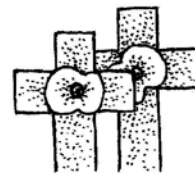


November
2014



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, Adswold
in the
Parish of St George, Stockport.

www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk

Dear Readers,

I AM VERY PLEASED and privileged to write the November Editorial, not least because it gives me the opportunity to reflect on my experience of becoming part of St George's. Having been a member elsewhere for nearly forty years, leaving my old church was not an easy decision to make. But having determined to move, I felt immediately at home. We all know what a beautiful building St George's is – and how superb the flowers looked on this Harvest Sunday! – but it is the people who really matter. From the first, I was welcomed, by clergy, officers, and members, and made to feel at home and valued. (Andrew Lythall joked that I was returning to The Dark Side!) The warmth of St George's owes nothing to our splendid heating system, but to the sense of community that is tangible as soon as you push back that imposing south door. Thank you for the Christian love that has made me feel so much a part of the church community.

Community is very much in our minds this month, as we pay tribute to the fallen on Remembrance Sunday, and this year particularly, perhaps, those who died or lost loved ones in "The Great War" of 1914 - 1918. "St George's Men", so ably devised and directed by Chris Dawson, paints a poignant picture of the war, and the experiences of local men. My father served in France for the last year of the war, as an eighteen year old, and I can vividly recall him describing being on patrol and becoming separated from his platoon. He wasn't ashamed to recount that he cried, and was sure the Germans would find him and kill him. But his mates came back for him, and he survived. I have heard it said that

soldiers fight and die, not so much for a cause or country, but for their friends and comrades, their pal in the next foxhole. "Greater love hath no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends." It was true at Ypres, and on the Somme, at Arnhem, and in Normandy, in Korea and the Falklands, and, sadly, today in Iraq and Afghanistan. As we do remember this November, perhaps the words inscribed on the memorial at Kohima, the distant site of the battle which flung the Japanese back from the borders of India, might be apposite:

When you go home,
Tell them of us, and say,
For your tomorrow
We gave our today.

I have just returned from a week in Stratford, which included watching the splendid new Royal Shakespeare Company's productions of *Love's Labour's Lost* and *Love's Labour's Won* (better known as *Much Ado About Nothing*). The shows are set either side of the First War, in the late-Edwardian glow of summer 1914, and then in the winter of 1918. The sets are based on Charlecote Park, the Elizabethan house near Stratford, and the opening scene of *Won* shows the library of the house set up as a hospital ward for wounded officers. It is reminiscent of the current display at Dunham Massey, which shows how the house was turned into a hospital during the war. It is very well worth visiting, if you haven't been, and another reminder of the sacrifices made during wartime by all kinds of people. Back again, I think, to the importance of community.

God Bless. Sincerely yours,
Richard Parr. Assistant Editor

What's Where...

- P2 Who's who
- P3 Clergy Letter
- P5 Paul Karensa review and Christmas Tree Festival
- P6-7 Parish News
- P8 Children's Page
- P9 Stockport Grammar School
- P10 Andrew and the referendum
- P11 St George's Men
- P13 Puzzles
- P14 Great War armistice
- P15 Lest we forget
- P16 Leading in public prayer
- P17 To be or not to be
- P18 International day of prayer and Recipe
- P19 Stockport prayer breakfast
- P20 Hymn: Abide with Me
- P21 Music list
- P22 The Flying Scotsman
- P23 Puzzle solutions

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

Vicar	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall 456 9382		Sundays 12 noon in church or the Parish Rooms	Bible Reading Fellowship Notes Ian Staley 456 3093 Notes are ordered on request.
Assistant Curate	Rev. Chris Moore 483 7151	Junior Choir	John Horton 339 5031 Practice Thursdays, 6.30-7.30 in the Vestry, sing on Sundays for 10.15am service	Bible Study Groups <i>contact the clergy</i> Study Groups and Courses are arranged from time to time.
Assistant Priest	Rev. Sandra Woodhead 01663 765708			Chancel Guild Edna Tootell 483 5753 Meet on 2nd Tuesday of every month, 9.30-12 noon to care for the Chancel.
Retired Priest with Permission to Officiate	Rev. Glenys Sellors 483 0359	Music Club	John Horton 339 5031 For children in years 3 - 6. Meet on Mondays at 3.30- 4.30pm in church	Choir John Horton 339 5031 Practice Thursdays 7.30-9pm in the Vestry. Sing on Sundays at 10.15am and 6.30pm services.
Readers	Michael Coupe (Emeritus) 612 0222			
	Peter Hall 456 9382	Praise and Play	Parish Office 480 2453 For 0-4s and their carers. Meet every Monday in term time, 9-11 in church. Story time at 10am.	
Pastoral Worker	Audrey Manzano 494 7054			
Churchwardens	Sue Burt 483 9859 Steven Kelly 439 9458	St Gabriel's		
PCC Secretary	Hazel Jenkins 483 4679	Messy Church	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall 456 9382 For children and their parents. Meet occasionally, usually Saturday mornings.	Church Cleaners Dorothy Walton 483 3088 Meet on 1st Tuesday of every month 9.30-12 noon.
PCC Treasurer	Stephen Jones 439 6690			Church Flowers Marjorie Lees 483 3676 Jean Hayden (<i>donations</i>) c/o 480 2453
Parish Office	Cat Hayden 480 2453			Church Gardeners Brian Walton 483 3088 Meet on Tuesdays 9.30-12.30.
Magazine Editor and Press Officer	Mark Lane 439 2282			Coffee Mornings (Weds) Dorothy Thompson 474 7058 Wednesdays from 10.30am in the Parish Room.
Magazine Assistant Editor	Richard Parr 439 8644	Praise and Play	Parish Office 480 2453 For 0-4s and their carers. Meet every Friday 9.30-11am in church. Story time 10am.	Fellowship of Marriage & Women's Fellowship Edna Tootell 483 5753 Meet on 2nd Thursday of the month from 2pm in the Parish Room.
Website	www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk			Handbells Debbie Heaton 07981 331 758 For more experienced handbell ringers. Meet at various times, usually in church.
Webmaster	Andrew Regan 440 0408			Linen Guild Tril Sutherland 480 5397 Maintain the church's linen.
St George's Primary School		Uniformed Groups		Magazine Editorial Group Mark Lane 439 2282 Meet monthly to plan future issues.
Headteacher	Mark Quinn 480 8657	with connections to St George's		Mothers' Union Christine Berry 01625 874546 Meet on 2nd Monday of the month, 7.30pm in the Parish Room.
St George's		Rainbows	Trisha Brown 07403 353 175 For girls aged 5-7. Meet Fridays 6.15-7.30pm in the Junior Hall.	Open Door Available every Wednesday 7-7.45pm in church. To book baptisms and weddings, or just for a chat.
Deputy Wardens	John Hayden 483 2367 Andrew Regan 440 0408			Singing Group Debbie Heaton 07981 331 758 Sing about once a month at the All-Age Service, with one practice beforehand. All welcome.
Verger	Ian Staley 456 3093	Brownies	Rachel Lockett 775 2755 For girls aged 7-10. Meet Thursdays 6.30-8pm in the Parish Room.	
Director of Music	John Horton 339 5031			
Bookings for Parish Rooms	Parish Office or 480 2453 Judith Swift 483 8681	Guides	Heather Worth 07894 507 466 For girls aged 10-14. Meet Thursdays 7.30-9pm in the Parish Rooms.	
St Gabriel's		Beavers	Bill Frith 439 3232 For boys and girls ages 6 & 7. Meet Fridays 6-7pm behind Trinity Methodist Church.	
Deputy Wardens	Shirley Bailey 456 8749 Frances Farrar			
Secretary	John Sutcliffe 286 230	Cubs	Bill Frith 439 3232 For boys and girls ages 8-10½. Meet Fridays 7.15-8.45pm behind Trinity Methodist Church.	
Treasurer	Pat Margetts 07833 954239			
Bookings	Shirley Bailey 456 8749	Scouts	Bill Frith 439 3232 For boys and girls ages 10½-14. Meet Wednesdays 7-9pm behind Trinity Methodist Church.	
Children's Activities				
St George's				
Children's Corner	Available for children (and parents) during services. Equipped with books, crayons and soft toys.			
Sunday Club	Louise Clark 483 3703 For children of Nursery and School age. Meet during the 10.15am Parish Communion service most weeks during term time.	Other Groups and Activities		
		St George's		
Handbells	Andy Clark 483 3703 For children and adult beginners of all ages. Meet	Bellringers	Anne Mayes 485 6477 Practice Mondays 7.45-9pm. Ring on Sundays 9.15-10.15am. Meet in the tower.	St Gabriel's CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other) Rev Sandra Woodhead 01663 765708. A drop-in for tea and coffee, to chat and meet people. Clergy accessible.



Elaine writes:

Come on. What are we really saying?

We've all been in situations where we have said one thing and meant another or have come out with the most ridiculous statements without thinking. Here's some for starters:

"It's a bit of a pickle" a catastrophic situation with potentially fatal consequences

"You've caught the sun" you look like you've been swimming in a volcano

"It could be worse" Really no it couldn't

"That's one way of looking at it" and it's not the right way

"With all due respect" You have absolutely no idea what you're talking about

"You're welcome" said with gritted teeth especially to anyone who doesn't say thank you

"Oh you've been on holiday. Did you go anywhere nice?" No the travel agents especially picked us the worst place they could think of

"Each to their own" even if it means you being the most opinionated person I have ever encountered

"No problem. No harm done" You've broken my best china and ruined the carpet and trampled the mess through the house.

We've all said or thought them and it's almost like we speak to each other in a secret language. We know the game and instead of saying things just as they are we try and couch them in "acceptable" terminology but the body language clearly shows just exactly what we think.

I have a thing about being real because otherwise we can hide in the shadows who we really are and cover up how we really feel and our conversation becomes multi

layered. Sometimes the phrases above are used like white lies because we are afraid of offending but inside we are a seething mass of agitation and can't wait to get out of people's way so we can let off steam.

We're not good at confronting prejudice. We offer a jaded smile when someone has said something out of order and excuse them because of age or infirmity or culture or background. We crawl with embarrassment when a friend, colleague or family member points out something appropriately and we try and hush them up, trying to put a lid on conversation instead of challenging a point of view.

When we don't get good service in a shop, restaurant or hotel we may mutter in a murderous manner but generally "Don't like to make a fuss" but we do make a fuss to those who we are shopping/dining/travelling with us and make our own and everyone's experience miserable.

No one enjoys confrontation and even the word sounds aggressive and unnecessary but sometimes we have to start a conversation which develops into a frank exchange of views without the need to be unpleasant or hurtful. There's no point in shouting because the message doesn't get across in the way it needs to. There's no point in being accusatory because we can let our own perceptions cloud the reality of the situation and we forget to listen. There's no point in hiding behind a half-truth with the intention of getting at the whole truth – we have to be real.

One of the most fabulous stories about being real is "the Velveteen Rabbit", which was published in 1922 and written by Margery Williams. It tells of a stuffed rabbit and his quest to become real through the love of his owner; it's a magnificent read for all ages.

We read in 1 John 4:16 that "God is love and those who live in love, live in God and God lives in them". God, who made us, loves us and those who remain in God's love, live in God's presence and God lives within us. Through His love we can become real, open and honest. Speaking in and through that love so clearly shown in God we can open dialogues, mend fences and build pathways. Showing that love means that we are transparent in our dealings with others so we may glorify His name.

With every blessing
Elaine

As Advent begins... create your own Christmas decorations

A natural remedy for festive fever has been prepared by the Christian conservation charity A Rocha UK – in the form of an eco-friendly online Advent calendar. It offers daily doses of environmental advice on everything from Christmas trees to the drastic plastic of shop-bought decorations.

Each calendar window opens on a practical plan to soothe the stress on both pocket and planet. The online Advent calendar will be available at – <http://arocha.org.uk/advent> – from 1st December.

A Rocha UK recommend avoiding the 'drastic plastic' of shop-bought Christmas decorations. Instead, it encourages you to make your own. Ideas to get you started include

making a stunning candle holder by cleaning out an empty jar of chocolate spread and sticking threads of beads on it. (Buy them in a material shop.) Tie a discreet bow of hessian thread around the top. Or why not make tree decorations from off-cuts of wood from the bargain bin of a local building store, then paint them?

Those are just for starters. Feel free to share your own creations on A Rocha UK's group Facebook page, or Tweet @ARochaUK, using #arukadvent.

(Adapted from A Rocha UK's new festive resource, their online Advent calendar. Available from 1st December at <http://arocha.org.uk/advent>. You can sign up for reminders on Facebook and Twitter. A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world. Photo: Toria/Shutterstock)

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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.

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presents their annual

Christmas Carol & Dedication Service

**Monday 15th December
at 7pm**

St Mary's in The Market Place
Stockport

Featuring the Affinity Show Choir

*Join us for this very
festive service*

Free entry

All welcome

For details contact the fundraising team
fundraising@beechwoodcancercare.co.uk
or ring 0161 476 0384

www.beechwoodcancercare.co.uk



An Evening with Paul Kerensa

On Wednesday 8th October, around sixty of us sat in the straight laced pews of St. George's inviting Paul Kerensa to make us laugh. All evening I had a smile on my face as Paul gave us a wry look at life. At other times I laughed out loud, as did others around me.

We made it harder for Paul by not having a bar to oil the laughter. At my instigation we had a selection of Kentish apple juices. Yes, I do want to support the English apple growers. As a non drinker I also get fed up with the offerings of cheap supermarket, made from concentrate alternatives to a glass of wine. It was also a midweek night and no-one should be consuming alcohol on a Wednesday! And, anyway, we have to apply for and pay for a licence in good time and we hadn't!

Back to Paul. A church our size is a challenge. No cosy, tightly packed audience infecting each other with laughter. On the other hand, the hecklers are too far away to be heard. Paul couldn't easily pick on anyone either – too scattered. Not that he tried. His style was to share a take on life that often chimed with embarrassing experiences any of us might have had. A Powerpoint presentation was an innovation – things that had caught his eye on his travels and a fun take on some mathematical coincidences. Yes, Maths! Paul was a self-confessed geek who had enjoyed Maths at school and then had gone on to do a

Theology degree. Being a bit stuck as to what to do with it, he decided upon Drama School. Finding he was no good as an actor, he took to stand up and script writing for television sitcoms.

Paul's finale was a tour de force. Or rather, a tour of the Bible. Theology, script writing and comedy were all rolled into one as he sang us through the whole Bible to a Powerpoint presentation. Funny and clever.

Jan and I had an added bonus to the evening. We gave Paul a bed for the night and gained an insight into the world of comedy. How do you keep a balance as you travel the country, away from your family, performing to friendly, hostile and indifferent audiences, large and small, to people happy to laugh and to those determined not even to smile? It is amazing that anyone would want to do it.

I think it was a worthwhile experiment. Something different. Several people have gone out of their way to say what a good evening it was. There are other Christian comedians out there, so we might have started a trend at St. George's. We made a modest profit too - £ 309 - and with the Heritage Open Day (£230) and Café Concert and Book Sale (£101) we have raised £640 so far this Autumn towards the organ appeal. Equally important is that we have kept the appeal in the spotlight and had fellowship and fun while doing so.

Chris Dawson

Christmas Tree Festival

IT LOOKS LIKE the Christmas season is nearly upon us. By the time this issue reaches you the Christmas Tree Festival will be only about three weeks away. Although by now the deadline for tree sponsorship applications has passed, don't hesitate to contact Angela Wadsworth about squeezing one in.

This is also the time we would like our volunteer workers to come forward. The volunteering rotas are going up in the back of church about now. As usual, we will need people to work at the front desk, the door and in various places throughout the church. We also need people to volunteer to serve refreshments and to make the lovely biscuits and cakes that make our café such a big hit each year.

As in previous years, the Festival will include afternoon performances during the week and some performances on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday afternoon will also be the time when Father Christmas appears to receive young visitors. This year's festival will feature a puppet show over the weekend. As usual, a children's grotto with Christmas craft will be situated in the North porch and it will be beautifully decorated according to a theme, the details of which are still a secret.

If you've never visited St George's Christmas Tree Festival, you are in for a real treat. The setting of the majestic church with the colourful glow of several dozen trees is a feast for the eyes and the spirit. Most

visitors take the opportunity to sit in our café or in a pew to give them the opportunity to reflect and to take in the beauty of the space.

This year's times of opening will be as follows:

Wednesday 26 November	12-6
Thursday 27 November	12-7
Friday 28 November	12-8
Saturday 29 November	10-6 (Note the early start.)
Sunday 30 November	12-4

For those who are sponsoring trees the routine will be as follows:

Tuesday 25 November	10-6 for setting up
Monday 1 December	10-6 for dismantling

Please note that once again this year we will be testing sponsors' Christmas tree lights on Tuesday at the time of setting up. This is because portable appliance testing (PAT) is now a Health and Safety procedure required by law. I believe all lights passed the test last year, but should your lights fail, you may find it necessary to replace them at short notice.

We look forward to seeing you at St George's eighth Christmas Tree Festival.

For any queries or to sponsor trees please contact Angela Wadsworth on 0161 439 3919 or Kim Regan on 0161 440 0408 or on d.kim.regan@gmail.com

Parish News Roundup

Holy Baptism

We welcome into the church family:

5th Oct: Lola Penelope Gamble
19th Oct: Alice Joanna Martin
26th Oct: Isla Marie Harrison, Scarlett Amelia Parrish

Holy Matrimony

4th Oct: Fiona Nicol and Peter Mahon

Funerals

8th Oct: George Wilde (Crematorium)

Main Altar/Lady Chapel Flowers were by:

5th Oct: Main Altar: The Buxton, Hayden and Alcraft Families, "In loving memory of Vera Fallows."
Lady Chapel: The Stead Family, "In memory of Leslie and Lucy Williams."
12th Oct: Main Altar: Peter and Pat Wright, "In memory of Friends and Family."
Lady Chapel: John Buxton, "In memory of Vera."
19th Oct: Main Altar: Kathleen Heaward, "In memory of George Heaward."
Lady Chapel: Dorothy Newitt, "In memory of George Newitt."
26th Oct: Main Altar: The Garlick Family, "In memory of Wilfrid and Edith Garlick."

Floodlighting was sponsored by:

26th Sep: "In memory of Roy Francis Dent", from his cousins.

Forward dates for your diary:

2nd Nov: Service of Remembrance and Commemoration
8th Nov: Messy Church. St Gabriel's 10-12.30
15th Nov: St George's (Poynton) Singers 7.30pm
26th Nov: Stockport Prayer Breakfast. Town Hall 7.40am
26-30th Nov: Christmas Tree Festival

Parish News Roundup

St George's News:

Alpha Update



BY WAY of an update, we are delighted to say that we shall be running the Alpha Course from the beginning of January in partnership with our good friends from St Matthew's Church in the neighbouring parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath.

At this point – you might be asking what exactly is Alpha? The invitations we will offer soon describe it as a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith, in a friendly, open and informal way. Our intention is to make Alpha as accessible as possible, and so we will also include activities for children to enjoy.

The majority of the course will be held here at St George's on Sunday afternoons and will run each week up until just before Easter. Alpha includes some time for us to think about and to listen to the Holy Spirit and we are invited to St Matthew's for that part of the course.

Invitations and more detailed information will be available during November and in the meantime please contact Rev'd Chris Moore, Peter Hall or Michael Coupe to find out more.

Message board

'When The Parson Called'. I have special memories of Rev Wilfrid Garlick's radio talks but sadly no recordings. I would be very interested to hear from anybody who has anything and if they contacted me we could perhaps look into the possibility of making copies.

Michael Sheldon:
m.h.sheldon@waitrose.com

Correction: In the tribute to the late Grace Watkinson on page 14 of the September magazine, the funeral date

Parish News Roundup

was incorrectly shown as 17th July. This should have read 18th July, as correctly listed on page 6 of that issue.

Congratulations to Borough Care

Grapevine advertiser Borough Care (see p9) was the winner in the Best Not for Profit category of the recent Stockport Business Awards Competition.

Borough Care's entry was sponsored by the Inspired Recruitment Company, and the award was accompanied by the judges' comments: "Borough Care have worked hard to turn the business around with a challenging restructure which took them from a struggling business to a thriving one".

Stockport Express.

News from St George's CE Primary School

As always, we were very pleased to receive the School Newsletter for September. Obviously, not much news yet, at the start of a new term, but Mr. Quinn was delighted to report how well the recent Year 6 children did in their SATS. 97% of the pupils passed their Reading Test at level 4 and above; 94% did the same for Writing; at Mathematics, the figure was 88% for Mathematics.

In Year 2, 80% of the children reached Level 2b or above in Reading and Mathematics, and 78% in Writing.

We send our warmest congratulations both to the pupils, and to their dedicated teachers!

Special Themes have been launched this half term, including Year 6 searching enthusiastically for local wildlife; Year 5 enjoying a special USA day, and Year 3 reliving summer holidays in Greece by learning to dance like Zorba!

School was never so much fun in my day!



Richard Parr

St Gabriel's and Adswood News:

An enormous 'thank you' to all who so generously gave of their time to help in getting ready for the recent 30th October Grand opening of Cameo (Come and meet each other).

Thank you also to those who have already given generously towards St Gabriel's new kneelers even though the appeal has only just been made.

Forward date for your diary:

1st November: Davenport Methodist holds its Autumn Fair between 11am – 2pm

Adswood/Bridgehall Community – Activities 2014

NEW!! ROC CARE befriending scheme: Do you know anyone aged over 65 who is isolated or would like a visit from a friendly face a few times a month? **Would you** like to be a volunteer for the scheme? If so, call Mary on 07981 949 475 for more info or to express interest.

Meet 'n' Veg Lunch Club : 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month – lunch served from 12.30pm at **Adswood Community Centre**, Garners Lane, Adswood. Anyone over 50 is welcome. Only £3 for 3 courses!! *Transport also available by arrangement – call 476 1262*

Dec-Jan 2014-15 Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Friday 14th**

November

Committee meeting: **Tuesday 18th**

November

Female Bishops backed by Lords

The HOUSE OF LORDS has approved plans for women to become bishops in the Church of England.

When it next meets in London in November, the Synod could formally declare the law enacted, assuming that MPs have given their backing in the meantime. This will mean that the first female bishops could be chosen by the end of 2014.

Because of the C of E's established status, the legislation must be approved by Parliament and the Queen before it can be formally enacted.

The Archbishop of Canterbury said that all the main political parties had signalled their support for the plan to fast-track the first women bishops into the Lords.

Daily Telegraph 15th October 2014

The Christian New Media Conference 2014

Transforming Church, Transforming Society

10am to 5:20pm on 1st November 2014 at the Brewery in London. Tickets £39

This one-day conference is aimed at any Christian who wants to use digital media to bring transformation to their church or community. With 30 practical and inspiring sessions and 35 expert speakers there is something for all levels of experience and interest. Find out more at www.nmce.org.uk/conference

Mothers' Union

10th November: Barbara Davies – Beehive Power.

Fellowship of Marriage and Women's Fellowship

13th November: The Revd Chris Moore – The Road to St George's

Note meetings are now being held **once** per month, on the second Thursday of the month

Many hands made light work!

We have been so impressed with the hard work and achievements of volunteers from The Prince's Trust who have been restoring the gardens and outside furniture at St Gabriel's, ahead of the new CAMEO initiative at the church. Some of those volunteers are shown here with Reverend Sandra Woodhead and Sue Burt.



St. George's floodlighting – sponsorship request form

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

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

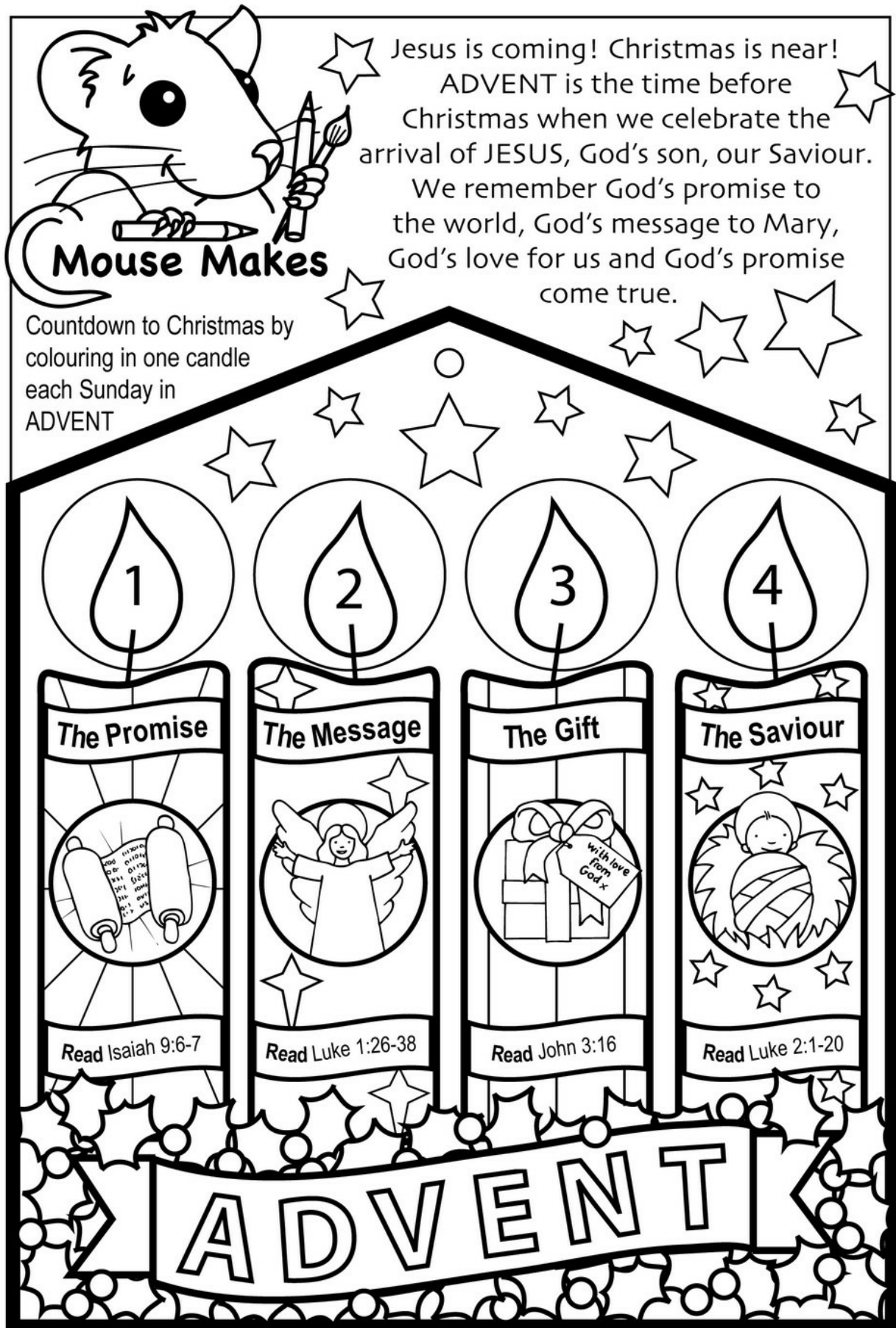
If you are a taxpayer and would like the church to reclaim the tax on your donation please also complete the following Gift Aid declaration:

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

Full Name Address

Post Code Signature Date





Stockport Grammar School News

£500 raised for Macmillan Cancer Support

TEACHING AND SUPPORT STAFF in Stockport Grammar's Junior and Senior Schools brought in their home-baked goods last week to raise money for Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

On the Wednesday, Senior School staff got together at break-time for coffee and an array of delicious treats ranging from sparkly sticky chocolate cake to generous wedges of carrot cake and melt-in-the-mouth honey cake. Leftovers were whisked away and sold to sweet-toothed pupils later in the day!

At break-time on the Friday, the Junior School staffroom was filled with cakes baked by members of staff and their children. A raffle was also organised with prizes such as Indian head massages and free baby-sitting up for grabs, which proved to be very popular.

Together, both mornings raised almost £500 for Macmillan Cancer Support.



Requiem for the Fallen

St George's Singers, Poynton.

St George's Church, Buxton Road, Stockport

Saturday 15th November, 7.30pm

AS THE NATION'S THOUGHTS turn in 2014 to the horror that was the First World War, and the millions who died on the battlefield and in their homes, St George's Singers commemorate their sacrifice through music. Featuring works by British composers, many of whom lived through the Great War, the concert provides an opportunity for contemplation on the inhumanity of war, the humanity of those who suffered, and the power of music to bring consolation.

The main work in the concert is John Rutter's *Requiem*. Most people know John Rutter as the composer of many favourite Christmas Carols and his beautiful Angels' carol will be remembered by all those who were at St George's Singers in this church last December when the Singers were joined by the delightful Bradshaw Hall Primary School choir. His *Requiem*, composed in 1985 after the death of his father, has become one of the best loved and most performed works of the 20th Century. Like the Faure Requiem which inspired it, it combines parts of the Latin requiem mass with English texts such as The Lord is my Shepherd, all set to the sweet, simple and memorable tunes that we are used to in his carols.

Tickets can be ordered from the ticket secretary on 01663 764012, or by email to tickets@st-georges-singers.org.uk or online from choir's website www.st-georges-singers.org.uk also at the door on the evening, priced at £12, £10 concession, £2 students/children. Group discounts and season tickets are available.

For information:

Publicity Officer: Jean Egerton, 07881 938771,
publicity@st-georges-singers.org.uk

Chair: Andrea Millington, 07446 849144,
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Please see congratulatory item on p. 6

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30th November: St Andrew's Day

Andrew and the Referendum: BETTER TOGETHER?

SCOTLAND seems to have been a very busy place these last couple of months. The amazing exuberance of the devolution referendum and its consequences have kept the spotlight firmly north of the border and now, at the end of this month, the Scots will be celebrating once again, this time to honour their patron saint, Andrew.

The referendum campaign earned universal respect for its enthusiasm, mass participation and generous spirit. It was good to be reminded that it is possible to disagree agreeably, to hold passionate convictions oneself and yet respect the equally passionate convictions of others. In the end 'Better Together' just beat 'Let's Separate', but there was little bitterness at the end of a fiercely fought but fair exercise in democracy.

And now it is time for St Andrew to be honoured - the disciple who is noted for the way in which he longed to share with others the good thing he had discovered. It was not enough for him simply to decide for himself to recognise Jesus as the Messiah of Israel and follow him. He went straight off and introduced his brother Peter to the Saviour, and followed that up by bringing Nathanael/Bartholomew to Jesus. 'Better Together' seems to have been his slogan, too! 'We have found the Messiah!', he told them, unable to keep the good news to himself.

Andrew's connection with Scotland dates back to the claimed translation of his remains from Patras in Achaia to Scotland in the eighth century. The church in Fife where these remains were buried became a place of pilgrimage during the tenth century. All of this may be no more than pious legend, of course, but that St Andrew was highly regarded in Scotland and became its patron saint is beyond doubt.

Perhaps in the new spirit of togetherness engendered in these islands by the referendum result we might take a fresh look at our four patron saints. Patrick and David are secure, genuinely historical and undoubtedly linked to the lands that now honour them. Andrew has little proven connection with Scotland but presents an admirable historical example of faith and commitment to the good of others. St George, by contrast, has not the remotest connection with England (and indeed may never have existed). Might this be the time to look again at England's patron saint and even (dare one say it?) replace him with a more credible candidate - St Alban, the first English martyr, might fill the role admirably?

Meanwhile, this month Scotland remembers one of the very first disciples of Jesus, a man more honoured for those he brought into the kingdom of heaven than for his own mighty miracles or deeds of faith. Perhaps with him, and the saintly Patrick and David, we can all learn to march 'better together' into what one hopes will be a generous and bright future for these islands? And I suspect that George, the Turkish soldier-martyr, would enjoy the journey too!

Was anyone ever awake?

The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep (Matthew 25:5)

THE STRONG LIKLIHOOD is that - after twenty long centuries of waiting - when Jesus Christ returns, 'to judge the quick and the dead,' most of us will be taken by surprise. But then, in all the six great historical saving actions of Christ, who *was* prepared? At **the Birth** - when the Wise Men reached Jerusalem - the religious leaders explained to King Herod the prophecy of Micah, that Israel's future leader would come from Bethlehem - *but not a single one of them made the journey there.*

Despite Our Lord's fore-warnings of **his Death**, who of the disciples actually took it in? He also prophesied to them **his Resurrection** - but the morning of the dramatic Third Day found them all asleep in bed. Later, gaping upwards at **his Ascension**, the angels had to remonstrate with them for their lack of understanding. On the day of **Pentecost**, there was general perplexity: "What does this mean?"

Thus, when the **Second Advent** of Christ takes place, the majority of us are likely to gasp, "I never thought it would be like this!"

Here in chapters 24 and 25 of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus has launched into a great discourse on his kingdom at the end of time. Here in his parable, he likens his final coming to a great wedding feast - for which ten virgins should be ready - with their lamps lit - to meet the Groom on arrival. But in this instance there would be sober surprises on three fronts:

1. The Bridegroom: announced - yet unexpected. The cry would go up, "Come out to meet him!" The coming would be as sudden as a lightning flash (Matthew 24:27) - and who would be ready?

2. The lamps: alight - yet running down. Or rather, half of them would be! The book of Proverbs is full of it - the wise as against the foolish. It is the unprepared who - like the foolish virgins - will be caught unready at the time of the Coming.

3. The door: open - yet not for ever. Desperate to fill their empty lamps, the foolish virgins rush out to fill them - but too late. 'The door was shut (v. 10).

This is a story, told by Jesus - 'meek and mild' - to help us all to "keep watch" (v.13), because you do not know the day or the hour."

Do good

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

By John Wesley

St George's Men

THIS SHOW is part of our commemoration of the First W.W. It seems a little odd to call it "a show" when it deals with such a serious subject as war. Nevertheless, through it we are hoping "to show" what things were like, particularly for two men from St George's parish. We know quite a lot about these two men and their experiences and are able to follow what they, with others, went through.

Both men have the same, but differently spelt, surnames. One is Jack Morten and the other is Bob Morton. One went with the Manchester regiment to Gallipoli and the other with the Cheshires to France. Jack wrote copious letters home to Beech Road. Bob's reminiscences are recorded in the book about the Cheshires by former Reddish Vale school teacher David Kelsall. David spoke to Bob many times and has recorded interviews with him.

St George's is, of course, the resting place for the Cheshires' standards and was the church they attended before going to camp and to war. Bob's father came as a stonemason to help build St George's. The family lived in Adswood Lane. Bob too was a stonemason and helped to build the Stockport War Memorial. Jack Morten was one of the lacrosse players who joined the Manchesters en masse. Like Bob, he managed to survive the war. Archdeacon Thorpe and his eldest son Jack play a part in telling the story too.

Our show links the two men's personal experiences to some of the wider events of the war. The stories are told through narration, poetry, and song. St George's Men contains humour as well as sadness and the chaos and devastation of war. The title, by the way, is borrowed from former assistant

verger David Hillage's book about all the men who are named on St George's War Memorial.

Tickets will be available shortly and any profits from St George's Men will go to the Organ Restoration Fund.

Chris Dawson

St. George's Men



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1914 - 1918

The story of two men from the Parish
who went to war

Bob Morton of Adswood Rd

Jack Morten of Beech Rd

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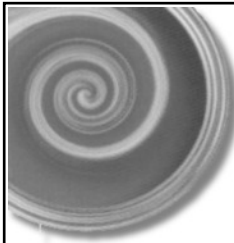
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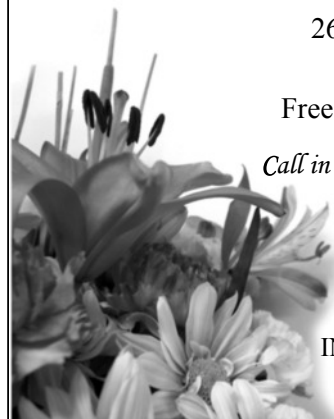
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Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

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Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 23)



MESSY CHURCH is a form of church which is for children and adults which

involves creativity, celebration and hospitality. It includes a welcome, a long creative time to explore the theme through crafts, a short celebration time of story, prayer, singing and games and a sit-down meal before we leave. We'll be meeting at St Gabriel's Church on the corner of Garner's Lane and Clover Avenue from 10 to 12.30 on Saturday 8th November. It's open to children of all ages who must be brought by an adult.

We'd love to see you there.

Crossword

	1	2		3		4		5		6				
7														8
9								10						
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13			14		15					16				
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18		19								20				
				21										
22										23	24			
				25		26		27						
28						29								
	30													

Across

1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all — , Lord of all — , whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy' (11,3)

9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you — your fellow Hebrew?' (Exodus 2:13) (7)

10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline — (2,3)

11 'At even — the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay' (3)

13 A descendant of Gad (Numbers 26:16) (4)

16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but — for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)

17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)

18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must — God rather than men!' (Acts 5:29) (4)

20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, — Eareckson Tada (4)

21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)

22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat — — ' (Matthew 13:2) (2,2)

23 Infectious tropical disease (4)

25 Tree (3)

28 'No fear of me should — you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you' (Job 33:7) (5)

29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)

30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

2 'O Jerusalem... how — I have longed to gather your children together' (Matthew 23:37) (5)

3 Way out (4)

4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)

5 Done (anag.) (4)

6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)

7 Concerning the study of God (11)

8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)

12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)

14 Frozen (3)

15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)

19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)

20 See 1 Across

24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)

25 Time (anag.) (4)

26 Lists choice of meals (4)

27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the — of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 6:23) (4)

THE GREAT WAR: ARMISTICE

1918 WAS A MISERABLE YEAR for the countries involved in the Great War. Nothing much seemed to happen, in the sense of the conflict coming to any conclusion. Casualties continued to mount, so that all over Europe there were bereaved families - indeed whole villages where most of the young men had been killed or were grievously wounded.

In Britain, the advantage of being an island may have kept us from the invading German army, but now it began to make us vulnerable to a new and deadly foe, the marauding U-boats, which stalked the seas in order to torpedo ships bringing food and goods to these shores. Suddenly there were shortages and the need for a new naval strategy to deal with their menace. Zeppelin, and then aircraft raids on London and other British cities brought home the truth that this war was not simply being fought out on foreign fields.

The truth was, however, that bad as things were in Britain and France, they were far worse in Germany. Casualties were so great that teenage boys were being recruited into the army, food was scarce, and by early 1918 the resources to continue fighting the war were at breaking point. If they could not win the war in the next six months, the generals told the Kaiser, it would be lost. Soldiers were drafted back from the far-flung battle grounds of Asia and Africa to shore up the dwindling ranks at home.

By contrast, in June 1917 the first American troops had joined the war, though they were inexperienced in battle terms and relatively few in number. But by the Spring of 1918 their numbers had swollen, and the encouragement that gave to the hard-pressed Allies was considerable. During the summer of that year the balance of the war began to tip crucially towards the Allies, so that as Autumn approached the German generals were moving towards accepting the need for some kind of negotiated cease-fire. The Allies were at the German borders, the Americans had brought not just men but equipment and, more importantly, hope. Perhaps, after all, this war could be won.

That was the atmosphere in which the warring powers agreed to formal talks about what they called an 'armistice' - a word derived from Latin, simply meaning 'end of armed combat'. The Germans at first hoped it would give them a chance to recover, and perhaps eventually pursue the conflict with renewed strength. The Allies, however, from a position of strength, were determined to ensure that Germany would be left in no condition to wage war or swiftly to recover economically.

With those as the negotiating positions, the generals met in a railway carriage at Versailles, near Paris. An armistice agreement was eventually hammered out and the guns of this terrible war were silenced at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.



THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1918

Remembrance: of those who die – and those who survive

'Madam. I regret to have to inform you that a report has been received that Sapper A Jenkins Royal Engineers has been admitted to 2nd General (Australian) Hospital, Boulogne on the 23rd day of April, 1918. The nature of the wound is Gas Poisoning (mild). I am to express to you the sympathy and regret of the Army Council. Yours faithfully....'

THANKS to those Australian doctors and nurses, my grandfather made a complete recovery. After the war, he returned to his wife Emily Rose, brought up four girls and two boys, including my father, and died just short of his 85th birthday. He had served in France, Italy and Germany. Sadly, many others, serving all over the world down the years, have not been as fortunate.

I remember my grandfather. I know he vowed never to go abroad again. Through research and his medals and paperwork (quoted above), I know some of what he went through. I never heard him speak about it.

Through Remembrance, we not only remember those who die in war but also those who return and what they live with. We remember what they gave. We remember those who supported them. We remember those they left behind. We remember the respect we owe so many ordinary people who gave so much and we remember what war is truly like.

In August 1914, the war in Europe began, and went on to resonate around the world. At 11.00am on 11th November, 1918, the Armistice was signed, giving peace another chance.

Memories fade and peace becomes taken for granted. It was only 20 years after my grandfather returned from the army that the world descended into the hell of war once more. My father was young enough to 'miss out'. His older brother served throughout as a pilot. Again, others were less fortunate. Again, others were left behind. Is there any sacrifice greater than giving your life for your fellow human beings? Every time we share in Holy Communion, we remember Jesus' willing sacrifice for all of us. He laid down his life so that we might live.

On Remembrance Sunday, at memorials and cenotaphs and in our churches, we remember the sacrifice that so many have made in war. We remember the horror of war that so many have been through. But we also reflect on the peace that can hopefully follow.

Remembrance teaches us that we should never take peace for granted. Lest we forget.

Lest We Forget

ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING SIGHTS in London this year has been the art installation *'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red'* at the Tower of London. The dry moat has been filled with 888,246 ceramic poppies, each representing a British or Colonial soldier killed in the First World War and commemorated in this centenary year.

'In Flanders fields, the poppies grow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our places; and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amongst the guns below.'

This is the first stanza of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. Within months, it came to symbolise the sacrifices of all who were fighting in the First World War. Today, the poppy remains a tangible symbol of all those who have sacrificed their lives in war. But why do we remember?

'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' (Micah 4:3). Writing about 700 years before Christ, Micah's words have to be seen against a background of violence with the fall of Samaria and the instability created by the aggression of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations come together in peace instead of war. His vision saw a time when the arms of war would be turned into farming tools and people would live in peaceful community.

Our understanding of *peace* is more than the avoidance of war or the absence of conflict. It's about building relationships between people, communities and nations, which positively creates a love and care for others founded on justice for all. As we remember the sacrifice of those who died in the First World War, our response must be to look practically at how we can build relationships of peace and justice in our world, starting with our own families, colleagues and neighbourhoods. As Micah says, *'we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.'* (4:5). We always need God's presence and power to change us into the people who have a passion for peace and justice, and compassion for everyone.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

New lead bishop for cathedrals and church buildings

THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER, the Rt Revd Dr John Inge, has accepted the invitation of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to succeed the Bishop of London as the Church of England's lead bishop for cathedrals and church buildings with immediate effect.

Bishop John will become the lead bishop for cathedrals and church buildings. He will support the Cathedrals and Church Buildings Division, ChurchCare, and all who help to maintain the Church of England's 16,000 parish churches and 42 cathedrals.

Bishop John said: "Our Cathedrals are breathtaking spaces of awe and wonder with a rich history offering beautiful and vibrant worship. Together with the parish churches of our land they are an unparalleled treasure. They provide space for people to meet, reflect, pray and engage with the heritage of our nation – as well as serve their communities in all sorts of ways."

Editorial comment: Very timely! My daily newspaper (Telegraph) today features an article headed "Hundreds of churches 'at risk of being lost'". It goes on to say that more than 800 are included on English Heritage's "at risk" register (published during week ending 25th October) as dwindling congregations, financial troubles and metal theft put their futures in danger. All are deemed "at risk of being lost" if money is not provided for urgent repairs and restoration work. The majority are Church of England parish churches, some dating from medieval times, while others built in the 20th century have suffered significant deterioration.

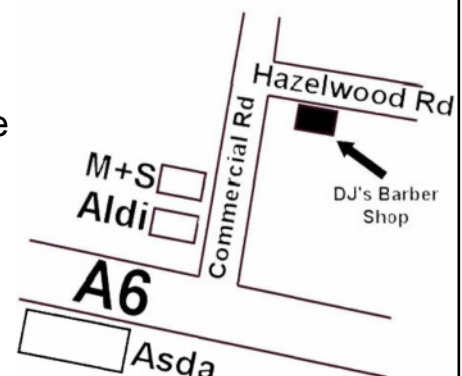
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Leading in public prayer

WHO IS IT TO SAY that a Christian worker was out of order when - after a day of hectic office work in the city - he inadvertently closed his prayer at a public meeting with "So we thank you, Lord, for your presence with us today. Yours sincerely, John Dillon."

No problem! John Newton wrote, 'Five words, a few broken sentences from a broken and contrite heart, are more desirable than to pray for hours without spiritual feeling.' And it's not that there is no place for prayers from a book. We can benefit from the prayers of earlier Christians, and from the Bible that we can make our own. Prayer is a lifelong education!

WHAT PUBLIC PRAYERS ARE NOT

First, these are not your 'private' prayers. When people say, "I liked the prayers," they mean that your prayers had become THEIR prayers. That is, provided they could hear you! Microphones at the front are useful - but we still need to speak out our prayers in definitely more than a conversational voice - for all to hear.

Second, these are not opportunities to issue sidelong rebukes, or to make political points, (though I wonder why, our own monarch scarcely ever receives a mention). Our prayers are to be directed heavenwards. And if PowerPoint is used, worshippers have probably been deflected if inwardly they are murmuring, 'What a beautiful picture!'

Third, public prayers too often feature the use of 'Insider' language. "Today we continue to remember John, doing tent-making in Djibouti with O.M. We also pray for Alastair, now going out with Y-WAM...."

The uninitiated thinks, "John who? And what's this about his making tents? Is O.M. some pal of his? And who, I wonder, is the girl Wai Wam - whom Alastair is going out with; are they getting engaged?"

Fourthly, our prayers are to be thoroughly Christian. We should end with a phrase such as "Through Jesus Christ our Lord." It is only by the Name of Christ our Mediator that our prayers have any access to the holy presence of God.

A USEFUL CHECK-LIST

First, **prepare yourself**. Ask for the help of the Holy Spirit as you get ready to lead the people of God to his Throne.

Second, **school yourself**. Say to yourself, as you prayerfully prepare, By these prayers, our church is going to touch the world!

Third, it may be valuable to **script yourself**. It is not 'unspiritual' to do this. Be determined not to slip into the boring, well-worn phrases that have become hallowed into a churchy art-form. "Let's just bow our heads" is an obvious evangelical cliché that I rid myself of many years ago.

Fourthly, **time yourself!** You will be amazed. Many publicly-offered prayers are frequently filled with interminable matter. When heads are down and eyes closed, many people's concentration dies at about twenty-five seconds! Twenty-five seconds for a single prayer may feel

absurdly short, but then it is the spirit and depth of the prayer that matters, far more than the verbiage and length.

Fifthly, **Confine yourself** to carefully selected persons or countries. If there is a 'theme' or passage of Scripture running through the meeting, allow it to colour the prayers.

SOME CAUTIONARY PROFILES

'The Notice-Board': 'Announcements' are sometimes made, albeit prayerfully disguised, that are pointedly designed to remind people of coming events or required actions!

The Tour Operator: These are the prayers covering national elections, earthquakes, current news items and international conflicts.... and within a few minutes heavy breathing has taken over. Then comes the final killer: "And now, coming closer to home, we pray on further for...."

'Our Parish is our World': Here, prayers revolve entirely around internal issues; births, deaths and marriages, arrivals and departures, local happenings and minor calamities. The deity addressed seems to be no bigger than a local village chieftain.

The Punctuation Mark: Because no constructive thought has been given, the names Father.... Lord.... Jesus.... God.... are used interchangeably - and as little more than useful commas. This is no honouring way in which to address the Persons of the Godhead.

But ultimately, it is the Heart that drives any prayer! Years ago, when Princess Diana died, a woman on our church council led the Sunday prayers in church - and was shaking with sobbing grief. It was so fitting that she had been asked to lead. For as John Bunyan once observed, "In prayer it is better to have a heart without words, than words without heart."

(From *'Equipped to Serve'*, Christian Focus - 01862 871011)

Flower Fairies

WHEN YOU LOOK at the beautiful flower displays in church you may wonder how they got there. Is it the flower fairies who come in under cover of darkness to transform our church with colour and beauty? Do they creep in, light of foot and creative of hand to take out the old flowers and bring in the new. Actually no. Flowers are put in place by a hard working team of people whose desire is augment the beauty of our church with flowers and plants week by week.

The flowers arrive there by the generous financial donations from people in celebration of an occasion or in memory of a loved one. The thing is that whilst we continue to appreciate their gifts and abilities the team does need some help. You don't have to be highly qualified but someone who might be prepared to learn and to give it a go.

So whether you're male or female, young or older, it doesn't matter. Please be in touch with Marjorie Lees on 483 3676 as soon as you have finished reading this article or to make a donation contact Jean Hayden on 480 2453.

Thanks so much.

Elaine

To be or not to be?

WHEN A PERSON is terminally ill and in pain, it may be necessary to increase their medication, knowing that this dosage may shorten the process of dying. That is neither assisted suicide nor euthanasia. Nor is it euthanasia to remove life-support apparatus when there is no prospect of the patient's survival.

The purpose of euthanasia is to kill someone who would otherwise remain alive. It can be achieved, for example, by the deliberate injection of poison, in the way murderers are executed in some American States. Currently euthanasia is illegal in the UK, as is assisted suicide. Many campaigners for change do not want it restricted to people who are terminally ill.

Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber, the multimillionaire musician and impresario, acknowledged that he felt suicidal last year and sent for the papers from the Swiss Clinic Dignitas. He now believes that taking such action would have been "stupid and ridiculous", but said that it was all he could think of when he suffered a bout of depression triggered by the pain from a series of operations.

Euthanasia and assisted suicide have been legal in the Netherlands since 2001. A Dutch Professor of Ethics, who backed the law originally, now says he has changed his mind in the light of experience. Cases have been reported of aged, lonely and bereaved people being assisted to kill themselves. He fears that "euthanasia is on the way to become a 'default' mode of dying for cancer patients."

Many pro-euthanasia activists are nihilists who reject religious principles, believing that life itself is meaningless and leading nowhere. Their view is pondered and rejected by Shakespeare's Hamlet, in the "To be or not to be" soliloquy. He acknowledges that life is painful, full of trouble and heartache. Then, when he considers the possibility of life after death, new light is shed on his dilemma.

Hospice movement has discovered that one's dying days can actually be among the most worthwhile of one's earthly existence. Patients are helped to recognise that their worth is not measured by their earning capacity or practical usefulness, nor is their dignity denied because their frail bodies are failing to function. Anxieties can be resolved, relationships repaired.

There is an urgent need for the accumulated experience of hospices – medical, spiritual, social and psychological – to be widely publicised, not only throughout the caring professions, but in the country at large. Then the debate about euthanasia and suicide – to be or not to be – will be illuminated by facts rather than fear and please God, hope will displace despair.

Let the Psalmist have the last word, having reflected on the mystery of life and concluding, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." [Psalm 139.14]

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16th November is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Here we share just one story, from Christian Solidarity Worldwide.

“Without your prayers, we might not be alive today”

THE BIBLE talks a lot about remembering. The Israelites are to remember the Lord who led them out of slavery; the psalmist says “I will remember the works of the Lord”; and of course Jesus commanded us to remember him every time we celebrate Holy Communion in breaking bread and drinking wine. Remembering is something that, as Christians, ought to be part of our very fabric – and November is a great month to be able to do that, with All Saints and All Souls, as well as Remembrance Sunday.

But as well as remembering events from the past, and loved ones who have passed away, and giving God thanks for them, we should take time this November to remember Christians in other parts of the world who are suffering oppression, marginalisation and persecution. Sunday 16 November is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP), so why not make a commitment to pray every day in November for our Christian family – in over 100 countries, from Iraq to India, from Sudan to Sri Lanka, from Cuba to China - who live in countries without religious freedom. They face difficulties, dangers and even death, and they desperately need our prayers.

Kenia Gude Pérez knows all about the power and importance of prayer. From where she stood outside the Cuban prison where her husband Omar was held, she cried out to God for mercy and justice for her family. Omar Gude Pérez had been sentenced to six years and seven months in prison on 16 July 2009. He was detained on various false charges, targeted by the Cuban government because of his leadership position in a church network which isn't officially recognised.

While Omar was in prison Kenya was only allowed to visit him every three weeks. At home, she was forced to fight for their own house, as the authorities repeatedly threatened to confiscate it. After years of struggle, the whole family has now safely relocated to the United States. But for many others, the struggle to be able to worship freely in Cuba goes on. Please pray for them, as well as those who persecute them.

So, as we head through November and towards IDOP, let's look back and praise God for what he has done; let's look forward and trust him for what he will do; but let's also remember our worldwide Christian family as they face difficulties and danger because of their faith.

Recipe: Pork and pepper stir-fry

I made this using pork steak, which worked well. As with all stir-fries, it is important to prepare all the ingredients before starting to cook. This is good served with rice or, alternatively, with some pre-cooked rice noodles added at the end and mixed in.

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

Cut the pork into very fine slivers across the grain of the meat. Trim spring onions, then slice into 2.5cm/1 inch pieces. Peel and grate the ginger. Halve and deseed both peppers, then cut lengthwise into thin slivers. Rinse and dry beanshoots.

To make the glaze, measure soy sauce, stock, cornflour and ginger syrup into a small bowl and stir until smooth.

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

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

Serves 4.

Pamela Ferguson



**Adswood & Bridgehall
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**Awards Ceremony & Dinner
will be held on evening of
5th December 2014
entry by ticket - save the date!**

For any queries and tickets for the award dinner please ring the neighbourhood team on 0161 476 1262 or email teamab@stockport.gov.uk



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

STOCKPORT PRAYER BREAKFAST WEDNESDAY 26th NOVEMBER

Light Breakfast served 7.40am

Welcome and programme commences at 7.55am Finish at 9am

Dear Friends and Colleagues

INVITATION to you and friends to come to the Prayer Breakfast in Stockport's Town Hall. We will gather from 7.40am in Committee Rooms 1 and 2 opposite the Council Chamber. This Prayer Breakfast will concentrate on **EDUCATION**. Further details to be announced near the date of the Breakfast.

We will have **Karen Beal from Christians in Schools Trust, and Duncan Whelan, Chaplain at Aquinas College, Stockport** as our guests to outline their needs for prayer support in their work and for all those they work with.

Education is such a big concern. How about inviting school governors, parents and others who would really enjoy the chance to pray in the Town Hall for EDUCATION?

Coffee/fruit juice and pastries will be available from 7.40am.

Yours sincerely

Kevin McKenna (0161 282 5523 or 07504 130749)

The charge is **£6 per person (£40 for a table of 8) payable in cash on the door**. For catering purposes we need to have definite numbers by **Friday 21st November**.

It would be most helpful if you could email me – kevin.mckenna70@ntlworld.com with the information below:

I confirm that I will attend the **Prayer Breakfast at the Town Hall, Stockport on Wednesday 26th November**.

Name

Designation (Parish/Church/firm/business).....

Addresspost code.....

My guests are&.....

Names, addresses and email addresses are retained only for the purposes of the Stockport Prayer Breakfast only. Please don't contact me in the future and delete my name from your address list

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Hymn: the story behind Abide with Me

ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS hymns in the world came out of Brixham, near Torbay, Devon, in 1847. In those days it was a poor, obscure fishing village, and the vicar was the Rev Henry Francis Lyte. It was a discouraging place to be a pastor, but Henry felt that God wanted him there, and so he stayed, though it was lonely work, and he suffered constant ill health. By the time he was 54, Henry had contracted tuberculosis and asthma, and he and his family knew he was dying. It would have been so easy for him to look back on his life and feel a complete failure. What had he ever much accomplished? And yet – and yet – Henry knew that in life it is not worldly success that matters, but how much we respond to Jesus Christ, and how much we follow him.

In September of 1847 Henry was preparing to travel to the south of France, as was the custom for people with tuberculosis at that time. One day before he left, he read the story in the gospel of Luke about the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They were met by Jesus on the day of his resurrection, and they invited him to stay with them because it was getting late. “Abide with us”, they said “for it is towards evening.”

“Abide with us - for it is toward evening.” These words struck a chord with Henry, who knew that it was getting ‘towards evening’ in his life. So he sat down and wrote this hymn as a prayer to God – (*the following are just some of the verses*)

Abide with me

*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.*

*I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.*

Shortly after Henry wrote that hymn, he preached his last sermon. He was so ill he practically crawled into the pulpit to do so. A few weeks later, in Nice, France, he died, and so of course he never knew that his hymn would go on to become world famous, and that nearly 100 years later it would be the last hymn played by the brave musicians on board the Titanic the night it went down.

The Twelve Weeks of Harringay 1954

SAILING ACROSS THE ATLANTIC in the Queen Mary in 1954, Billy Graham was the biggest religious phenomenon to hit our shores since an earlier evangelist D.L. Moody of Chicago, 100 years earlier. Moody was to become a national figure in Britain through his whirlwind campaigns. My own grandfather, Tommy Bewes, attributed his call at the age of fourteen to Moody's sermon in Plymouth on Tuesday night, 26th September 1882. That one evening began a biblical line that has run through our family ever since. Yes, mission decisions *can* last!

It was in 1949 that 31 year-old Billy Graham first went to Los Angeles for an eight week nightly campaign which – with its massive national impact – gave Billy to America. *But the twelve weeks at London's Harringay Arena gave him to the world.* Harringay was to open the door to him and his team for the next sixty years, across 148 countries.

I was still in my teens during Harringay. Those twelve weeks were the single most formative three-month period of my life. In a trip to America in September 2012, my wife Pam and I went to visit Mr Graham at his home in Montreat. “I was only seven, when I first heard you!” she told him. “I was always wanting to ‘go forward!’”

As for me, one of my regular responsibilities in the family was gently to encourage my deeply devout grandmother (Tommy Bewes' widow) *not* to go forward! “I think not, Granny,” I would whisper. “This is for those who want to give their lives to Jesus; let's be praying for them as they go forward.... *No, Granny!*” Our instinct was that once my grandmother got down to the front, we would be lucky to see her again that night.

For me, listening to Billy among the 12.000-strong turnout night after night, was like a series of hammer blows in my mind: *You are going to be a preacher too, for the rest of your life.*

In the still-stark days of post war Britain, these were thrilling weeks to be alive. On the London underground, there would be singing from one end of a tube train to the other: *Blessed Assurance....To God be the Glory* - and all the way up the escalators to the ticket barrier.

I am for ever meeting people who one way or another were touched by Harringay 1954. I wonder whether you were one of them?

Richard Bewes

A child's ability to learn is affected by the TV

“KIDS ARE GOING TO LEARN from whatever you put in front of them. So what kinds of messages do you want them to learn? That would be the kinds of media you'd purposefully expose them to.”

So says a professor at the University of Iowa, whose recent survey of children found a relationship between the kind of content children are exposed to, and the mental processes which help with planning and remembering detail - both of which are crucial in the learning process. It all means one simple thing: leaving your television on as a constant ‘background’ at home could seriously distract your youngster from learning properly.



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, STOCKPORT

MUSIC LIST – NOVEMBER 2014

Sunday 2 nd November – All Saints		
10:15am - St George's Service		3:00pm –
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas	Service of Commemoration
Hymns:	215 – For all the saints Seek ye first the kingdom of God 604 – Through all the changing scenes... 621 – Who would true valour see	
Anthem:	Give us the wings of faith - Bullock	

Sunday 9 th November – Remembrance Sunday	
10:00am - St George's Service	6:30pm – Healing Service
All-Age Service	Service of Healing

Sunday 16 th November – 2 nd Sunday before Advent		
10:15am - St George's Service		6:30pm – Evensong
All-Age Service	Hymns:	490 – Jesus shall reign where'er the sun 375 – Amazing grace 414 – Eternal Light Eternal Light (ii) 20 – Saviour, again to thy dear name we raise
	Canticles:	Mag: 47 Nunc: 56 Psalm: 89 19-37
	Anthem:	Wachet auf! - Bach

Sunday 23 rd November – Christ the King		
10:15am - St George's Service		6:30pm – Evensong
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas	Hymns: 442 – God is Love (Blaenwern) 356 – Judge eternal, robed in splendour 162 – Ye choirs of new Jerusalem 15 – God that madest earth and heaven
Hymns:	166 – Crown him with many crowns SP294 – Meekness and Majesty 278 – Alleluia, sing to Jesus 398 – Christ triumphant, ever reigning	
	Canticles:	Mag: 45 Nunc: 62 Psalm: 93
Anthem:	Te Deum in B flat - Stanford	Anthem: With a voice of singing - Harris

Sunday 30 th November – Advent Sunday		
10:15am - St. George's Service		6:30pm – Advent Carol Service
Setting:	Greening	Advent Carol Service
Hymns:	24 – Come, thou long expected Jesus 36 – The Advent of our King 32 – O come, O come Emmanuel 455 – Guide me O thou great Redeemer	
Anthem:	Advent Message – How	

When I grow up

A small boy returned from Sunday School in floods of tears. When questioned by his mother about his distressed state, he sobbed:
“Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, but I want to be a train driver!”

The Flying Scotsman

EIGHTY YEARS AGO this month, on 30th November 1934 to be precise, a scheduled express train, pulled by a locomotive called the 'Flying Scotsman', broke a notable rail-speed record. On its journey northwards from London Kings Cross to Edinburgh Waverley it touched 100 miles per hour. I was a bit too young to see that journey, but a few years later, perched after school on a wooden fence just north of Wood Green station, I would often watch spellbound with my friends as the same train sped past, a mere matter of yards away from us, belching steam and deafening us with the roar of its wheels and engine. Sometimes the driver or the fireman would wave to us, but the privileged ones in the dining car, already addressing their late cooked breakfast, were oblivious of our envy. It was a highlight of our Saturdays and an unforgettable memory.

To us boys, it was all about noise and power and speed, a magnificent piece of engineering but above all something that had never been done before. These new streamlined locomotives were built for speed, and speed was what they offered. A century earlier people wondered whether it was truly safe to carry passengers in the first steam trains at 60mph. Could the human frame survive at such speeds? It could, though a few who were not seated safely *did* blow off the uncovered carriages in the slipstream! Now we could see that 100mph was perfectly possible on land (it had already been done in the air) - and who could imagine what speeds human beings might be able to travel at in the future? The great



race for speed, to knock minutes or hours off journey times, had begun

It has, of course, gone on. We can now travel vast distances by air, getting from London to New York in not much longer than the 'Flying Scotsman' took to get to Edinburgh. We move heaven and earth to save five minutes (and often pay a small fortune for it, as well) and then wonder what to do with the time we've 'saved'. Since those exciting days back in the thirties, I wonder what our obsession with speed has truly added to the sum total of human happiness? Yet I have to admit that there was something special about that great clanging monster, just as there was about the elegant sight of Concorde on its supersonic way across the Atlantic - and I must also admit I would never choose a slower train for a journey.

I suppose it's not so much 'saving time' that matters, as what we do with it when we've saved it. Now there's a thought for the 80th anniversary of a land-speed record!

David Winter, former Head of Religious

Bonfire Night – some simple rules for staying safe

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents has provided the following tips to help families stay safe while they are having Bonfire Night fun...

YOUNG PEOPLE should watch and enjoy fireworks at a safe distance and follow the safety rules for using sparklers. Only adults should deal with firework displays and the lighting of fireworks. They should also take care of the safe disposal of fireworks once they have been used. Here are some other things to bear in mind on the night:

1. Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable.
2. Keep fireworks in a closed box and use them one at a time.
3. Read and follow the instructions on each firework, using a torch if necessary.

4. Light the firework at arm's length with a taper, and stand well back.
5. Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks.
6. *Never* return to a firework once it has been lit.
7. Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them.
8. Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators.
9. *Never* use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire.
10. Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.



Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword solution

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

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



The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe exhibition

This Christmas, Chester Cathedral will take visitors on an exciting journey to the magical land of Narnia, transforming spaces within the magnificent building to bring C.S. Lewis's classic tale 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' to life.



29 November - 6 January 2014
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MARPLE CHORAL SOCIETY

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Autumn Concert

Saturday, 22nd November

7.30pm

Norbury Parish Church,
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- Benjamin Britten - *St Nicholas*
 Vaughan Williams - *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*
 Craig Courtney - *A Musicological Journey through the Twelve Days of Christmas*

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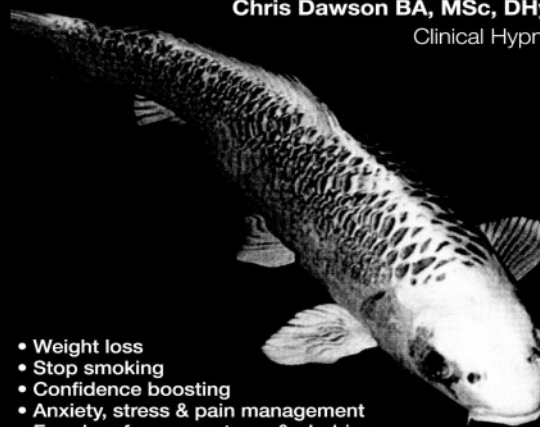
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