

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,

AS I WRITE, the current very pleasant hot spell of weather is about to end with the inevitable rain – after all, there is a Bank Holiday coming up! At least it might partially replenish the contents of the two water butts whose previous contents have helped to establish recent plantings in the garden. These included a prolific-flowering azalea bush bought as an advance Fathers' Day gift by a daughter who will be away on that most important occasion. (All sons and daughters to please note initiative). One of my daughters, when small, once asked of her mother "I know there is Mother's Day and Father's Day but when is Children's Day?" to be informed that "Every day is Children's Day". Good reply – the subject never came up again, put paid to such future impertinence, and has been used in dealing with subsequent generations of similar enquirers.

It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to meet our personable Assistant Curate-in-Waiting (if that is the correct title at this stage), Chris Moore, at the PCC meeting held on 20th May. Chris had previously been thoughtful enough to provide us with a short profile of himself and family which was featured in the March issue and so he was instantly recognisable from the photograph that had accompanied it. Chris joins us on 1st July and his first official outing will be at the United Parish Communion on 6th July when it is hoped that everyone from both churches will join us at 10.15 at St George's.

In the evening, we hope that as many as possible will be able to come to Evensong being held at St Gabriel's at 6.30pm, when Chris will be preaching for the first time in our parish.

The Rev. Sandra Woodhead wrote a moving article for us in the last (May) issue about some of the difficulties encountered by those C.of E. female deacons awaiting their induction to the priesthood. This month's Book Review deals with the same subject and tells the personal stories of 12 prominent women who have experienced the clash between their gender and their church.

You may also remember an article appearing in the same magazine on the subject of marriage preparation. This was by a young couple, Beth and Luke, whose writings inspired me to invite them to our recent Grapevine committee meeting to see something of what goes on 'behind the scenes', so to speak. The experience didn't deter them and I am optimistic of further offerings from them in the future. They are to be married at George's in early July. I think it's high time we introduced some younger blood into the committee (no offence intended to existing members) and maybe find out what the younger generation might expect from us. It is so very rewarding to find young people who are prepared to become involved. Any other volunteers?

God Bless. Sincerely yours,

Mark Lane. Editor

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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 Sue Burt 483 9589	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: Keeping up Appearances

“**S**he’s the kind of woman who’d leave her pegs on the line”. A damning indictment indeed overheard the other day.

Just what kind of women is that exactly? Had she a need to confess her manifold sins and wickedness? Whatever she had done, in neglecting to take her pegs in from the line, had seriously tarnished her reputation.

In times gone by, occurrences such as this would be the talk of the street. My Nanna knew what was at stake if her net curtains weren’t pristine white and her windows washed every week. Not in a position to afford a window cleaner, she would open the upstairs sash window and climb out on the sill to sit on it, securing her legs by pulling the sash window down over them. She would use the step stone (donkey stone) to scrub the step and a half moon piece of the pavement just outside the front door every week. These things, and failure to keep up standards, would be discussed in detail by the women who would gather outside, arms folded, and ready to catch up on the exciting events of day to day life on the street.

“Keeping up appearances”, a well loved sitcom starring Patricia Routledge as Hyacinth Bucket (Bouquet) showed the lead character as someone whose reputation was key. She was a social climber who came from a working class background and who strived to impress others with her fancy ways and perceived status.

Sometimes we might want people to be impressed by us and so we go to extraordinary lengths to achieve recognition. Some might get themselves into debt by wanting to have a house and contents which look like it’s come from the ideal home exhibition. Others might want to buy the newest gadget, phone or TV so they can drop their latest acquisition into the conversation. Having a high status job or knowing someone with “connections” can have people fluttering around wanting to know more and it’s easy to thrive on such attention. There are those who invent or elaborate what they have simply to feel accepted.

The passage from Luke’s Gospel Luke 18:9- 14 shows the Pharisee and the tax collector praying in the same temple. The Pharisee would have had a significant place in the community and strictly observed the traditional and written law. He would have been perceived to have had the upper hand to the tax collector until he started to pray.

The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.

Instead of praying quietly, he exalted himself to all who could hear, declaring his superior sanctity and loudly criticising the tax collector who was *standing far off,*

would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

The Pharisee needed to be noticed, to keep up the appearances of his perceived status and to revel in the admiration of those close by offering nothing but contempt for those who didn’t get close to his high ideals.

In the end it was the Pharisee who showed himself for who he was and the tax collector who went home exalted in God’s eyes.

We too can be quick to judge and comment and pronounce without having any idea of a person’s story. We can proclaim our own self worth at the expense of another. We can attempt to diminish another and yet only succeed in diminishing ourselves.

Keeping up appearances is so unnecessary when we know that God knows us better than we know ourselves *Psalms 139* and even though some of us aren’t as inwardly attractive as we might be, God still loves us.

Our outward appearances in society become less important when we accept that we all come before God exactly as we are and we need to make ourselves available to Him to be the people He needs us to be.

With every blessing

Elaine

The simple pleasures of Ordinary Time

One great phrase of the Church of England, which is little-known but carries a wealth of rich meaning, is “ordinary time.” While the seasons of Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Advent all have their fixtures and moments for focus and concentration, the bulk of the summer months is ‘ordinary time’! A very evocative phase – nothing particularly to focus on or to celebrate.

Just because it is ordinary it does not mean it is not important or of no significance to how God wants us to use our lives. For most of us life is lived between high and low points: we look forward to something on the horizon or we are seeking to recover from something. So it should be no surprise that ordinary time is the longest season in the Church calendar. Abraham Lincoln once said that: “God must love ordinary people because he made so many of them”!

Ordinary people, it seems to me, need ‘ordinary time’. Sundays and week days in-between, to sense God’s presence with us in the day-to-day mundane, and ordinary comings and goings of life. He is there in the heights of resurrection joy and celebration. He is with us in the vulnerability and frailty of human weakness, modelled in the incarnation. He is with us in our efforts to discipline ourselves and be moulded by him (Lent) but he is also with us whenever we are conscious of life just being ordinary. When our eyes are opened to these things, we will see what an extraordinary God we have!

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St. Alban, a Cathedral and Abbey Church, and a shrine

THE FEAST of St Alban, the first Christian martyr of this country, is celebrated during June; both the 20th and 22nd are given in various sources, though at St Albans itself it is celebrated on the 22nd. The story of Alban, whose martyrdom took place in about 300 A.D. has come down to us in various medieval writings, including those of the venerable Bede, and a monk of St Albans, Matthew Paris, whose *La vie de Seint Auban* was written and illustrated in about 1235.

The Romano-British (and presumably pagan) Alban gave shelter to a Christian priest, who we now know as Amphibalus, fleeing persecution under the orders of the Emperor Diocletian. Alban was immediately converted to Christianity, changed clothes with the priest and fled to divert the pursuing soldiers, enabling Amphibalus to escape. Alban was captured and tried, and in response to a demand to give an account of himself, made the compellingly affirmative response, "I am called Alban, and I worship and adore the true and living God who created all things." He was sentenced to death and beheaded very near to where the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban stands today.

The medieval accounts tell of three miracles associated with Alban's death. First; how, on the way to his execution, the bridge over the surging river Ver was so crowded that it could not be crossed, but the waters dried up and he continued on his way. Second; having reached the top of the hill where he was to be executed Alban asked for water. Immediately a spring rose at his feet only to disappear once his thirst was quenched. Third; at the moment of Alban's execution the executioner's eyes fell out (depicted by Matthew Paris with very characteristic medieval graphic relish!). An executioner who refused to touch Alban was himself put to the sword and the judge, having witnessed all these things, ordered an immediate end to the persecution without waiting for the emperor's order.

A memorial building was placed over Alban's grave around the middle of the 4th century, and soon took on

special importance that led to the building of a major church on the site in the early 5th century. At the very end of the 8th century an Anglo-Saxon Benedictine Abbey was founded there, and the Romanesque church, of which parts remain in the present cathedral, was begun in 1077.

It is not certain how Alban's relics were preserved in earliest times, but during the first decade of the 14th century the shrine pedestal, which still survives, was constructed and placed at its present site. Another unique survival is the timber watching loft installed in about 1420 to enable round-the-clock supervision of the shrine. The Abbey was closed at the dissolution in 1539 and the shrine demolished. However, the Abbey was bought by the Town, and the site of the shrine marked. During restoration of the building in 1872 the shrine was rediscovered, reassembled and placed at its original site. Following the discovery of further shrine fragments, a major restoration was completed in 1992, replacing some of the timber portions of the earlier Victorian restoration.

And so it remains today, and where, as the present Dean of St Albans, The Very Reverend Dr Jeffrey John notes in a beautifully presented guidebook published in 2008, the sheer power of the place is at once evident. On entering the shrine area chattering schoolchildren fall silent; tourists cease taking photographs, and guidebook readers stop reading and start to pay a different kind of attention. He continued that what is special about the place is not mere history, but Presence. It is what the Celtic Christians called a 'thin' place, where the barrier between the present and the eternal fades to vanishing; a place in which it is easy to pray. God is present there; time falls away, and the Communion of Saints becomes an experience, not just an article of the Creed.

On each weekday at noon, the Eucharist is celebrated at the shrine altar. I have attended on a number of occasions; it is a unique experience in which the Presence that Jeffrey John notes is indeed both tangible and powerful.

Andrew Mayes

The smaller Beatitudes

Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves; they will have no end of fun.

Blessed are those who can tell a mountain from a molehill; they will be saved a lot of bother

Blessed are those who know how to relax without looking for excuses; they are on the way to becoming wise

Blessed are those who know when to be quiet and listen; they will learn a lot of new things

Blessed are those who are sane enough not to take themselves seriously; they will be valued by those about them

Happy are you if you can take small things seriously and face serious things calmly; you will go far in life

Happy are you if you can appreciate a smile and forget a frown; you will walk on the sunny side of the street

Happy are you if you can be kind in understanding the attitudes of others, even when the signs are unfavourable; you may be taken for a fool but this is the price of charity

Blessed are those who think before acting and pray before thinking; they will avoid many blunders

Happy are you if you know how to hold your tongue and smile, even when people interrupt and contradict you or tread on your toes; the Gospel has begun to seep into your heart

Above all,

Blessed are you who recognise the Lord in all whom you meet; the light of truth shines in your life for you have found true wisdom.

Parish News Roundup

Baptisms:

11th May: Isabelle Mae Reynolds & Holly Gee
 25th May: Alfie Jack Hein & Archie Kelvin Meredith
 28th May: Philip Cunah & Clare Lloyd

Weddings:

10th May: Rebekah Brazier & Kyle Burney

Funerals:

7th May: Eleanor Daniel (aged 89) at Stockport Crematorium
 11th May: David George Phillips (aged 89) at Stockport Crematorium
 16th May: John Puddifoot (aged 67) in church

High Altar flowers were by:

4th May - Marjorie Lees *for Geoffrey*
 11th May - Mothers' Union
 18th May - Hilda Davies *for Stephanie*
 25th May - The Grundy family *in memory of Ken & Joan Grundy*

Lady Chapel flowers were by:

11th May - Mrs L Barker *in memory of Mrs Elizabeth Swire*

Floodlighting was sponsored by:

26th Apr - Margaret & Gordon Sharrard
- for granddaughter Jeni on her birthday
 28th Apr - Margaret & Gordon Sharrard
- in memory of Julian on his birthday
(with apologies for omission last month)

Forward dates for your diary: (see separate notices for some details)

Wed 11th Jun: Chester St Cecilia Singers 8pm
 Sun 22nd Jun: Poverty Sunday
 Tue 24th Jun: Roast Dinner at Adswood Community Centre 6.15pm
 Tue Jul 1st: Revd Chris Moore and wife Avril take up residence in the parish
 Sat 5th Jul: Café concert 10 - noon
 Sun 6th July: (Chris's first Sunday with us) United Parish Communion at St George's 10.15am

Parish News Roundup

Evensong at St Gabriel's 6.30pm (Revd Chris Moore preaching)
 Fri 18th Jul: Formal licencing of Revd Sandra Woodhead as Assistant priest and Revd Chris Moore as Assistant Curate by the Bishop of Chester at St. George's 7.30pm
 11th – 14th Sept: Heritage Open Days at St George's
 Wed Oct 8th: Paul Kerensa (stand-up Christian comic)
 Sat 18th Oct: CMS Autumn Fair

St George's News:

Special services in July.

Revd Chris Moore and his wife Avril are beginning a new phase in their ministry as they come to join us on July 1st. We would like to invite everyone on Chris' first Sunday with us, to a United Parish Communion on 6th July when we hope that everyone from both churches will join us at 10.15 at St George's. In the evening we hope that as many as possible will be able to come to Evensong at St Gabriel's at 6.30pm when Chris will be preaching for the first time in our parish.

On 18th July at 7.30pm we have the formal licensing of Revd Sandra Woodhead as Assistant priest and Chris as Assistant Curate by the Bishop of Chester. This will be at St George's Church.

All of these special services will be followed by hot drinks and light refreshments.

St Gabriel's and Adswood News:

WE CAN REPORT that plenty of jobs are getting done. These include the replacement of broken windows and roofing tiles, repair of a loose light fitting, repairs to leaking pipework in the toilet area, and some plastering and weeding carried out. Ongoing jobs include work on the Church Notice Board, also to flooring plus some painting

The Arts Exhibition held at Adswood Community Centre on 14th -17th May was really excellent and well supported.

Parish News Roundup

Elaine reports that "Peter and I were invited to the preview and enjoyed drinks and nibbles as we wandered round marvelling at the very high standard. Some of the pictures were for sale and there was a huge raffle which was drawn on the Saturday. We had a great time." The Adswood Art Group meet on Tuesday afternoons from 1pm to 3pm. The local Press gave the occasion a good write-up, heading the article "Exhibition is picture perfect for art lovers at Adswood gallery". Apparently funding for the event came from the You Say We Pay scheme, Davenport and Cale Green CDF, the Equity Foundation and Forever Manchester.

The St George's Day Parade held on 27th April at St Georges was attended by over 800 people.

Get fit for Summer – Twinkle Toes dances are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at Adswood Community Centre between 2 and 4pm. Admission is £1.50, including refreshments, and our DJ is Reg. There is car parking at the rear.

Don't Cook your own Tea!

Instead enjoy a 3 course traditional ROAST DINNER @ Adswood Community Centre, Garner's Lane

On TUESDAY 24th June at 6.15pm when the Speaker will be Jonathan Goodfellow

Arranged by Davenport Methodist Church, St Gabriel's & St Ambrose

Contact Kevin McKenna. Tel. 0161 282 5523, Mob. 07504 130749

We are the body of Christ

St Paul speaks at some length (1Corinthians 12) about being and building up the body of Christ and that we are all called in different ways to various kinds of ministry. Some of that ministry is up front and visible and some of that ministry is behind the scenes; so for all of you who would like to like to busy away in the background, I'd like to offer you a proposition.

I need a core group of people who would be willing to help in sourcing funding for various projects. This doesn't mean that you have to stand on street corners with a collecting tin or even organising events and concerts.

What I need are people who would help to formulate something akin to a business plan. Let me explain, there have been various projects over the years and people have worked hard arranging fundraising events to get the money together. Even now there is a magnificent group of people who are planning things for our enjoyment to raise money for the restoration of the organ. That takes a lot of effort and energy and I appreciate what they have done.

However as a church, we need to source grants for this and for future projects. To do this we need to gather together all the information that makes our parish what it is, to formulate a statement of needs i.e. what would be the benefits of doing what we do for our church but importantly the wider community and ultimately to make a case for why we require support. This will provide clarity, focus and purpose to our endeavours.

We also need people who are willing to work through various funding options, charities and agencies so we will know who are the best groups to approach. And finally, we need people who are good at filling in forms.

As the Body of Christ we **all** have a part to play.

Can you please be in touch with me as soon as possible to offer your help?

Thank you

Elaine

Prayer to stay connected

Heavenly Father,

Forgive us that we are all so busy. There are so many demands; so many expectations. Emails and Facebook demand instant replies and, if we're honest, they drain away our time as we try to keep in touch with everyone, whenever they contact us. We keep in touch with everyone who demands our attention, Lord, but often, in all the rush to communicate, we don't keep in touch with you, the greatest communicator of all. You communicated all we need to know by sending Jesus. He is your love in person. He makes it possible for us to know you by trusting in him. Thank you for pressing the send button that gave Jesus to us. Thank you that you will never switch off or close down. Help us to spend our precious time wisely and to stay connected to you.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

July-Aug 2014 Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Friday 13th June**
Committee meeting: **Tuesday 17th June**

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

Fellowship of Marriage and Women's Fellowship

12th June: Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall
26th June: tba

St. George's floodlighting – sponsorship request form

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



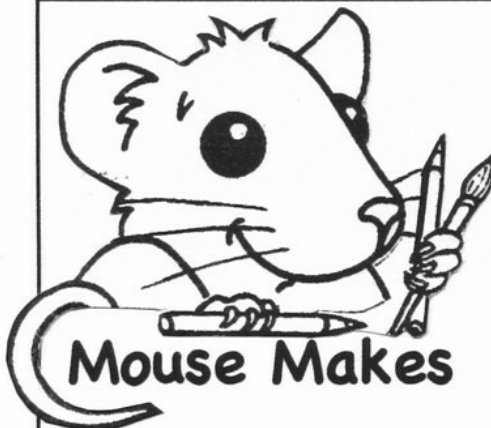
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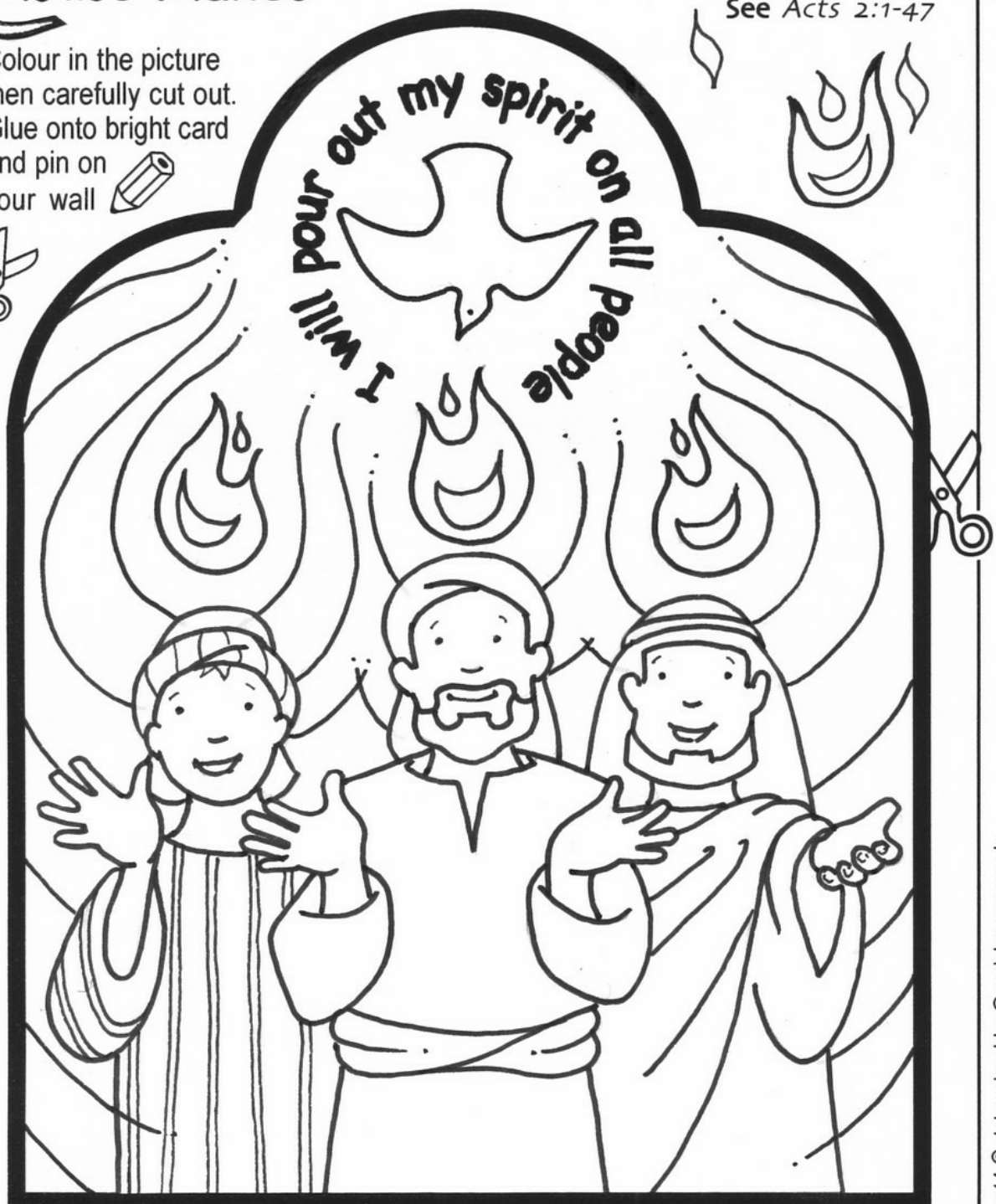
THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Now when the day of **Pentecost** had come the disciples were all together in one place.

Suddenly a sound like a violent wind blowing came from heaven and filled the entire house where they were sitting. And tongues spreading out like fire came to rest on each one of them.

See Acts 2:1-47

Colour in the picture then carefully cut out. Glue onto bright card and pin on your wall



Day of Pentecost – Whit Sunday

PENTECOST took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was exactly 50 days after the Passover, the time of Jesus' crucifixion.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told his apostles that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for his apostles - but he knew they could not do the work themselves - they would need his help.

And so the apostles and disciples waited in Jerusalem, praying together for several days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues - to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1-9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the apostles and disciples of Jesus: and the Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning: proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old

Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, he could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Further notes on Pentecost

On that long ago first morning of Pentecost, Jerusalem was crowded with thousands of visitors, for it was one of the most popular feast-days in the Jewish calendar - the Feast of Firstfruits, looking forward to the wheat harvest.

In one small room of that great city, a small group of people who had followed Jesus were praying. There was nothing else for them to do: Jesus had died, he had risen, and he had ascended, promising to send them 'a Comforter'. They were left alone, to wait at Jerusalem. And so they waited - on him, and for him. They were not disappointed: for that morning the Holy Spirit fell upon that small room, and transformed those believers into the Church, Christ's body here on earth. Pentecost was not the first time that the Holy Spirit came to the world - throughout the Old Testament there are stories telling of how God had guided people and given them strength. But now his Spirit would use a new instrument: not just isolated prophets, but the Church, his body on earth.

Acts opens with the preaching of the gospel in Jerusalem, the centre of the Jewish nation. Within 30 years the gospel had spread throughout the northern Mediterranean: Syria, Turkey, Greece, Malta... to the very heart of the Roman Empire: Rome. The Church was on the move - God was on the move! He was calling people from every nation to repent, turn to Jesus for forgiveness of their sins, and to follow him.

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A tribute to John Puddifoot 1946 -2014 (abridged)

John was born in Beaconsfield, Berkshire, where his paternal grandfather and father were paper mill managers in the High Wycombe area. His father's work took the family to Bearstead in Kent, then to Leeds and finally on to Hayfield at which time they chose to live in Hazel Grove and established their connection with St. George's. John's faith was very strong and important to him. The incumbent then was Wilfrid Garlick.

Having left Hayfield Grammar School, John studied to become a Chartered Secretary, later qualifying as a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries. He was employed as Assistant Company Secretary at Simon Engineering where he met Janice in 1970 and marrying her in 1971. Children Michael and Sally were born in 1975 and 1977 respectively.

John's work took him to Dorma Sheets in Derbyshire, and later to other companies in Manchester and Altrincham before deciding to work from home, utilising his talents to serve a number of local companies. John joined the Freemasons, initially at the Festina Lente Lodge, which later amalgamated with others to become Lewis Lodge.

His involvement at St. George's included helping with several projects and initiatives over the years such

as the "Banquet of 100" during the church's Centenary celebrations in 1997. John was a sidesman, a reader, an intercessor and assisted with the administration of the chalice. He was a strong supporter of Wellspring, regularly bringing items to church for the Wellspring appeal.

In addition to being a school governor, in 1994 John became a Magistrate at the Stockport Magistrate's Court, specialising in the Youth Court and chairing the Youth Panel for some time. He earned high respect for his reasoned arguments and commitment to the Bench.

As passionate Manchester City supporters, John and his parents had season tickets to Maine Road. More recently, he never missed a City game on television, always wearing his City shirt for the occasion. His sense of humour led to his repeatedly watching the best of the classic comedy programmes he had recorded. Right up to date, he enjoyed W1A, a comedy programme about the Olympics. John enjoyed family parties and was always expected to organise the usual silly games. He adored his granddaughters Holly and Milly, taking them and others to a fun family theme park as recently as Good Friday.

Janice, Michael, Sally, Gary, Holly and Milly all say how much they will always love John, and thank him for being so very special.

Heritage Open Days, 11-14 September 2014

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS are a yearly national event. They are intended to be as inclusive as possible. In our case we have a Grade 1 listed church, an avenue and a Grade 2 listed school to show off. Other people may have an old water mill, the site of an iron smelting works in a wood, or a traditional working farm. Heritage days are an opportunity to draw attention to anything of cultural interest and importance.

St George's has participated in the past and we want to do so again this year. We know that we have a building that is special and we would like others to enjoy it and learn about it. When we have had events like the Festivals, many people have said things like, "I've driven past this church every day for the past 20 years and never been in. I never knew it was like this!"

Recently, while running the Chit Chat Café on a Wednesday afternoon, I have chatted to people who have called by on the off-chance. A brother and sister wanted to re-visit St George's, having left Stockport in the 1970s. He remembered Stockport Grammar School Founder's Day services here. A former pupil of St George's School came to show his fiancée where they had held their Wednesday morning assemblies. Last week a man from north

Manchester was on his weekly travels. He had recently come back to the North West after his wife had died. He had spent most of his adult life in the Solomon Islands, having married and raised a family there.

St George's is full of memories for many people. We want them to have the opportunity to renew their acquaintance with it and for other people to discover it for the first time. We intend to have the church open for at least one of the designated day – Saturday 13th September. Perhaps we could manage more with your help. We will need stewards to be around to be welcoming and to answer questions.

We are currently planning what we might offer. Entrance has to be free and we need to offer something special and we need to enable people to learn something new. In our heads at the moment are guided tours, the organ, the handbells, trips up the tower (subject to safety), a new information flyer, archives. Could we have other people showcasing work?

If you have ideas, or are willing to help, then contact me: Tel. 0161 429 7880. Email: christopher.dawson4@ntlworld.com

Chris Dawson

Organ Restoration Fund news

THE CHESTER ST CECILIA SINGERS will be presenting a concert of sacred and secular music on the 11th of June, a Wednesday evening. The concert starts at 8pm, ends at approximately 9.15, and its theme is Faith, Hope and Love, including music from the 17th century to the present day. The programme features sacred and secular music by, amongst others, Morley, Gibbons, Fauré, Finzi and Rutter. The Singers are directed by David Hardie, former organ scholar at Pembroke College, Cambridge and a postgraduate at the RNCM, and accompanied by Jordan English, third year student at the RNCM and former organ scholar at Carlisle Cathedral. Tickets are on sale now from Penny Bisby (0161 476 4773) priced £8 and £6, with accompanied under 16s free.

An exciting prospect planned for later in the year is an evening with Paul Kerensa, Christian stand up comic and scriptwriter. He is booked for Wednesday October 8th, and we are thrilled that we have been able to secure this amazing entertainer. For anyone who has not heard of Paul Kerensa, his website can be viewed on www.paulkerensa.com

We hope to fill the church for this occasion and are sending publicity to other churches in the diocese; please tell all your friends!

Thank you for contributing your old jewellery, mobile phones, obsolete currency etc. This raised the incredible total of £613. Special thanks to Hazel Jenkins who organised this, and to Revd Sandra whose idea it was.

Finally, our last Café Concert and Book Sale raised around £350 including some generous organ pipe sponsorship. The next Café Concert is on Saturday 5th July.

Like Father, Like Son

‘DEAD RINGER’ is the odd phrase we use when referring to someone who looks like somebody else. Sometimes, instead, we say ‘spitting image’ when we see a likeness or similarity between one person and another.

This month includes Fathers’ Day (15th June) and is an occasion when dads are particularly remembered by their children. As far as the boys are concerned, how many have heard someone say ‘Oh, you really look like your father’?

One day, Jesus was talking to His disciples and said “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father” (Jn 14:9) What an amazing statement! Jesus was saying that he was the dead ringer or spitting image of God! At another time Jesus said “I am in the Father and the Father is in me.” (Jn 14.10) These words must have shocked his hearers, for he was saying that he was equal with God. No one had said anything like this before, but certainly his miracles were proof that he was different. No-one else could do what he was doing. Some people wondered—could he really be who he said he was?

So Jesus attempted to make his position clear and said “If you knew me you would know the Father also.” (Jn 8:19) The people were being urged to know Jesus more. They had to look, listen and believe. Were his deeds of God or not? They had to decide!

Today, we all stand in a similar position. Who is Jesus? Do we look at him and say ‘Yes, this is God in the flesh’ or ‘No, he was just a good person — but also perhaps, deluded or crazy?’

Thomas, the disciple with the nickname ‘doubter’, exclaimed: “My Lord and *my God*” (Jn 20:28) Thomas was convinced that he was in the presence of God, in human form. And when the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Colossae he said clearly: ‘It was by God’s own decision that the Son has in himself the full nature of God’ (*Colossians 1:19*). Like Father, like Son!



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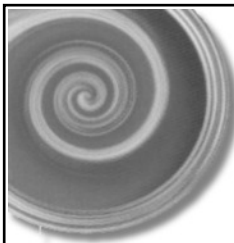
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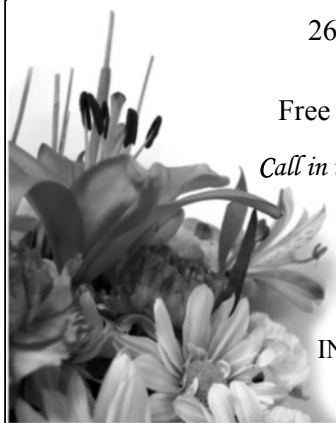
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Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

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Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 23)

St George's Parish Rooms

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Crossword

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

Across

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

Down

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

1914 – 1918 Great War Connections

SCHOOLCHILDREN today may feel that the Great War is in the dim and distant past, yet, in historic terms, it was only yesterday. The 100th anniversary of its start, on 4th August 1914, is being remembered and in the news, as people will still have memories and connections to that great conflict.

One of my many interests is military history, partly because of my background, but more so as I consider the supreme courage of those involved, and the tactics and thinking of the Generals and Politicians of the day. In the end, every story is a personal one and I write as one whose parents and other relatives were involved.

My own army service was only for two years, mainly in Egypt, but it was long enough to give me some insight into earlier service life. I remember my mother, born in 1900 as Selina Brown, mentioning that she had worked on making shells and other munitions. My father, Harry Oldham, actually fought in the Great War. He was born in Stockport, 16th August 1898, and, when only five years old, saw his father, George Oldham, leave for America in 1903. Then, in 1905, his mother, Bridget, born in Dublin Barracks (father a soldier, surname Chambers) also left for America with two young girls, Bertha and Ethel. Young Harry was scheduled to follow but was held back by an aunt and lived with his grandfather Oldham, who was known as 'the Old Soldier' and a veteran of the Crimean War (the Charge of the Light Brigade 1854 and all that). During his travels, this grandfather had married a fiery red headed Irish girl from Dublin, and my father remembered her chasing him around at times!



So young Harry grew up in a house permeated by military talk, and he attended Cale Green school and earned money by taking out daily newspapers etc. He said he felt the loss of his parents and sisters; left school aged 13 and started as an apprentice electrician at a local factory. In general, being a sensitive, but strong, lad, he felt frustrated, so when, in 1914, he saw the well known poster showing Field Marshal Kitchener pointing, and saying, 'Your Country Needs You', he walked to Manchester and joined 'The Royal Marine Light Infantry', despite being

only 16, but saying he was older!

His height and weight, on enlistment records, show that he was to grow considerably as he started to train at Deal, in Kent, which included marching to Dover and back; learning to swim fully clothed; make accurate fire with his short Lee-Enfield rifle, which could fire fifteen rounds a minute with training (10 round magazine), and generally develop.

His battalion became part of the Royal Naval Division, which sailed from Portsmouth to land at Gallipoli in 1915, and sustain heavy casualties as the campaign developed. Harry was not quite 17 when wounded and evacuated to a military hospital in Egypt – later meeting King George V at

a gathering at Buckingham Palace, for wounded soldiers and sailors.

After recovery, he was posted to HMS Kent, a battle cruiser, operating out of South Africa, and later in China and Hong Kong, where he was on duty when the signal came through that the Great War had ended. In 1920 he left the Royal Marines and in 1924 married my mother, Selina Brown, who had been a pupil at St George's school. Part of the school became a military hospital during the war, with the wounded being brought up from Edgeley Station.

Meanwhile, two of Harry's uncles had also survived the war – namely Frank Oldham, an RSM in the Royal Artillery (who later went to Danbury, Connecticut, USA), and another Harry Oldham, who fought in the trenches. I knew him well as I visited him and his wife, Bessie, most Sundays for lunch, after I had sung Matins as a chorister at St George's. They were a wonderful couple with three daughters. Bessie would play the piano and I would read before going to Evensong, then home. I did not attend Sunday School, which was in the afternoon.

Tom Smith was another relative I knew well, and he, too, had fought in the trenches. He just didn't walk to work – he marched! Smartly, with a good rhythm, and boots well polished! On most nights he would join old comrades, as they drank in the local pub, and go over old battles. I remember his large collection of pipes, as most people smoked in those days. He was also a gifted artist and had a small studio. This was his way of dealing with the trauma of war. I also remember a local chap called John Worthington, who had been blinded in the war and walked with a guide dog. So all those mentioned survived, but almost a million men did not, and when my father bought large poppies, every November, for the engineering work's vehicles, it meant a great deal, as many of the men in the works had survived that war

In 1941, as an 11 year old choirboy, I sang at one of the annual services to remember the action, in 1917, by 6th (Stockport) battalion, as part of the Cheshire Regiment's attack at St Julien when, out of 60 officers and 1880 men, only 2 officers and 76 other ranks survived. Their Union Flag, which was later carried in the Peace Parade in Paris, now hangs over the choir stalls in St George's. I visited the place of St Julien in later years, and remembered that church service so early in the second war. We choirboys changed, then emerged from the Vestry, to find the Avenue packed with men, as more had joined those who had attended the service.

I stood on the corner of the A6 and church Avenue to see two ranks of drummers at the head of a large military band. Then Colonel Nadin gave the order to march off in a stentorian voice! I had heard boys brigade bands, but my ears were suddenly hit by an intensity and power of drumming, not previously experienced, as this large body of Great War survivors, still only in their 40's, and including my father, marched down the A6 towards the Town War Memorial and The Armoury on Greek Street. I walked quickly on the pavement, watching my father, and became aware of the strength in such a body of men.

Many years later, I attended another St Julien service and saw just a handful of old survivors being addressed by Colonel Christie-Miller, near the church War Memorial. They stood quietly and I was reminded of some words from Binyan's poem about the fallen – 'They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn'.

On my mother's side of the family, her grandfather, Henry Brown, had also been a professional soldier – indeed her own father had been born on a troopship, returning from India. She remembered the military funeral for her grandfather, who had brought back his regiment's drums from the Crimean War, and my cousin still has the drumsticks.

My mother had two brothers who fought in the Great War. Henry (Harry) Brown was a sergeant in the 7th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment, and survived the bayonet charge of the regiment at Gallipoli, when it took some Turkish trenches and was watched by General Hamilton. He died later, in August 1918, and I visited his grave at Doullens in France, where he had been brought in by rail, with severe shrapnel wounds. The rails were still there, the tented hospital, of course, was not. A War Cemetery bore witness to the enormous suffering involved. It was a very moving experience and I have a photograph of my mother's father visiting his son's grave in the 1920's.

Another brother, Billy Brown, survived, despite wounds, and his son, Alan, became an officer in St George's Boys Brigade (now disbanded) and worked for deaf people.

If only the war survivors had talked more, but that generation did not. However, I do remember my father saying that he had 'been very near to God' at Gallipoli. We still recall the courage and sense of duty of his generation, with thousands of War Memorials across the country bearing witness to this. St George's church has its own, near the A6, and each year wreaths are laid, following a remembrance service. Stockport Cricket club, in Beech Road, also has its own, as, in 1914, most of the cricket and lacrosse teams joined the forces.

I played for Stockport in the late 1940's and early 1950's, when they were in the Central Lancashire Cricket League, and at the start of each season we felt honoured to lay a wreath and see the names of the fallen. It certainly put sport into perspective.

I have visited some of the Great War Cemeteries, including the vast 'Tyne Cot' in Flanders, and the Theipval Memorial on The Somme. Such visits render one speechless at the scale of it all. I was glad to see, on one visit, a group from Stockport Grammar School, who also hold an annual remembrance service. Like many schools, they lost boys and masters. The school motto is *Vicit qui Patitur*, meaning 'He who endures, Conquers'. It seemed appropriate, as our country endured four years of terrific sacrifice and hardship, before experiencing victory.

Son, Michael, (ex Head Chorister at St George's in Arthur Rooke's days), also knew my father and has been a senior RAF Officer during more recent conflicts.

There is a bond between service people across generations, and this has been forged by the example of those in the Great War when courage, team spirit, comradeship and self sacrifice set the standard. A sense of duty prevailed, so that, even during the second World War, my father would stand to attention when our National Anthem was played each evening, on the radio, along with the National Anthems of those countries which had been occupied by the Nazis.

A great legacy of the Great War was the huge social change it brought about, especially for women who had done so much towards victory, as well as losing sons and husband and often serving as nurses on and near the front line. It accelerated votes for women in 1928.

I once visited the site of a forward dressing station, where wounded had been brought in by stretcher bearers. Nearby was the grave of a 15 year old boy who had won the VC, and there were poppies on his grave. The dressing station was the one where Canadian doctor, John McCrae, had served, then died in 1918, but his famous poem lives on – *In Flanders Field*.

Geoff Oldham



Harry Brown (then a corporal) who fought in the trenches and at Gallipoli



Geoff's maternal grandfather (William Scott Brown) visiting his son's grave



Geoff Oldham visits graves for himself

Church plans for thousands of poppies to bloom for the Great War Centenary

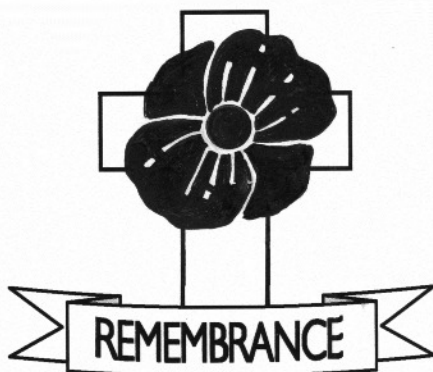
POPPIES WILL BE GROWN in the grounds of parish churches and Church of England schools across the country as an act of remembrance for the centenary of World War 1 by the Church of England.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have both urged church schools and churches to plant poppy seeds with them this Spring, to commemorate the centenary of World War I and help make the country awash with poppies.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, in an Instagram message, urges people to plant the seeds 'to remember the terrible events of the First World War and as a sign of our hope in Jesus Christ for peace in the future.'

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu welcomed the poppy planting initiative and said: "I encourage parishes and church schools across the country to join together to make many thousand flowers bloom as a tribute to the sacrifice of past generations Here in the grounds of Bishopthorpe, we too, are getting behind this community initiative. I have been inspired by the parishes of the new Diocese of Leeds (West Yorkshire and the Dales) and their shared efforts to mark the 100th anniversary of the Great War."

Some dioceses – like Oxford, Exeter, Manchester and the new Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales - have sent packets of poppy seeds to all their churches and/or church schools to create their own memorial gardens or flower pots.



The Rt Revd Nick Baines, the new bishop designate for the new Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales said: "Only 100 years ago the world fell apart in the most violent way. This simple act of growing poppies reminds us of our past and is a very visual way of pledging ourselves to serve together in the future."

Packs of Flanders poppies are on sale and can be bought at B&Q for £2 with a pound being donated to the Royal British Legion.

St George's Garden Gnomes report: *We have indeed planted some poppy seeds in part of the North garden which we have recently cleared of piles of pieces of branches which we had cut from trees. This section of the garden had been neglected for many years and had been used to store garden waste that is difficult to compost. It now looks better than it has done for many years and it is our intention to plant wild flowers in part of it to keep the weeds at bay.*

If these seeds take we could well be doing the Poppy Appeal. It could be quite costly so we need to be sure the seeds will take.

Garden Gnomes - June

IT IS MY TURN again to write the article for the Gnome's page. O dear I should have produced something last month but because we only publish once every two months, I slipped up. Editor Mark has not only slapped my wrist but is producing in this month's magazine his own contribution. It is of course about the Great War Centenary and the Poppy planting programme.

John Haden was the first to bring this to the attention of the Gnomes. However before that Brian Walton had purchase a pack of wild seed to be scattered in the reclaimed area just opposite the North Porch. As I write there are plans to purchase more seed, predominately poppy, to cover the approximately 12 sq m area.

Wild flowers are the latest fashion, and all sorts of free packs have been distributed. Just what is in these packs is not altogether clear. One man's wild flower is another man's weed. There is an industry built on the basis of eradicating weeds (wild flowers) from our gardens. Lawns are a case in point. Left to their own devices they would produce a range of plants not particularly pleasing to the eye, but a joy to the birds and bees and all the other creatures we are constantly exhorted to consider essential to our very existence. On the one hand we have Lottery funding to distribute wild flower seed, and on the other we spend public money mowing every bit of grass in sight. Isn't life complicated? Another point about wild flowers is that they like their own space. Of course they can be grown in pots but to grow wild they seem to like to pick the spot they like best, which is not always convenient. On the other hand what can be more delightful than a field of bluebells or dandelions in full flower adorning some of our roadsides in spring? Unfortunately some of these plants don't always sit comfortably with other plants we wish to cultivate

To return to the area to be sown with the aforementioned seed, as you read this the display should be showing signs of success. But then who knows after all we are only Gnomes

Stan Berry



Recent Wedding



The wedding of Rebekah Brazier with Kyle Burney at St George's on 10th May

Oh What a Lovely War!

WE ARE on course to perform this musical show in November. It is part of our commemorations of the centenary of the start of the First World War and a money raising effort for the organ fund. It's both an exciting and a challenging project – and, of course, we need support.

That support can simply be that you come and see the show and bring your friends on 7 or 8 November, the Friday and Saturday before Remembrance Sunday. Performing may be what you enjoy. So, particularly if you are a man willing to perform, I'd love to hear from you. We have some volunteers, but not quite enough. Then there is plenty to help with backstage – costumes, props, etc. – just as important. Please get in touch.

We will have a display of 27 First World War posters – which are fun but increasingly use moral blackmail to recruit! There was no radio, telephone or television, so posters played a big part.

What about other artefacts, photographs, memorabilia and reminiscences? It would be wonderful to have a display. We need someone to pick up this idea and run with it, as the saying goes! Would you?

Chris Dawson. Tel. 429 7880. Email christopher.dawson4@ntlworld.com

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An interview with Paul Kerensa – Christian funnyman and a script writer for BBC 1's 'Miranda'.

As a comedian, how do your faith and your work interact?

Like any comedian, I base my act on personal conscience, with the added element of what I think is God's will. Some people wrongly view this as watering down comedy – the fact that I am broadly a clean act is sometimes viewed as if there are places I won't go as a comedian, and that that's somehow rare and wrong. The truth is that all comedians have places they won't go. Even the most profane, most deliberately offensive comedians have things they won't say: they won't tell clean jokes. We all have restrictions we put on ourselves, and the fact that mine is that I work with God as my co-writer is doubtless a very good thing.

In the very secular world of comedy, what are the challenges of being a Christian comedian?

The challenges are only there if you see them as challenges. On stage we have freedom to do whatever we want – which can be a problem when we read the room as being heckly and raucous. Do we bawd up the act a bit? Get swear, get risqué, get racy? I've done that before and afterwards a vicar came up to me saying, 'We've booked you for our church over the road. Do you have two acts you do?' I must remember that Jesus is in that front row, and be comfortable doing my jokes to him. And if the act before has lambasted religion, I can go and clear the air, make it fun and friendly again, and maybe even defend Christianity – so long as it's funny! We can't be preachy. People just want a laugh, not a lecture.

Were you brought up a Christian?

My parents aren't Christian but sent me to church, choir, church youth group, Scouts and Pathfinders – as free childcare. When I came back believing the stuff, I don't think they were expecting that.

What is your favourite book of the Bible?

It'd be trite of me to say Genesis, simply because my book retelling the story of Genesis came out in March this year. But...Genesis. (Paul's book is called *Genesis: A Bibluffer's Guide*. His website is: paulkerensa.com).

Interview reproduced with permission from Christian Aid Magazine Winter/Spring 2014

N.B. Paul will be performing at St George's on Wednesday 8 October 2014 at 7.30pm, in aid of the organ fund. More details next month.



Book Review

Women in Waiting: Prejudice at the Heart of the Church by Julia Ogilvy

TWENTY YEARS after the first female priests were ordained in the Church of England, *Women in Waiting* tells the personal stories of 12 prominent women who have experienced the clash between their gender and their church.

Women bishops are a hot topic, but author Julia Ogilvy avoids a narrow focus on this one aspect of the tension between gender and faith. In fact, the book is much richer for the diversity of backgrounds and perspectives brought by the women she interviews: lay and ordained, lawyers and academics, American, Scottish and Catholic, as well as Church of England figures.

Some share with great openness their deeply painful experiences of being mistreated by those who opposed their roles, like the Rev Lucy Winkett, who found herself in the media spotlight as the first female canon of St Paul's Cathedral.

There is at times a clear sense of anger as the interviews explore the wider implications of women's treatment by the Church, especially when it comes to issues such as sexual violence, education or cultural attitudes.

Ogilvy is a trustee of aid agency Tearfund, and – along with Elaine Storkey, Jane Williams and others – brings social justice into the heart of the conversation.

Yet despite the obvious strength of feeling, this is not a book of extended rants, finger-pointing or exercises in self-pity. Instead, it is filled with mature, hopeful reflections, marked out by grace rather than bitterness.

While the near-verbatim reporting of the monologues can seem a little grating in places, even this is a strength as much as a foible. It is a reminder that these are authentic voices, all the more powerful in their raw state, of women who have an extraordinary amount to offer the churches they love and serve.

(Reproduced from Christian Aid Magazine Spring/Summer 2014, with permission) *Chris Dawson*

What do you expect?

WHAT DO YOU THINK that your future will hold? It seems that although most of us accept in principle that disasters can happen to anyone at any time, we do not spend much time worrying about this. Instead, we are more likely to try and anticipate positive twists in our lives in the future, that just might bring us happiness. The study was carried out at the University of Michigan. Optimism seems hard wired into human nature. Proverbs encourages this view; as long as we belong to God. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." (Prov 3: 5,6)

News from our advertisers: Stockport business woman Emma Burns – cleaned up in 18months

HAVING PLOUGHED THROUGH the recession, Emma is celebrating success as head of Poppies Cleaning Services for the Stockport/Marple/Heat on area. Not only has Emma created nine local jobs, she has taken control of her own destiny and found it rewarding in more ways than she could have imagined just 18 months ago.



Emma says "There have been a lot of ups and downs, not only in starting a business from scratch", but in May 2013 Emma faced tragedy when her sister took her own life. "My Poppies girls helped me so much and I knew I could call on anyone in the group. They got me through a personal crisis like a family."

Nationwide, Poppies has been around for over 30 years and there's nothing they've not seen or cleaned, as Emma says. "I meet each customer and individually quote for the job. It could be someone elderly needing help, or a clear up after the builders. I note what we're facing – from rubble dust to cleaning antiques. In short, every day is different."

What is constant is the level of efficiency and bespoke, personal service that makes Emma successful. "I'm proud of what we do at Poppies and feel it's a positive contribution to the well-being of over 60 regular clients. As my business expands

I'm a growing, local employer and in order to cope with the ongoing demand for our services we recently moved our office operations to bigger premises on Bird Hall Lane. This will enable us to serve additional customers in the future".

See Poppies advertisement on page four.

Contact details:

Emma Burns

Telephone Office: - 0161 300 4530
or 0161 971 3656

Mobile: - 07557347160

Web site: - www.poppies-stockport.co.uk

E-mail:- info@poppies-stockport.co.uk

Poverty Sunday

SUNDAY the 22nd JUNE has been designated as Poverty Sunday by the Church Urban Fund. This is a time to reflect on issues of poverty in this country, particularly in our local area and how churches and individual Christians respond.

The Church Urban Fund brings the Church and Christians together to work with the poorest and most marginalised in England, transforming lives. They are the Church of England's response to poverty in this country, working in partnership with Christians who feel called to put their faith into action. Their vision is to see every church, in every community, tackling poverty together by giving time, money, action and prayer.

We are going to be reflecting on this in our parish on 22nd June and invite people to bring one long dated item of either tinned or packaged food to either church which will be distributed to Wellspring or the Food banks and a financial donation in a sealed envelope marked Church Urban Fund. For further details contact www.cuf.org.uk

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Holy Land pilgrimage – November 2015

AFTER SOME YEARS taking pilgrimages to other places, I came back really excited after a visit to the Holy Land this January. Now with the help of my friend Rene from Lightline, with whom I have planned many pilgrimages, we have on offer a unique visit.

We are very keen to work with and support the Christians in the area so we will have a Christian guide and meet up with our family in Christ whenever possible including worshipping with them in St George's cathedral on the Sunday. Lightline is the official and preferred pilgrimage partner for the Diocese of Jerusalem.

The brochure and booking form are available by using this link.

<http://www.lightline.org.uk/tours/holy-land-2015/bishop-john-hayden>

Please do so but first just a few notes for you to skip through that explain why I hope you, and others you may be able to encourage to come, will not miss this opportunity.

Dates 9-18 November 2015. These dates give time to save up (£100 a month!) it also a good time to visit. It will still be warm enough to swim but cool enough for walking and with fewer visitors. In January it was certainly warm enough but I was able to visit everywhere with no queues. I chose these dates also because they are well clear of the church festivals of Harvest and Christmas and avoid other major Saints days. Remembrance Sunday in 2015 is the day before we travel and being a former RBL county padre I know that is also an important date in the yearly cycle.

Itinerary. The best way to see this is to go the the above link. It gives a day by day outline of the visit. Besides the standard sites we will visit places from Beersheba to Mt Hermon, so experiencing scenes not only from the time of

Christ and the early church but also those linked to Abraham, Samson, David, Elijah, the Hezekiah and Western Wall tunnels, Jacob's well at Sychar, – 75 sites in all many not on standard pilgrimages so please download the link. At present we may have an evening flight home. If so the Jerusalem area visit will have 3.5 days instead of 2.5 so we can have space if we fall behind on some days.

Hotels Once more we have chosen those that maximize the visit. In Tiberias we stay in a newly renovated central hotel enabling us to wander around the town after dinner. We spend a night at the Dead Sea Leonardo hotel to give an opportunity for swimming and a float in the Dead Sea from the facility of our own hotel. Likewise in Jerusalem we have a fantastic place - the only high spec tourist hotel in the Old City. It is situated in the Christian quarter by the Jaffa gate and from it can explore the Old City again in the evening or cross the road outside the Jaffa Gate to one of Jerusalem's modern shopping malls.

I am very much aware such visits are expensive and for many they are a once in a lifetime. So I have filled every day so we can get the maximum exposure to what is on offer plus plenty of new places for those who have been before. Any visit does involve walking and steps so it is important to be mobile but by careful planning there is allowance for those who want time out either at the hotel or staying in the coach.

Please read the plans for each day by downloading the brochure and application form at

<http://www.lightline.org.uk/tours/holy-land-2015/bishop-john-hayden>

Also please contact me with any questions at 0151 632 0448 or johndhayden@gmail.com.

I look forward to us being together on this visit.

Bishop John Hayden

Recipe: NEW POTATO SALAD with peas and asparagus

This salad makes the most of new potatoes such as Jersey Royals or Pink Fir Apple. For vegetarians leave out the bacon, or pass it round separately for the carnivores. For myself, I would increase the amount of bacon. If you prefer to leave the sugarsnaps unsteamed, slice them into smaller pieces. I do feel that potato salad is a bit of a misnomer as there are more asparagus and peas than potatoes!

for the dressing

6 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
2 tbsp lemon juice/pieces.
grated zest of 1 lemon
1 tsp caster sugar
½ teasp sea salt
black pepper
1 tsp Dijon mustard
about 3in/7cm sprig of thyme, leaves stripped from stem

for the salad

2lb/990g new potatoes, scrubbed

1lb/450g asparagus, tough ends removed

1lb/450g sugarsnap peas

1lb/450g garden peas (frozen are fine)

assorted salad leaves

6 rashers streaky bacon, grilled until crisp, then crumbled

Put all dressing ingredients into a jar, screw on the lid and shake well to mix.

Steam or boil the potatoes until tender. Cut the asparagus into 1.5 in/4cm pieces, then steam or boil for 3 minutes, then add the sugarsnaps, cut into 2 or 3 pieces. Cook until the asparagus is tender, tip it all into a bowl and stir in the dressing.

Cut any large potatoes in half so that they are all about the same size and mix them with the asparagus, sugarsnaps and peas so that they all cool together in the dressing and absorb the flavours.

Put the salad leaves on a large serving plate, pile the potato salad on top and scatter over the crispy bacon.

Serves 6.

Pamela Ferguson



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, STOCKPORT

MUSIC LIST – JUNE 2014

Sunday 1 st June – Easter 7			
10:15am - St George's Service		6:30pm – Evensong	
Setting:	Greening	Hymns:	356 – Judge eternal, robed in splendour 439 – God be in my head 143 – Come ye faithful, raise the strain 19 – Round me falls the night
Hymns:	401 – Come, let us join our cheerful songs SP102 – Christ pours his grace 278 – Alleluia, sing to Jesus 423 – Fight the good fight	Canticles:	Mag: 50 Nunc: 65 Psalm: 47
Anthem:	Come down O love divine – Harris	Anthem:	Go forth into the world in peace - Rutter
Voluntary:	Gloria et in terra pax – Couperin	Voluntary:	Toccata in B minor - Gigout

Sunday 8 th June – Pentecost Sunday	
10:15am - St George's Service	6:30pm – Service in the Taize Style
All-Age Service	Service in the Taize Style

Sunday 15 th June – Trinity Sunday			
10:15am - St George's Service		6:30pm – Evensong	
Setting:	Greening	Hymns:	230 – Ye watchers and ye holy ones 443 – God is our strength and refuge 200 – Affirm anew the threefold name 16 – Hail, gladdening Light
Hymns:	202 – Holy, holy holy, Lord God almighty Majesty Three in one, and one in three 267 – Thou whose almighty word	Canticles:	Mag: 47 Nunc: 63 Psalm: 93
Anthem:	God the Holy Trinity - Halls	Anthem:	Give us the wings of Faith – Bullock
Voluntary:	Allein Gott in der Hoh' sei Ehr' - Bach	Voluntary:	O lux beata Trinitas - Sweelinck

Sunday 22 nd June Sunday – Trinity 1			
10:15am - St George's Service		6:30pm – Evensong	
Setting:	Greening	Hymns:	366 – A safe stronghold our God is still (omit*) 591 – The kingdom of God 201 – Can we by searching find our God 20 – Saviour, again to thy dear name we raise
Hymns:	627 – Ye servants of God SP310 – Such love 279 – And now O Father, mindful... 543 – O praise ye the Lord	Canticles:	Mag: 46 Nunc: 61 Psalm: 46
Anthem:	Ave Verum corpus - Mayes	Anthem:	God so loved the world - Stainer
Voluntary:	Passacaglia from Sonatina – Mayes	Voluntary:	Prelude and Fugue in C - Bach

Sunday 29 th June – Trinity 2			
10:15am - St George's Service with Baptism		6:30pm – Choral Evensong	
Setting:	Greening	Hymns:	406 – Come thou fount of every blessing (301) 471 – I to the hills will lift mine eyes 457 – Hark, my soul it is the Lord 21 – Sun of my soul
Hymns:	334 – Awake, awake, fling off the night You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord O477 – O Christ the same 513 - Lord, the light of the your love	Canticles:	Harris in A Psalm: 124
Anthem:	O for a closer walk with God - Stanford	Anthem:	A Gaelic Blessing - Rutter
Voluntary:	Prelude & Fugue on BACH – Liszt	Voluntary:	Placare Christe Servulis - Dupré

Praise and play



PICTURES from a recent Monday's Praise and Play when the children and parents/carers were busy making mobiles. We were sticking and drawing using some of the new tables we were bought with money from the Manchester Evening News following our collection of 6112 tokens.

The leaders had a trip to a famous flat-pack store and have invested in some tables, a large and small parachute, an easel and some other toys which will be used over the coming months and years. They are very bright and easy to clean! **ESSENTIAL!!**



Both St George's and St Gabriel's Praise and Play have busy programmes for this term. Both run from 9-11am with lots of fun and games and a chance to meet other young families. Anyone with a child aged 4 and under is most welcome! Or just come and help!!

Mondays at St George's and Fridays at St Gabriel's

Janet Nielson

So, what is the General Synod of the Church of England?

THE GENERAL SYNOD of the Church of England is the only body outside Parliament that can make law in England. If the Synod approves legislation, it goes to Parliament. If both Houses of Parliament approve it (they cannot change it), the legislation goes to the Queen for Royal Assent and it becomes part of the law of the land; a year or so after Synod's approval.

While Parliament debates Bills that become Acts in law, the Synod debates Measures. It was the Synodical Government Measure 1969 that created the General Synod. That Measure was approved by the Church Assembly, the Synod's predecessor, under the Church Assembly (Powers) Act 1919, by which Parliament gave the Assembly the power to make Measures. Before that, Church law was purely in the control of Parliament.

The Church Assembly brought people from the pews - the laity - into debates with bishops and clergy for the first time, though without a vote. The General Synod saw the beginning of bishops, clergy and laity debating and voting on an equal footing, with most votes being straight-forward one member, one vote affairs.

In addition to debating Measures, Synod legislates, with Royal Licence and Assent but without Parliament, Church Canon Law. Where neither Measure nor Canon is needed, Synod can approve an Act of Synod, a regulation or other instrument. These might be on relations with other churches, worship or doctrine. Synod makes decisions on the set liturgies of the Church of England and often debates matters of religious or public interest.

Sometimes, when voting on major changes, Synod will 'vote by Houses'. There are three Houses in the Synod and, while the Houses of Clergy and Laity both have around 200 members, the House of Bishops has 53. In a vote by Houses, if the vote fails in one House it fails completely. It's a way of recognising the special role of Bishops and of ensuring something cannot be forced through against the wishes of any one House.

The next big vote will be on women bishops in July, when Synod meets at York University. Then, voting gets more complicated. Approving women bishops, like approving women priests on November 11, 1992, will be a major change for the Church of England. With something that important, the final approval vote is not just by Houses but by a two-thirds majority in each of those Houses.

Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword solution

N	E	D	E		F	F	O	E	D	A	R	T
A		E			O		C		L			O
I	A	H	T		T	N	A	N	E	A	O	C
R		C		N		O		A		D		S
A	R	A	N	O	I	S	S	I	W			
S		E		I		A		G		N		T
S	E	R	O	T	S		D	E	S	O	L	C
A		P		C		T		L		I		I
			C	I	T	S	I	L	A	G	E	L
A		A		L		E		A		I		F
D		E	N	F	O	P	R	L	L	N	U	N
D		O		F		R			E			O
E	S	I	D	A	R	P	A	E	R	C	A	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

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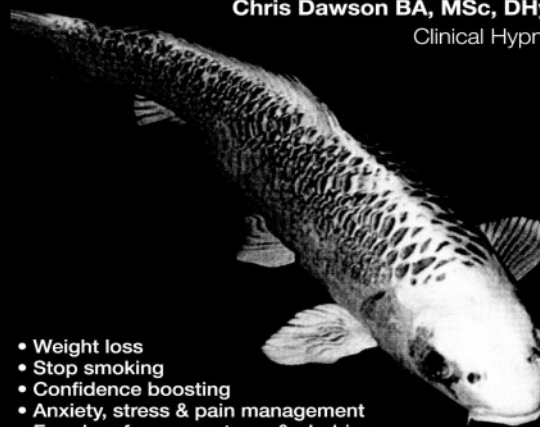
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