

February



2014

Parish Grapevine

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

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

Dear Readers,

I HOPE you enjoyed a healthy and happy Christmas and New Year. While the weather has been relatively kind to us here, my heart goes out to those unfortunate enough to have had their homes and businesses flooded out and who are still struggling to return to normality. I remember the relatively minor panic when my electrical supply totally failed 18 months ago resulting in the need for a complete re-wiring of the house. It was summer, so no heating problems to speak of, but concern about the deep freezer and its contents became paramount, resulting in a long extension cable being plugged in to my cooperative next door neighbour's outside power socket, trailed through the hedge and terminating in my outhouse where the freezer lives. Other shorter extension leads and two-way sockets were incorporated from there to serve the T.V and essential lighting. Problem solved, and house duly re-wired within a fortnight with only me living there to be inconvenienced. But – if you've been flooded out, and possibly still are, it will be a very different story altogether, not to mention a ruined Christmas.

The recent funeral of local teenager, Adam Pickup, at St George's involved a congregation of about 750 and much traffic chaos on the adjacent A6. I believe it was a moving service and indicative of the depth of feeling with which human nature can react to such unfortunate tragedies, giving support to the bereaved and friends. I hope that the service and the magnificent venue in which it was conducted will remain long in the memories of those present, for many of whom it was perhaps their first experience of such an event in such surroundings. I also hope we are able to keep in touch with, at least, the family concerned.

We are sad, yet honoured, to include several tributes, recorded memories and obituaries, to no less than four lovely Christian ladies who have been involved at St George's over many years. We can all learn from their devotion and service to others.

I read in today's local newspaper (22nd January) that our Bishop of Stockport, the Rt Rev. Robert Atwell, has very recently been appointed the next Bishop of Exeter. He will be the 71st Bishop of the Diocese of Exeter, which comprises more than 500 parishes across Devon. I'm sure we all wish him well in the new appointment and thank him for his help and guidance during his relatively short time with us. The announcement was made by the Prime Minister's office yesterday. Bishop Robert's leaving service will be held at St George's on Saturday 12th April 2014 at 11am.

Owing to the changing content of members of the team of Garden Gnomes, some now having a mother-tongue other than English, the previous monthly Garden Gnomes item will understandably now appear in alternate issues of the magazine commencing with the next (March) issue.

To end on matters concerning the 'home front', the Christmas and New Year season has featured two additional blessings on my family: the formal engagement of number three grandson to his long-term lady friend, and the birth of number three great-grandchild, courtesy of number one granddaughter and husband. Blessings indeed - I count them all daily! The new mother received a copy of a poem from much-loved relatives in the U.S.A. It's rather touching and I take the liberty of reproducing it herein on page 21.

God Bless. Sincerely yours,

Mark Lane. Editor

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80p

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

Vicar of St. George's	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall 456 9382	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 Janet Neilson 483 9025 Pat Wilke 376 2494
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



Elaine writes:

One of my very favourite people was a man called Len. He brightened up every occasion and it was a real privilege to be with him and his daughter when he died. At his funeral I spoke of him being a 90-year-old in short pants because he always exhibited the sense of mischief and fun which can be characteristic of young boys and he never lost it. His gleeful innocence was infectious. He lit up the room when he entered and he had a healthy disrespect for anyone perceived to be in authority. I loved him. On one occasion, I recall a visit to the church of the Bishop of Chester and in walks Len announcing “Look out, here comes trouble” It was then that I passionately and desperately wanted Len either to be talking about himself or that the Right Reverend Dr Peter Forster was deaf!

Len was a family man who had been a dairy farmer and he was full of stories from down the years. He sang in the choir for many years and was a familiar face at all events and services. He had gone to the local village school and his name appeared in the “naughty book” on more than one occasion but he never learned to read.

This didn’t stop him learning the hymns or being an astute businessman and he rose to the top of a men’s group which regularly had official gatherings which required him to speak, so he painstakingly learned the relevant words for these occasions as and when required.

One time, for some reason, this didn’t happen and he needed to greet an important guest who had just turned up unexpectedly to the meeting; so with great aplomb, Len announced, “I don’t know who you are or where you have come from but you are welcome here.” What a great phrase and perhaps worth putting over all doorways.

There are many people who come to our churches week by week. Some are familiar to us and some we might not have had the privilege of meeting before and it’s our welcome which makes the difference.

I was struck by the passage from Hebrews 13:1-2 where it says “Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

Not all of us are at ease with speaking to new people but a smile, some guidance through the service or assisting

parents with their children can make even the most apprehensive person start to feel at home.

Love is afforded the highest accolade in the passage from 1Corinthians 13:4-13 and it needs to be shown in concrete acts and these may make us feel a bit out of our comfort zone but we need to imagine the courage that it takes some people actually to be in a church.

Our thoughts, words and deeds need to emulate the great commandment to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and soul and strength and your neighbour as yourself” *Matthew 22:37-40* so that we show God’s love in our interactions with others and treat them and speak to them just as we would like for ourselves.

Len’s words may not have had the academic rigour of some we may have heard but they say it how it is and how it needs to be as we live our lives as Christians.

Meeting of House of Bishops

The House of Bishops of the Church of England met for two days in York on December 9 and December 10. This meeting was the first at which 8 women regional representatives attended the meeting as participant observers with the same rights as Provincial Episcopal Visitors.

Over its meeting the House covered a wide range of business including discussion of women in the episcopate, the Pilling report, the approval of experimental liturgy for Baptism, changes to legislative approaches on Safeguarding and discussion of the Anglican-Methodist covenant.

As part of their discussion on Women in the Episcopate, the House heard from members of the steering committee on women bishops on suggestions for the next steps in the process. The House agreed the text of a draft declaration and regulations for a mandatory disputes resolution procedure for debate at General Synod in February 2014. The House also agreed to begin at the February Synod the process for rescinding the 1993 Act of Synod so that all the elements of the new package could be agreed by the synod in July 2014.

The House discussed and approved proposals for a new governance framework to enable the Church to develop a strategic vision for safeguarding. The House also approved proposed recommendations for legislative changes on safeguarding to be brought to General Synod.

Sir Joseph Pilling attended the House to introduce a discussion on ways to address the recently published report on Human Sexuality, a paper commissioned by the House of Bishops as a report to the House.

Following the mandate from the General Synod in 2011, the House also discussed and gave its support for the experimental use of new additional liturgy for the Baptism of infants and young children. The new texts were made available for use from January until April 2014, and will be discussed again by the House during its meeting in May.

The House also received updates on a range of work being undertaken in areas of ministerial education, training and clergy discipline.

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2014

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☎ 0161 476 0384

✉ fundraising@beechwoodcancercare.co.uk

Next year the Nativity!

My dear great niece,

Yes, I can understand how you feel at being told you will be in charge of next year's nativity play. As a probationary teacher you are bound to be daunted by such a responsibility and I hope that my many years of experience will indeed help you avoid some major pitfalls. I appreciated you asking me and thought it best to do some notes for you at this early stage:

Adult help

In your helpers look for tenacity, a sense of humour and a strong stomach – stage fright can take many forms, sometimes playing havoc with little people's digestive processes. You may get lots of offers of help from mothers of the principals – rarely a good option, parents of Reception children tending to concentrate too much on their own progeny. Never accept anyone who wants to avoid helping at rehearsals and to come only on the day. (At a tender age, though not in a nativity play, I was left in the middle of the stage in tears and a liberty bodice, thanks to one such person.)

Props

Amazingly few props are needed for a nativity play. Do not let anyone fool you into believing that the innkeeper has to have a door – it suffices for him to step forward to deliver his message. The manger is the only real necessity and it needs to be both sturdy and stable (no pun intended.) I wince still at remembering how someone once thought a folding magazine rack would be ideal and how Joseph during an idle moment discovered its main property.

Do not overdo the provision of model or toy animals – shepherds have been known to stage lamb fights which, unfortunately, create quite the wrong ambience.

Casting

This is undoubtedly the key to success, but takes very careful thought. Try to share the responsibility with a senior member of staff as this will help you deal with any parental issues. The greatest pressure, sometimes close to bribery or intimidation, comes over the role of Mary, which clearly has an attraction akin to that met later with the choice of Rose Queen. Your Mary and Joseph obviously need to get on reasonably well – not more than that, as a cuddly pair is inclined to make the audience giggle. The main need is for calm, quiet children, as most of the action goes on around them.

Your essential male roles can be difficult to cast. Always remember that the kings have to wait a long time for their entrance and may become fidgety, also that they are carrying gifts which can so easily turn into weapons with which to prod an unsuspecting angel; never choose a trio of great pals. You need to reassure the innkeeper of the importance of his role if you are not to hear, "Yes, come in!" when his line is due. It is as well to leave out King Herod with this age group – it has been known for the entire cast in a fit of chagrin to turn on the unwary actor.

Unless you have such a large group that you have to cast pupils as sheep, stars or trees, most of your female characters will be angels. Applying make-up has a very helpful effect and I recommend it. They are inclined to still their movements both to avoid disturbing their lipstick and to check on everyone else being made up.



Rehearsing

Do not restrict this to practising words, songs and movements. I recommend more than one dress rehearsal or, if it is not too sexist, an extra dress rehearsal for the boys. The kings need to manage their headgear, robes and gifts all at the same time, which is not easy for the uninitiated. Most of the wardrobe problems I have met have been with the shepherds: little boys and calf-length robes (which seem to be *de rigueur*) are not a happy combination. So many pupils seem to find it essential to flap them, or check under their own and everyone else's. If you can manage it, full-length robes are much less problematic.

Practise with the actual doll you will use for the performance. The biggest mistake I ever made was to hold back the full-sized baby doll until the day. As a result, my Joseph took a totally unheralded interest in the baby Jesus and removed him by the leg from the manger, whereupon the indignant mother took the other leg and started what looked like a tug of war, yelling, "I'm Mary and he's mine!"

The performance

This is the time to remember that you will never meet an audience so wholly on your side. Whatever happens on stage will enchant fond parents, so try to relax.

Bear in mind too the great privilege given you: for many families the nativity play will be, in an increasingly commercialised and secular festival, the only reminder of the essential mystery and joy of Christmas.

With love and warmest wishes.

Your loving great aunt Emmeline (*alias Angela Foulkes*)

Parish News Roundup

From the Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

We welcome into the church family:

24th Nov Archie David Moss

8th Dec Eleanor Jean Johnstone

5th Jan Skye Paige Jackson

Holy Matrimony

Funerals in Church

23rd Dec Linda Edwards

9th Jan Joan Grundy

17th Jan Adam Pickup

Main Altar/Lady Chapel Flowers

were by:

8th Dec High Altar Flowers Jean Martin *"In memory of Ethel Henshall"*

15th Dec High Altar Flowers The Stephenson family *"In memory of Elsie Brown"*

22nd Dec High Altar Flowers Mrs Barker *"In memory of Eric Barker"*

29th Dec High Altar Flowers Chris & Stan Berry *"in memory of Beryl & Leslie Watkins"*

5th Jan High Altar Flowers Mike & José Westwood *"in memory of Barbara Westwood"*

19th Jan High Altar Flowers *"in memory of David Caldwell"*

26th Jan High Altar Flowers Jill, Anne and Lynn *"in memory of Brian and Nancy Wainwright"*

Floodlighting was sponsored by:

26th Dec Liz Tushingham *In memory of Walter & Wynne Knight*

27th Dec Barry & Kate Stephenson *in celebration of Ruth and Martin's first wedding anniversary*

23rd Jan Elizabeth, William and Peter Hibbert, to remember the wedding of their parents, Frances Laflin and Arthur Hibbert in St George's in 1954.

Diary for February and onwards:

3rd Feb Parish lunch at the Puss in Boots, 12.30pm.

15th Feb *'Memories of St George's'*, a recital by Jane English (soprano), at 7.30pm.

Parish News Roundup

27th Feb Deanery Synod Standing Committee at St Saviour's Vicarage, 7.30pm.

3rd Mar Parish lunch at the Puss in Boots, 12.30pm

5th Mar **Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.**

17th Mar Afternoon Tea at the Plaza

4th Apr Deanery confirmation service at St Saviour's 7.30pm

12th Apr Bishop Robert's leaving service at St George's 11am.

St Gabriel's News:

A 'HAPPY NEW YEAR' and A 'HAPPY NEW BEGINNING' for both churches – with our new vicar and her family.

The Churches Together carol service was held at Davenport Methodist Church and choirs from the local schools and nurseries joined in. Kevin kindly played the organ.

Our Christmas Fair was successful although somewhat short of 'customers'.

On 19th January, Churches Together held a service "Prayer for Christian Unity". It was attended by a congregation of 21 people and the service was conducted by our vicar, Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall.

Understandable absences were Father Geoff who was on Christmas leave, and Davenport Methodist vicar Lindsay, who was away on a course. A printed Order of Service "Gathering in Hope and Unity" led us through a very interesting and enjoyable service.

In December 2013, community champions in Adswold and Bridgehall were honoured at an awards ceremony held at St Ambrose Church Hall. 29 residents were nominated, among those being Frances Farrar and Bev Rezzanno as Volunteers of the Year.

St George's donations to charity

In 2013 we made donations to a number of charities from the annual income of the church. Some of these organizations are involved in overseas projects and others work in communities in the UK. Each of the charities received £800.

The Church Housing Trust
www.churchhousingtrust.org.uk

Parish News Roundup

The Trussell Trust

www.trusselltrust.org

(establishes foodbanks)

Tear Fund

www.tearfund.org

Hope One World

www.hopeoneworld.org.uk

Mission Aviation Fellowship

www.maf-uk.org

You can see details of the work of these organizations on their websites. Support was also given to the following charities from specific events:

The Autumn Fair raised £811.80 for the work of the Church Missions Society

The Children's Society received £901 from the Christingle Service and £203.54 from church members' collecting boxes and the carol singing collection.

Confirmation

A deanery confirmation service is to be held on Tuesday 4th April at 7.30pm at St Saviours, Great Moor. Would all those interested please speak with any of the ministry team so we can arrange for some preparation lessons in advance of the service.

Advance notice

This coming November we will be commemorating the outbreak of WW1. On the Friday and Saturday before Remembrance Sunday, 7th and 8th November. Subject to the granting of a licence, we will be performing Oh What A Lovely War. Amongst other events and attractions, we anticipate having an exhibition of WW1 posters. More details and how people can be involved will be announced later. Any thoughts and ideas to Chris Dawson, 429 7880.

The Wellspring is short of:

Tins of custard

Tins of ham and pork

Tins of stewed steak and minced beef and onions

Fray Bentos tinned pies (known by us as "landmine pies")

Many thanks for your further help and many thanks to the members of the congregation at St George's who keep us supplied.

March 2014 Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Friday 14th February**

Committee meeting: **Tuesday 18th February**

Mothers' Union

Feb 10th Monday : Peter Pilbeam – A Snapshot of China

Fellowship of Marriage and Women's Fellowship

27th February. Bring and Buy Afternoon

Message Board

Magazine Subscription

A reminder to all those of you who pay for the Grapevine magazine annually, in January: Magazine subscription is now due: **£8** for the 10 issues – Gift Aid is not applicable

Wellspring Christmas Stall

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas stall. A cheque for **£250** will be sent to Wellspring

Lenten breakfasts and lunches

The 2014 Lenten Breakfasts will be held in St George's Lady Chapel on the first four Saturdays in Lent: 8th March, 15th March, 22nd March and 29th March. The theme will be:

“A Christian's View of Human Nature”

The sessions will start at 9.30am. As usual this will begin with breakfast, and the session proper begins at 10.00am and finish between 10.45 - 11am, depending on how the discussion goes.

The four speakers will be Dennis Armstrong, Chris Dawson, Canon Elaine and Peter Hall.

More details in the March Grapevine.

The Lenten Lunches will be held on Thursdays during Lent from 12-1pm at a cost of £5 for soup, a filled roll and hot drink. Further details are awaited but it thought that the lunches are *likely* to follow last year's format and take place from noon - 1pm in the Parish Room and will cover the seven Thursdays in Lent from 6th March and ending on Maundy Thursday.

The Anglican school – a national treasure, rooted in Christian values

So said John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford, and chairman of the Church of England's Board of Education, in a newspaper article prior to addressing the C of E's General Synod last November.

The Church has been a major provider of schools since 1811 when Joshua Watson established the Church of England's National Society, the body which provided the first universal education in England and Wales. Today there are over 4,600 church schools in England making up 25 per cent of all primary schools and 6 per cent of all secondary schools.

The latest figures from Ofsted and DfE school performance and census data show that Church of England schools are highly effective: 81 per cent of C of E primary schools are rated good or outstanding* which is 3 per cent higher than the national average for non C of E schools.

*St George's Primary School was recently rated 'outstanding'.

Good daydreaming

Got a problem? Start daydreaming about it. It seems that when it comes to problem-solving, the best way to start is to let your mind wander.

A recent report by the University of California has found that people who returned to a difficult task after relaxing with an easy task increased their performance by about 40 per cent. But there was little or no improvement for people who did another demanding task during the break, or who used it to rest, or who had no break at all.

It seems that “mind wandering enhances creativity”, as one professor put it. After all, Einstein gained inspiration for his theory of relativity by daydreaming about running beside a sunbeam to the edge of the universe. And, closer to earth, Newton developed his theory of gravity when he saw an apple fall from a tree in his mother's garden in Lincolnshire.

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



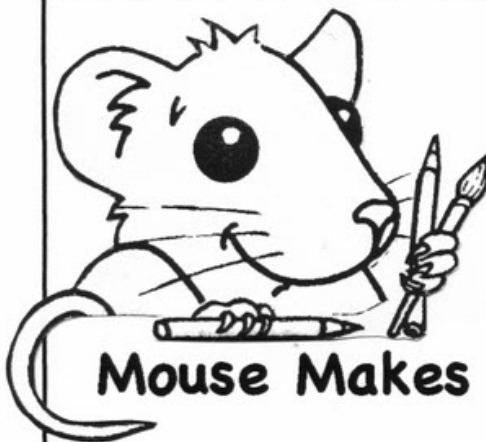
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The Lord's LOVE
never ends,
his mercies
never stop.
They are new
every morning.

Lamentations 3:22-23



Nothing ...
... will ever be
able to separate
us from the
LOVE of God
that is in
Christ Jesus
our Lord.

Romans 8:39



God **loved** the world
so much that he gave
his only Son, so that
everyone who
believes in him would
not be lost but
have eternal life. .

John 3:16



1 John 4:16

"See how much our
heavenly Father
LOVES us,
for he has
allowed us
to be called
his children"

1 John 3:1



For the
Lord is **GOOD**
and his **LOVE**
endures
for ever

Psalms 100:5



Cut out and keep these cards to
remind you of God's love for us.

Seasonal traditions at Stockport Grammar Junior School

A PAIR of magical nativity plays helped the children at Stockport Grammar Junior School celebrate Christmas. Every child in the Infant department had a part in the plays which were both performed to halls full of families, friends, staff and Governors, as well as Mayor of Stockport, Councillor Chris Murphy.

In *Whoops-a-Daisy Angel*, the girls and boys from Nursery and Reception told the story of a disorganised but lovable angel. Featuring angels, snowflakes, shepherds, wise men and Mary and Joseph in their colourful costumes, the play was backed by catchy songs and mini musicians on percussion.

Year 1 and 2's Nativity *The Stars Come Out for Christmas* was set at an awards

ceremony in "Tinseltown" and was a musical reminder of everybody's favourite parts of Christmas. Nominees for the Outstanding Contribution to Christmas Award included Santa, but a late entry telling the story of a baby being born in a stable scooped the first prize.

The Junior School celebrated Christmas in many other ways, with pantomimes, parties and a day of decoration-making with parents in the Nursery. Later, a Carol Service at St George's



Church rounded off the festivities.

SGS Juniors give presents to needy children

PUPILS AT Stockport Grammar Junior School took time to think about those less fortunate than themselves as they collected hundreds of presents for Manchester's needy children. Gift-wrapped toys were put under the school tree before being shared between The Salvation Army and Key 103's *Mission Christmas*. A dozen girls and boys from Year 6 were invited down to the Mission Christmas headquarters where they saw the huge present distribution operation in progress, before being interviewed live on air by breakfast show DJ Chelsea Norris and singing *We Wish you a Merry Christmas* to the show's listeners.



This wrapped up a very charitable term where the Junior School has supported Francis House, Children in Need, the Wellspring homeless charity amongst others with a wide

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BELIEVE in Him

DEFINITELY one of the hardest experiences in life is to sustain being strong. In all problems involving long procedures, people become weary, lose their hope and can finally give up, thinking it's never ever going to happen or become resolved. Many of my friends certainly know about my struggles to obtain my asylum visa. This is taking a long time and I am no exception to others in naturally becoming disappointed and even disillusioned at this point in my life. The experience can be likened to enduring a lengthy journey, the destination of which keeps moving further away the longer you travel. The resulting stress and anxiety recently manifested themselves in the form of a panic attack causing me to attend hospital although, thankfully, not for long.

Two weeks after that incident, I was reading the Bible when something gave me a great nudge: I was reading Mathew 14:29-31 where Jesus called Peter to walk on the water. Peter did so successfully until he became alarmed at the churning waves, lost his nerve and started to sink, at which Jesus chastised him saying "*O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*" And that is the phrase which I have been repeating in my mind ever since! I am thinking about "What really happened to my faith? What happened to my belief? How could I lose it leading to my high anxiety and subsequent panic attack?"

The problem is not unique just to me! It can affect all of us! It's about the parents who found out there was no cure for their child's disease. It's about that poverty-stricken man who has lost all he had, or about those children who have been challenged by having to care for their mother who has cancer. It is about that time when nothing but praying can help you. When we suffer such pressures, we tend to change into different people, previously unimaginable! But what can pressure really do to us if we have wholeheartedly accepted Jesus as our Saviour and trust in the Lord to bring us the courage and stamina at the right time in order to cope with such situations?

Why don't we think about all those people who are in worse situations than ourselves? Jesus healed the woman who had haemorrhaged for twelve years: He resurrected a dead girl, simply because the woman and the girl's mother **believed** in Him and in His ability to perform miracles. Yes – it's all about our **belief**! If we believe in Jesus and His help, nothing can take us down when we face tribulation in our lives. It is indeed incredible how just this one word can change the lives of so many people. Besides, let's not forget that before being given a burden, God gives us the strength to carry it!

And Jesus said unto them "Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you 'If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you'". Matthew 17:20

Please remember me during your prayers, and may the peace of the Lord be always with you.

Atousa Khoshrouz

Organ restoration fund update and forthcoming event

CONGRATULATIONS TO everyone who has supported the St George's Organ Restoration Fund. Our Treasurer, Stephen Jones, informs us that, subject to recovering the full VAT amount from the Listed Places of Worship Scheme, and a yet to be approved donation from the Christmas Tree Festival, we should have raised enough to finance the first phase of the Restoration. Let us pray that this will come to pass, and in the meantime, we continue our fundraising, hopefully for Phase Two.

The first event of the year will be a concert by Jane English (soprano), on Saturday 15th February at 7.30. Jane English, the daughter of Michael English, Director of Music at St George's from 1976 until 1997, now lives and works in Bristol where she has an extensive teaching practice and is involved with Bristol Voices, part of Bristol Cathedral's Outreach programme. Jane's singing career spans oratorio, solo recitals and ensemble work, liturgical and theatre music.



The theme of Jane's concert will be Memories of St George's, and we hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come along. Tickets will be £8 and £6, and are available from Penny Bisby (476 4773), after Sunday morning service or on the door.

Accompanied children come free, and raffle and refreshments will be available.

St George's Praise And Play celebrate Christmas!

WE HAD GREAT FUN preparing for the Church Christmas Tree Festival in November 2013. Our tree was called "I will bring a lamb" which linked with our theme of "Visitors at the stable". The children and adult helpers had been busy making lambs from card, cotton wool and some glittery additions, which were then placed to decorate the tree. We also displayed our Manchester Evening News Wish posters. Thank you to everyone who collected tokens. The final total was 6,112 and we are now waiting for our allocated money. Some tokens were received from well-wishers who learnt about our group in the newspaper. It was very exciting to have an article and photos printed on the last day of the tokens: November 30th, headlined "Play group praying for Wish tokens".



Our term ended with a jolly good party which began with hat-making as everyone arrived! We had some very creative hands at work! Then we launched into our weekly focus with "Ring the bells" and "Light a Candle". Our recent Bible stories about the nativity were replaced by games and dancing, pass the parcel, musical statues, the Hokey Cokey and so-on!



Everyone enjoyed the delicious refreshments and we would like to thank the Wednesday Coffee Club for giving us a splendid donation which was used towards the party.

Finally we had a visit from a man dressed in red and white...NO! not a Man Utd sub, but Santa Claus!

Eventually everyone left for the next part of their day...it was still only 11am!!! Many from our club came to the Christingle Service on Christmas Eve and we have enjoyed meeting up again since January to share our news and learn more of God's purpose. Our theme this half term is "Friendship". We are always happy to welcome you if you have a child aged four or under. Please come on Mondays from 9-11 am in term time.

Janet Neilson



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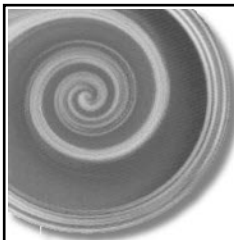
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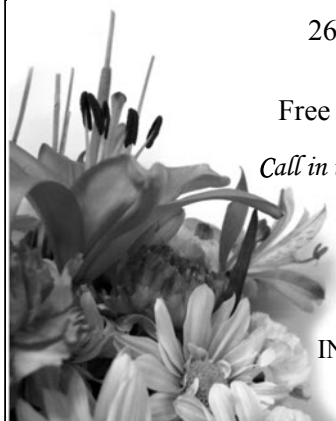
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Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 23)

St. George's Parish Rooms

Are you an organisation that would like facilities to hold a fund-raising event, social event, activity or meeting? Or perhaps you're a Mum or Dad looking for a venue for a children's party?

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For prices, further information and bookings, please contact: Andrew Garlick 440 9272 or the parish office 480 2453.

Crossword

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

Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)

9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)

13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)

25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)

12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)

15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)

16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)

17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)

20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)

23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

So, what is exactly IS a rural dean?

IF A CHURCH OF ENGLAND DIOCESE is a business and its bishop is the managing director, an archdeacon is the head of a division and a rural dean manages a department: not quite an accurate description but not a bad comparison. When the call centre cannot answer your problem and you ask to speak to a manager, the next voice you hear is probably the equivalent of the rural dean.

Another way to look at it is to see the rural dean, often known as the area dean, as the senior vicar in a large group of churches and parishes. Such a group, maybe a couple of dozen parishes, is a deanery. The rural or area dean chairs all the clergy of the area when they come together with lay people elected by each parish in a council called the deanery synod.

Synods are the Church's equivalent of Parliament (General Synod), County Councils (Diocesan Synod) and local councils (Deanery Synod), where both spiritual and administrative matters can be discussed democratically and planning and policy shaped.

Rural dean is, in fact, an ancient office with certain specified responsibilities: the incongruity of a priest in the middle of a city being called a rural dean led to many now being called area deans. In many instances, the duties of rural dean are discharged by a vicar as a temporary addition to his or her responsibilities, in return for a small honorarium. Rather than seeing the rural dean as the line manager for other vicars, therefore, the relationship is nearer to that of the Archbishop of Canterbury with other bishops: not the boss but first among equals.

As an officer of the bishop the rural dean's key roles include looking after parishes that are between vicars, ensuring everything keeps going and helping in the process of finding a new vicar; chairing meetings of all the clergy within the deanery; co-chairing, with an elected layperson, meetings of the deanery synod; and carrying out visitations and inspections on behalf of the archdeacon to ensure the good order of the fabric and the general welfare of parishes.

It's not all about admin, however. Being the priest of a parish is not always as quiet and calm as you might think.

Clergy can be affected by pressure just like anyone else and rural deans are expected to care for the clergy of their deanery as well as for the parishes. They listen to vicars' problems, as well as those of parishioners, and help in whatever way they can.

And then they make sure that communication between the parishes and the bishop is working. They pass on messages from the bishop and send back responses, as well as making sure that the bishop hears of any problems in the parishes.

So, you might see rural and area deans as a cross between council chair, line manager and agony aunt.

Church Commissioners help create new bank

THE CHURCH COMMISSIONERS for England have joined a consortium of investors to create a leading challenger bank from 314 branches of Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS).

The confirmation follows the decision of the board of RBS to favour the bid of a consortium which includes the Corsair Capital investment fund, Centerbridge Partners and the Commissioners to create a new bank with a focus on ethical standards and servicing the needs of retail customers and small and medium enterprises (SME).

The new bank, to be called Williams and Glyn's (W&G), will be a challenger in UK business and retail banking sector with a projected 5% market share of the SME and midcorporate banking markets, and a 2% share of UK personal current accounts. Andreas Whittam Smith, first estates commissioner, said: "The Church Commissioners are excited to have the opportunity to be involved in creating a U.K. challenger bank operating to the highest ethical standards and giving consumers more choice. We are delighted that the Royal Bank of Scotland recognised the strengths of our bid and the consortium's vision, and have chosen the consortium as their preferred bidder."

The Church Commissioners for England are responsible for managing a well-diversified investment portfolio with the aim of producing returns to support the Church of England's work across the country.



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A Book for Lent?

ASH WEDNESDAY is on 5th March, so Lent is a few weeks away yet. There's still plenty of time for us to work our way towards a mood of reflection. Choosing a book to read can be helpful in this process. Here are some suggestions of books available in our library at the back of church. Some I have suggested before and others have just been added. All of them are, in some way, reflective.

If you fancy doing a Bible Study, Tom Wright's *Luke for Everyone* or Ada Lum's *Luke, New Hope, New Joy* might be your cup of tea as might be Andreas Kostenberger, who looks at John's Gospel in *Encountering John*.

In *The Nail* Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford, uses the nails used to crucify Jesus as a jumping off point for each character's reflections in the Passion story. Each one considers the questions, 'Who killed Christ?' and 'Who was responsible?' Each chapter includes a Biblical passage, a meditative hymn and a short prayer. Stephen Cottrell, with others, was also responsible for *Reflections for Lent 2013*, a copy of which is also in the library.

David Shepherd, a minister, theologian and academic, realised that, though we as Christians often hear references to the Sabbath, increasingly we do not keep it. Our busy lives take over. David found this to be true for himself. *Seeking Sabbath* is a personal account of his search to rediscover one 'day of rest' in the week.

You could say that 'keeping the Sabbath' is a way of finding sanctuary in the turmoil of a busy week. Developing this theme, I once again recommend Abbot Christopher Jamison's *Finding Sanctuary*. This book was a result of the interest shown in the contemplative life following the television series about five modern men living as monks for forty days and nights at Worth Abbey, where Christopher Jamison was abbot.

Joyce Huggett in *Listening to God* and Jim Borst in *Coming to God in the Stillness* both write about contemplative prayer and connecting with God. Jim Borst's book is only 75 pages and is more of a 'how to do it' book. First written in 1979, for me it is 'of its time' in places but still worth reading. Joyce Huggett's, though also originally from the 70s, has been updated and tells her journey in coming to understand what it means to 'listen to God'.

John Main's writing and work underpins the approach to meditation supported by the World Council for Christian Meditation (WCCM). He became a Benedictine monk after serving with the British Colonial Service in the Far East. Here he was influenced by the Buddhist approach to meditation. His *Word into Silence* talks about what Christian meditation is and how to meditate. If you are interested in this aspect of the Christian life, you might like to visit www.wccm.org. You can subscribe to their Daily Wisdom and Weekly Teaching among other things.

Chris Dawson

Enduring love

THIS IS A TRUE STORY. Back in the late 1890s a Presbyterian minister called John Chapman was travelling by train through rural Kansas. There was only one other passenger in the carriage, a young man. As the train chugged along, Chapman noticed that the young man was very agitated. Finally Chapman asked if he could help.

Slowly, the young man shared that some years before he had run away from home and done some wild things. Finally, he had written to his parents, telling them that he wanted to come home. But he was afraid they wouldn't want him back.

The young man had remembered that, at a certain point, the railway track passed very close to his parents' home. In a letter he had told his parents that if they could not forgive him, he would understand. But if they could possibly still want him, then they could tie a yellow ribbon on their old apple tree that grew right beside the railway line. The train would soon pass his home. "But I'm too afraid to look out for the tree." And with that he began to sob.

John Chapman laid a hand on his shoulder. "I'll look out for you." And so as the young man buried his face in his hands the minister kept watch, peering anxiously out of the dusty train window, seeking an apple tree with hopefully a yellow ribbon around it.

A few minutes passed, and then Chapman declared, "Son, there is a yellow ribbon on an apple tree. In fact, every branch is hanging with yellow ribbons, scores of them."

Well, of course the young man got off at the next stop. John Chapman continued his journey, deeply moved by this sign of parental forgiveness. He told the story often in his preaching, until it became widely known in Kansas, and finally ended up in the pop song 'Tie A Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree'.

The story points to one of the greatest doctrines taught in the Bible: the love of God for His people. It was that love that moved the Father to send His Son into the world. In Ephesians Paul writes glowingly of "that great love with which He loved us". John emphasises the same great truth in a magnificent creed of just three words: 'God is love'. Paul put it this way in Galatians: 'He loved me and gave Himself for me'.

National Nest Box Week

WHETHER HUMAN or feathered, it is well known that love-birds like to nest together. This is why the British Trust for Ornithology has chosen Valentine's Day to open National Nest Box Week (14 – 21 Feb).

The week aims to encourage people to put up nest boxes - not only to protect the wildlife we already have, but to encourage even more birds to brood in our gardens. The need is greater than ever. Since National Nest Box Week started in 1997, more trees have been cut down, meaning that even more birds have nowhere to build their homes. Nest boxes are a great alternative – it is reckoned that there are now between five to six million boxes across the UK! For details of all the different types of nest boxes, visit: www.bto.org

Behind the scenes at St George's Christmas Tree Festival

WHAT AN ACHIEVEMENT to hold our seventh Christmas Tree Festival in November 2013 and bring in nearly 4,000 people from our local community, as recorded by volunteers at the desk! There were children from at least five local schools and nurseries. The Festival has become so meaningful to people that they regard it as the "beginning of Christmas." As the closing of the Festival takes place at Advent or "the coming", this really is the beginning of Christmas.

There are so many people to thank for making all this possible and there is such a sense of camaraderie among all the people involved over the five days of the Festival, people from St George's, St Gabriel's and beyond.

Our strong committee begin to meet early in September to plan this event. Invitations go out to the previous year's sponsors and any people who have expressed a wish to offer a tree in the current year. Fortnightly meetings soon become weekly as the ball is set rolling and gathers pace.

There is always so much work to do before we open our doors. We mount a major publicity campaign in the form of posters, banners and items in the local press and Chester Diocesan News, as well as notification of clergy in local churches. The production of our programme also involves a great deal of thought and the coordination of the efforts of several people. The programme includes a welcome letter from the vicar, details of the trees and sponsors and information about the church's Christmas services.

When the week of the Festival arrives there are the various types of tree platforms to be cleaned and set up. Our gentlemen electrical team are seen crawling round the floors with cables, masking tape and plug sockets. Every set of tree lights has to be tested – health and safety to the fore!

A café has to be set up, equipped with tables, chairs and tablecloths. There are boilers to fill, tea and coffee appear and juice for children. Then all those wonderful cakes and mince pies arrive. The catering committee is in business!

The trees arrive and are decorated and illuminated according to their themes and with suitable accompanying advertising. Some of St George's own trees, including the Prayer Tree, The Poppy Tree and The Christingle Tree and other regulars are set up. A member of the clergy produces five thought-provoking trees that attest to the real meaning of Christmas. The south porch is beautifully decorated and the font is girdled with splendour, both endlessly admired along with our altar flowers. All this work, fellowship and fun take place before the doors even open.

This year the Grotto was "Father Christmas's Garden" and was appropriately decked out with trees, animals, birds and snow. Just outside the Grotto an area for children is established with tables and chairs, illustrations

to colour, and letters and a post box for Father Christmas. All this is in advance of the arrival of Father Christmas and Mrs Christmas on the Saturday afternoon. Over one hundred children receive a present.

Lists appear two weeks before the Festival begins and people kindly sign up for two-hour stints of duty. We have General Stewards, Welcomers and Door Duty and Fair Trade and Catering helpers. We welcome every pair of willing hands to join us.

Doors open and away we go. Five wonderful, busy and seemingly endless days pass as people come and go. Adults and children roll in and schools bring choirs, dancers and instrumentalists. Some of our own church groups get involved as well. The church's Singing Group and Handbell Ringers also put on an amazing performance. A member of our wonderful clergy team is always on hand to thank the performers.

And again and again programmes are printed and assembled and reprinted and assembled...

The real aim of our community project was fulfilled again as 2,126 adults and 1,858 children pass through our doors. Many had never seen our church before; some make the annual pilgrimage to our Festival, it having become the beginning of Christmas for them. How do we thank so many people?

Congratulations to all who took part and supported our marvellous Christmas Tree Festival for 2013. So many people were involved and one of the event's spectacular achievements was the raising of several thousands of pounds for our church. Our prices have never altered over the years (£2 admission for adults and £1 for a drink and a cake!)

Another impressive and lively event has come to an end and we would like to say congratulations and thank you all so much. It would not be possible without all of you.

THANK YOU

Pat Durnall

Christmas Tree Festival 2013 Roundup

St George's seventh Christmas Tree Festival was another big success, attracting nearly 4,000 visitors, roughly 400 more than last year. The event also surpassed last year's Festival in the number of trees. This year there were 82 trees, five of which were created by the Rev. Sandra Woodhead.

All in all, the event raised over £6,000 for various church funds, so in every sense it could be considered a great success.

As in previous years, visitors were treated to a number of winning performances. Children from St George's Primary School provided a choral performance on the Wednesday, Great Moor Infants performed on the Thursday, and Hillcrest Grammar School on the Friday. On the Saturday, Karela School of Dance presented a selection from its repertoire and later that afternoon St

George's Singing Group and Handbell Ringers entertained the record crowds that had gathered with some seasonal favourites.

There were a number of activities that had been provided for young visitors. Father Christmas received well over 150 children on Saturday afternoon and Santa's Grotto and Activity Table also drew a number of youngsters.

This year's Festival survey received 87 responses. 86 out of 87 respondents said the event was good value for money and everyone said they would "encourage others to visit". Roughly half of the respondents said that they had never visited before, which suggests we are continuing to attract new visitors. One respondent said that we should "do more advertising."

As in previous years, the many respondents said they had discovered the event through word of mouth (34/87). Only five had learned of the event through the newspaper, one through radio, three through the internet and 15 through posters. The remainder had said "other" which may mean through church, school or connection with tree sponsors.

The team's tracking of visitor numbers turned up a few surprises. If the records are correct, we had more visitors on Thursday than we had on Saturday. This is probably largely to do with the fact that several parties of school children came during that day.

Here are the figures for each day:

	Adults	Children	Total number
Wed	234	262	496
Th	491	586	1077
Fri	384	465	849
Sat	666	354	1020
Sun	351	191	542

We never feel that we have got the visitor count just right. Often people are pouring through the door so quickly it is difficult to count them. It can also be difficult to interpret the tally sheets. Visitor numbers are a challenge even with more sophisticated counting systems. People who work in organisations where an electric eye counts visitor numbers tell me how one child playing near the door can be counted as 20 visitors!

In any case we are delighted with the way the event went and will be meeting to consider how we might make the Festival even better next year.

We scarcely know how to begin to thank all the people who made this event possible. We had the unstinting support of the clergy and many members of the congregation who gave of their time. The sponsors turned out in numbers, creating beautiful and thought-provoking trees which delighted our visitors. We had great media coverage from the Stockport Express, Chester Diocesan News, Inside Magazines and SK8 Bramhall Magazines. We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who helped in any way. We hope to be back again next year.

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Obituary: Patricia Newsham January 1938 – November 2013

PAT NEWSHAM was one of St George's characters! She was a familiar figure, processing with the choir at almost all church services, having joined in the year 2000, when Roger Briscoe was the Director of Music.

Pat was born in Bolton but, due to her parents' work, had to move house on numerous occasions, finally settling in Heaton Moor. As a result of these moves, Pat attended about nine schools before leaving, when she was 15, to work on Garner's Farm in Woodford. She cycled there every day during the many years she worked there, and it was here that she developed her love for farm animals, especially cows, many of which would become the subjects of drawings she produced in later life. But, once home, on came the roller skates and off Pat went to play with her friends.

Eventually the farm work became too heavy for Pat and she went to work at Cheshire Sterilised Milk, where she met her future husband, Roy. They were married on 19th June 1971 at Tiviot Methodist Church by the late RAF minister, Arthur Connop MBE. Pat was very nervous at the wedding and, in trying to repeat the vicar's words, said 'I take thee, Roy, to be my **awful** wedded husband.' They honeymooned in Austria and would eventually move to Brinnington, where their son, Richard, was born in January 1975.

Pat was always involved in Church life, firstly at St Luke's church in Brinnington, then St Mary's in Stockport, where seven-year-old Richard was in the choir, under the watchful eye of Ron Heys, choirmaster, and the Revd Alan Fairhurst, rector. When Richard became a member of the choir at St George's, Stockport, Pat eventually joined too.

Always drawing and painting, Pat went to art classes at Stockport Art Guild and frequently brought samples of her artwork to impress her fellow choristers, members of the congregation and any members of the public with whom she had contact! Her work included some very good drawings of St George's church, and she presented one of her drawings to the Revd Alan Bell on his retirement as vicar. One of her last contributions was to paint and decorate a pair of feathers which took pride of place on the wings of the angel, which was the choir's themed tree at the recent Christmas Tree Festival.

Pat will be remembered as an extremely kind-hearted person, but also someone who would speak her mind, no matter what. She was very determined to master many things, including the Latin required in some of the choral items, but perhaps not modern technology. Having got as far as a TV with freeview and a built in DVD player she couldn't cope with the answerphone or mobiles. She was certainly one of life's characters and we will all miss her.

Edited version of the address given at the funeral.

Obituary: Joan Grundy February 1920 – December 2013

JOAN HAD a special fondness for St George's. The people of St George's gave her the warmest welcome when she first moved to Stockport as a country girl from rural Derbyshire. It was a place where lifelong friendships were forged and the place that gave Joan great solace when her beloved husband, Ken, passed away in 1995.

It was also a place where Joan found great enjoyment and fulfilment over the years, as she threw herself, with her usual boundless enthusiasm, into all manner of church activities, particularly the Fellowship of Marriage, of which she was Secretary for over 10 years, and the annual CMS Autumn Fair, where Joan's involvement with the FOM stall is legendary. It always raised considerable sums of money and, even today, has lost none of its enthusiasm or money-earning capabilities.

Joan was a regular churchgoer and she considered her role in life was as a homemaker, never happier that when there was a houseful of young people to feed and fuss over; cakes to be baked, Rose Queen dresses or Boy Bishop outfits to be made from items found in her sewing box! Joan was the perfect cook, seamstress and organiser.

Joan was also an accomplished pianist, and probably one of the few regrets in her life was that the wartime bombing of Manchester robbed her of the opportunity to take her final grade examination on the piano. But she didn't need grades to provide music for dancing, singing hymns or accompanying a good old-fashioned singsong. Even at 90 she could give a spirited rendition of any music put in front of her.

When her children, Stella and Chris, started to look after themselves, Joan went out to work – firstly at the Three Shires Restaurant, then selling fabrics at Ridgway's in Hazel Grove, then five years at Lowfield Road Post Office and, finally, in March 1974, she began to make her mark in the insurance and estate agent business, at the offices of Geoff Ward, a family friend.

Whatever she did, Joan worked hard and with good humour, getting things organised and keeping things straight – just as she always had at home. She wanted no fuss at her passing, simply to be remembered with a smile.

*Feel no guilt in laughter, she'll know how much you care
Feel no sorrow in a smile she can't be here to share.
You cannot grieve forever; she wouldn't want you to,
She'd hope that you would carry on, the way you always do.
So talk about the good times and the happiness you shared
The days you spent together; the ways you showed you cared.*

*Let memories surround you; a word someone may say
Will suddenly recapture a time, an hour, a day,
That brings her back as clearly as tho' she were still there
And fills you with the feeling that she is always near.
For if you keep those moments, you'll never be apart
And she will live forever, locked safely in your heart.*

*Edited address given by
Joan's son, Chris Grundy*

A Tribute to Audrey Jones (nee Swift)

I FIRST knew of Audrey at school – Greek Street High School for Girls. She was an extremely talented girl with music, art and acting among her capabilities.

At St George's she always showed an interest in the music and helped out where she could. She conducted Great Moor Junior School Choir; Manchester Girls' Choir and Great Moor Townswomen's Guild Choir, which later became Great Moor Ladies Guild Choir which is still going today, although 'Guild' has been dropped from the title.

When I joined GMTWG choir (following in my mother's footsteps), I was delighted to find that Audrey was the conductor. She was adept at getting folk to open their mouths and sing!

We entered many Festival competitions, having last-minute rehearsals on the coach. Audrey knew the foibles of many adjudicators and sometimes, if she knew who the adjudicator was on that day, she would alter our mode of singing appropriately. We usually won!

One year we were returning to a venue, bringing the Cup back with us, when Audrey told us she didn't mind if we didn't win – she didn't like the Cup! Nevertheless, we did win it back!

She was an excellent teacher and it has been a great pleasure to have known her.

Jean Bellerby Johnson

Memories of Audrey Jones

My son, who we adopted as a baby and is of Afro-Caribbean descent, went to Great Moor Junior School, where Audrey Jones was the music teacher. When he was in year 6 (11 year olds) she produced *The Mikado* with the children, as there were many talented singers in that year group. The long term instructions beforehand were interesting! Matthew - 'Mrs Jones says I have to grow my hair longer so it can be slicked back with gel'. Me - 'Well that won't work with your hair because it's so curly' Matthew - 'But Mrs Jones Says!!!' Next it was 'Mrs Jones

says we have to have American tan tights to make our legs look darker' Me - 'but your legs are dark already' Matthew - 'But Mrs Jones Says!!!' Who was I as a mere Mum to know what was right? The resulting production was superb, as was everything Audrey did and she had the children in the palm of her hand. One of my proudest memories of Matthew's childhood was sitting in the circle at the Free Trade Hall and watching him sing on stage with the school choir - fabulous! Thank you Audrey.

Hazel Jenkins

More memories of Audrey Jones

AUDREY JONES was the conductor of the Manchester Girls' Choir, which, under her guidance, won most of the competitions they entered. The choir was founded in 1961, with a unique 'no audition' policy, inviting girls from all backgrounds, regardless of academic or musical ability. But they also became renowned for their beautiful sound as well as their prize-winning ability.

Former members remember that every summer the choir went away to the International Eisteddfod in Llangollen to compete. They slept on a classroom floor, 36 of them, having midnight feasts, but fitting in lots of rehearsing too, during the day. For some of the girls it was their only holiday, but it was so exciting as there were choirs from America and Africa – they would meet the world on a field in Llangollen. One of the choirs won their category one year so, looking back, old members realise how good they must have been to achieve what they did.

Audrey Jones was remembered as a Mary Poppins type with a beautiful bun on the top of her head. There was a BBC programme, *A Grand Sing*, in which the choir competed, as well as many other choirs. Audrey's silhouette, conducting, was used in the opening sequence, but, to make it more 'effective', they gave her a baton, which she never usually used. Finally, a memory from a former member of the Manchester Girl's Choir: 'A truly, lovely lady who inspired my love of singing and of whom I have many happy and treasured memories.'

Louise Pennington and Rachel Davies



Joan Grundy (see facing page)



Vera Fallows (see next page)

Vera Edith Fallows

Vera was born on July 30th 1923 in East Bilney, Norfolk. The oldest of six children, she grew up in a farming community. Her father was a Methodist lay preacher and the entire family was involved in the music at Hunstanton Methodist chapel. Two of her siblings played the organ, and the other three joined her in the choir. Along with their mother they all contributed to the running of the church and its Sunday School. Vera had a lovely singing voice and when she was young her father would take her on the handlebars of his bike to sing to the local chapel congregations. It was against this background that Vera's great Christian faith developed and grew.

In 1941 she joined the Nursing Corps and trained to be a nurse. Her gentle nursing care reached out to many war wounded, some with severe burns. She met her future husband, Walter Fallows, when his regiment was stationed in Hunstanton. Walter, known as "The Doc", and Vera were married in 1945. Vera was a devoted and loving wife, mother and grandmother with high standards in all aspects of her life. When her two daughters, Jean and Rosanne, went to secondary school she worked part-time in the Home Nursing Service and then moved on to medical secretarial work, eventually ending her working life in health centre administration.

She worked tirelessly with young people at both St Gabriel's and St George's. For many years she ran Brownies and Guides at St Gabriel's and was the superintendent of the Infant Sunday School at St George's (in the days when Sunday afternoon attendances ran into three figures). When the church playgroup started in the early 80's she joined the team of playgroup leaders and enjoyed telling stories and helping with creative activities. Vera cared about people, always putting the needs of others before her own, always ready to listen. Although challenged by periods of ill health and living with pain, she stayed cheerful and determined to continue with her interests and hobbies.

As physical disability increased Vera greatly missed going to church, but she watched and joined in "Songs of Praise" each Sunday, and was always delighted when family called by to share in this worship. She read her Bible daily and was devoted to her prayers. Michael Coupe faithfully and regularly brought Vera Holy Communion and she was very appreciative of his kindness. While she lived in her flat they always had afternoon tea together before Michael went on his way.

In the early evening of September 27th Vera passed away peacefully, aged 90. She had lived a full and vivacious life, full of opportunities and challenges. She was a very kind, outgoing, unselfish person, always doing things for others with a happy smile - touching so many lives with her love and sense of fun. She will be sadly missed.

Jean Hayden

(see photo on previous page)

Bishops welcome Participant Observers to first meeting

The House of Bishops of the Church of England recently welcomed eight women as participant observers to its meetings. The welcome followed the election of the eight senior women clergy from regions across the country.

Last February (2013) the House decided that until such time as there are six female members of the House, following the admission of women to the episcopate, a number of senior women clergy should be given the right to attend and speak at meetings of the House as participant observers. The necessary change to the House's Standing Orders were made in May.

Elections for the eight senior women clergy were held in autumn of this year and the following were elected: East Midlands - Ven Christine Wilson, Archdeacon of Chesterfield;

West Midlands - Revd Preb. Dr Jane Tillier, Preb of Lichfield Cathedral; East Anglia - Ven Annette Cooper, Archdeacon of Colchester; South and Central - Ven Joanne Grenfell, Archdeacon of Portsdown; South East region - Ven Rachel Treweek, Archdeacon of Hackney

South West region - Ven Nicola Sullivan, Archdeacon of Wells; North East Very Revd Vivienne Faull, Dean of York; and finally, in the North West - The Rev Libby Lane,* Dean of Women in Ministry, Chester Diocese

* Based at St George's, Libby was Stockport Southwest Team Vicar from 2002 to 2007 with a special responsibility for children's work. Libby began the popular Praise and Play children's event at St George's, which has grown in recent years often with 30 children attending on any one day and many more registered. Ed.

What the 23rd Psalm is really all about

(some modern 'insights' on an age-old Psalm...)

The Lord is my Shepherd - *that's relationship.*

I shall not want - *that's supply.*

He makes me lie down in green pastures - *that's rest.*

He leads me beside the still waters - *that's refreshment.*

He restores my soul - *that's healing.*

He leads me in the paths of righteousness - *that's guidance.*

For his name's sake - *that's purpose.*

Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death - *that's testing.*

I will fear no evil - *that's protection.*

For You are with me - *that's faithfulness.*

Your rod and your staff, they comfort me - *that's discipline.*

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies - *that's hope.*

You anoint my head with oil - *that's consecration.*

My cup runs over - *that's abundance.*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life - *that's blessing.*

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever - *that's security!*



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, STOCKPORT

MUSIC LIST – FEBRUARY 2014

Sunday 2 nd February – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple					
10:15am - St. George's Service			6:30pm – Evensong		
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas		Hymns:	578 – Stand up, stand up for Jesus 554 – Pour out thy Spirit from on high 573 – Son of God, eternal Saviour (omit *) 19 – Round me falls the night	
Hymns:	80 – When candles are lighted (omit *) SP182 – Purify my heart 94 – Hail to the Lord who comes 2 – Christ whose glory fills the skies				
Nunc Dim:	Mayes		Canticles:	Mag: 47	Nunc: 63 Psalm: 132
Anthem:	Ave Verum - Elgar		Anthem:	O thou the central orb - Wood	
Voluntary:	Prelude in G major – BWV 541		Voluntary:	Fugue in G major – BWV 541	

Sunday 9 th February – Fourth Sunday before Lent					
10:15am - St. George's Service			6:30pm – Evensong		
All-Age Service			Hymns:	507 – Lord of all hopefulness 532 – O for a closer walk with God 380 – At the name of Jesus (omit *) 18 – O strength and stay	
			Canticles:	Mag: 51	Nunc: 62 Psalm: 4
			Anthem:	I give to you a new commandment - Nardone	
			Voluntary:	Toccata in B minor - Gigout	

Sunday 16 th February – Third Sunday before Lent					
10:15am - St. George's Service			6:30pm – Evensong		
Setting:	Greening		Hymns:	585 – The Church's one foundation 414 – Eternal light! Eternal light! 336 – Eternal God, we consecrate 14 – Glory to thee my God this night	
Hymns:	492 – Jesus where'er thy people meet 305 – I come with joy, a child of God 581 – Take my life and let it be 591 – The kingdom of God		Canticles:	Mag: 49	Nunc: 59 Psalm: 13
Anthem:	O for a closer walk with God – Stanford		Anthem:	If ye love me - Tallis	
Voluntary:	Toccata - Mushel		Voluntary:	Rhosymedre – Vaughan-Williams	

Sunday 23 rd February – Second Sunday before Lent					
10:15am - St. George's Service			6:30pm – Choral Evensong		
Setting:	Greening		Hymns:	556 – Praise the Lord! Ye heavens adore him 537 – O God, our help in ages past 278 – Alleluia, sing to Jesus 22 – The day thou gavest	
Hymns:	546 – O worship the King SP282 – I do not know tomorrow's way 498 – Let us with a gladsome mind 470 – I the Lord of sea and sky		Canticles:	Stanford in B flat	Psalm: 148
Anthem:	Look at the world - Rutter		Anthem:	Evening Hymn – Balfour-Gardiner	
Voluntary:	Wer nur den lieben Gott – BWV 647		Voluntary:	Carillon-Sortie - Mulet	

"My day old child"

My day old child in my arms
with my lips against his ear
I whispered strongly "How I wish,
I wish that you could hear,

"I've a hundred wonderful things to say
(A tiny cough and nod)
Hurry, hurry, hurry and grow
so I can tell you about God."

My day old baby's mouth was still
and my words only tickled his ear,
but a kind of light passed through his eyes,
and I saw this thought appear,

"How I wish I had a voice and words,
I've a hundred things to say,
Before I forget, I'd tell you of God,
I left Him yesterday."

Author: Carol Lynn Pearson

**Extracts from
St George's CE Primary
School newsletter
special edition
December 2013**



Dental Playbox

Reception children have been learning all about teeth and how to keep them healthy with Dental Playbox, who came into school on 30th September.

PTA Cinema Night

Mrs Kivell and the PTA team organised a Cinema Night on 10th October, which was well attended and very good fun. We were treated to 'Monsters University', and we are now looking forward to our next Cinema Night in February.

Harvest Service

Thank you to all of you who came to our service on 10th October and who were so generous in giving gifts for the Wellspring, a charity that provides meals to the homeless here in Stockport.

Stockport Schools Book Awards

On 30th October, children and parents from our school attended another gala night of book awards, voted for by the children of Stockport schools. Many nominated authors were there, and the winners received artwork created by children from various schools. Two of our children (Joel Eadie and George Parker) contributed to the evening in a significant way, when they were selected to be recorded reading extracts from nominated books as part of a sound and vision presentation for one set of nominations. They read excellently and we understand the voice coaches were very impressed with them both!

Book Fair

The Book Fair came to school in November and was extremely well attended. Many thanks to all parents and carers who came along to part with their hard earned cash in order to encourage their children to enjoy reading. As a result you have gained £712.01 commission for the school to spend on books over the coming months.

Grapevine competition

The parish magazine, 'Grapevine', ran another competition

this year to find a piece of child's artwork that would be used on the front cover of the Christmas edition of the magazine. The winner was Samantha Lees, who received a £25 book token. There were also two runners up this year, who each received a £5 book token. They were Ellie Charlton-Brown and Raphael Morris. Congratulations to all of them, and our particular thanks to the 'Grapevine' editor, Mark Lane, for organizing the competition.

Christmas Tree Festival

Our Church organized another Christmas Tree Festival this year, and, with over 80 trees on display, it was the biggest and best yet. All our children enjoyed visiting the festival, as did many families and parish members. Our school tree was on the theme of 'Our Christmas Songbook', and had decorations that contained children's illustrations of lines from favourite Christmas carols.

PTA Christmas Fair

Claire Kivell and her army of parent volunteers organised an excellent Christmas Fair, and I'd like to thank them on behalf of the whole school community. It looks like we have made about £1700, which is a brilliant total. Thanks to all of you who supported us, and to the school staff who gave up their time to run stalls and generally help things run smoothly.

Nativity Plays

Key Stage 1 and Reception children have entertained us and put us all in a Christmas mood with their wonderful performances of the Christmas story. Well done to all the children and their staff for all their hard work. Thank you to all parents and carers for your kind donations after the performances. As a result we have been able to send £145 to Francis House children's hospice.

KS2 Concert

It was great to see so many people at our concert on 12th December, and we hope that everyone enjoyed it. I hope you'll agree that there are many talented children in our school, which was clearly demonstrated in their performances.



St George's Church Music Club

Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword solution

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

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

Recipe of the month: BACON, POTATO AND CHEESE PIE

Bacon, cheese and onions, what a lovely combination for a simple meal, though it is only a pie in a loose sense of the word. Usefully, this dish can be made in advance and reheated for half an hour so when required. If you prefer unsmoked bacon, then use that instead.

2lb/1kg potatoes, scrubbed and boiled until just cooked, then drained
2oz/50g butter
2 tbsp oil
3 medium onions, skinned and thinly sliced
2oz/50g plain flour
1.5 pts/1 litre milk
4oz/100g Cheddar or Lancashire cheese, grated.
finely ground black pepper, and salt if needed
6 rashers smoked bacon, grilled until crisp and crumbled

Heat the butter and oil in a saucepan, add onions and sauté for 5-7 minutes, stirring occasionally so that they don't stick. Stir in the flour and cook for a couple of minutes, stirring all the time. Gradually add the milk, stirring all the time until the sauce boils. Take the pan off the heat, add the cheese, reserving 2 tablespoons for the top of the pie. Add the bacon and pepper and stir in. Taste to see if the bacon has provided enough salt for the sauce and if not add as required. Cut potatoes roughly into cubes of about 1 inch/2.5cm and put in the bottom of a shallow ovenproof dish. Pour the sauce over the potatoes and mix gently in. Sprinkle the reserved cheese on top. Put into a hot oven 200C/400F/gas 6 and cook for 15-20 minutes until the top is golden brown. Serve immediately; it is good with a green vegetable.

If it is more convenient to do the preparation in advance, reheat the dish in a slightly cooler oven for a longer time. Say, 180C/350F/gas 4 for about 30 minutes. Serves 6.

Pamela Ferguson

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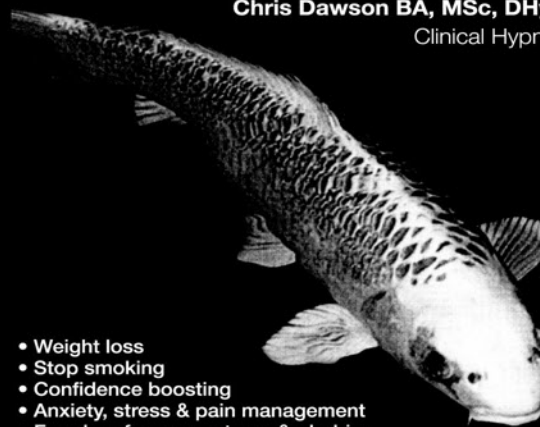
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