in action" and how we can deepen our understanding of our vision and purpose.

Janet Langton

Charity Coffee Morning JOAN AND JIM IZARD are hosting a coffee morning on Saturday the 1st of July at their home, 5 Ashfield Road in Davenport, SK3 8UD, from 10 or to 10 or t

home, 5 Ashfield Road in Davenport, SK3 8UD, from 10am to 12 noon. The objective of this is to raise funds for the local charity, St Ann's Hospice.

Team Trekkers have all been affected by cancer, losing someone very close to their hearts. They are embarking on the national Three Peaks Challenge: Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon over three days from the 25th to the 27th of June and looking to raise as much as they can for this worthy charity.

Joan and Jim's two sons, Mark and Andy, grandson Samuel and granddaughter Aimee are undertaking this challenge in memory of Mark's godson, Adam, who sadly lost his battle with cancer some two years ago.

There is no admission charge. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided at no cost. There will be a tombola, raffle, cake and gift stalls. All

donations for St Ann's Hospice would be greatly appreciated.





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Recipe of the month: Pork and Pepper Stir-fry

This recipe can also be made with pork steak. It is important to prepare all the ingredients before starting to cook. It is good served with rice or, alternatively, with some pre-cooked noodles added at the end and mixed in.

350g/12oz pork tenderloin 1 bunch (6-8) spring onions 2.5cm/1 inch fresh ginger 1 yellow pepper 1 orange pepper 175g/6oz fresh bean sprouts 30ml/2 tablespoons soy sauce 100ml/4 fl oz vegetable stock 15ml/1 tablespoon cornflour 15ml/1tablespoon stem ginger syrup or clear honey 30ml/2 tablespoons grapeseed oil 50g/2oz cashew nuts

Cut the pork into very fine slivers across the grain of the meat. Trim spring onions, then slice into 2.5cm/1 inch

pieces. Peel and grate the ginger. Halve and de-seed both peppers, then cut lengthwise into thin slivers. Rinse and dry bean sprouts.

For the glaze, measure the soy sauce, stock, cornflour and ginger syrup or runny honey into a small bowl and stir until smooth.

Heat the oil in a wok or large frying pan and add the nuts. Cook, stirring constantly, until golden brown, being careful they do not burn. Remove from the pan with a slotted spoon. Add spring onion and ginger to the pan and stir-fry for 30 seconds. Add the pork slivers and stir-fry for 2-3 minutes. Stir in peppers and beansprouts and stir-fry for 2 minutes.

Stir the glaze, add to the pan, and stir until the sauce is bubbling and the meat and vegetables are glazed. Add the nuts, stir, and serve straight from the pan. Serves 4.

Jean is always up for a spin on the dancefloor

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Frances Farrar

FOLLOWING THE sad news of Frances' death earlier this year, it was with a sense of joy and anticipation that we were able to gather together to celebrate her life on Saturday 22nd April at her beloved St Gabriel's. The place was packed. More chairs had to be brought out and it was a delight to share in the reminiscences over food and fellowship.

The running order was put up on the hymn boards by Mark, one of Frances' sons, so I knew when it was my slot. Already people had come up, some with notes, some without, to give their take on who Frances was and is for them.

There was a lot of laughter among the poignancy.

Rita and I robed, secure in the knowledge that it was what Frances would have wanted.

My bit of the service gave people opportunity to stop, think and pray.

We sang "All things bright and beautiful", one of her favourites.

I felt that God had laid on my heart the passage from Romans 12 which, for me, summed up so much about Frances. Rita kindly read it for us (see p. 23 for the text).

Frances was not one who would have liked a fuss, but I hope she would have been pleased at the turnout. She was someone who had done so much for the Adswood community over the years, standing on behalf of the voiceless, a faithful minister who visited those who were unwell, even if they had moved out of the area, a passionate worker who got stuck in, an encourager, a powerful advocate and a servant who cared for those around her and watched your back – a good friend to many, including me.

I first met her on my "informal" interview which took me round the parish to meet eight people. Frances and Shirley were waiting at St Gabriel's, ready with a cup of tea and soggy biscuits.

I took to her straight away. She was rude and blunt, sharing her thoughts about various aspects of the parish, and I knew that she and I would get on.

When I eventually got the job after another "formal" interview with eight people, she made it her business to look after me and my family, dropping in with a pack of biscuits and the puzzle page of the newspaper.

She made me laugh, endlessly and occasionally at appropriate



moments. She told you the truth whether you wanted to hear it or not and was unapologetically "no nonsense", and I loved her for all of that.

There were times when I wondered for my job.

When it was the 80th anniversary of St Gabriel's, we had a big do and the place was heaving. We had displays and food and photographs and we had invited a guest of honour – the Bishop of Chester. I have to confess that Frances was not best pleased about that as she'd wanted Libby Lane, the Bishop of Stockport, to come. She nicknamed her Liberty Bodice which was added to her list of several nicknames: Blackadder, Ding Dong Bell and Mrs

> Infirmary, named as such because she spent most of her time in the casualty department with her sons and always met Marion on reception.

So, the Bishop of Chester was to come instead. No nickname this time, thankfully, only Frances' strong opinion that he had bandy legs and couldn't stop a pig in a ginnel. "Please don't say that". Well, she mostly behaved herself. No one would move when the Bishop came to celebrate communion, so we made do with a café church arrangement. At the end, Frances indicated that the Bishop should come over and sign the service register. Then she offered him some marmalade that we were selling for charity. He wanted to offer a donation, which was kind,



but she pressed upon him to take it home. "Don't be tight", she said, "your wife might like it." As he tried to escape, she then thrust a bunch of teasels into his arms. "Give these to Liberty Bodice. She likes those". So, suitably bundled, the Bishop left.

She had no interest in people's perception of authority. She knew the great and the good but was not impressed or overwhelmed by any of them.

In more recent times, we went for a trip to Church House to meet the archdeacon. We were sitting on the ground floor area drinking tea. The archdeacon said, "would you like to come upstairs with me?" Frances looked him straight in the eye and said, "It's been a long time since anyone's invited me upstairs." His face was bright red, and we were struggling as we laughed out loud.

When we did go upstairs to the main offices, it was like meeting royalty, for them, not Frances. She shook everyone's hand, saying, "All right chuck". On admiring the archdeacon's office, she announced that it was like being in heaven. I wasn't so sure that the staff thought that when they went in every day.



She was a brilliant networker and was a significant part of our Churches Together in Adswood group. Frances had a great generosity of heart and sense of welcome. I remember one particular Palm Sunday when we usually gathered in the front garden area of St Ambrose's church as part of the service. The chairs were set out and as each person came through the church gates from the main road, they were encouraged to be seated. Frances was very active in this and got people to move up so no one had to climb over a chair. I recall one lady who was standing at the gate. Frances encouraged her to be seated but the lady declined. "It's all right chuck," said Frances, "I'll get them to move up". Kindly, the lady said it was fine; she was all right where she was. Undeterred, Frances invited her to come in a third time, and with a panicked expression, the lady said, "Honestly, I'm just standing here, waiting for the bus!".

People were important to Frances. She fought for them and was a powerful advocate for the community.



Andrew Graystone, who used to live in the community, tells a story of when people needed to get their rubbish to the tip but didn't have the transport to do it. They managed to acquire a flatbed lorry and people loaded their fridges, old bikes, and cookers, which had previously been littering their gardens. When they got to the tip (Recycling plant), the official closed the barrier and said that there was no commercial waste. Despite Andrew insisting that it was domestic waste, the official was having none of it. Undeterred, the ladies, including Frances, stepped down from the cab and stood in front of the barrier, arms crossed, saying nothing, although I imagine their faces said it all. Eventually the official raised the barrier and they deposited everything from the lorry. The next time, and the time after that, there were more council officials who eventually stood like a guard of honour waving them through. They were victorious in their endeavours and cleaned up the waste from Adswood.



Frances was one of my very favourite people and it was such a huge privilege to work alongside her. She taught me so much and she will always have a special place in my heart and in my memories.

Elaine

Trip of a Lifetime – Part 2

...AND SO to Australia!

Following a 3am start and a chaotically busy Christchurch Airport we landed at an even more chaotically busy, early-morning Melbourne airport.

Having made our way to our hotel we felt rather overwhelmed, and unsure as to how to plan our only free full day there. However, with the aid of a street map we decided to go to the Queen Victoria market – the largest open-air market in the Southern Hemisphere.

We followed this by a free tram ride to the waterfront and enjoyed a relaxing cruise along the Yarra River. A trip up 88 floors of the Skydeck enabled us to see the whole of Melbourne, especially the Cricket Ground and the Rod Laver and Margaret Court Centre which had recently hosted the Australian Open Tennis Championships. We found Melbourne incredibly busy and somewhat grubby in parts. I kept saying, 'Don't they know it's Sunday?' Think of Central Manchester on the Saturday before Christmas and that was a good likeness to our first day in Australia.

We had booked two trips for our following two days, so in retrospect, we didn't really give Melbourne a chance, and we know we missed seeing a lot of the interesting sights.

Our Great Ocean Road trip began early, with a lengthy drive through early Monday morning rush-hour traffic. Having passed through Torquay, our coach stopped in Anglesey for 'morning tea', which was not the nice little cafe we had envisaged but a DIY job on a large rock in the middle of a roadside grass verge!! The driver produced flasks of hot water, tea bags, a tub of coffee and paper cups and told us to help ourselves! The biscuits were nothing to write home about either!!

The Great Ocean Road passes by world-class surfing beaches, through pockets of rainforest and under towering limestone cliffs. At the Arch there is a Memorial to those men who returned from the Great War with no



jobs and literally carved out the road from the rocks.

We saw stunning beaches and the Twelve Apostles – stacks very like Bedruthan Steps in Cornwall. There are only seven of these stacks to be clearly seen and no-one seems to know why they are so-called. I showed our driver pictures of our Cornish coastline which, though smaller (and maybe not always as sunny), is equally spectacular. He seemed most surprised that Britain had coastal scenery to match Australia's. We saw some amazing rock formations on the Shipwreck Coast, the largest known as the Razorback. Another highlight of the day was the scallop pie we had for lunch at Apollo Bay.



Our second trip from Melbourne was to Phillip Island where we had the privilege of seeing hundreds of Little (or Fairy) penguins come out of the sea at sunset and make their way up the beach and through the undergrowth to where their young were waiting, each with their unique voice, to guide their parents back with their food. We were asked to be very quiet and not to take photographs as the flash would disturb the penguins. The sky was crystal clear – I have never seen so many stars. It was a truly magical experience.



Our last memory of Melbourne was being charged £60 for our (just) overweight suitcases. The lady at check-in suggested we took our cases to a quiet spot and took things from one case and put them into the other, so we only had one overweight case. We declined the offer and paid up! However we did have very heavy hand luggage at every other check-in!

A short flight brought us to Canberra where my friend of 70 years met us. We spent four days in Canberra, where Lesley and her partner, John, proved to be excellent tour guides. Canberra is a relatively new city where the buildings are modern with very wide streets and pavements and many open spaces. We visited Australian Parliament House, built in 1988. The entrance is dominated by a beautiful marble staircase and lovely, highly-polished wooden floors, which are sanded and repolished twice a year. The Australian National Botanical Gardens, where Lesley and John both work as volunteers, showcase Australian floral diversity. A highlight was definitely our trip to Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve where we were lucky enough to be in the Eucalypt Forest at feeding time for the koalas. Part of a breeding programme, the three koalas were a delight to see. We enjoyed the wide open spaces and natural parklands of Canberra, which being such a very modern city, was very different from anything we are used to here at home.



Lesley joined Sue and myself as we took the three-hour coach journey to Sydney. It gave us a chance to see more of the country, as all our other journeys were by air. Sydney was very hot and busy but we found it very easy to get around. We took a trip up yet another tower, the Sydney Tower Eye, from where we got our first glimpse of



Sydney Harbour and its iconic bridge. It's a beautiful city – so much water! The ferries bustle all around the many bays and harbours and we became very adept at jumping on and off them. There is also an excellent tram system, again very easy to use. Lesley had booked us a tour of the Opera House, and we thoroughly enjoyed a really interesting and informative hour. Outside, it was only when we got up close that we saw that the seemingly solid expanse of white is actually tiles – 1,056,000 self-



cleaning cream-coloured Swedish tiles to be exact. Every tile is checked once a year for possible damage. With drinks at the outside bar we could look across the harbour and watch people walking over the massive arch of the bridge. Definitely not for the fainthearted (Hazel Jenkins is braver than me!) We just crossed by the walkway running alongside the road. We took the ferry to Manley where we enjoyed a couple of hours on the beautiful beach. We also found an amazing ice cream parlour -Anita's Gelato. Never have I seen such a huge display of ice creams or tasted anything quite so delicious! At Darling Harbour I decided to try kangaroo meat. It is a very lean meat and served rare, which I wasn't too sure about, but it turned out to be delicious. On our last day in Sydney we visited the beautiful St Mary's Cathedral, the largest in Australia.

(to be continued)

Kate Stephenson



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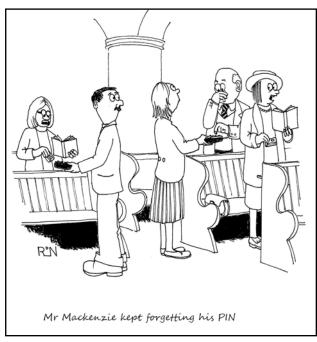
Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

3 7	6		2	6 9	4 1		
7	6		2		1		
-			1	0			
				2			
9						4	1
		3	9			2	
	7	9	4		2	3	
	5	7					
						8	6
	9	7	3 79	3 9 7 9 4	3 9 7 9	3 9 7 9 4 2 5 7	3 9 2 7 9 4 2 3 5 7 4 4 4 4

(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 23)



Crossword 8 10 11 13 12 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

Across

- 1 See 23 Across
- 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)
- 14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)
- 15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)
- 17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)
- 20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)
- 21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)
- 22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)
- 23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down

- 1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)
- 2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)
- 4 'The one I kiss is the man; him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)
- 5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)
- 6 St Columba's burial place (4)
- 7 Swirling current of water (4)
- 10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)
- 12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)
- 13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)
- 16 'There is still — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet'(2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)
- 18 David Livingstone was one (4)
- 19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

Colin the Contrary Corgi. Coronation Story, May 2023

COLIN HAD moved house. It was all right really but he missed his former owner, who had sadly died.

The new owners did their best to make him welcome. They gave him a nice new bed with a special cushion in purple velvet with a crown on it picked out in gold.

They gave him a nice shiny collar which he wore for special occasions.

They gave him a new squeaky chew toy in the shape of a throne which he chewed at when he was feeling nervous.

All told, he led a busy life being stroked, being fed and being asleep.

On the occasions when the new owners wanted to take him out for a walk, he responded with enthusiasm, even making the effort to run away when let off the lead, just

so that he could be reassured that they missed him – which they seemed to do by the shouts and whistles and the frantic looks on their faces.

Once he knew they were concerned, Colin would trot back, as fast as his very little legs would let him, and he allowed them to make a fuss and offer him a treat for being a "good boy".

He would then settle down in his new bed for a welldeserved rest, unless a spot of lunch was in the offing.

All in all, it wasn't a bad life, not quite as exciting as when he lived with his former owner in

the Big House. She had kept a ready supply of dog biscuits in her handbag which she distributed when she felt the occasion demanded it. Colin thought he'd have to train his new owners to be a bit more organised.

Yet Colin missed the family at the Big House with all the people and the steady round of visitors with different voices and different languages.

He missed the routine of sitting with his former owner along with the other dogs in her special private study when she attended to her important pieces of correspondence. She patted each of them on the head with affection. No one was left out.

Colin missed being able to trot off down long corridors, to secret places, not open to the public, trying to nose his way into the kitchens, the staterooms and, if not discovered, the Royal bedroom.

Yes, he missed all of that, and his new owners recognised that something wasn't quite right with Colin.

He lost his appetite, even declining his special biscuits. He couldn't be bothered to roll over for his tummy rub and he even couldn't muster the enthusiasm to drool over the carpets.

The new owners were worried and called the vet who said that Colin may well be depressed and suggested a visit to his old home to catch up with the familiar sounds, sights and smells which made Colin feel top dog.

All was arranged. He would stay for a few days with the housekeeping staff. Colin had his best blingy collar on, as he always loved shiny things, and his coat was brushed until his fur shone. His bed was placed, with its purple cushion, into the base of a travelling cage so he could look out of the car window as he drove into the Big House.

People, in general, were pleased to see him. The ones who weren't had remembered that he liked to chew at

the antique furniture if not spotted quickly enough so they were pleased to see, in his travelling bag, a chew toy in the same shape as the antique throne he liked to nibble on.

Colin was let out of his travel cage and skittered off down the polished floors of the long corridors, making a brisk tapping noise with his claws.

It was busy. There were lots of people around rushing to and fro.

Something was happening. Colin could sense that. Barely anyone was free to stop and bend down and give him a

tickle under his chin.

The Big House people were getting ready for something, something important. Colin sniffed the air – food.

He took a left and approached the familiar kitchen door where he had stood and howled for so many years, trying to get attention in the hope that someone might throw him a scrap or two to eat.

There were noises behind the door, but no one came out, despite Colin's loud barking.

Colin trotted off again, this time to seek out the throne room. His former owner didn't seem to mind much if he sat under the big chair but, by the time he arrived, people were busy dusting, and knowing that Colin was a bit of a chewer of lovely things, he was quickly ushered out.

This wasn't how it was meant to be, thought Colin, sinking further into depression and sadness. No one had time to make a fuss – well a fuss of him at least.

He took his chew toy, went outside and squeaked.



It started to rain. "Could it get any worse?" thought Colin as he took shelter in a carriage, snuggled under one of the seats, found a blanket and fell fast asleep.

He woke, sometime later, unsure where he was but, wherever he was, he was moving.

Colin started to feel anxious and chewed on his rubber throne.

"Just a minute", said a voice. "Can one hear squeaking?"

"Yes, one can," answered the other.

"I said to Jamieson, to be more liberal with that oil around the joints. It's an old vehicle one knows."

Any further conversation was drowned out by a sudden burst of cheering. Even Colin stopped chewing the squeaky rubber throne for a moment to listen.

Carefully, trying not to disturb the other occupants of the carriage, Colin stood on his short but sturdy legs to look out of the back window.

There were lots and lots of people waving and cheering. He smiled inasmuch as a small corgi can smile, in appreciation that they had all turned out to see him.

He basked in the glory as he thought he heard them shout,

"God save Co-lin. God save Col-in" God save Col-in".

His blingy collar shone in the sunlight and, as he moved his head to grin at his loyal subjects, he noticed something much, much shinier than his collar.

In a small compartment, in the side of the carriage door, he saw the shiniest blingiest thing he had ever seen in his life.

It looked to have Colin's name on it, in his mind at least.

Right before his very eyes and within reach of his very paws was a crown, a spare crown just waiting to be worn.

Manoeuvring it with a combination of his paws, nose and teeth, he managed to get the crown on his head, albeit at a rakish angle and looked out of the back window once more.

"Doesn't one think that the crowd are getting a bit excitable?" said a voice.

"Yes, one does", answered the other." One can hardly hear one speak".

Soon enough, the carriage stopped, and the door opened to let the occupants leave.

There was a burst of noise.

"God save Co-lin. God save Col-in" God save Col-in".

And with the reassurance that people had made a big fuss of him at last, Colin settled down for a well-deserved nap.

us with memorable moments of her demonstrations and

All the time she was talking she continued to make her

chutney. Ours included beetroot, apple, orange and onion

Flaine

Mother's Union – Chuckle with Chutney

tips for our cooking.

WE DIDN'T know what to expect when a member recommended the speaker, but we were in for a treat.

Melanie Latham arrived very early for the meeting on Monday and proceeded to unload her large car, a procedure she had done many times before, and made

many trips from the car to the Parish room. She put a protective cover on the two tables she had asked for and then unpacked her boxes, bringing out delight after delight, along with cooking utensils and a very neat ceramic hotplate. She also took all her washing up home!!



along with cider vinegar and spices. We were soon able to smell the delicious aroma and all sat fascinated by her tales and ability to work and talk! We heard about her life and the incidents that she has encountered. All of her produce is made by her company, Holly Cottage Preserves. Now she has a large kitchen dedicated to

her produce so that she can produce allergy-free products.

Finally we were able to purchase her preserves, jams, lemon curd, relishes and chutney. We came away with our spoils having spent a very happy afternoon and helped her support the Stroke Association as she donates 50p from each purchase to the charity.

During her funny and explanatory talk we learnt that at many venues she visited there are not always people available to help and so she had worked out a very efficient system. Melanie gives these talks many times a week and all over the North West and beyond, to gatherings that can number several hundred!! She regaled Parish of St. George, Stockport with St. Gabriel, Adswood



Shining as a beacon for Christ



Music Scheme – June 2023

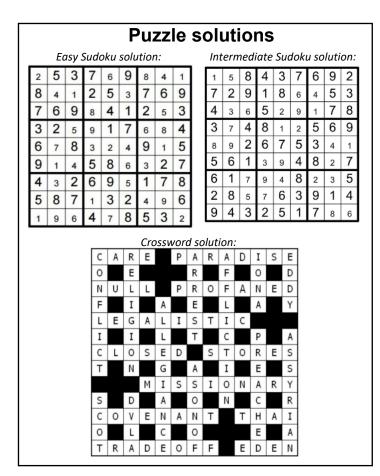
Sunday 4 th June – Trinity Sunday							
10:15am	Parish Communion	4:00pm	Choral Evensong (Lower Voices)				
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne	Hymns:	SP101 Affirm anew the three-fold name				
Hymns:	202 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,		203 l bind unto myself today				
	SP162 Lord, you give the great commission:		13 Before the ending of the day,				
	413 Eternal Father, strong to save,	Responses:	Plainsong	Psalm:	93 [Anon]		
	377 Angel-voices ever singing	Canticles:	Second Fauxbourdon Service – Moore				
Anthem:	Hymn to the Trinity – Tchaikovsky	Anthem:	Christ be with me – Rawsthorne				

Sunday	Sunday 11 th June – Barnabas the apostle						
10:15am	Parish Communion						
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening						
Hymns:	The 'Son of Consolation'						
	182 Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost,	No Evening Service					
	442 God is Love: let heav'n adore him;						
	227 Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!						
Anthem:	Cantate Domino – Pitoni						

Sunday	Sunday 18 th June – The Second Sunday after Trinity						
10:15am	Parish Communion						
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne						
Hymns:	490 Jesus shall reign, where'er the sun						
	514 Lord, thy Church on earth is seeking	No Evening Service					
	To him we come – Jesus Christ our Lord,						
	437 Go forth and tell! O Church of God, awake						
Anthem:	Do not be afraid – Stopford						

Sunday 25 th June – The Third Sunday after Trinity						
10:15am	Parish Communion	4:00pm	Choral Evensong			
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening	Hymns:	416 Father, hear the prayer we offer,			
Hymns:	423 Fight the good fight with all thy might;		391 Blest are the pure in heart,			
	356 Judge eternal, throned in splendour,		22 The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,			
	O God beyond all praising,	Responses:	Smith	Psalm:	46 [From Luther]	
	578 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,	Canticles:	Evening Service in E – Murrill			
Anthem:	O most merciful – Wood	Anthem:	Upon your heart –	Daley		

Wednesday 28 th June		
	7:30pm	Archdeacon's Visitation Service
	See Order o	f Service for details



Answers on a Postcard

WE STAYED at a hotel for our last night in Italy before we came back. This was in the bathroom along with the bath, toilet, shower, sink and bidet. It's a hard plastic and it has a lid.

I thought they might have thoughtfully placed a font in there in case of emergency baptisms. Peter claimed it was a wine cooler but hard to believe it was kept in a bathroom.

Any ideas welcome.

Elaine



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						

londays 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

Reading used at the Celebration of the Life of Frances Farrar

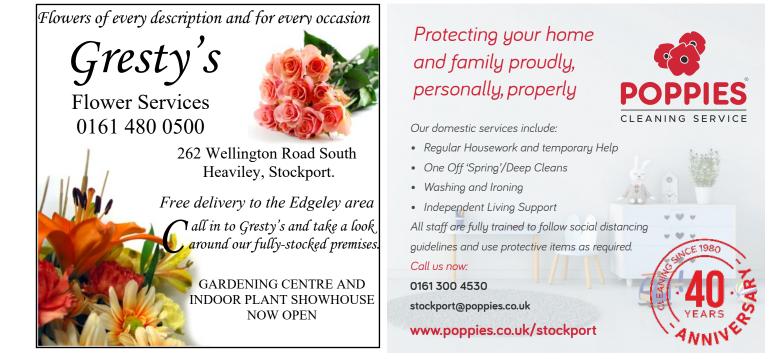
Romans 12, 1-18 (NRSVA)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.



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