

December
January

2013
2014



80p

*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

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester



Dear Readers,

HO-HO-HO, and all that! I hope you approve of the seasonal embellishment to our front cover – probably inspired by my recollection of the snow-laden front covers of the Beano and Dandy colourful comics of my boyhood days. I have Liz, (graphic designer at Internet) to thank for transferring my suggestions into reality.

Once again, we also feature an original design by one of the pupils at our excellent church school and, thanks to the generosity of my colleagues on the design judging panel who have acted as sponsors, we also nominated two runners-up who can be seen with the winner on page 10, and whose designs are shown on the back cover. Appropriately-graded book tokens all round!

I'm sure you will agree that the main recent event has been the institution and induction of our new incumbent, Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall MTh, at the evening service on 12th November. The spectacle and music were inspiring and we must be grateful to those responsible for the event's organisation and to those who carried out the more mundane, yet equally essential, duties and tasks such as organising the car parking, serving the refreshments, and so on. Others remained unseen, yet were vital to the undoubted success of the evening. And what a pleasure it was to actually meet Elaine in person. I look forward to her increasing involvement in our affairs as the weeks and months go by.

I am given to understand that we could be in for yet another record-breaking number of Christmas trees at this year's Festival. Sadly, it will be the February issue of Grapevine before we can report on it. Let's hope the visitors roll in to do justice to the event as they have in previous years. My granddaughter-in-law plans to bring her six-months-old son, so that will be one-and-a-half extra.

I'm not enjoying the prospects of Christmas shopping. Having walked through M and S the other day and finding it somewhat confusing and all too much to 'take in', I'm seriously thinking about gift tokens for the young couples in my family. They can have them

from wherever they wish. I will, of course, have something small as a surprise 'extra' for each of them to unwrap on the day. Internet shopping has really taken off and I have to confess having used this method myself on a few past occasions, but only when I've not been first able to find what I want locally: it's so convenient and very efficient.

Which readily brings me to the loose 'flyer' which you should find in this magazine. Please don't discard it before reading it carefully in order to understand how you can help the Organ Restoration Appeal with hardly any effort on your part and at no expense whatever. Keep it by your computer for handy reference next time you place an order 'on-line'. Thank you.

I can't say I've been inundated with floods of replies to my plea for a volunteer to act as Assistant (to the) Editor. In fact, not a one! There must be someone out there with a lively mind, basic computer skills, some spare sitting-down time and a love of the written word. We would take matters gently at first, I promise.

It looks as though we stand an improved chance of bringing in women bishops in the foreseeable future. As you read this, Synod members will have recently met in a three-day meeting with the subject high on their agenda. If voted through, it will be sent to individual dioceses for approval before returning to the Synod for a final decision. According to my Sunday Telegraph, Archbishop Welby is quoted as saying that the agreement between the two sides was "a cause of considerable hope".

My thanks to all who are so vital in helping to producing this magazine – the committee and regular contributors, Angela for proofreading, Kevin the printer and Liz at Internet, and last, but not least, Andrew Regan for his skills in producing the finished article ready for printing.

It only remains for me to offer the very best wishes of the Grapevine Team to you all for Christmas and the New Year. May it be a peaceful one, and don't forget to call in on that elderly neighbour and be sure to take a spot (or drop) of Christmas cheer with you.

God Bless. Mark Lane. Editor

Women's Day Retreat

Honouring a previously-made commitment, our new vicar, Elaine, is running a women's day retreat on Monday 16th December at Foxhill Conference Centre (Frodsham) from 9.30 to 2.30pm. The cost is £15 which includes lunch. The theme is "water". Please indicate to me if you would like to attend.

Please note that men need not feel left out. Some dates can be booked in for them if they will indicate their interest to me.

Elaine

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*Front cover design
by Samantha Lees*



Our new vicar Elaine writes:

When our daughters were small one of our favourite books was "Five minutes peace" by Jill Murphy. Mrs Large, a Mummy elephant, wanted to get a bit of peace and quiet away from her boisterous children but they followed her everywhere as she tried to escape.

Five minutes peace can be such a luxury, can't it? We seem to make ourselves so busy that we don't have time just to stop and think and really breathe. William Henry Davies posed a question which is meaningful for us all in his poem which starts, "What is life, if full of care, we have no time to stand and stare."

We get caught up in the tide of planning and doing and don't always take the opportunity to consolidate, evaluate or reflect. We light the blue touch paper and we're off at a hundred miles an hour without looking around us or applauding what we have achieved. Christmas, in its commercial sense, doesn't help. The shops start to fill with

Christmas "essential" paraphernalia from September. We are urged to buy so we can have a "perfect" Christmas and many strive to achieve just that but fall somewhat short on the way.

Even when we get to the 25th December, there are preparations for New Year's celebrations and then on and on to Easter. I went to see my parents in October and noticed that my mother, thinking she had picked up tea cakes, had inadvertently purchased hot cross buns! That must be some kind of record as Good Friday was a good six months in the future.

We strive to achieve and forget to rest. We fill our days and have no time to stand and stare. In Hebrews 4:9-11 it says: *So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.*

In my induction service, Bishop Peter spoke about peace, a word used by Jesus on so many occasions. This is the kind of *peace which the world cannot give* (John 14:27); so however hard we strive we won't find peace in distractions but in the deep heart and love of Christ. We are close enough to Christmas and to the New Year and perhaps this would be as good a time as any to seek out those five minutes peace with Jesus; to rest in His presence and to offer ourselves anew in His service.

May you experience the peace of the Christ-Child this Christmas and be richly blessed in the year ahead as you wait on the Lord.

With every blessing

Elaine

On the Feast of Stephen

EVERYONE KNOWS that it was on the feast of Stephen that 'good king Wenceslas looked out'. After all, it's in a Christmas carol - but why? There's nothing about Christmas in it: a splendid young page who rustled up some flesh, wine and logs, an old man out in the snow (deep and crisp and even) and a kindly monarch. But *Christmas*?

The clue is in 'the feast of Stephen', which falls on 26th December, or 'Boxing Day', as we know it. That, too, has nothing to do with Christmas, beyond the fact that in the past people put a contribution in tradesmen's boxes as a kind of Christmas present for their services during the year.

The Stephen whose feast day falls on the day after Christmas was the first Christian martyr. (You can read his story in the book of Acts). He was a member of the church in Jerusalem in its very early days, and found himself involved with six others in administering the allocation of food to those in need. The apostles, who were the leaders of the church, felt that it wasn't appropriate for them to abandon preaching and 'serve tables', so they selected these seven to do the job for them. Stephen, however, quickly revealed hidden gifts as an eloquent spokesman for the Christian cause.

The Temple authorities, who had already had trouble with the apostles, were soon alerted to this new and hitherto unknown evangelist. They decided to make an example of him, thus firing a warning shot, as it were, across the bows of the apostles themselves. So they arrested Stephen and accused him of speaking against the two central elements of their religion - the 'holy place' (the Temple) and 'the customs Moses handed down to us' (the Law). It's always dangerous to criticise a monument or a custom!

Given the right to defend himself, Stephen instead launched into an eloquent and at times biting account of Jewish history, culminating in the accusation that they had committed the worst possible sin by killing the Messiah. Inflamed by his words, his hearers abandoned any pretence of legal impartiality, rushing towards him and dragging him out of the city to a place where they began to stone him to death. Stephen, the rank and file Christian, died under a hail of rocks for claiming that Mary's Son was the promised Messiah.

That, I suspect, is the reason why the first martyr is honoured on the day after we celebrate the birth of the Saviour. It's a bit like the myrrh in the gifts of the Wise Men - a reminder, as we celebrate, that the bitter shadow of a cross is never far away from this story.

David Winter

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

Vicar of St. George's	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall 480 2453	Bible Study Group	meets in church in Lent on Wednesdays 11.15am. Contact the clergy	Mothers' Union	meet in the Parish Room, 2nd Monday of the month, 7.30pm Christine Berry 01625 874546
Curate	Vacant				
Assistant Priests	Rev. Glenys Sellors 483 0359 Rev. Sandra Woodhead 01663 765708	Brownie Guides	for ages 7-10 years: meet in the Parish Room, Thursday evenings. 6.30 - 8pm. Rachel Lockett 775 2755, Evonne Lomas 292 8216 or 07956 674241	Open Door	in church every Wednesday from 7 - 7.45pm for anyone who would like company or a chat Michael Coupe 612 0222
Parish Office	480 2453			Pastoral Visiting Team	meets every month and visits the sick and housebound across the parish Michael Coupe 612 0222
Magazine	Mark Lane 439 2282	Chancel Guild	meets on 2nd Tuesday in the month from 9.30 - 12 noon, and cares for the Chancel Edna Tootell 483 5753	Praise & Play	meet every Monday 9 to 11am in church. Story time at 10am. For 0-4's and their carers Glenys Sellors 483 0359
St. George's					
Pastoral Worker	Audrey Manzano 494 7054	Choir	sing for services at 10.15am and 6.30pm, practise in the vestry on Thursday evening John Horton 339 5031	Press Officer	Mark Lane 439 2282
Reader Emeritus	Michael Coupe 612 0222	Church Cleaners	meet on first Tuesday from 9.30am to 12noon Dorothy Walton 483 3088	Rainbow Guides	for ages 5-7: meet in the Junior Hall, Fridays 6.15 to 7.30pm Trisha Brown 07403 353 175 Susan Kirkland 0785 4101918
Director of Music	John Horton 339 5031	Church Flowers	Isobel Garlick 440 9272 Marjorie Lees 483 3676	Scouts	for ages 10½ -14. Meet in Trinity Methodist on Wednesday evenings from 7-9pm Bill Frith 439 3232
Church wardens	Steven Kelly 439 9458 Judith Swift 483 8681	Church Gardeners	meet on Tuesdays from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm	Singing Group	sings at All-Age Service about once a month Everyone welcome to join Debbie Heaton 483 4643
Deputy Church Wardens	John Hayden 483 2367 Andrew Regan 440 0408	Cub Scouts	for ages 8-10½: meet in Trinity Methodist Fridays 7.15 - 8.45pm. Bill Frith 439 3232	Sunday Clubs	meet during the Family Eucharist at 10.15am Sue Burt: 483 6446, Debbie Heaton: 483 4643
Treasurer	Stephen Jones 439 6690	Coffee Mornings	in the Parish Room from 10.30am on Wednesdays Dorothy Thompson 474 7058	Sunday Creche	The Creche is in the Lady Chapel
Secretary	Hazel Jenkins 483 4679	Fellowship of Marriage & Women's Fellowship	meet on 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from 2pm in the Parish Room Edna Tootell 483 5753	Family Eucharist	The Children's Corner is at the back of church
Bookings for Parish Rooms	Parish Office (above) or Andrew Garlick 440 9272	Guardians of St. George	keep the church open during the week	Website	submissions, updates and corrections Andrew Regan 440 0408 andrew@andrewregan.org.uk www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk
St. George's Primary School Head teacher	For ages 5-11 years Mark Quinn 480 8657	Guides	for ages 10-14: meet Thursdays in the Parish Rooms 7.30-9pm Jane Brocklehurst 07801 843810 Heather Worth 477 2388	St. Gabriel's	
Verger	Ian Staley 456 3093	Guild of St. Raphael	meets once a month to pray for the sick Olga Jones 439 6690	Churchwardens	Frances Farrar Shirley Bailey c/o 456 8749
Deputy Verger	Nigel Collison 477 3715	Linen Guild	maintains the church linen Tril Sutherland 480 5397	Secretary	John Sutcliffe 286 2301
St. George's Play Group	meets in the Meeting Room Monday - Friday, 9 - 11.30am and 12.30 - 3pm for ages 3 years and upwards Joanne Shannon 07591541389	Magazine Editorial Group	meets monthly to plan the subsequent issue Mark Lane 439 2282	Treasurer	Pat Margetts 483 0270
Regular Church Groups and Activities					
Beaver Scouts	for ages 6-7: meet in Trinity Methodist Fridays 6-7pm. Bill Frith 439 3232	Medical Missions Committee	raises funds to help support the Church Mission Society Christine Berry 01625 874546 Kathleen Heawood 01663 762402	Bookings	Shirley Bailey 456 8749
Bell ringers	meet in the Tower on Sundays at 9.45am and Mondays from 7.45pm. Anne Mayes 485 6477			Regular Groups and Activities	
Bible Reading Fellowship	Notes are ordered on request Ian Staley 456 3093			Praise and Play	
				meet every Friday 9.30-11am in church. Story time 10am. For 0-4's and their carers Marie Flint 483 2321	

CHRISTMAS at ST GEORGE'S

Sunday 22nd December

8am Holy Communion (Prayer Book)

10.15am Parish Communion

4pm **FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

followed by mulled wine & mince pies

Christmas Eve

6pm **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

for all children and families

Collection for The Children's Society

11.30pm **THE MIDNIGHT COMMUNION**

The First Communion of Christmas

Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion (Prayer Book)

10.15am **FAMILY COMMUNION**

Sunday 29th December, 2013

8am Holy Communion (Prayer Book)

10.15am Parish Communion

CHRISTMAS at ST GABRIEL'S ADSWOOD

Sunday 22nd December

9.30am Carol Service

Christmas Day

This year, the St Gabriel's congregation will be joining
St George's at 10.15 for Christmas Day Communion

Sunday 29th December 2013

9.30am Holy Communion

Parish News Roundup

From the Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into the church family:

3rd Nov: Isabelle Day, Adrienne Hardistry, Robert Day, Samuel Raines, Charlie Fisher, Lee Fisher, Lorna McCrevey.

Holy Matrimony

9th Nov: The Wedding of Andrew Murch & Michelle Manso.

Funerals in Church

15th Nov: The Funeral of Margaret Garner

22nd Nov: The Funeral of Ann Dundon

Main Altar/Lady Chapel Flowers were

by:

3rd Nov: High Altar Flowers
Geoff Oldham "In memory of Loved ones"

Lady Chapel Flowers
Wendy Simpson "In memory of Cyril Hindley"

10th Nov: High Altar Flowers
Jean Lupton "In memory of Arnold Lupton"

17th Nov: High Altar Flowers
The Choir

24th Nov: High Altar Flowers
The Christmas Tree Festival

Floodlighting was sponsored by:

8th Nov: Patricia Wilke "In loving memory of Cyril and Kitty Hindley on behalf of Patricia, Mark, Daniel and Helen"

15th Nov: Mrs D Earnshaw "In remembrance of son Martin Peter on his birthday"

Diary for December and January

CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

see separate panel on page 5

1st Dec. Advent Carol Service at St George's, 'From Darkness to Light', 6.30pm

7th Dec. St Gabriel's Christmas Fair, 10.30am – 1.30pm
Carols and Brass by Candlelight – St George's (Poynton) Singers 7pm

8th Dec. Toy Service at St George's, 10.15am

Parish News Roundup

Freemasons' Carol Service, 3pm
14th Dec. Christmas Music and Carols by Candlelight – The Maia Singers, 7.30pm
16th Dec. St George's Music Club nativity play in church, 4pm

2014

11th Jan. Café Concert, 10am – 12 noon, with organ, instrumentalists, sale of books and CDs.

FREE ENTRY

22nd Jan. The PCC meets at 7.30pm

St. Gabriel's News:

Many thanks to Father Philip Meadows for conducting our Remembrance Sunday service, and to Elinor Chicken for her piano playing, on Sunday, 10th November.

Representatives from St Gabriel's were delighted to attend the induction service of the Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall MTh to the Parish of St George, Heaviley with St Gabriel, Adswood at St George's church on the evening of Tuesday, 12th November. A **heartly WELCOME to you and your family.** And what a service! Our grateful thanks to so many people who worked very hard to ensure the event went to plan smoothly.

The 'Little Flock' were delighted to then welcome Elaine and her family to Evening Prayer at St. Gabriel's on Sunday, 17th November. We are grateful to Director of Music John Horton for attending and playing the piano, also to the nine members of St George's choir who led the singing. A congregation of 26 came along to this very special occasion.

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 7th December: St Gabriel's Christmas Fair. Do drop in to buy your Christmas presents and to meet up with friends.

Tuesday 10th December: Churches Together Carol Service at Davenport Methodist Church, 2pm. We expect children from three schools to be joining us.

Saturday 14th December: Afternoon Tea event at Davenport Methodist

Parish News Roundup

Church from 2-4pm. Sandwiches, cakes, mince pies, tea and coffee will be available at a cost of £4 per person.

In conclusion, the "Little Flock" at St Gabriel's would like to wish everyone **A Merry Christmas and All the Best for 2014.**

St George's New Year prayer:

New Year's Resolution

The effectiveness of the power of prayer cannot be denied. There are many identified examples within our own community.

Let us harness that power in a practical way by setting our alarms to remind us to say the prayer below, wherever we are every day at 9pm throughout the New Year and beyond.

"Make me a messenger of Your peace, O Lord.

Teach me to forgive myself for my shortcomings

as I seek to become non-judgmental in my consideration of others.

Help me not to take things personally but to communicate impeccably in thought and word and deed.

For as I become the best I can be, Your peace will extend to all those I meet every day."

Phoebe MacLeod

Vera Fallows

July 30th 1923 – September 27th 2013

Jean Hayden, Rosanne Alcraft and the family would like to thank you for your expressions of sympathy and support following Vera's recent death. We appreciate the many kind letters and cards of condolence sent to us following our bereavement

It was comforting to have so many of Vera's friends and family with us at the Funeral service, and afterwards at the Alma Lodge, to celebrate her life.

Many thanks for the generous donations (to St. Ann's Hospice and Macmillan Nurses) sent in memory of a wonderful lady who touched so many lives with her love and sense of fun

The Maia Singers

Christmas Music and Carols

by Candlelight

with carols for all

Saturday 14th December 2013

at 7.30pm

**St. George's Church
Buxton Road, Stockport**

A magical start to the festive season

Tickets £10

Concessions

Students/children £2

with mince pies, fruit juice/wine.

Tickets available at the door on the
night

from choir members
or the Choir Administrator

0161 430 3899

February 2014 Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Friday 17th Jan.**

Committee meeting: **Tuesday 21st Jan.**

St George with St Gabriel, Stockport



To show that
Jesus is alive in
our community

Looking ahead with our Growth Action Plan 2012/13

St George's Organ Restoration Fund

'Thank you' to our first 10 givers signed up to

The Giving Machine

Will you join them and help us get to 50 givers?

Make your internet purchases

via

The Giving Machine

Earn funds for the appeal at no cost to yourself

Tell family and friends

(See the flyer in this edition of Grapevine)

Do make a note of the following forthcoming event in your new diary:

Saturday 15th February at 7.30. Recital by Jane English,
soprano.

Jane English, the daughter of our much revered former organist Michael English, now lives and works in Bristol, where she has an extensive teaching practice, and is involved in Bristol Voices, part of Bristol Cathedral's choral outreach programme. Jane's singing career spans oratorio and solo recitals, ensemble work, liturgical and theatre music. She hopes to include musical memories of St George's in her recital.

A further fundraising event, planned for late March, is a Sponsored Hymn Singing Weekend – watch this space!

Mothers' Union

Monday Dec 9th: Advent meeting at Chris Berry's home:
40 Anglesey Drive, Poynton with Bring and Buy stall. 7.30pm

Fellowship of Marriage and Womens' Fellowship

12th December: Townswomen's Guild Choir'

9th January: Christmas lunch.

23rd January: Olympic Games-maker Pauline Barton.

St George's floodlighting – sponsorship request form (return to Stephen Jones. 2, Nevill Road, Bramhall, Stockport. SK7 3ET)



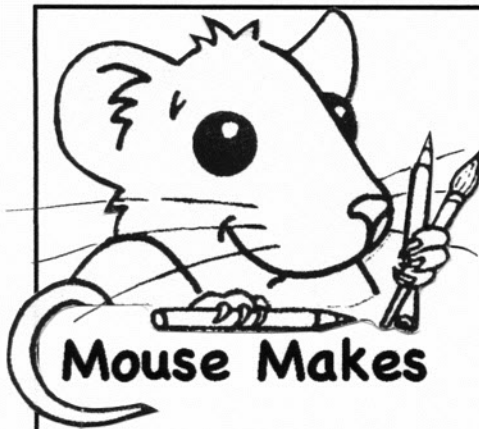
Name Phone No
Date of evening requested £10/£..... donation enclosed (Please make cheques payable to St George's Church)
Reason for request (if appropriate)

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 wish Gift Aid to apply to the enclosed donation and I confirm I will pay in this tax year an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the amount that all charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs to which I give will reclaim for this year (25p for each £1 given). I understand that other taxes such as Council Tax and VAT do not qualify.

Full Name Address

Post Code Signature Date



- Make this crib box to hang from the Christmas tree.

- Glue onto thin card then carefully cut around the outside. Fold back the sides along the dotted lines.

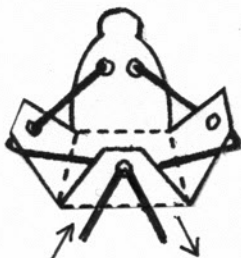


A SAVIOUR HAS BEEN BORN!
 "Good news! - **wonderful, joyous**
 news for **all** people.
 A Saviour has been born.
 He is **Christ the Lord.**"

"Glory
 to God
 in the
 heavenly
 heights,
Peace
 to all
 men and
 women
 on earth
 who please
 him."

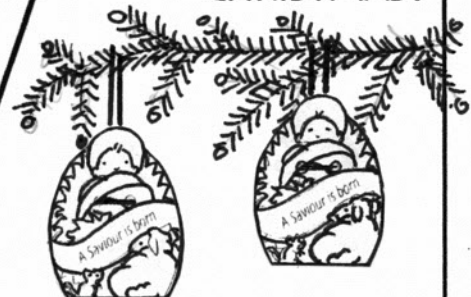
Read about the
 birth of Jesus
 in Luke
 chapters 1 and 2

- Punch out the ⊗ holes then cut 30cm of thin ribbon and thread through the holes.



- Pull together and knot to form a box. Hide small sweets inside.

HAPPY
 CHRISTMAS!



- Photocopy this page onto card to make lots of crib boxes.

The Institution and Induction of the new Vicar to the Parish of St George, Stockport with St Gabriel, Adswood

The Reverend Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall MTh

THE EVENING of Tuesday, 12th November, 2013, was a very special occasion in the life of St George's and St Gabriel's, as The Reverend Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall was to be installed as our new vicar. The proceedings were conducted by the Bishop of Chester, the Rt Revd Dr. Peter Forster, together with the Archdeacon of Macclesfield, the Venerable Ian Bishop, and the Rural Dean of Stockport, the Revd Canon Diane V. Cookson.

The first hymn, 'Be Thou my Vision', was sung with enthusiasm by the large congregation, which included our own members, visiting clergy and readers and members from Elaine's parish. During this hymn the procession, comprising the Cross Bearer, the Choir, visiting Readers and Clergy, Patron, Incumbent designate, Rural Dean, Archdeacon, Churchwardens and Bishop, processed up the South aisle and down the centre aisle to the front, where, after the greeting, Elaine was presented to the Bishop by Walter Stead, one of the Patrons of St George's.

Following the presentation there was a Scripture reading, read by Peter Hall, Elaine's husband, who we are pleased to welcome to St George's as a Reader. Then the Bishop delivered his sermon, which focused on rejoicing, joy and God's peace. This was followed by the Declaration and Oaths, which are made to give assurance that the incumbent believes, speaks and acts in the way a Christian minister should, and that she is committed to minister in the Church of England. Then the Bishop read the Deed of Institution whilst Elaine knelt and held the seal in both hands. The Bishop then blessed her and requested that the Archdeacon take the new incumbent on a tour of her church. This was the Induction and Installation part of the proceedings.

The procession was led by the Rural Dean, followed by the incumbent, churchwardens and archdeacon and headed

firstly to the main door, where the Archdeacon laid Elaine's hand on the handle and inducted her 'into the real, actual and corporal possession of the churches of St George's and St Gabriel's with all the rights, members and appurtenances thereto belonging'. In other words – this is all yours now, warts and all!

Then the procession moved up and down the aisle, visiting various stations around the church, firstly to toll the bell to signify that induction had taken place, then to the incumbent's stall, from where Elaine announced forthcoming services and the next hymn, before moving on to the font, where a member of the congregation, Mary Lloyd, presented Elaine with a jug of water to pour into the font. Then the procession moved on to the pulpit, where Elaine was presented with a Bible by Michael Coupe, our reader, and on to the altar, where bread and wine were presented. Finally, the procession moved to the chancel steps where the Bishop presented Elaine to the congregation, saying, 'I present to you, Elaine, your new vicar'. The congregation of almost 500 greeted her with warm applause.

Elaine was then welcomed to the Deanery by the Rural Dean, followed by the churchwardens, on behalf of the parish, other clergy, representatives of the local community and diocese and the head teacher of our Primary School.

After this there was another hymn and the prayers of intercession, led by Audrey Manzano and Elaine's two daughters, Nicola and Rebecca, followed by the final hymn and the blessing from the Bishop.

There were drinks and refreshments provided after the service, served by the catering team and helpers, which gave the congregation time to meet and chat with our new Vicar.

Rosie Stead

Hymns sung were:

Processional hymn	Be thou my vision
After the sermon	When I survey the wondrous cross
Hymn after induction	O thou who camest from above
Hymn after welcome	My heart is filled with thankfulness
Final hymn	O for a thousand tongues to sing

Christmas Tree Festival

AS I WRITE on 14th November, the number of trees is well over 70 and Angela Wadsworth is still having people rush to her front door with sponsorship applications. People have left applying a bit late this year, but the level of sponsorship seems to prove that the public is not losing interest in our 'little' Festival.

The committee are about to prepare the finishing touches to programmes and the tree layout. Craft activities for children are being created. The tree platforms are about to be 'exhumed' from the crypt for inspection. Many people have already volunteered for stewarding, the serving of refreshments and other roles. It does appear that we are headed for another successful event.

Many thanks to everyone who sponsored trees, performed in singing, ringing or dancing groups or offered their time as volunteers. We could not hold such a Festival without your input.

I will write again in the February issue of Grapevine to provide information on how the big event played out.

For now, many thanks and Happy Christmas to you all.



Kim Regan

Front cover design competition

AS WE DID LAST YEAR, a competition was held at St. George's C.of E. Primary School whose pupils were invited to compose a suitable design to grace the front cover of this issue of *Grapevine*.

The winning entry was submitted by Samantha Lees, class 1E, with joint runners-up being Ellie Charlton Brown and Raphael Morris. Congratulations to them all. Book token awards were presented at the school Assembly on Friday, 22nd November.

The first prize book token was kindly sponsored by the proprietors of award-winning Bramhall bookshop "Simply Books" and we are grateful to Andrew and Sue for their kind cooperation and generosity. Book tokens for the joint runners-up were generously sponsored by the members of the judging panel themselves

My thanks to Headteacher Mark Quinn and his staff for their cooperation.

Simply books

Award-winning bookshop and café

Books and coffee ... and cards
... and erm gifts and stationery
... music and conversation...
events and book clubs...

and lots more but you'll have to come in to find out!
(oh, and there's parking too)

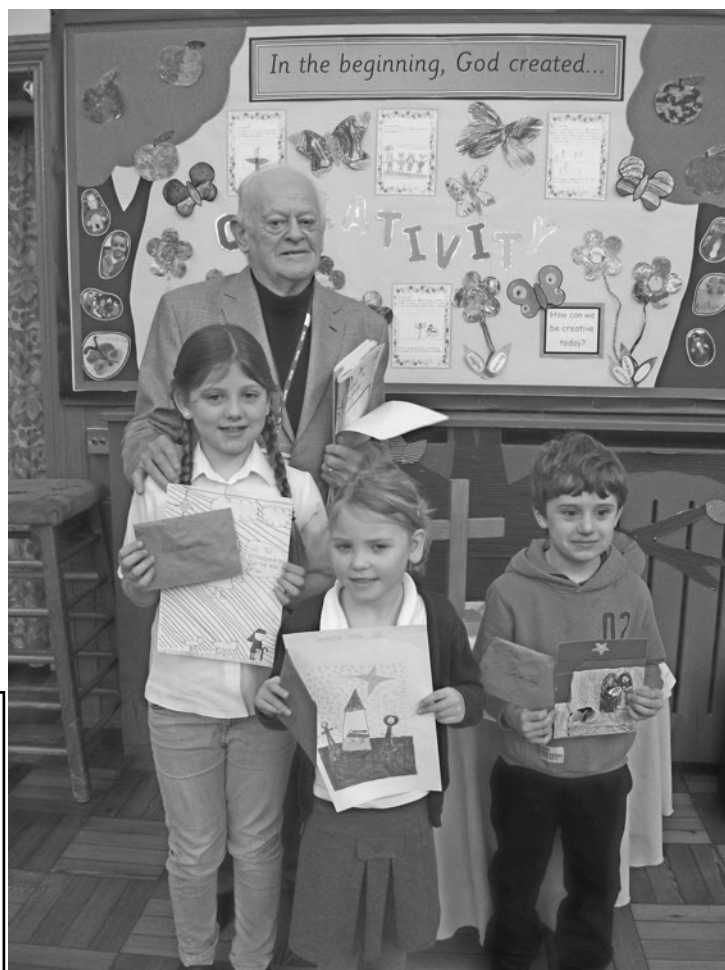
228 Moss Lane, in the centre of Bramhall Village

0161 439 1436 www.simplybooks.info

Visit our web site and email us to sign up for our newsletter!

INDEPENDENT RETAILER OF THE YEAR

Stockport Business Awards 2012



(Picture by Freda Sellers)

Shown with the editor are:

centre: Samantha Lees, (winner); left: Ellie Charlton Brown;
right: Raphael Morris (joint runners up)

Visiting Father Christmas

A mother took her young daughter to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at the garden centre. He greeted the youngster merrily, and asked: "And what would you like for Christmas?"

The little girl stared at him, open mouthed with horror. Then she gasped: "Didn't you get my email??!!!"



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Extract from the magazine in wartime – 1941

During a visit to St Mary's in the Market Place recently, I found this extract from the St George's magazine in the archives there:

MARCH

SCHEME OF FIRE WATCHING

The Watcher's Post will be situated in the Private Room at St. George's Infant School.

The Post will be provided with heat and light, and provision will be made for reasonable rest during quiet periods. All necessary fire fighting equipment for dealing with incendiaries will be available. The Post will be manned every night by a team chosen by rota.

A Log Book of attendance and record of nightly happenings will be kept and this will be signed by the Team Captain.

When the Alarm System indicates the presence of enemy aircraft in the vicinity, the team shall carry out the following pre-arranged programme:

Two watchers shall immediately ascend the West Spiral Staircase and take up watching positions at the two Westerly Angles of the Main Roof. The watchers should make contact with the rest of the team, should fire bombs fall in the district.

One man only shall remain below to act as Messenger and maintain contact.

If incendiaries fall, keep cool and make it your main business to get the incendiaries off the roof and clear of the building, where they can be dealt with down below.

APRIL

Three more volunteers have joined the Fire Watchers in response to the appeal which I made last month, but we need more helpers. Some of our young men will be joining the Forces and we shall want others to take their places. I am grateful to those who have sent food, tea and cocoa.

MAY

We have been obliged to curtail the size of the Magazine. The paper shortage has affected all periodicals, and we could not expect to carry on as we did in peace time.

JUNE

I think the congregation ought to know what we have done to protect our Church. **The most vulnerable part is the organ;** if an incendiary device pierced the roof over the organ, the organ, which is most inflammable, would soon be enveloped in flames, and the whole church would be endangered. We have therefore reinforced the organ roof with concrete slabs and steel plates at a cost of £144.

We have also insured the organ, bells and other moveable property in the Church, under the War Damage Act, for £6000, for a premium of £90.

It has been necessary to build a gangway from the roof over the Nave to the organ roof, at a cost of £16, and to provide the Fire Watchers on the roof with protection against shrapnel, at a cost of £7 15s. Fire fighting appliances such as ladders, sand bags etc., have cost £56.

Brandy mousse ice cream

The recipe this month has the great advantage that you can make it beforehand and leave it in the freezer until you need it. This ice cream is very soft and light, even straight from the freezer. At Christmas you could try it with Christmas pudding as an alternative to brandy butter or cream. For a dinner party, top it with crunchy caramelised almonds.

For the ice cream:

Whites of 2 large eggs
175g/6oz demerara sugar
6 tablespoons water
1 teaspoon vanilla essence
3-5 tablespoons brandy
450ml/¾ pint whipping cream
A good pinch salt

For the caramelised almond top (optional)

25g/1oz caster sugar
50g/2oz flaked almonds

Whisk the egg whites in a large bowl with the salt until they begin to stand in soft peaks. Dissolve the demerara sugar with the water in a saucepan, stirring over a low heat, then increase heat and boil fiercely without stirring for 3 minutes. Pour immediately on to the egg whites in a thin stream, whisking all the time with an electric whisk at high speed. Gradually whisk in vanilla essence and brandy. Continue whisking until the mixture is fairly thick and looks like a very smooth meringue mixture.

In a separate bowl, whisk the cream until thick but not too stiff and then gently but thoroughly fold into the egg white mixture with a metal spoon. Pour the mixture into a 1.6 litre/ 2¾ pint freezer proof serving bowl (or plastic box!) and freeze for at least 5 hours, or for several days if preferred.

For the almond top, mix the caster sugar and flaked almonds in a little bowl. Heat an ungreased frying pan until quite hot, then tip in the sugar and almonds. Stir around constantly for just a minute or so until almonds are golden brown and caramelised. Spread them out onto a large plate and break them up as they cool to separate them as much as possible. Before serving the ice cream, sprinkle the almonds all over the top.

Rosie Stead

Pamela Ferguson

Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

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Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 23)

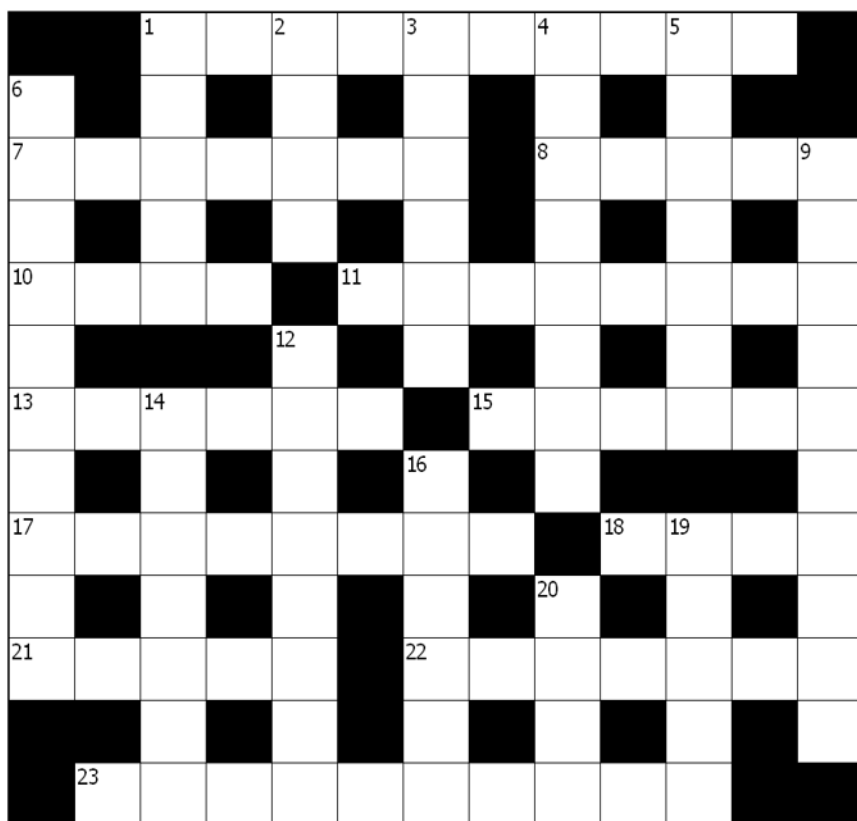
St. George's Parish Rooms

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Crossword



Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14-15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith — (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

- 1 '— and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as — as a lion' (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19-20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 'Offer your bodies as living —, holy and pleasing to God' (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 'You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will — his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21) (4)

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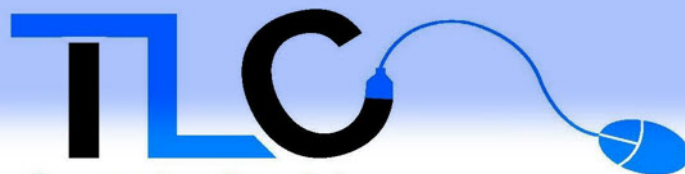
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Book Review

Archbishop Justin Welby – The Road to Canterbury by Andrew Atherstone

Are you curious about the man who recently became the Archbishop of Canterbury? I was, and found this short book gave me plenty of background information to someone who was, for me, totally unknown until his appointment.

The first chapter is entitled 'A Silver Spoon and a Broken Home'. Although the first paragraph reads 'Justin Welby is a scion of Britain's political, military and educational establishment in the middle decades of the twentieth century', this is no straightforward story of a member of the establishment. Yes, he went to Eton, but he later learned that his father had failed to pay the bills for his last two years. That father, who separated from his mother, led a playboy lifestyle in this country and America. His paternal grandfather was a Jewish émigré from Germany in the 1880s and an ostrich feather merchant.

The young Justin did not shine at school. He says of himself, 'At school I was so obviously average that competitiveness (except in my imagination) was pointless.' It's after school that he starts to develop the sensitivities, skills and talents that come to the fore in the rest of his life.

Prior to going to Cambridge University, he spent time in Africa, teaching in a secondary school. Although he professed no Christian faith, this was under the auspices of the Church Missionary Society. At Cambridge he encountered Christianity and came to conversion. Although his Christianity became central to his life, he opted for a career in the oil industry and not ordination. He was highly successful and at the same time focused on how to create an ethical culture in such a company.

Justin Welby came to ordination very reluctantly, drawn to it but happy with what he was already doing. In fact, he was initially rejected. One bishop, opposed to the ordination of women, said, somewhat ironically, 'There is no place for you in the modern Church of England. I have interviewed a thousand for ordination and you do not come in the top thousand.'

Andrew Atherstone certainly covers a wide range of Justin Welby's life and career. Some of it is necessarily everyday factual, some of it revealing and fascinating. I particularly enjoyed the chapter entitled *The Ministry of Reconciliation* describing Justin Welby's work at home and abroad creating dialogue in some genuinely dangerous situations.

I commend this book to anyone who would like to get a sense of who our new Archbishop is and to understand something of the man as he sets off on his career steering the Church of England.

Chris Dawson

Got something on your mind?

EVERY DAY in this country, thousands of individuals find themselves suffering mental distress, often without the cause being obvious to them. Fortunately, places to which they can turn for help have never been more widely available.

Churches were among the first to provide training facilities for services to meet this need. Best known, of course, are The Samaritans, founded in 1952 by the London vicar Chad Varah (after he wrote an article for the magazine *Picture Post* and 235 troubled people contacted him for help). Later, the Westminster Pastoral Foundation (now WPF Therapy) led the way in providing training facilities for clergy and lay volunteers around the country.

In due course, as the need was recognised, mental health services went mainstream and now the Health Service and local authorities are providing a range of services under such titles as 'Health in Mind'. Many GPs refer to these services patients who come to them with concerns about 'low mood' and similar problems.

Charities such as Rethink (telephone 0300 5000 927) now use the internet to provide guidance to persons who may hesitate to approach local services in the first instance.

It is common for individuals to feel unhappy without being able to 'put their finger' on what is giving rise to their disquiet. So, reader, if you feel you need support, don't hesitate to contact one of the organisations mentioned here.

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A Christmas Quiz

Are these statements true or false?

1. The town of Bethlehem is just over 20 miles from Jerusalem.
2. The composer, Gustav Holst, who wrote the music for Christina Rossetti's carol 'In the Bleak Mid-Winter', lived in Thaxted, Essex.
3. A pheasant is one of numerous birds mentioned in the song: 'The 12 days of Christmas'.
4. The first light bulbs used to decorate a Christmas tree were switched on at London's Great Exhibition in 1851.
5. After leaving Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph with the baby Jesus went into Egypt.
6. The Christmas stamps produced by Royal Mail in 2009 depicted the Nativity on stained glass windows.
7. The second line of the carol 'Once in Royal David's city' is: 'Stood a smelly cattle-shed'.
8. 'Vrolyk Kerstfeest' means 'Happy Christmas' in the Slovakian language.
9. 'Merry Christmas Everybody' sung by Slade was top of the UK singles chart in 1983.
10. Bethlehem in Israel stands 2,550 feet above sea level.
11. Mistletoe is nutritious to many animals, but poisonous to people.
12. In December 2001, the world's longest Christmas cracker was measured at 207 feet.
13. The carol 'Silent Night' was originally written in Russia.
14. Poinsettia plants were first discovered in Mexico by Joel Poinsett in the mid 1800s.
15. There is a village in Wales called Bethlehem.
16. The song 'Have yourself a Merry little Christmas' featured in the film 'Meet me in St. Louis' (1940).
17. The story for the film 'The Snowman' was written by Roald Dahl.
18. 'A Christmas Carol' was written by Charles Dickens in 1843.
19. Bing Crosby and Bob Hope starred together in the film 'White Christmas' (1954).
20. Christmas Activities were banned in 1647 following an Act of Parliament introduced by Oliver Cromwell.

Answers on page 27

The Christmas present your children will love the most

This Christmas there is one very special Christmas present that *only you* can give your children. Don't give it all at once, on Christmas day, but in regular chunks throughout the month (and on into next year). It is *your time in letting your child talk to you*.

Sounds silly? Think again: nearly 30,000 head teachers across the UK are now so concerned at certain trends in modern family life that they have launched a national campaign to wake parents up.

The problem is this: parents enjoy their mobile phones and TV in the evenings. It is so easy to get engrossed in these that they cut time in talking with their children (who can be much harder work!). So children are put to bed without much conversation and no story-time. Days and weeks (and years) slip by, and children do not get a chance to develop their speaking and listening skills. Eventually, the child arrives at school – and really struggles to know how to talk and how to listen in the classroom.

The head teachers are warning that the problem is now so critical across the UK that many parents risk damaging their children's long term social development. The campaign, Ready to Learn Everyday, has been backed by the school minister, and will be distributing four leaflets through nearly 30,000 schools.

The campaign urges parents to turn off electronic devices. "Give your child your attention. Don't check your mobile phone at the same time as they are talking to you. Switch off the television and laptops well before bedtime and chat with your child, or read a bedtime story together instead."

The guidance also urges parents to be patient when their child is talking, and not to interrupt them. Instead, ask them questions, discuss their day, and have a family meal together where possible. Praise your children when they in turn listen to you and follow your instructions.

Grumpy old men and women? Not at all!

THERE IS NO NEED to get grumpy as you get older – in fact most of us grow happier. Those are the findings of a recent study carried out by the University of Warwick. It was found that after the 'mid-life dip' in happiness (which hits you at about 45), many older people reported a greater mental satisfaction with life.

The curious thing is that physical infirmities don't seem to affect this later-life contentment. Researchers suspect it might be due to a mature person's better

coping abilities in dealing with hardships, a lowering of overall expectations from life, and a lessening of the pressures of work. It was also found that the most contented people get between 6-8 hours sleep a night; either more or less sleep than that had a negative impact on physical and mental health.

Older Christians, of course, have one wonderful promise from God to lean on if things do get rough: "Even to your old age I am he, and even to grey hairs will I sustain you; I have made you and I will carry you." (Isaiah 46:4).

One small gift unlocks the power of forgiveness

HOW DOES one respond when coming face to face with someone who killed members of your family? Where does someone find the strength and grace needed to forgive the perpetrator of such evil?

This was the challenging dilemma confronting 24-year-old Alex Nsengimana when he visited the Kigali prison last year to meet the man who had taken the lives of those closest to him during the 1994 Rwandan genocide. Alex's journey to forgive this man started with a simple, gift-filled shoebox he had received as an orphan boy in 1995 through Operation Christmas Child, a campaign run by the charity Samaritan's Purse in the UK.

Alex's healing process came full circle, when he returned to Rwanda last year to deliver shoebox gifts through Operation Christmas Child. "While there I didn't expect to be able to meet the man who killed my uncle, but when the Lord orchestrated that during my trip, I began to feel as though I could see the destination at the end of the road.

"Saying the words, 'I forgive you,' to this man brought to the surface many painful memories. But I am now left with the peace that only Christ can give, and I will spend my life sharing with others how they can receive His peace and forgiveness."

Over the past 23 years, through the global efforts of *Operation Christmas Child*, 100 million gift-filled shoeboxes have been delivered to needy children, like Alex, in 156 countries around the world. For the first time, to mark the 20th anniversary of the Rwanda genocide in 2014, a container filled with gift-filled shoeboxes from donors in the UK will be sent to Rwanda. To see a video of Alex's powerful story of forgiveness go to: www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/alex

Samaritan's Purse – Shoe Boxes

WHAT A PLEASURE it was to set out sixty shoe boxes ready for the blessing on Sunday 17th November 2013. It's the most we've ever been able to send to Stockport Sunday School, for their 2.30pm service, before they start on their journey. First of all they're checked in Ashton, then sent abroad by road and rail. There's a quick look and sometimes toys or basics are added; nothing is taken out unless it's entirely unsuitable.

Thank you so much for all your shopping to find suitable gifts, and for the time, energy and money you've expended. If we could only see each child's face as they receive your generous gifts! Thank you.

Marion Johnson and Pat Durnall

Hearing is not believing

A wise schoolteacher sent this note to all parents on the first day of school: 'If you promise not to believe everything your child says happens at school, I'll promise not to believe everything he or she says happens at home.'

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Working in the Slums of Bweyogerere Uganda

This is the second part of Michaela Hine's report on her experiences during her trip to Uganda, working in the slums of Bweyogerere with the Christian charity, 'Revelation Life'. This part deals with Revelation Life's attitude to poverty.

'THE EXPERIENCE [of working with Revelation Life] has taught me a lot about how to do mission and charity well, and how to do it badly. From what I've seen, I feel that the answer to poverty is all about respect and dignity. Even though some may see the charity's work as slow – they could just go in, give money and see immediate change – the charity see their way as the only way of changing the communities sustainably. They work to build *relationship* and to equip the families to support themselves. This not only is sustainable and more effective (the families can then go on to serve their communities and teach each other) but it is also treating them with respect, and not creating a consumerist attitude in them ("I only have value if I have money to..."). Poverty is not just about the physical (if it were then we would never solve it, because where would we draw the line? A roof over one's head? Clothes? Electricity? More than two bedrooms?). The West will always get richer, and so if we look at it purely physically we will never 'solve' poverty. To solve the issue of poverty we have to look at the physical, emotional and the spiritual. The charity do not deal with the physical before the other two, they deal with them all simultaneously. From the moment they encounter a family their primary intention is to show them that they are loved, because God's love is the force that really transforms and, if we deal with that first, things do follow.

This attitude towards poverty means that I need to be responsible with how I present myself (and represent the West) to Uganda. If the charity are trying to bridge the gap between 'Mzungus' and Ugandans, to build relationships with the people in the slums and to teach them that they have value, then I need to do my best not to counteract this. Whilst there, I did my best to speak Lugandan as I knew; to ask when I wanted to take a photo; to wear the correct clothing; and to serve in the background as much as possible. But even then I still felt like a tourist.

Future-wise, I am open to where God wants me, but I will be more inclined to do long-term mission rather than short term, as I feel that through building long-term relationships, change can be brought about. I wish Revelation Life all the best with the amazing work that they do as a group.'

Michaela Hine

"If it's meant to be, it will be" or "You get out what you put into it"?

WHICH ONE of the above quotations do you believe in? Are you the sort of intense believer in destiny and in what's written for you in the stars? Or you believe that it's we ourselves who make the future and our own destiny?

To be honest, I'm somehow in the middle of these two quotes and think they make sense when they come together, as a pair, but not individually. Basically, the first quote doesn't mean you can just sit around and say "If it's meant to be, it will be": trust me, it's never going to work – if you want something you have to work for it. Nothing in this life is free! You should fight for your goals and make them happen. If they don't happen, do not think it's the end of the world, but do understand that this is God's will and most likely to be in your best interests. That's exactly the time you should tell yourself that it wasn't meant to be, unlike what the first quote says. There will have been definite reasons for it, unknown to anyone except for the Lord, and a plus point is that, at the end, despite the disappointment, you'll not regret having worked hard for it. Therefore you have to then get on and do something else in order to stop worrying about it.

In fact, all the time you are worried and thinking about all the *what if's* or *worst-case scenarios*, you are just ruining and wasting one more day of the precious life that's been granted to you to keep on trying to achieve your aims. As another quotation says "Worry doesn't empty tomorrow of its sorrow – it empties today of its strength", and it means you are choosing to sacrifice today's joy in order to mourn the joy you might not have tomorrow. It may seem like we're solving problems or somehow protecting ourselves from pain, but in reality, we're just creating more misery for ourselves. We can't always control or sometimes even recognise some of the issues, but we can know that, more often than not, our trust in God will result in something good and to our benefit.

We, as Christians, have learnt that we should bring all of our needs and concerns to God in prayers rather than allow them to worry us. He promises to give us peace by giving Him all our worries. So, all in all, do your best and leave the rest to the Lord.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your request to God"

Philippians 4:6

Atousa Khoshrouz

WELLSPRING Christmas dates for your diary

Saturday December 14th: HIGH PEAK ORCHESTRA
At New Mills Town Hall, High Peak SK22 4AT
Details later

Tuesday Dec. 17th: WELLSPRING CAROL SERVICE - at
1.30pm
Carols and readings for Christmas
At St. Mary's in the Marketplace, Stockport

Friday Feb. 21st: THE WELLSPRING FACTOR –
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Garden Gnomes December/January

THE GARDENS at this time of the year may not be looking at their best but some jobs can be done. The beds and borders need to be dug over and if you incorporate as much organic matter as you can this will help prepare the ground for next year. This will also allow the birds to gain access to the pests that live in the soil and get rid of them for you. At this time of the year the ground can be very wet and the soil heavy. It is better to do your digging when the conditions are more favourable, so if this is the case leave the digging for a day or two. If you have an outside water tap it's best to protect it from frosts, if you use old newspaper or sacking you need to wrap cling film or plastic sheeting around to keep moisture out preventing it from freezing. Plant pots and tubs also need protecting from frost or they could crack if left with soil or water in them. Tender perennials will suffer with winter frost if the crown is unprotected. They need to be kept safe until spring so make sure that the crowns are covered with a mulch of chippings.

Any debris such as fallen branches and piles of leaves need to be cleared away even if they are not in the way as snails and slugs will make their home under them. Most leaves can be composted but some such as holly, laurel and privet do not make good compost. Some plants such as alpines do not like the soil to be too wet and if piles of leaves collect around them this will cause the ground to be too damp and the plant may die.

The Gnomes have as usual been involved in other tasks in and around the church such as repairs to the platform on which the Nave Altar stands. It took four of us to turn over one of the larger pieces in order to add additional support beams and this task took us a full Tuesday morning. The church roof has needed clearing of debris to stop the ingress of rainwater into

the church. It is a job which needs to be repeated about once every month. The north garden has received a lot of attention following the removal of the dead and diseased trees. A hollow has been filled with much of the rotted branches and leaves. We are covering this with compost. As usual at this time of year we have had lots of fallen leaves to collect and take to the compost heaps, a job that we repeat week after week.

We hope that you enjoy your gardening and the Gnomes wish all our readers a Very Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year.

Ian Wm. Staley



Words of wisdom: "Forget your mistakes but never what you learned from them".



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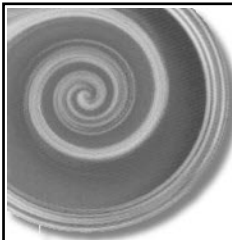
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Yorkshireman's appreciation of Handel's Messiah

MANY OF YOU WILL HEAR HANDEL'S MESSIAH over the Christmas period, but do you remember the first time you heard it as a live performance? One such performance was being given in the Cleckheaton Town Hall, many years ago, and old Cuthbert Briggs from Liversedge thought he might like to go. He tried to persuade his wife to go with him, but she wasn't too keen.

'Nay Cuthbert lad, tha knows it's nowt in my line. Give me a bit o' comedy, or singsong on t'end o' Blackpool pier. No – thee go bi thisen and tell me all abaht it when tha comes home.' So Cuthbert went on his own. He'd no idea what to expect. In fact he'd never heard of Handel's Messiah. It was just that he fancied doing something a bit different to his usual Saturday night visit to the Sun Inn.

When he got back home, Cuthbert's wife was all ears. 'Come on then, tell me all abaht it.'

'Eh well,' said Cuthbert, 'it were all reyt, but not quite what I expected. There wont a lot o' movement on t' stage. It were full o' singers. Ah'd been sat there a bit when in comes a load o' fellas carrying fiddles, then they brought in t' biggest fiddle Ah've ever seed. It were that big they 'ad to wheel it in on castors. An' a little chap rubbed its belly wi' a stick, and you should 'ave 'eard it groan, like a cow wit t'croup. Well, all t' fiddles joined in an' made such a racket. Then it settled down an' it all went quiet.

After abaht a minute in comes t' Messiah. Well, Ah think it were 'im 'cos everybody clapped an' all t' fiddles stood up to welcome 'im. He were a dapper of a bloke, all dolled up in a white waistcoat wit a red carnation in 'is buttonhole. Yes, Ahm sure he must at been t' Messiah. Then he picked up a little stick an' started wavin' it at everybody on t' stage. They were all staring at him, wondering what were up. Then they started to sing.

They'd not been going long before they were fratching like cats. They wanted to know who the King of Glory was. First one side said He is the king of glory, then t'other side said He is the king of glory. And they went at it hammer and tongs, but it fizzled out in t'end. Then there was a right to-do about some sheep that had gone astray. Some o't'singers must a' been partial to a bit o' mutton 'cos they kept on singing 'O we like sheep.' Personally I like a bit o' well done steak, but anyway....

Well, Ah think them lost sheep must a' belonged to one o't'singers, cos he stood up an' said every mountain should be laid low. Good, I thowt ter missen. If they flatten all t' mountains they'll be sure ter find t' sheep 'ats gone astray. Then t' organist started up ant t' band joined in, and by gum they seemed to be getting mad over summat t' way they were sawing at them fiddles. Ah were expecting 'em to fall apart.

Then after that all t' women stood up to sing. Believe me, some o'em were a bit past it bi't'look o'em. They must 'a been seventy if they were a day. And they sang 'Unto us a child is born.' And all t'fellas shouted 'Wonderful, Wonderful', Ah thowt, it's a bloomin' miracle. Then they composed theirsens a bit and sang about a woman called

Joyce Greatly. Ah'd never 'eard of her, but she's apparently t' daughter o' Zion, whoever he is.

Ah were gettin' a bit fed up bi now. Ah'd been sat for nearly two hours, when all of a sudden Ah got t' cramp i' mi leg. Up Ah jumped aht o' mi seat, and do yer know, everybody else jumped up at t' same time. They must all 'ave 'ad t' cramp same as me. Then t' choir shouted 'Hallelujah...it's going to rain for ever and ever'. Well, Ah'd never thowt ter bring me brolly, so I thowt Ah'd better get off home afore it started. So seein' as 'ow Ah were on mi feet, Ah reckoned Ah'd slip aht quick in case there were a rush fer t' door. Ah think Ah might a missed last bit o't'show, but Ah reckon Ah'd 'ad mi moneysworth. Anyroad, t'were a good do, but Ah do hope they find them lost sheep.

(I can't give any credit to anyone for this as it has arrived anonymously. The spell check on my computer has worked overtime! Rosie)

A letter from a senior lady

DID YOU KNOW that we old folks are worth a fortune? We have silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stones in our kidneys, lead in our feet and gas in our stomachs!

I have grown older since I last saw you and a few changes have come into my life. Frankly, I have become a frivolous old woman! I am seeing six gentlemen every day. As soon as I wake up, Will Power helps me out of bed, then it's breakfast with Mr Kellogg accompanied by Mr Tetley or Mr P.G. Tips. Then comes someone I don't like – Arthur Itis – he knows he's not welcome, but stays all day. Even then he does not stay in one place but takes me from joint to joint. After such a hectic day I'm glad to go to bed with – Johnnie Walker! Oh yes, and now I'm flirting with Al Zheimer.

The vicar called the other day and said that at my age I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him I did it all the time. No matter where I am, the bedroom, kitchen or garden, I ask myself "What am I here after?"

I'll close now and and hope Will Power is your constant companion too, but make sure his friend Emma Royd does not creep up on you from behind – and watch out for the crafty one – Gerry Atric.

Supplied by Margaret Grice with thanks to Christ Church, Woodford magazine.

Musical greeting cards.

It is some time ago that we were made aware that the computer system in a modern car is more powerful than the system used to place a man on the moon.

It now appears that the computer power used in making a musical greetings card work has inherited that honour.

Daily Telegraph 24.08.13



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, STOCKPORT

MUSIC LIST – DECEMBER 2013

Sunday 1 st December – Advent Sunday		
10:15am - St. George's Service		6:30pm – Advent Carol Service
Setting:	Greening	Advent Carol Service – please see special order of service for details.
Hymns:	SP 51 - Make way, make way 24 – Come thou long-expected Jesus 32 – O come, O come Emmanuel 34 – On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry	
Anthem:	Sleepers wake! - Mendelssohn	
Voluntary:	Nun komm der Heiden Heiland (BWV 661)	

Sunday 8 th December – Second Sunday of Advent		
10:15am - St. George's Service		6:30pm – Evensong
All-Age Service	Hymns:	26 – Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding 234 – Sing we the praises 93 – When Jesus came to Jordan 20 – Saviour, again to thy dear name
	Canticles:	Mag: 46 Nunc: 61 Psalm: 11
	Anthem:	Never weather-beaten sail - Wood
	Voluntary:	Durch Adams Fall (BWV1101)

Sunday 15 th December – Third Sunday of Advent		
10:15am - St. George's Service		6:30pm – Evensong
Setting:	Greening	Hymns: 34 – On Jordan's bank 37 – The Lord will come and not be slow 33 – O day of God, draw nigh 18 – O strength and stay
Hymns:	356 – Judge eternal, throned in splendour SP21 – Into the darkness of this world Colours of day 534 – O for a thousand tongues to sing	
Anthem:	Advent Message – How	
Voluntary:	Lob se idem dem allmachtigen (BWV 704)	
		Canticles: Mag: 51 Nunc: 62 Psalm: 12
		Anthem: The peace of God - Rutter
		Voluntary: Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Ehr' (BWV711)

Sunday 22 nd December – Fourth Sunday of Advent		
10:15am - St. George's Service		6:30pm Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
Setting:	Greening	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols – please see special order of service for details.
Hymns:	231 – Ye who own the faith of Jesus 238 – For Mary, mother of our Lord 35 – People look east Tell out my soul	
Anthem:	Hail! Blessed Virgin Mary – Arr. Wood	
Voluntary:	Fugue on the Magnificat (BWV)733	

Tuesday 24 th December – Christmas Eve		Wednesday 25 th December – Christmas Day	
11:30pm – Midnight Communion		10:15am – St. George's Service	
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas	Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas
Hymns:	66 – Once in Royal David's city 45 – Away in a manger 76 – While Shepherds watched their flocks 61 - O come all ye faithful	Hymns:	48 – Christians awake, salute the happy morn 68 – See him lying on a bed of straw 73 – Unto us a boy is born! 53 – Hark the herald angels sing
Anthem:	This Christmas Night	Anthem:	In the bleak midwinter - Darke
Voluntary:	Sortie in B flat – Lefebure-Wely	Voluntary:	TBA

Sunday 29 th December – First Sunday of Christmas		
10:15am - St. George's Service		6:30pm – Evensong
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas	No Evensong
Hymns:	41 – A great and mighty wonder SP21 – Like a candle flame 67 – See amid the winter's snow God rest you merry gentlemen	
Anthem:	TBA	
Voluntary:	TBA	



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, STOCKPORT MUSIC LIST – JANUARY 2014

Sunday 5 th January – The Epiphany of Our Lord			
10:15am - St. George's Service		6:30pm – Evensong	
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas	Hymns:	87 – Hail to the Lord's Anointed 360 – Faithful vigil ended 592 – The Lord is King! Lift up thy voice 21 – Sun of my soul
Hymns:	84 – Brightest and best of the sons of the 91 – We three kings 83 – As with gladness, men of old The first Nowell	Canticles:	Mag: 47 Nunc: 63 Psalm: 97
Anthem:	Far away, what splendour comes this way	Anthem:	From the rising of the sun - Ouseley
Voluntary:	Prelude in E minor (BWV 548)	Voluntary:	Fugue in E minor (BWV 548)

Sunday 12 th January – The Baptism of Christ			
10:15am - St. George's Service		6:30pm – Evensong	
All-Age Service		Hymns:	455 – Guide me O thou great Redeemer 218 – God is the refuge of his saints 584 – Thanks to God whose word was spoken 18 – O strength and stay
		Canticles:	Mag: 49 Nunc: 66 Psalm: 46
		Anthem:	O for a closer walk with God – Stanford
		Voluntary:	O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig – Karg-Elert

Sunday 19 th January – Second Sunday of Epiphany			
10:15am - St. George's Service		6:30pm – Evensong	
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas	Hymns:	237 – We sing the glorious conquest 427 – For the healing of the nations 253 – Jesus calls us o'er the tumult 20 – Saviour, again to thy dear name
Hymns:	401 – Come let us join our cheerful songs SP225 – Peace on earth to all your people 444 – God is working his purpose out 453 – Great is thy faithfulness	Canticles:	Mag: 50 Nunc: 65 Psalm: 96
Anthem:	Take up your cross - Corp	Anthem:	Arise, shine, for your light is come - Shephard
Voluntary:	Prelude in B minor (BW 544)	Voluntary:	Fugue in B minor (BWV 544)

Sunday 26 th January – Third Sunday of Epiphany			
10:15am - St. George's Service		6:30pm – Choral Evensong	
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas	Hymns:	543 – O praise ye the Lord 201 – Can we by searching find out God 422 – Father of peace and God of love 10 – Abide with me
Hymns:	165 – Christ is the King 432 – From heaven you came helpless babe 305 – I come with joy 470 – I the Lord of sea and sky	Canticles:	Murrill in E Psalm: 33
Anthem:	Now let us from this table rise - Henderson	Anthem:	The Lord is my light - Noon
Voluntary:	Offertoire in D minor – Lefebure-Wely	Voluntary:	Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam (BWV684)

Great invention

THE BOYS had been up in the attic together helping with some cleaning. They uncovered an old manual typewriter and asked their mother what it was. She briefly explained, but they were still puzzled as to how it worked.

"I'll show you," their mother said, and returned with a blank piece of paper. She rolled the paper into the typewriter and began striking the keys, leaving black letters of print on the page.

"WOW!" they exclaimed, "That's really cool...but how does it work like that? Where do you plug it in?" "There is no plug," she answered. "It doesn't need a plug."

"Then where do you put the batteries?" they persisted.

"It doesn't need batteries either," she continued.

"Wow! This is so cool!" they exclaimed. "Someone should have invented this a long time ago!"

Pilgrim – new discipleship course for all

A NEW Christian discipleship course for Church congregations and groups of all traditions has just been published - the first time ever that a national course has been commissioned by the House of Bishops of the Church of England.

Aiming to offer “participation, not persuasion”, *Pilgrim: A Course for the Christian Journey* is a part of the Church of England’s focus on spiritual and numerical growth.

The core authors are the Bishops of Chelmsford, Sheffield and Stockport, (Stephen Cottrell, Steven Croft, Robert Atwell) and Dr Paula Gooder, writer and lecturer in New Testament studies. Assuming little or no knowledge of the Christian faith, *Pilgrim* can be used at any point on the journey of discipleship and by every tradition in the C of E. The course is personally endorsed by both Archbishops.

The Bishop of Chelmsford, Stephen Cottrell, explains: “For most people today becoming a Christian is like a journey. We therefore need resources that will help turn fellow travellers and interested enquirers into pilgrims. This is what *Pilgrim* sets out to do. Like other courses it deals with the basics of the Christian faith.

“Unlike other courses, it includes discipleship and is deeply rooted in a long tradition of catechesis and nurture. Drawing on a rich spiritual heritage, *Pilgrim* encourages you to think and pray, to be an apostle as well as a disciple. We hope that its a refreshing blend of old and new will enable many more parishes to develop a ministry of evangelism and nurture.”

Pilgrim is published by Church House Publishing.
Details: www.pilgrimcourse.org/

We three kings of Orient are... what?

“A COLD COMING they had of it at this time of the year, just the worst time of the year to take a journey, and specially a long journey, in. The way’s deep, the weather sharp, the days short, the sun farthest off, in *solstitio brumali*, the very dead of winter.”

It was 1622, and the Bishop of Winchester, Launcelot Andrews, was preaching a magnificent sermon to King James I. Reckoned one of the best preachers ever, Launcelot Andrews’ words were later taken up by T S Eliot and transformed into his wonderful poem ‘The Journey of the Magi’. What a vivid picture – we can see it all! The camels’ breath steaming in the night air as the kings, in their gorgeous robes of silk and cloth-of-gold and clutching their precious gifts, kneel to adore the baby in the manger.

Yet the Bible does not give us as much detail as some people think. Tradition down the centuries has added a great deal more. For instance, we know from St Matthew that the magi were ‘wise’, or learned men of some sort, but we do not know if they were kings or not. The Bible tells us there

were several; tradition has decided upon three, and even named them: Balthassar, Melchior, and Caspar (or Gaspar). But the Bible does tell us that the magi gave baby Jesus three highly symbolic gifts: gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. Gold stands for kingship, frankincense for worship, and myrrh for anointing – anticipating his death.

There is a lovely ancient mosaic in Ravenna, Italy, that is 1,500 years old. It depicts the wise men in oriental garb of trousers and Phrygian caps, carrying their gifts past palm trees towards the star that they followed ... straight to Jesus.

Christmas unwrapped

YOU MAY WELCOME your Christmas presents this year, but will you be able to unwrap them? A recent report from Which? magazine reveals that four in 10 of us have hurt ourselves while trying to open the packaging on everyday household items.

Brillo, Mr Muscle soap pads, Listerine mouthwash, Warburtons crumpets and WH Smith rounded-blade scissors are named and shamed. Top of the list comes the Oral-B Vitality electric toothbrush and all things wrapped in moulded plastic packaging. Opening those can end in bloodshed.

No wonder, for 89 per cent of us use scissors, eight per cent of us get out the Stanley knives, and four percent of us use a razor blade. The remaining two per cent of us seemingly go berserk - and resort to smashing the thing with a hammer. Whatever you use, be careful: in the last two years, a million Britons ended up at their GP or in A and E, just because they were trying to open a tin can.

Who is this baby?

Who is this baby in the manger
Lying on a bed of straw?
The shepherds and the wise men come
To bring their gifts and to adore.

The One the prophets told of old
Is lying sleeping on His bed,
His mother watches over Him
As Joseph strokes the sacred head.

The child will soon become a man
They’ll watch Him as the time goes by,
But little do the parents know
This sleeping child has come to die.

His sacrifice upon the cross,
His death to take away man’s sin
Will open up the way to heaven
That all may come and enter in.

Not just a baby in a manger,
But God Himself in swaddling clothes
We come to celebrate and thank
The God from whom such mercy flows.

by Megan Carter

Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword Puzzle answers. ACROSS: 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Caveil. 17, Cyclopedia. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

Answers to Christmas Quiz
1. False: It is only five!
2. True. 3. False.
4. False: Light bulbs were not commercially available until after 1879.
5. True. 6. True.
7. False: Replace the word 'smelly' with 'lowly'.
8. False: It is Dutch.
9. False: It was 1973.
10. True. 11. True.
12. True: It was also 13 feet in diameter, and made in Buckinghamshire.
13. False: It was written in Austria. 14. True.
15. True: It's in Carmarthen-shire, north-east of Llandello.
16. True.
17. False: The story was by Raymond Briggs.
18. True. 19. False. 20. True.

Church Service Times

REGULAR SERVICES AT ST. GEORGE'S:

Sunday

8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.15am Parish Communion (Common Worship)
with Crèche and Sunday Clubs
6.30pm Evensong (BCP)

Wednesday

10am Holy Communion, followed by a short healing service on the first Wednesday of the month only.
7pm Open Door (Vestry)
(Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings).
8pm Compline in the Lady Chapel

Daily 8.30am Matins

St. George's Opening Times:

Mon and Tue: 9.15am to noon
Wednesday: 9.30am to 11am
and 7pm to 9pm
Saturday: 9am to 11am

REGULAR SERVICES AT ST. GABRIEL'S:

Sunday

9.30 am Holy Communion

Gentlemen's Christmas

God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
You may be sure the ladies
Have sorted Christmas Day!
They've shopped and chopped and scrubbed and wrapped,
They've bought and dressed the tree
So you'll have a joyful Christmas Day, Christmas Day
So you'll have a joyful Christmas Day!

Now come, ye merry gentlemen,
And follow my advice
You'd better not upset her,
Or you will pay the price!
So get you to the nearest town
And buy her something nice -
Then you'll have a joyful Christmas Day, Christmas Day
Then you will have a joyful Christmas Day!

Deliver us...

I had been teaching my three-year-old daughter, Cathy, the Lord's Prayer. Then one evening at bedtime she attempted it solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer. "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some e-mail.

So then, ye merry gentlemen
Who've tied those marriage knots,
Once Christmas lunch is over
Tell her you love her lots.
Then prove it, merry gentlemen
By washing up the pots.
And you'll have a joyful Christmas Day, Christmas Day
And you'll have a joyful Christmas Day!

Then, just as you are thinking
What a good chap you've been;
Perhaps you'll watch the movie -
It's one you haven't seen.
Forget it, merry gentlemen,
She'll want to watch the Queen!
But she's earned a joyful Christmas Day, Christmas Day
She's really earned a joyful Christmas Day!

by Nigel Beeton

Contributions to the Editor: Mark Lane, 10 Walmer Drive, Bramhall, SK7 3AT. e-mail 01614392282@talktalk.net Tel. 0161 439 2282. Please give your name and telephone number.

Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the editorial team.

Grapevine front cover design competition: runners up designs

Raphael Morris, class 1E



Ellie Charlton Brown, class 4W



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