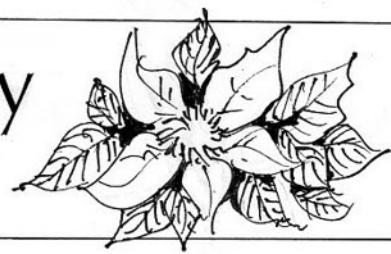


May



2014

Parish Grapevine

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

80p

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,

THE APRIL ISSUE of *Grapevine* appeared on Sunday 30th March. In my editorial, I made an attempt to thank Rev. Glenys Sellors for all that she has been doing for us. Sadly, owing to a misunderstanding on my part, I reported that she had resigned. This, of course is not so, and a correction promptly appeared in the *Lance* on the following Sunday, 6th April. reading as follows:

Correction to this month's Grapevine:
Rev Glenys Sellors has not resigned. She retired as a Licenced Assistant Priest in August last year, and is now a Retired Priest with the Bishop's 'Permission to officiate'. This enables her to officiate anywhere in the Diocese of Chester, but St George's is her home parish. We are pleased that she remains on our rota of services and that we will continue to see her, both at St George's and St Gabriel's, on a regular basis.

I know this error of mine caused Glenys some distress and I duly offered my apology which she has graciously accepted. **Mea culpa.**

On a happier note, we include in this issue a report from Beth and Luke, a delightful young couple soon to be married at St George's, and with whom I'm privileged to share a Sunday 8am pew. They have recently attended our rather ominously-sounding Marriage Preparation Classes. Apparently these turned out to be not so terrifying as might have been first feared, though personally, I'd call them something like 'Welcome to Marriage', or similar, to avoid deterring the more faint-hearted.

Bishop Robert has now left us for Exeter. A well-attended leaving service for him was held at St George's on Saturday 12th April – see report herein. We wish him well in his new appointment.

As I write, we are almost at the end of Holy Week and I look forward to the joy of Easter Day itself: a good day for family get-togethers and a spot of over-indulgence of chocolate eggs with some of the very young now being considered old enough to be introduced to such delights, even if only via mother's milk - what an excuse!

According to my daily newspaper, a recent study suggests that reading regularly in old age makes people nearly four times less likely to suffer from cognitive impairments. I'm quite prepared to believe that, and wonder whether we should consider channelling any spare copies of this magazine to all the various care homes in the parish. A few, as a natural consequence of their advertising with us, already receive complimentary copies, but there must be many others that don't. It is worth some basic research to identify how many such homes there are and to tempt the necessary *volunteers* (that word again!) who might be disposed to deliver them, postage costing a prohibitive £1+.

A Wellspring news up-date herein does just that, and an enclosed printed form on page 14 suggests some less obvious ways in which the interested might be moved to respond by offering their skills.

God Bless. Sincerely yours,

Mark Lane. Editor

What's Where...

- P2 Who's who
- P3 Clergy Letter
- P5 May 1994
- P6-7 Parish News and Recipe
- P8 Children's Page
- P9 Stockport Grammar News
- P10 Bishop's leaving service
- P11 Wellspring
- P13 Puzzles
- P14 Wellspring form
- P15 My Christian story and Book Review
- P16 Choc in Lent and Computer Advice
- P17 Wedding preparations
- P18 How to read the Bible
- P19 Children's Easter activities
- P20 God in the arts
- P21 Music list
- P22 Why didn't the Romans
- P23 Puzzle solutions, etc.

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 Priest	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
Readers	Michael Coupe (emeritus) 612 0222 Peter Hall 456 9382	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	Vacant	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:

*Awake, my soul, and with the sun
Thy daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise
To pay thy morning sacrifice.*

*Redeem thy misspent time that's past,
And live this day as if thy last;
Improve thy talent with due care;
For the great day thyself prepare.*

These are the first two verses of the Morning Hymn by Thomas Ken which urges us to get up, get out and get going. Not every one of us is a morning person, but there is a real danger of letting the day drift away with nothing significant being achieved.

In recent days, I have had the second verse of this hymn brought home to me very strongly as my beloved brother-in-law Christopher died very suddenly at 51 years old. He hadn't knowingly suffered from any illness or condition and looked to be fit and well when his family said goodbye to him. As you can appreciate we are deeply shocked and are trying to come to terms with what has happened, but there is some comfort in knowing that Chris had a philosophy that he would *live until he died*. He took what he was given and experienced *life in all its fullness* (John 10.10). He grabbed life with both hands and he and my sister Angela travelled, had meals out, spent time with the family and celebrated their achievements, and they took photographs – lots of them. He made the effort to tell people he loved them and showed it generously. He wasted no time and lived each day as if it was his last.

So often we meander through life without any great purpose. Things happen seemingly without any input from us. There is no sense of urgency or desire to achieve; it's just another day.

Time is precious *for everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven* (Ecclesiastes 3:1) and we need to use it wisely.

Not everyone will be in the position to welcome the day, throw off the covers and leap out of bed, but there may be small but important things we can do. I remember a special lady called Mary MacGregor who was very important to me. She was 93 and was very apologetic about not being able to do anything in church. Yet she was a visionary, someone who was prepared to challenge the way things

had been done and to suggest new ways of operating which proved successful. She prayed for the life and ministry of the church, taking interest in what was being planned. Mary was also an encourager. She would regularly drop in little notes or cards or phone up and comment on something that had gone well. She also wanted to give me a turkey for Christmas but as a family of vegetarians with a husband who doesn't really like turkey I had to decline. So she turned up on the doorstep early one morning with a bunch of flowers, two cauliflowers and a bag of oranges.

Living each day that God has given us calls us to some kind of action, not necessarily physical but certainly prayerful and definitely opportunistic.

There will be things which we need to do and search out. We live life sometimes by pushing things to the background, like the cupboard drawers in most houses where everything gets thrown in because it's just somewhere to put it.

There are times in life when we haven't sorted out what's in the back of our own cupboard drawer. They've got mixed in with other things, covered in a fine layer of fluff. We need to dust them down and do something with them.

This might mean actively going to someone and apologising; putting things right. It might mean that we make an effort to tell people that we love them, especially if we have been taking them for granted. It might mean letting go of something which has weighed us down over the years and we have kept in the back of our cupboard drawer so that others might not know our fear, our embarrassment or our past exploits. This might mean us seeking out professional help or coming before the Lord to ask for forgiveness.

We should live the day that we have been given, not the day we might have nor the day that we could live if everything worked out as we had planned it nor the day that might or might not arrive tomorrow *Matthew 6:34*.

Carpe Diem

With every blessing

Elaine

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. Amen"

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May 1994 – May 2014

Remember this poem? For Anglican women the sentiments all changed 20 years ago when the first women were priested, though we are still waiting for a woman bishop. Let us hope it might be before the year is out. Meanwhile, the Roman Catholic women are still waiting...

Did the woman say, when she held him for the first time
in the dark of a stable, after the pain and the bleeding and the crying,
'This is my body, this is my blood'?

Did the woman say, when she held him for the last time
in the dark rain on a hilltop, after the pain and the bleeding and the dying,
'This is my body, this is my blood'?

Well that she said it to him then, for dry old men,
brocaded robes belying barrenness
Ordain that she not say it for him now.

This old (possibly 17th century) poem became obsolete for the Anglican Church 20 years ago this month as women were made priests in the Church of England. During the weekend of 4th May Chester Diocese is celebrating the occasion when the first women were made priests in London. On Saturday 3rd there is a Walk of Witness prior to a service in Westminster Abbey where those who were Ordained Priest in 1994 may have a group photograph with the Archbishop. Although I was one of the first women in Chester diocese I have declined to go down to London. Instead I shall be celebrating on the Sunday at St George's. It was actually on Trinity Sunday 29th May 1994 that 24 women from Chester were ordained in the Cathedral. Were you there?

For many of us it had been a long journey of waiting and hoping with many disappointments along the way and the knowledge that not everyone in the Church would be happy with the decision. Some would leave and that was a sadness. Some, both men and women, joined the Roman Catholic Church, others the Orthodox Church, and some felt disillusioned with the Church altogether and just left.

In the Stockport Deanery 20 years ago there were heated debates on the subject at Deanery Meetings. Five women, myself (I was a deacon at St Luke's Brinnington) and the late Helen Bridge, who worked with the late Canon Alan Fairhurst at St Mary's and Jacqui Kendall, who was with Rev. David Hay at St Saviours, also Mercia Malcolm from St George's, waited patiently, resigned that if the vote did not go in our favour, we would continue as deacons in the Church. Everyone appealed to the scriptures to support their argument so after a while that became boring until the appeal to equality took the lead; after all women, as well as men, can be baptized. We already wore dog collars,

conducted funerals and baptisms, and gave home communions from the Reserved Sacrament, so what more was needed?

Three things. One, we could not preside at the Eucharist, secondly we could not offer a Blessing and thirdly we could not give the Absolution in any service where there was a Confession. We all felt called, but could not exercise fully the ministry to which we had responded and had been accepted by the Church.

So the vote was passed. It had taken seven years after women had been allowed to become a deacon in the Church. But, we were then told we had to be interviewed by the bishops and DDO (Diocesan Director of Ordinands) to see if we were worthy to become priests. We all got through this hurdle, after which the date for the service in Chester Cathedral was fixed and plans were made. With the priesting carried out, came something else: we were expected to become incumbents when a vacancy arose. It may not be for some time, we were warned, 'Do not expect too much.' Which parishes would have us? There was the thought only the parishes which were 'hard to fill' might accept a woman. More waiting!

As it turned out, my incumbent was offered another post the week that I was ordained and the parishioners asked the bishop if I could be their new incumbent. And so, a few months after I had been ordained priest, I became the first woman incumbent in the diocese, at St Luke's Brinnington.

Today the Church needs young women in particular to offer themselves for ordination and to continue the work that began 20 years ago. Is there a woman at St George's who will come forward? I hope so.

Sandra

Parish News Roundup

Baptisms :

6th Apr: Scarlett Amelia Sissons
Emily Louise Mary Shelton
13th Apr: Daisy Mae Smith and
Jake Michael Miller

Weddings: None

Funerals:

8th Apr: Derek Bryan Watson

High Altar flowers were by:

6th Apr: Kathleen Heaword *in memory of Bertha Heaword*
13th Apr: Peter Pilbeam *in memory of Margaret Pilbeam*
20th Apr: Dorothy Thompson *in memory of Allan Thompson*
27th Apr: Hazel Jenkins *in memory of Harry and Vera James*

Lady Chapel flowers were by:

6th Apr: Jose Westwood *in memory of Edith Holehouse*
20th Apr: Trill Sutherland *in memory of Wallace Sutherland*
27th Apr: Jean Davison *in memory of Edward Davison*

Memorial Table:

20th Apr: Thelma Garden *for Jonathon*

Floodlighting was sponsored by:

1st Apr: Margaret and Gordon Sharrard *for their granddaughter Anna's birthday*
20th Apr: John and Lynne Warne *on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary.*

Dates for your diary:

3rd May: Café Concert and book sale
10am-12noon (Organ Restoration Fund event)
11th May: Start of Christian Aid Week
16-18th May: Chester Diocesan Lay Conference at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire.
Contact Elaine or Peter if interested
21st May: PCC meeting 7.30pm
27th May: Archdeacon's Visitation at St Mary's 7.30pm
29th May: Ascension Day Service 8pm

Parish News Roundup

St George's News:



Rebekah Brazier and cousin Ryan Marshall (above) were baptised on at St George's on the 8th March. They jointly commented "It was a memorable occasion in our lives, and we advise anyone considering doing the same to go ahead - you won't regret it."

More good news is that Rebekah and Kyle Burney are to be married at St George's on Saturday, 10th May. We take this opportunity to wish them very many years of happiness together.

Bridget Malia, recently confirmed on 8th April at St Saviour's, relates her personal 'Christian story' in a separate article on page 15 of this issue.

St Gabriel's and Adswood News:

We are having some remedial work done at St Gabriel's which includes the damp proof course, plastering and painting plus a few other odd jobs. We could really do with some volunteers to come and be part of a gardening party. We are fortunate to have the service of a gardener who keeps on top of things but we need some help to remove some debris which has collected round the front of the church and to cut back some bushes so we can have the church sign erected. If anyone can help, Elaine would be pleased to hear from you especially if you have a car or van which can take the debris up to the Eco Centre just up the road.

Recent events include a Service of Farewell for Bishop Robert held at St George's on the 12th April. It was well attended and thanks must go to all concerned for their hard work in making it possible. Interestingly, during his sermon, Bishop Robert made reference to the Credit Union, the best

Parish News Roundup

organisation to join for paying off loans etc. at reasonable interest rates, an organisation that we have previously advocated for those in need.

The Ecumenical service held on Palm Sunday, April 13th, in the garden at St Ambrose Church, was attended by a congregation of some 30 worshippers. The sun shone, the wind blew and the traffic noise was loud. The service was led by Father Geoff O'Grady with contributions from Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall and Revd Lindsay Kemp to whom we extend our thanks. Some time was spent in fellowship in the church hall over a cup of tea and biscuits.

On April 15th at 8pm, The Way of the Cross, a journey with Jesus to the cross, was attended by 16 worshippers at St Gabriel's. Our thanks go to Canon Elaine and Reader Mike Coupe for making the journey both moving and interesting.

Looking ahead:

The Methodist Church in Adswood is holding monthly coffee mornings on the first Saturday of each month. Please do pop in if you can. The church is on Garner's Lane. All are welcome.

The Roman Catholic church in Adswood, St Ambrose, celebrates its 75th anniversary this year and we are to look out for the special events being planned.

An **Alpha Course** – started at St Ambrose School on the Friday after Good Friday – 25th April.

A Churches Together Prayer breakfast is to be held in Stockport Town Hall on Thursday 29th May 7.45am to 9am. Further details from Kevin McKenna 0161 282 5523.



June 2014 Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Friday 16th
May**

Committee meeting: **Tuesday 20th
May**

Service of Remembrance and Commemoration

Please note that this service being held on Sunday 2nd November will commence at the **earlier time of 3pm**, and not at 6.30pm, as previously advertised.

Mothers' Union

Monday May 12th: AGM and discussion.
7.30pm Parish Room

Monday June 9th: Judith Higgins '100
years of Stockport Sunday School'.
7.30pm Parish Room

Fellowship of Marriage and Women's Fellowship

8th May: Wheelchair Dancing.
Joan and Jim

22nd May: For Your Convenience.
Jean Walton

Recipe of the month Lamb Steaks with Herbs and Lemon

2 medium onions, chopped
100g/4oz carrots, chopped finely
4 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed or
finely grated
1 tablespoon olive oil
25g/1oz butter
4 lamb steaks
1 teasp dried oregano
3 tablespoons tomato puree
2 level teasp caster sugar
175ml/6 fl oz vegetable stock
freshly milled pepper
3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

Heat the oil and butter in a large frying pan (one with a lid) add the lamb steaks and brown them on both sides. Remove to a plate.

Add the chopped onion and carrot to the hot butter, stir in the garlic. Lower the heat, cover the pan and cook until the vegetables are softened, about 10 mins. Stir in the oregano.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl mix together the tomato puree and the sugar. Remove the lemon rind thinly with a sharp knife or vegetable peeler, squeeze out the juice and add to the bowl with the vegetable stock. Return the lamb steaks to the pan and pour over the tomato mixture. Bring to a simmer, season with pepper, cover and cook gently for 40 mins.

While it cooks, finely chop the lemon rind and mix with the chopped parsley; sprinkle over the lamb just before serving. Serves 4.

Pamela Ferguson.

Lenten Breakfasts and Lunches

OVER FOUR consecutive Saturday mornings around 26 people came together over a light breakfast to consider "Human nature – a Christian's dilemma". Dennis Armstrong facilitated the sessions and led one about the difficulties with human nature. Taking another angle, Chris Dawson encouraged us to consider nature or nurture and Elaine Chegwin Hall considered human nature renewed with a specific focus on the development of restorative justice. Peter Hall summarised the sessions for us taking a specifically biblical approach to our overarching theme.

It was a delight to see so many people attending who also contributed to the discussion time after the main talk. Particular thanks to Peter Smith and the team for providing us with croissants, toast and hot drinks and for Dennis for organising the Lenten Prayer breakfasts.

Elaine Chegwin Hall

As has become the custom, the Lenten lunch sessions, with soup and filled rolls, were held every Thursday during Lent. This year we benefited from Elaine's variety of soups to supplement the usual ham and cheese fillings for the rolls. Over the seven-weeks period we raised £650.00. Many thanks to all those who helped with setting up and serving, and to those who came for lunch.

Olga Jones

St. George's floodlighting – sponsorship request form

(return to Rev Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall, 17 Frewland Avenue, Davenport, Stockport. Sk3 8TZ)



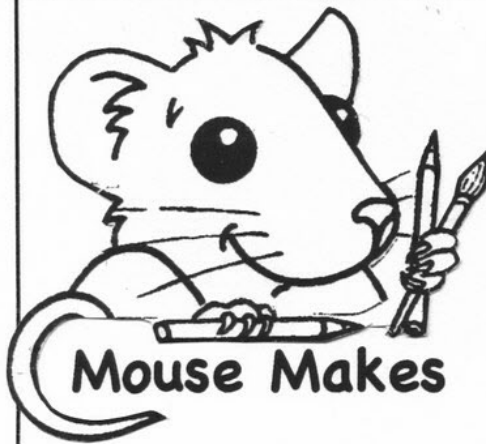
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THE ASCENSION

Forty days after his resurrection JESUS led his disciples out to Bethany and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. As he blessed them he was taken up into heaven.

"Christ Jesus is the one who died for us and was raised to life again for us and is sitting in the place of highest honour next to God, pleading for us there in heaven" Romans 8:34

"For there is only one God and there is only one way that people can reach God. That way is through Christ Jesus"
1 Timothy 2:5



THE LORD HEARS YOUR PRAYERS



Write your prayers to GOD in the prayer hands above knowing that JESUS is in heaven at God's right hand speaking to God for us



The Little Mermaid

Stockport Grammar School's Junior School's ambitious Year 6 musical production, *Disney's The Little Mermaid* was a huge success, playing to sell-out audiences on the Senior School's main stage over two nights. Featuring a large cast, colourful costumes and famous songs like *Under the Sea* and *Part of Your World*, the show is adapted from *Disney's* 2008 Broadway production and tells the tale of young mermaid Ariel, and her quest to leave her ocean home to be with Prince Eric.

The enchanting voice of Holly Buckley as Ariel, Callum Barton's comedic portrayal of Sebastian and Caitlin Cutt's accomplished performance as Flounder stood out alongside great performances from all the other children in the cast. This year group were the first cohort of Nursery pupils at SGS and Nursery Manager Carla Peake was in the audience: "What a fantastic production! I'm so proud of the girls and boys – of what they have achieved and how they have grown up. They were all wonderful in this show – a delight to watch".



U11 Netball Team triumph



The U11 netballers at Stockport Grammar's Junior School added more silverware to the school's trophy cabinet by winning the North-West IAPS (Independent Association of Preparatory Schools) Tournament, hosted this time, at the school.

The girls got off to a flying start in the competition by topping their group to set up a semi-final against Liverpool College, and inspired by some first-class shooting from Jody Peters (10) from Woodford and Georgia Sykes (10) from Hazel Grove, the team beat Liverpool 8-4, meaning that they went on to play local rivals, Ladybarn House School, in the final.

Team captain Ruby Mellor (11) from Cheadle Hulme talked us through the final: "We controlled the game in the first half with a great goal from Jody, which meant we were 1-0 up at half-time. However, Ladybarn came out fighting in the second half and soon equalled the score. At this point our determination and team spirit kicked in, making the final score 5-2, so we won the tournament!"

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Service of Farewell for Rt Revd Robert Atwell

THE FAREWELL SERVICE for Bishop Robert took place on Saturday 12th April 2014 at St George's church, Stockport, attended by some 400 people from across the diocese, including many clergy, the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Warren Smith and Stockport Council's chief executive, Eamonn Boylan. Bishop Robert has been the Suffragan Bishop of Stockport since 2008, and will become the Diocesan Bishop of Exeter in the summer. His installation will be in July and his home will be in Exeter.

The Eucharist service was celebrated by Bishop Robert, assisted by the Bishop of Chester, Peter Forster, and the Suffragan Bishop of Birkenhead, Keith Sinclair. During the service the Old Testament reading was read by Lois Haslam, Stockport Deanery Lay Chair, and the Gospel reading by the Archdeacon of Macclesfield, the Very Revd Ian Bishop. The readings were from Ezekiel 37. 21-28 and John 11. 45-57.



L to R: Bishop Peter, Bishop Robert, Bishop Keith, Canon Elaine.

The Intercessions were led by the Revd Canon Christopher Birkett and Revd Libby Lane (previously Team Vicar at St George's 2002-07). Bishop Robert preached at the service, urging Christians to make a difference to the lives of the communities in which they live.

The hymns sung during the service were: 'The Royal Banners Forward Go'; 'From Heaven You Came Helpless Babe'; 'My Song is Love Unknown' and 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross'. During the administration of the Holy Communion, the church choir, augmented by the choir from St Saviour's and members of St George's singing group, sang the anthem 'I give to you a new commandment', music by Peter Nardone, and conducted by John Horton, Director of Music at St George's.

At the end of the service, Bishop Peter made a presentation to Bishop Robert and thanked him warmly for his contribution to the Diocese, and the vicar of St George's, the Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall, said that even though this was a very poignant occasion, there was a real sense of happiness and celebration about all that Bishop Robert contributed to the Diocese.

Rosie Stead

Women's Retreat Day for Lent "Searching"

Journeys can be quite a challenge sometimes, especially when the destination is unknown to us; a little like life really! So, with a degree of nervousness, the travellers from St George's who journeyed to Foxhill, near Frodsham, on Tuesday April 8th had taken a number of routes: some on the motorway, some on the old Chester road and some, by mistake, via Wales! Nevertheless we were all grateful to arrive and drive past the stunning display of daffodils on the main drive up to the restful venue of Foxhill.

Elaine welcomed us to a day of "Searching" which we were also happy to share with a group from her former parish. The day began with a short service in the beautiful, round chapel, with the sun streaming through the windows. From this beginning we found a sense of calm and stillness which led us into the silence of the hours ahead.

The focus was very personal, allowing each one of us to concentrate on our relationship with God and Jesus. As in any piece of music, the silences are as important as the sound in order to make the whole, and so it is with us in our busy lives. We need to be still and allow God into each day. To allow ourselves a whole morning of stillness was a great blessing and we were able to wander round the beautiful grounds, find a place to sit alone, in the gardens or in a quiet room inside. Our opening prayer "O God, you are our life, our very being, our peace and our joy" helped us focus and meditate on the 3 readings showing how God loves each one of us unconditionally.

At 1pm the silence was broken with much happy chatter as we gathered together to share our thoughts, and our physical needs were met by a delicious lunch!

Finally a beautiful Holy Communion service, once more in the chapel, united us in our thanks and praise for the day and for life itself.

We look forward to the next retreat in December with Saturdays reset! Come and indulge in the Sound of Silence!

On behalf of all the St George's searchers I would like to say thank you to Elaine for organising and leading this day.

Janet Neilson

Tribute to Vera Fallows

IT WAS A SPECIAL DAY in the life of St George's when a baptismal shell was dedicated on Sunday 6th April, in memory of Vera Edith Fallows. Vera was a well known and very much loved member of our parish and 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 and when the church playgroup started in the early 80's she joined the team of playgroup leaders. Vera enjoyed telling stories and helping with creative activities.

Over the years, Vera must have accompanied hundreds of people on their Christian journey so it is fitting to have this baptismal shell, a symbol of Christian pilgrimage, donated as a tribute to her by her beloved daughters, Jean and Rosanne.

We are really grateful for their generosity and give thanks for the life of Vera and all that she has contributed to the lives of so many.

News from Wellspring – April 2014

FIRSTLY, WELLSPRING would like to thank all those who held events, raised money and made donations to The Wellspring throughout 2013. Without this help and support, many people in need in Stockport would be finding their lives to be far more difficult and lacking in hope in 2014.

So, what's new? The John Slater room (upstairs), and the lift providing access to it, were officially opened in April 2013. John Lewis Partnership made The Wellspring their Charity of the Year, 2012–13. Their generous donations allowed the purchase and installation of the lift to take place. Add to this the time, expertise and effort from Wellspring's team of DIY volunteers, and the room has been transformed, as well as being fully accessible. The facility provides a quiet area, separate to the daily business of the project, giving space for activities, such as training sessions and meetings, to take place at any time of day.

The internet is a valuable tool in many people's lives and Wellspring members often have no easy access to it. To help reduce and avoid the problems this can cause, workstations have been set up in the library area of the main room. In July 2013, The Wellspring produced a new leaflet, 'A Place for Change', to let people know that the centre is committed to helping their members' chances of moving to an independent lifestyle by increasing their confidence and skills, with the ultimate aim of them gaining employment and becoming self-sufficient. This leaflet can be obtained from The Wellspring or downloaded from the website.

Maintenance/DIY are on-going and The Wellspring is fortunate to have a number of willing and skilled volunteers to do many of the required tasks. Wellspring members are encouraged to get involved, and this is an enjoyable and rewarding way for them to learn and practise new skills. The Wellspring now employs a full-time chef, Steve Wilkins, whose expertise allows the

best use to be made of fresh and store cupboard food items donated throughout the year.

Bootleg Records UK produced a CD of songs to be sold to raise funds for Wellspring. The CD was launched in July and is available to buy from The Wellspring. Mark Whyllie, Wellspring's previous chair, stood down from the post early in 2013 and Andrew Ayres was appointed as the new Wellspring chair, in September 2013.

Fundraising is a very important part of The Wellspring and volunteers are always needed to help out, whether it is once a year, or on a more regular basis. If you would like to get involved in fundraising at The Wellspring, please get in touch, either by telephone: 0161 477 6344 or by email: thewellspring@btconnect.com.

N.B. There are many ways that you can help. Please see an application form on p14 which can be detached, completed and posted to: The Wellspring, Harvey Street, Churchgate, Stockport

Up and coming fundraising events for Wellspring

Sunday 18th May 2014 BUPA Great Manchester 10k run

Wellspring has had sponsored runners in the 10k run for a number of years now and the event is a very successful fundraiser. They are looking for runners again this year to raise funds for The Wellspring by entering this event.

Saturday 19th July 2014 The Great Manchester Swim

Wellspring is looking for swimmers to take part in the one-mile swim in Manchester Ship Canal and will provide a free place in the event in return for fundraising for The Wellspring.

For more information, please email Jonathan at: thewellspring@btconnect.com



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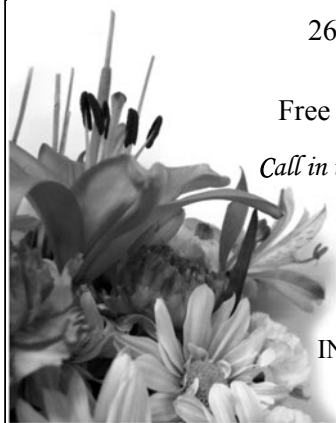
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Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

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Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 23)

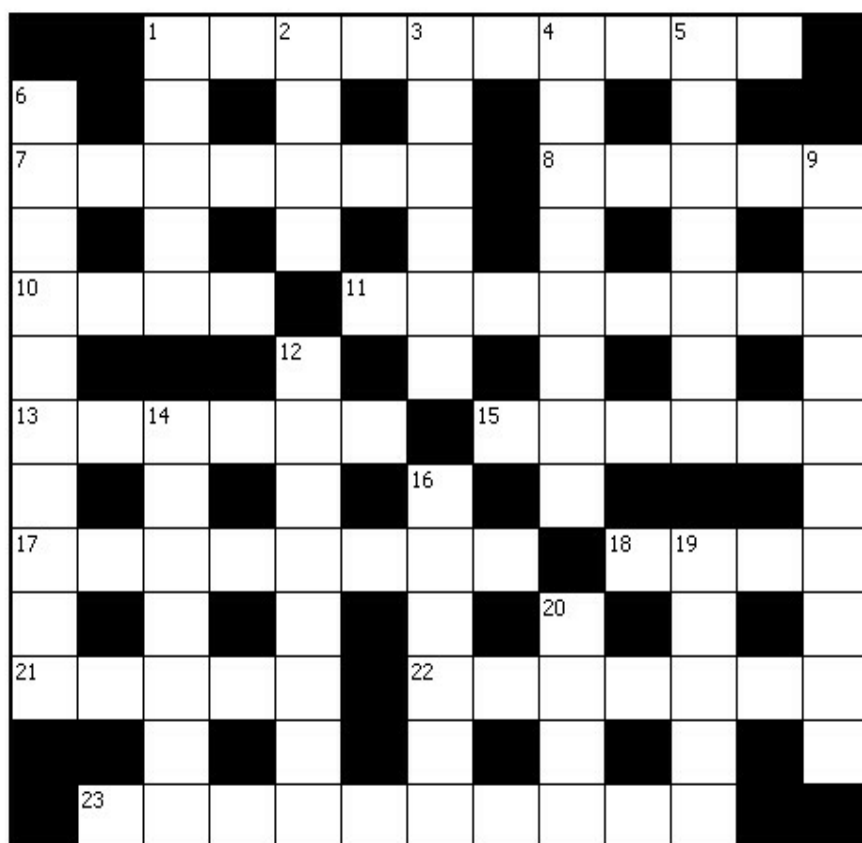
St George's Parish Rooms

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?

St George's Parish Rooms may be the answer. We have two rooms available. The larger accommodates 70, the smaller 40. We also have fully-equipped kitchen facilities.

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

Crossword



Across

- 1 Sense of right and wrong (*1 Corinthians 8:7*) (10)
- 7 Coming (*John 11:17*) (7)
- 8 'All I have is — , and all you have is mine' (*John 17:10*) (5)
- 10 Smarten (*Acts 9:34*) (4)
- 11 Hold back (*Job 9:13*) (8)
- 13 Member of the Society of Friends (6)
- 15 At ague (anag.) (6)
- 17 Citizen of the Greek capital (8)
- 18 So be it (*Galatians 6:18*) (4)
- 21 Twentieth-century poet and dramatist who wrote *Murder in the Cathedral*, T.S. — (5)
- 22 Empowers (*Philippians 3:21*) (7)
- 23 Imposing (*1 Samuel 9:2*) (10)

Down

- 1 Healed (*Luke 7:21*) (5)
- 2 Central space in a church (4)
- 3 Co-founder of Spring Harvest and General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance 1983–97, Clive — (6)
- 4 Moses killed one when he saw him beating a Hebrew labourer (*Exodus 2:12*) (8)
- 5 Bravery (*Acts 4:13*) (7)
- 6 It interrupted Paul and Silas singing hymns in a Philippian jail (*Acts 16:26*) (10)
- 9 Transgression (*Psalms 36:1*) (10)
- 12 Irish province in which Dublin is situated (8)
- 14 Same hit (anag.) (7)
- 16 'The Spirit of God was hovering over the — ' (*Genesis 1:2*) (6)
- 19 Author of the immortal stories of Winnie the Pooh, A.A. — (5)
- 20 Cab (4)

Wellspring

Volunteers needed!!!

The Wellspring needs volunteers to help out in all sorts of ways to enable the centre to provide services to its visitors. Many of you will know that meals are made and served by a large number of people who willingly donate their time and skills to ensuring meals are available to Wellspring visitors every day of every year.

But, we also need help with many other aspects of The Wellspring's work. If you have skills or an interest in any of the areas listed below and would like to help, please indicate alongside one or more of the listed activities, complete your contact details and return this form to the address given below.

Help with bag-packing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public speaking	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trades/DIY	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT support	<input type="checkbox"/>
Domestic maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	CVs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information stands	<input type="checkbox"/>	Helping at events	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other (please give brief details)

Your details:-

Name:

Telephone:

Home –
Mobile -

E-mail or postal address:

Postal address: The Wellspring, Harvey Street, Churchgate, Stockport.



My Christian story

EVERYBODY'S CHRISTIAN STORY is different, and mine begins in a small Catholic church in Northumberland in 2010. It was the funeral of my great-uncle Brian, who had been a priest in the area for most of his life, including a stint at that same church. In his later years, we had been very close and though he had had a good innings and died peacefully after a short illness, I was sad to see him go. The funeral was in full Catholic tradition, with incense and bells (and no fewer than three bishops). This was my first experience of a church service of its kind, and I was overwhelmed. I failed to recognise it at the time, but what I was feeling was the first stirrings of Christianity within me.

A few years later, these stirrings had grown and I found myself, in November of last year, in a Quaker meeting house. The months I spent there were extremely helpful at the time. In the silence I finally allowed myself to hear God. However, I was still seeking more, and I found (by way of a helpful friend who put up with several weeks of my questioning) St George's, which I had last visited in a school choir concert when I was in Year 6. There, I found a community, and somewhere to openly worship with other people.



L-R: Audrey Manzano, Bishop Peter, Bridget and Canon Elaine.

Next came my confirmation, after a few months of Elaine talking me through the basics of Christianity. On the night, I was incredibly nervous (not helped by the fact I was first up for both baptism and confirmation) but I got through it. And at the end, the culmination of it all: the Eucharist, as wonderful as I had hoped. And wherever my journey goes from here, I know that this milestone is one I will not forget.

Bridget Malia

Bridget was confirmed at St Saviour's on Tuesday 8th April 2014

Book Review: The Case for God

Karen Armstrong

Karen Armstrong, an ex-nun, has become in recent years a leading historian and theologian. She wrote *The Case for God* as a riposte to the militant atheists who claim that God is a delusion. The book is shaped as a historical progression of thinkers who have thought about God through the ages, and how their thinking shifted as knowledge increased. She starts with the Greeks, then the Early fathers and Augustine; then Anselm, Aquinas seeking to blend eastern and western thinking; then Luther questioning the Church's authority leading to the Reformation; then Galileo, Descartes and Newton facing the dilemma of gravity and space and who or what controlled it; then in the 19th century the impact of the new 'natural' world - geology, physics, zoology, and botany - the Life sciences that were often grouped conveniently as 'Darwinism'. Throughout all these years, a belief in God was taken for granted in their thoughts.

Karen Armstrong believes that 'Darwinism' changed the grounds of the debate. It questioned the very nature of the Creator and indeed if there was a need for a Creator at all. Thus science and theology began to separate. The theologians sought new light from deeper biblical analysis, and the 'Darwinists' were left to consider the implications of their new knowledge - now freed from having to fit God into their concepts. After 1945, she reminds us, scientific thought continued to make further advances: nuclear power, the DNA helix, IVF births and space travel. Space travel in particular embarrassed the Church. The age-old image of Heaven up in the sky, the assumed location of God, suddenly became out of date.

The 1960's brought more freedom of behaviour, when authority was mocked, the time of Mick Jagger, mini skirts and drugs. The media now included television and it was not slow to encourage liberal social behaviour. Meanwhile the Church's defence for a loving God seemed rather woolly, too difficult to understand for many people. A stronger defence for the case for God came from America under names such as Charismatics, Pentecostals or Jehovah's Witnesses. Debates were avoided, the Gospel was preached with absolute confidence: *God is the Creator and the Bible is true*. They brought with them new hymns ('songs') that could be sung happily. Their enthusiasm affected churches of all denominations. The case for God was made once more in Faith and Song.

I found this progression of theology through the ages powerful. It made me realise that God had been part of people's lives from way way back and how insulting it was for atheists to try to destroy Him. Over all these years the debates about Him have taken a similar shape; Fundamentalists offering certainty and simplicity and Freethinkers encouraging trust in experience and courage in doubt. Karen Armstrong concludes that a dialogue between the two sides is essential - for God's sake. Strident positions are profoundly unhelpful. They foster animosity that impedes the growth of Love which is the heart of Christianity.

Dennis Armstrong (no relation)

Chocolat in Lent

"I'm not sure what the theme of my homily today will be. Do I want to speak of the miracle of our Lord's divine transformation? Not really, no! I don't want to talk about His divinity, I'd rather talk about His humanity. I mean, you know, how He lived His life here on earth: His kindness; His tolerance. Listen, this is what I think: I think we can't go round measuring our goodness by what we don't do; by what we deny ourselves; what we resist and who we exclude. I think we've got to measure goodness by what we embrace; what we create and who we include."

That was Père Henri's sermon on Easter Day in the film *Chocolat* and it summed up the whole of the Lenten study course that took place on the five Wednesdays of Lent. We looked at the subjects of Giving Up, Giving Out, Getting Wise, Getting Real and finally Growing Up.

If Lent was to be a reflective time when we look at giving something up, then there are two points we needed to think about. Firstly we needed to give up only those things that are actually harmful and secondly we need to give them up for good. What point is there in giving up something that is good for us when we continue to do so many other things that are positively harmful?

In *Giving Out*, we looked at the actions of the newcomer to the town. Not only did she not go to church but worse, she was a single mother. Yet it is this character that redeems and renews the town. She brought people together; released people from oppression and had people re-evaluating their lives. She did not judge by first impressions, but understood the very heart and soul of people, helping to give them back their dignity.

The community was in great need of being released and reinvigorated, but the church had been captured by the traditions of the town and was only paying lip-service to the Gospel. Rather than reaching out to the 'outsiders' they viewed them with suspicion or as trouble-makers.

Père Henri's sermon was from the heart and from the heart of the Gospel. Goodness was never measured by whom we exclude but who we include – The Good News that Jesus preached was that the Kingdom was for everyone.

Over the five weeks, we had about thirty people attending the two sessions each Wednesday. I learnt so much from them. My prayer is that we will all put the things we learnt into practice at St George's and St Gabriel's.

Computer advice - Know Your Browser, Love Your Browser

Get to Know your Browser

Web browsers are the applications that enable us to connect to the Internet. Most of us use the browser that is part of Microsoft Windows – Internet Explorer. But there are others.

Which One to Use?

Internet Explorer (IE) leads the pack in the popularity stakes, but catching up are two other browsers: Mozilla Firefox, and Google Chrome.

It is true that IE has become a somewhat bloated piece of software, but its security has improved. In addition, it is always best to have the latest version of IE for your version of Windows.

Google Chrome claims to be the most secure of the browsers, and because of that, I use it for internet banking.

Browsers and Anonymity

There is a sub-set of browsers that claim to enable you to connect anonymously with the Internet.

After all the recent revelations about how agencies and companies collect data on so many aspects of our personal communications, there was an upsurge of interest in browsers that support anonymous use of the Internet. The most well-known of these "secure browsers" is called Tor. The downside to Tor is that it is slower to load webpages than the other browsers. But if you want to play your part in frustrating the secretive authorities, then Tor is worth a try.

All the browsers mentioned are free, so there is nothing to lose in downloading a copy and giving it a trial run.

Browser Features

All popular browsers provide a tab feature. This enables the user to have multiple windows open in the browser.

All major browsers also have a "private browsing" facility. If you choose Private Browsing (it may be called something different in other browsers), no record is kept on the computer. But your ISP still knows where you have been.

It is well worth exploring the Options for your browser, especially the ability to reset the browser to its original/default settings.

A browser reset is part of a TLC Full Service, because all sorts of add-ons can affect the performance of your browser, and a reset disables them. If you want to know how to reset your browser, put the following question into your Search Engine: how do I reset [insert name of browser] to default settings?

I recommend spending some time exploring your browser's Menu Bar. If you can't see it, put a question into your Search Engine.

Apologies for being a bit vague, but each browser does things slightly differently. And anyway, it's a good idea to get to know your browser, so that you get it to do what you want it to do. But there is merit in trying a different one—just for the hell of it!

If you need further support and advice, please do not hesitate to contact TLC Computer Servicing:

Telephone: 0161 870 2563

Email: chris@tlc-computing.co.uk

See advertisement on p4.

Marriage preparation

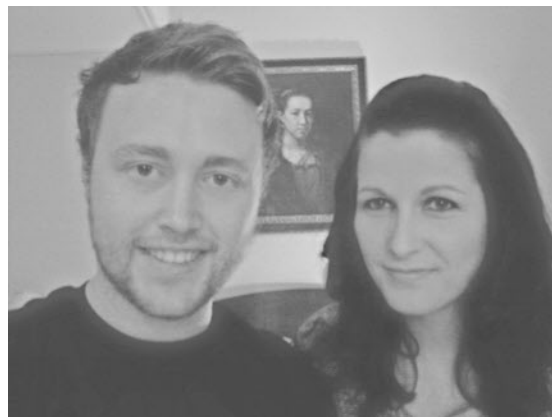
LUKE AND I are getting married on 5th July of this year, after being together for almost three years. As the wedding is fast approaching, we were pleased to receive an invitation from Elaine to attend some wedding preparation classes. We were very curious at first as to what these classes might entail.

It was brilliant to see that there were many other couples in attendance as well as us. From our experience, marriage seems generally to be a negative or 'scary' concept amongst many young people. It was of great comfort to see that many others of our age share our view and do believe in marriage.

The classes were based around subjects such as conflict, commitment and responsibilities, all of which are very important topics to think about within a relationship moving into marriage. We discussed each other's views and opinions, which made for some very interesting stories from other couples and from ourselves. It was a nice reminder that everyone is only human and whilst as a couple you may love each other to the end, there will be times when there are disagreements, which are unavoidable.

Perhaps the best stance to take on these situations is always to talk to each other about issues, big or small, and as many of my older relatives have often told me, 'never let the sun go down on an argument'. This is advice I know that we both try to consider, as you never know what may happen to a loved one.

This view was reiterated to us in the classes – to talk and always be aware of each other's feelings and hopes for the future.



Being 'on the same page' as each other is something that Luke and I have always felt strongly about as a couple, knowing each other's expectations for the future, such as the prospect of children and career steps.

For me, the most important lesson I have kept in mind for our marriage ahead, was a euphemism that Elaine used, that in marriage you are two trees with room next to each other for the branches to grow, but the roots are always intertwined and growing together. A reminder never to overshadow each other, but to allow each other to grow as individuals whilst remaining connected to one another. It's such a wonderful way to look at marriage, which is how it should be seen, a wonderful celebration that two people have found themselves in each other.

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How to Read the Bible in Public

Here is the first in a short series of articles geared to help and inspire any Christian who does any kind of ministry – from reading the Bible in church to making the coffee after the service to attending a home group. This is adapted from a chapter in the new book by Richard Bewes, ‘Equipped to Serve’ (Christian Focus)

BUT is this a necessary topic? I’m afraid so. I have heard the British actor David Suchet declare that he has been up and down churches everywhere... and that the dull and listless public reading of the Scriptures is generally a disgrace to the power of the Bible.

“The music was wonderful today”.... “That was a great talk!”.... “I loved the worship!” *Hardly ever do I hear gratitude expressed for a Scripture reading.* Let this be the background to that occasion when you find yourself called upon to read from the Scriptures in a public gathering.

We are not simply pronouncing words when we stand at the front. Unhurried preliminary prayer is vital to the task. What is this passage all about? Why is it here in the Bible? What is its main point? I need to ask myself which words - as I read them - could do with a slight emphasis, a mental underlining, a raised or lowered inflexion?

Yet others should not be thinking, ‘What a great reader,’ but rather ‘My goodness, that passage was speaking to *me*!’ The voice must be naturally your own. Do normal people speak with ‘holy’ churchy affectation? Did Jesus, when telling his parables?

We are to keep the voice natural, yet with an underlying awareness that - without straining - we need to project. True – there may be a microphone – but be not deceived! It is only there to impart a slight ‘lift’ to the voice; it simply cannot do the job for you.

Across the years I have recognized various unfortunate ‘Categories’ of reader. Be warned! One could be named after an early English king, unfortunately known as Ethelred the Unready. Such a reader turns up, but has clearly not thought the passage through at all; the reading is an utter non-event.

By contrast we have sometimes been subjected to The Thespian. Here a well-intentioned reader is so intent on ‘acting’ the passage with ham-fisted phony ‘accents’ that it is truly cringe-worthy. *Public Scripture reading can be truly supernatural in power – without it ever becoming unnatural in delivery.*

Have you sometimes heard The Dollard give the reading? It is delivered in a flat monotone throughout; it could have been a recitation of shares on the stock market.

Then there is what may be called The Queen’s Speech, immaculate; beautifully spoken and with perfect diction. But somehow the reading lacked ‘Soul’ – was it a communication from heaven and a life of prayer, or a performance from the local dramatic society?

Give yourself some practice sessions! Try Luke 15:11-24 as an obvious ‘story’, and then, by contrast, Ephesians 2:1-10; then 1 Kings 18: 20-39.

Treat public Bible reading as an honour. For centuries the Bible has been described in the British Coronation Service as *The most precious thing that this world affords*. We are to treat it like that!

By Richard Bewes

The story behind ‘Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son’

HERE IS A HYMN that is so well known and loved that it has simply burst the bounds of Easter, and gets sung regularly at other times of the year. It has two stories behind it.

First, the music. The rousing music did not start out as a hymn, but was written by Handel for his opera ‘Judas Maccabeus’, first performed in 1746. Originally the words ran ‘See the conquering hero comes’, for Handel’s opera tells the story (found in the Apocrypha) of the leader of the Jews, Judas Maccabeus, who led an army against the Syrians and restored worship at the Temple. With its triumphant refrain after each verse, the music is easy to learn and sing, and can be (and has been!) played to great effect either by the trumpets, on an organ in a large resonant church, or even on guitars (!)

Secondly, the words. They were not written until 1884 – 138 years after the music. We owe them to the Rev. Raymond Budry, a Swiss pastor from Lausanne. Ordained in the Free Evangelical Church in Vaud, he spent 35 years as the pastor of Vevey on Lake Geneva. Budry wrote the hymn in French (‘A Toi La Gloire!’) to console himself after the death of his first wife, and a year later (1885) it was published in Chants Evangeliques. Soon it found its way into English – translated by a Baptist minister from Kingston-upon-Thames, Richard Hoyle. By 1904 it had made the YMCA Hymn Book, and was being translated into other languages.

It is not clear who first had the happy idea of teaming words and music, but when they did, the hymn really took off. The theme of ‘battle’ is never far from this hymn, whether it was the battle of Judas Maccabeus, or the battle over sin which was won by Christ on the cross and in rising from the tomb. Easter, of course, marked the biggest victory over the biggest enemies of all time: sin and death.

What would Handel make of it, if he could know that his battle music had become one of the world’s most popular and well-known Easter hymns? He was a devout man, working for the poor, praying twice each day, and attending St Paul’s Cathedral. So it seems pretty certain that he would be delighted.

When we lose one we love, our bitterest tears are called forth by the memory of hours when we loved not enough.

Maurice Maeterlinck.

Children's Easter Activity

OVER TWO DAYS, the children from St George's School journeyed around the Church and engaged in the different parts of the Easter story. At each station, marked out by a decorated gazebo, the children were able to listen to a story or passage from Scripture and join in with an activity or conversation.

Their detective skills were finely honed as they came to the "Crime Scene" - the tomb where the stone had been rolled away - and they discussed the claims made by others against the reality of what would have happened.

The final station was the rainbow church where the children considered Easter in different parts of the world and prayers in different languages. They were delighted to meet their guest of honour, Tril Sutherland, who came along to help and is from New Zealand.

Thank you to everyone who helped to put up and dismantle the stations and for all those who helped in advance or on the days to make it a successful event.

Elaine

My cross is a rainbow-coloured cross,
Violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange, red,
Colours of the rainbow,
A rainbow showed centuries ago to Noah
In a promise never to destroy life again
In a promise fulfilled two thousand years ago,
Redeeming humankind
On the cross.

My cross is a rainbow-coloured cross
To liberate all,
North and south, east and west,
Black and white, yellow and brown,
Male and female.

My cross is a rainbow-coloured cross,
For I am blue with the pain of oppression
And blue with the struggle for freedom
And green with hope.

A Prayer from India, Judith Sequeira © In God's Image



VE Day (Victory in Europe) 8th May 2005 – 60th anniversary

JEAN DAVISON was kind enough to draw my attention to a (Grapevine magazine?) four-page supplement marking the 60th anniversary of the end of WW2 in Europe which she came across while clearing out some old accumulated papers at home.

The accent this year, 2014, of course, is on the anniversary of the start of WW1, an occasion that few of us living will be able to remember, but I will not be alone in remembering much about WW2.

The interesting supplement features contributions from some well-known names including Margaret Mitchell, whose celebrations were marred by the death of her Father on the same day: Angela Foulkes cherishes the memory of it being "For the first time ever no parents had made their children go to bed". Peter Pilbeam was a member of his school three-man fire-watching team at school and later, as a trainee engineer with the BBC, recounts his exploits with an unexploded 'Doodle Bug' flying bomb.

Basil Frost, then in his last year of training in typewriting, Braille shorthand and business English, tells of rehearsals with his college choir of Parry's setting of Shakespeare's poem "This royal throne of kings" and other appropriate music to mark the occasion.

Then a 16-year-old, Philip Belshaw describes his working on farms when the government had appealed to students to work on the land in their summer vacations. His saddest experience was when two Clydesdale horses were killed by an enemy bomb.

Lavina Johnson was serving in the A.T.S. and tells of her excitement on hearing that her 'intended' was coming home from India after three years' absence describes the ingenuity she used to prepare for the wedding in those days of austerity. Finally, Marian Ryan relates her memories when an 11-year old child – the air raid shelters, rationing and the drama when an incendiary bomb landed on their house.

Some readers may have kept their copy of this supplement – others might wish they had. Whilst I have to return the original to Jean, I shall first make a photocopy for myself. If any reader would like a duplicate of this, I'll be happy to provide one in return for, say, a contribution to the Organ Restoration Fund. (Printer ink is quite expensive – so is postage if you live outside the parish). My contact details are on the back cover of this magazine.

Editor

God in the Arts

For 2014, the Rev Michael Burgess is surveying works of sacred art that can be found in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam...you can see the image by googling the title of the painting and the artist.

'He gave us eyes to see them': the Prayerbead

THIS MONTH'S ARTWORK from the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam is an unusual, intricate carving no bigger than a ping pong ball. It is a prayer bead made out of boxwood and hinged to open and reveal two scenes of the road to Calvary and the Crucifixion.

Readers can Google Prayerbead/Rijksmuseum and then click on Images to see the inner glories of this prayer bead. It is a 16th century miracle of Dutch carving which would have needed very fine tools and a magnifying glass to carry out the detailed work. The prayer bead would have been worn on a belt or cincture and used as an aid to prayer: something to focus on as we might use a rosary, or icons, or candles. The person praying would simply have held the bead or opened it to contemplate the scenes within.

The New Testament invites us to pray without ceasing, and that demands focus and attention. John Betjeman has a wonderful poem 'In Westminster Abbey' which tells of an elegant lady who pops into the abbey in the course of a busy social life to enjoy a few quiet words with God. But her prayers are wholly self-centred - the petitions trip lightly off her tongue. She ends by telling God that it has been a treat to hear His word, but she has never stopped speaking to hear that word, so concerned has she been with her own life and safety.

When our Lord taught His disciples to pray, He was not encouraging them to behave in such a frivolous and light-hearted manner. The work, the skill, the artistry that went into the making of this 16th century prayer bead says that prayer itself is that kind of sacrificial offering. It

is our offering of time and attention to God, and it is the offering of this world and ourselves to God. Holding the prayer bead in the hand is a reminder of that beautiful image in Mother Julian's 'Revelations of Divine Love.' In chapter 5 she describes how God 'showed me a little thing, the size of a hazel-nut, on the palm of my hand, round like a ball. I looked at it thoughtfully and wondered, 'What is this?' And the answer came, 'It is all that is made...It exists, both now and for ever, because God loves it.'

In prayer we hold the world in our hands like the bead, aware of its needs and our own needs. Our prayer is that God who made this world and loves it, will hold and cradle it in His gentle, sustaining hands - as we pray that He will hold our lives and all whom we love in that enfolding care. In our prayer we open ourselves to God's presence to say: Here, Father, are our concerns: keep them in your love. Here, Father, are our needs: unite them with your will. Here, Father, are our lives: use them in your service.

Teaching Christianity

A RECENT YouGov poll commissioned by Oxford University's Department of Education has found widespread support in England for the teaching of Christianity as part of basic education.

64% of adults agreed that children need to learn about Christianity in order to understand English history, and 57% agreed that it was needed to understand English culture and its way of life. Areas of Christianity considered important were the history of Christianity (58%), major Christian events and festivals (56%) and how Christianity distinguishes right from wrong (51%).

According to Oxford University Media News, it was found that teachers are often nervous about tackling issues related to Christianity, as they are worried that it could be considered as evangelising.



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ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, STOCKPORT

MUSIC LIST – MAY 2014

Sunday 4 th May – Third Sunday of Easter			
10:15am - St George's Service		6:30pm – Evensong	
Setting:	Mass of St Thomas	Hymns:	400 – City of God, how broad, how far 628 – Ye that know the Lord is gracious 207 – Blessed City, heavenly Salem 18 – O strength and stay
Hymns:	165 – Christ is the King Bread of Life, truth eternal 287 – Broken for me 612 – We have a gospel to proclaim	Canticles:	Mag: 51 Nunc: 60 Psalm: 48
Anthem:	O for a closer walk with God – Stanford	Anthem:	I give to you a new commandment - Nardone
Voluntary:	Allegro Maestoso & Fugue from Sonata 2 - Mendelssohn	Voluntary:	Basse de Trompette - Corrette

Sunday 11 th May – Fourth Sunday of Easter			
10:15am - St George's Service		6:30pm – Evensong	
All-Age Service		Hymns:	371 – All praise to our redeeming Lord 489 – Jesus, Lord, we look to thee 295 – Deck thyself, my soul (Part 1) 20 – Saviour, again to thy dear name we raise
		Canticles:	Mag: 46 Nunc: 61 Psalm: 47
		Anthem:	O gladsome light – Bourgeois
		Voluntary:	TBA

Sunday 18 th May – Fifth Sunday of Easter			
10:15am - St George's Service		6:30pm – Evensong	
Setting:	Mass of St Thomas	Hymns:	603 – Thou hidden source of calm repose i 364 – A city radiant as a bride (Kingsfold) 586 – The God of Abraham praise 23 - The duteous day now closeth
Hymns:	606 – Thy hand O God has guided SP282 – I do not know tomorrow's way 443 – God is our strength and refuge 609 – To God be the Glory	Canticles:	Mag: 47 Nunc: 56 Psalm: 147
Anthem:	Greater Love – Ireland	Anthem:	A Clare Benediction - Rutter
Voluntary:	Processional - Matthias	Voluntary:	Rimembranza - Yon

Sunday 25 th May – Sixth Sunday of Easter			
10:15am - St George's Service		6:30pm – Choral Evensong	
Setting:	Mass of St Thomas	Hymns:	219 – God whose city's.. (Westminster Abbey) 611 – We bring you Lord our prayer and praise 502 – Light's abode, celestial Salem 21 – Sun of my soul
Hymns:	143 – Come ye faithful, raise the strain SP103 – Father, Lord of earth and heaven 175 – Come down O love divine 453 – Great is thy faithfulness	Canticles:	Stanford in C Psalm: 87
Anthem:	If ye love me – Tallis	Anthem:	Evening Hymn – Balfour-Gardiner
Voluntary:	Scherzo in G minor - Bossi	Voluntary:	Introduktion und Passacaglia in d moll - Reger

Thursday 29 th May – Ascension Day			
8:00pm - St George's Service			
Setting:	Mass of St Thomas		
Hymns:	167 – Hail the day that sees him rise 170 – Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice... 166 – Crown him with many crowns 563 – Rejoice! The Lord is King		
Anthem:	The Lord goes up - Archer		
Voluntary:	Toccata - Dubois		

Olympic future?

Interviewer on *Sportscene 2032*:
And to what do you attribute your sporting success, Miss B?

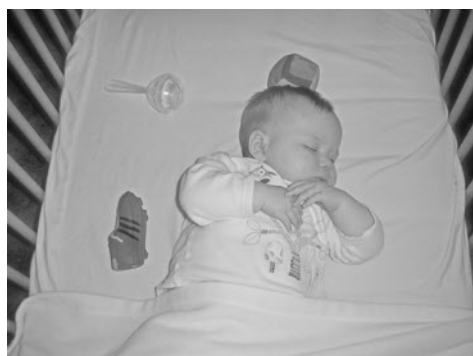
Miss B: I put it down to early training, with appropriate equipment and psychological support.



Early gymnastics



Early trapeze work



Early football training with subliminal psychological input

Angela Foulkes

Why didn't the Romans and Jews see the Risen Jesus?

"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him" (John 14:21)

FOLLOWING EASTER, we may wonder – as one of Jesus' disciples did (v.27) - why the risen Lord was never seen by the outside world; by Pontius Pilate or Caiaphas the high priest; by those who had been responsible for his arrest and death. Would that not have been a wonderful way of launching the despised faith at a very public level? Surely the Man of Galilee had only to announce "You thought you were rid of me; here I am after all!"

But the answer is that *Christ reveals himself only to his lovers*. Here, in John chapter 14, Jesus is pouring in words of assurance to the disciples shortly before his death, as he speaks of the love relationship between himself and those who follow him.

"It would sound odd for a man to say he *loved* a god," wrote the Greek thinker, Aristotle, 24 centuries ago. Such could well be admitted by adherents of modern religions today. Yet in the words of the Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard, "*A believer is surely a lover, yea of all lovers the most in love.*"

From time to time we meet with great lovers of Jesus. We know that they are such, because we cannot imagine them doing or saying anything that would contravene their discipleship. Sometimes, when we meet them, we almost feel that we are speaking with Jesus himself!

The practical obedience, generosity and purity of living that pour out of the lives of Christ's lovers in no way resembles the grudging servitude that a slave would give to a feared tyrant; theirs is the grateful response of love that has been awakened by a yet greater love still. The Baptist preacher C.H. Spurgeon once declared, "Obedience must have love for its mother, nurse and food."

Is there a reward for such obedience? There is. The reward is *more of Jesus*; a greater awareness of His presence and companionship with us, by day and night. Indeed, Jesus elaborates further when he adds, "My Father will love him, and *we will come to him and make our home with him*" (John 14:23). As an old hymn put it:

*To turn aside from thee is hell,
To walk with thee is heaven*

The Rev Richard Bewes

Two forthcoming events in aid of the Organ Restoration Fund.

ANOTHER of the popular Café Concerts will have been held on Saturday May 3rd, from 10am till 12 midday, with the usual music, refreshments and sales of books and DVDs. Entry was free. We need books and DVDs to sell at future events, so if you have any to donate, they would be a welcome addition.

Tickets are now on sale for the concert to be given by the **Chester St Cecilia Singers**, on Wednesday 11th June. A celebration of Faith, Hope and Love, the programme features sacred and secular music by, amongst others, Morley, Gibbons, Fauré, Finzi and Rutter. The concert will begin at 8pm and finish at approximately 9.15pm. Tickets are £8 and £6, available from Penny Bisby, (476 4773) with accompanied under-16s free.

Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword solution

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

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.

7 to 7.45pm Open Door (Vestry)
(Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings).

St George's Opening Times:

Mon and Tue: 9.15am to noon

Wednesday: 9.30am to 11am
and 7 to 7.45pm

Saturday: 9am to 11am

REGULAR SERVICES AT ST GABRIEL'S:

Sunday

9.30 am Holy Communion

Prove it

Prove it they cried that you're the Messiah
Wouldn't He come as a conquering king?
Not as a poor man riding a donkey
How do you think we'd believe such a thing?

Wherever He went large crowds would follow,
He calmed the storm and turned water to wine,
The lame could walk and the deaf made to hear,
Fully a man and yet also divine.

His teaching had never been heard before,
He fed the five thousand with fish and bread
Gave sight to the blind and lepers were healed,
He cast out demons and raised the dead.

He died on a cross to take away sin
Rose up from the grave, what more could He do?
To prove of His love for all of mankind
Believe it or not it, it's all up to you.

By Megan Carter

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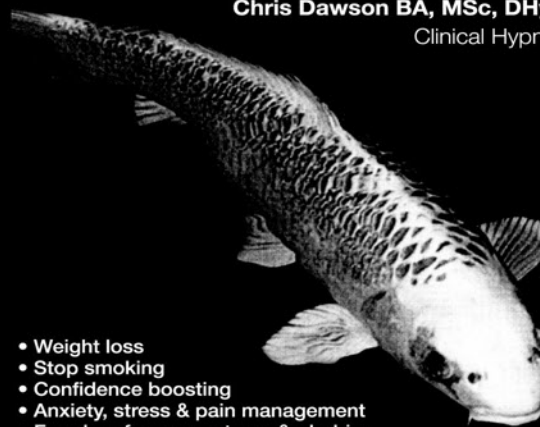
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