

# Parish Grapevine

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](http://www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk)



## Easter Journey

EARLY YEARS Foundation Stage had a wonderful, hands-on experience in church today, retelling the Easter story with Elaine. We had lots of fun re-enacting all the parts of the story. We waved palm leaves in the air and shouted "Hosanna" as people would have done as Jesus arrived in Jerusalem. We enjoyed a meal time with our friends and drew our own favourite meal on a paper plate. We talked about the things we might have seen, heard, smelt and felt in the Garden of Gethsemane. We talked about how Jesus carried the cross on to the hill top and the meaning of the cross. We created our own origami crosses and wrote prayers and words and drew pictures to symbolise our understanding of the Easter Story. We talked about the different emotions people felt as Jesus' body was in the tomb and then the change of feelings as Jesus' body had risen.

A truly creative, hands-on experience.

Thank you very much, Elaine, for a fantastic morning.

When back at school the children reflected on their morning:

Athena said "I enjoyed making the cross. Jesus died on a cross. This was the sad part of the story."

Zack said "I liked waving the palm leaves as Jesus came to Jerusalem. People were happy to see Jesus. He is the light of the world."

Jonah said "I loved it in church. It was fun. I liked eating a meal with my friends like Jesus did."

*Claire Wardle*

*St George's Primary School*





## Elaine writes:

In an area where open space was at a premium, I was most amused to see two boys, around 11 years of age, using their initiative by having a game of football on a covered mesh bridge over the motorway. For them there was no need to be offside, or to worry about the

ball rolling away from them, as everything was completely secure and contained and they were having a ball. (See what I did there!)

It made me think about bridges put to other uses.

Whilst the Garden Bridge proposal in London didn't come to fruition, more locally the Castlefield viaduct has been transformed into a temporary Green Sky Garden by the National Trust.

Some bridges are major border crossings whilst others appeal to the tourist market. One such bridge is named the Rainbow Bridge which arches over the Niagara River gorge connecting America to Canada via the cities of Niagara Falls, New York and Niagara Falls, Ontario, giving unique views.

The Ponte Vecchio in Florence and the Rialto Bridge in Venice have shops and houses on them, and in our home city of Lincoln there is a really fine and fabulous café and shop spanning the River Witham with just enough room for the boats to go through the "Glory Hole" beneath.

Building bridges is important in connecting communities and countries. The Humber Bridge,

once the largest single span bridge in the world, linked together two counties over the River Humber, saving people the ferry ride or the long drive around when travelling from Lincolnshire to Yorkshire.

Areas bisected by motorways benefit from a cow bridge thereby enabling cattle to get safely from pasture to milking and providing the unusual spectacle of a parade of cows walking many metres above the car.

Building bridges is important in our daily lives. Getting to know people, mending relationships, connecting with those who are different from us, taking steps to grow together, to learn about each other, to show kindness in challenging circumstances – all of those are important for any human being. We like to be linked, to have a purpose, and to feel part of a community which may appear far apart from where we are, to develop a friendship.

Jesus spent most of his ministry building bridges to fishermen, lepers, prostitutes and tax collectors. He built bridges with those who were sick, hurting and hopeless. He built bridges with the outcasts, the vulnerable and the damaged, and restored them.

When you think about it, Jesus was the ultimate bridge builder when "The Word became flesh", bridging the gap

between God and humanity, allowing humanity to access God in a way that hadn't been possible before.

When he opened his arms wide on the cross and put an end to death by dying for us, he bridged the divide between heaven and earth so that people might be restored to God into eternal life.

Jesus was the ultimate bridge builder. The one who could see both sides, who could link the divides, who allowed people to journey across, who enabled people to make the connection.

With every blessing

Elaine



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The "Glory Hole" in Lincoln

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

<b>Vicar</b>	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall <a href="mailto:vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk">vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</a> 456 9382	<b>Sunday Clubs</b>	Ask for Louise, Eliza or Andy at the 10:15 Sunday service. Eliza 07967 798453 Louise 483 3703	<b>Bible Reading Fellowship Notes</b>	Janet Neilson 483 9025 Notes are ordered on request.
<b>Associate minister</b>	Rev. Dr Jenny McKay 01606 891564 <a href="mailto:jenny@stgeorgestockport.org.uk">jenny@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</a>	<b>Junior Choir</b>	James Hibbert 07365 519207 Practise: Wednesday and Thursday 6pm–7.30pm in the vestry during term time. Sing for Sunday services at 10.15am and 4pm.	<b>Bible Study Groups</b>	<i>contact the clergy</i> Study groups and courses are arranged from time to time.
<b>Curate in training</b>	Rev. Jane Crook <a href="mailto:revjanecrook@gmail.com">revjanecrook@gmail.com</a> 07533 107548	<b>Praise and Play</b>	Lois Kelly 439 9458 For 0–4s and their carers. Meet every Tuesday in term time, 10–11 in the Parish Rooms.	<b>Choir</b>	James Hibbert 07365 519207 <a href="mailto:actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com">actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</a> Practise: Thursday 7.30pm–9pm in the vestry during term time. Sing for Sunday services at 10.15am and 4pm.
<b>Readers</b>	Peter Hall 456 9382 Rita Waters 487 3620	<b>St Gabriel's</b>	<b>Festival services</b>	<b>Church Flowers</b>	Jean Hayden ( <i>donations</i> ) 483 2367
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Andrew Regan 440 0408 Hazel Jenkins 483 4679	<b>St Gabriel's</b>	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall 456 9382	<b>Church Gardeners</b>	Walter Stead 430 2449 Meet on Tuesdays 9.30-12.30.
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Lois Kelly 439 9458	<b>Uniformed Groups with connections to St George's</b>		<b>Coffee Mornings</b>	Olwen Smith 483 6548 after the 10am service on Wednesdays, in the parish room during March.
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	Andrew Regan 440 0408 <a href="mailto:treasurer@stgeorgestockport.org.uk">treasurer@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</a>	<b>Rainbows</b>	Trisha Brown 07403 353 175 Sue Kirkland 07854 101 918 For girls aged 4-7. Meet Fridays 6.15-7.30pm in the Parish Room.	<b>Cursillo</b>	Usually meet on last Wednesday of the month. 7.30pm at different venues.
<b>Parish Office</b>	Cathryn Otley 480 2453	<b>Brownies</b>	Rachel Lockett 07712 302342 Lianne Warburton 07815 482603 For girls aged 7-10. Meet Thursdays 6.30-8pm in the Parish Room. To sign up to Brownies or Rainbows please visit <a href="http://www.girlguiding.org.uk">www.girlguiding.org.uk</a> and click on "Join us"	<b>Handbells</b>	Andy Clark 483 3703 Play for All-Age and Taizé services, plus other special events. Ringers of all ages (with or without experience) always welcome. Rehearsals in church arranged around the ringers' availability.
<b>Magazine Editor</b>	vacant	<b>4th Stockport Scout Group</b>	Sarah Johnson 07930 243 159 Meet at: Bridgehall Community Centre Siddington Avenue SK3 8NR	<b>Linen Guild</b>	Pat Rigley 487 1999 Maintain the church's linen.
<b>Safeguarding co-ordinator</b>	James Hibbert 07365 519207 <a href="mailto:stgeorgestockportsafeguarding@outlook.com">stgeorgestockportsafeguarding@outlook.com</a>	<b>Squirrels</b>	For boys and girls aged 4–6 Saturdays 9–10	<b>Magazine Editorial Group</b>	Meet monthly to plan future issues. <a href="mailto:magazine@stgeorgestockport.org.uk">magazine@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk">www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk</a>	<b>Beavers</b>	For boys and girls aged 6 and 7 Wednesdays 5.30–6.30	<b>Mothers' Union</b>	Pat Durnall 483 4837 Meet on 2nd Monday of the month in church at 2.15pm.
<b>Webmaster</b>	Peter Hall 456 9382	<b>Cubs</b>	For boys and girls aged 8–10½ Wednesdays 6.30–8.00		
<b>St George's Primary School</b>		<b>Scouts</b>	For boys and girls aged 10½–14 Wednesdays 6.30–8.00		
<b>Headteacher</b>	Deborah Grindrod 480 8657	<b>Other Groups and Activities</b>			
<b>St George's</b>		<b>St George's</b>			
<b>Deputy Wardens</b>	John Hardy 01663 764 462 Sue Burt 483 9589	<b>Bell ringers</b>	Anne Mayes 485 6477 Practise Mondays 7.45-9pm. Ring on Sundays 9.45-10.15am. Meet in the tower.		
<b>Director of Music</b>	James Hibbert 07365 519207 <a href="mailto:actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com">actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com</a>				
<b>Associate Director of Music</b>	Roger Briscoe <a href="mailto:brogerdom16@gmail.com">brogerdom16@gmail.com</a>				
<b>Vergers</b>	Lee Howarth Mary Howarth				
<b>Bookings for Parish Rooms</b>	Parish Office 480 2453				
<b>St Gabriel's</b>					
<b>Contact:</b>	Parish Office 480 2453				
<b>Bookings</b>	Parish Office 480 2453				
<b>Children's Activities</b>					
<b>St George's</b>					
<b>Children's Corner</b>	Available for children (and parents) during services. Equipped with books, crayons and soft toys.				

### Front cover photo:

Cherry Blossom

Photo by Andy Clark

**Services and Events in April:**  
see pages 6 and 22

# Theo's Baptism

THIS IS THEO with his Mum and Dad, Kerrie and Sebastian. Theo was baptised at a service in early March. Kerrie remarked that "Everyone commented on how beautiful the service was and how lovely it was that all the children were involved thank you again so much we had a beautiful day."



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## Parish News Roundup

### Holy Baptism

3rd Mar Theo William Denny Nield

### Holy Matrimony

None last month

### Funerals

5th Mar Stephen Jones. Service in church and committal at the Cypress Chapel.

8th Mar Marjorie Lees. Service in church and committal at the Rowan Chapel.

### Communion Flowers were sponsored as follows:

3rd Mar from Dorothy Walton, in loving memory of our parents.

10th Mar from Joan and Jim Izard, for their parents.

18th Mar from John and Betty Atkinson, to celebrate their wedding anniversary.

24th Mar in memory of Stephen and Olga Jones.

### Mothers' Union

Vicar Elaine will be our speaker on **Monday 8th April at 2.15pm**. The subject is 'Weddings' and if you have any items that would be of interest please bring them along. So far we have found two wedding dresses from 1939 and 1976, wedding cake toppers

## Parish News Roundup

from 1939, 1952 and 1976, photographs, wedding invitations, cards and orders of service and we look forward to an interesting display.

### Grapevine: change of layout

You may have noticed a slight change of the layout in this month's Grapevine. We use a glossy paper for the cover pages, which gives colour photos a brighter appearance. So, in order to try to make the best use of this, we have altered the layout to put articles with several colour photos on the inside covers (pages 2 and 23). The Who's Who page has moved to page 4, so no information has been lost! We hope that readers will appreciate the improved appearance of photos on the inside covers.

### Trip to Llandudno (see also p. 20)

The trip to Llandudno is on Saturday 27th April thanks to people's generous efforts and donations. To help with those who might miss breakfast or need some assistance for lunch, can people please consider donating packs of individually wrapped pain au chocolat, chocolate chip brioche, breakfast bars, small bottles of water, individual cartons of fruit juice and wrapped biscuits or other snack bars. Thank you so much. A Llandudno box will be available to receive your gifts.

## Parish News Roundup

### Praise and Play

For many years we have been very blessed by the ministry of two fabulous people at Praise and Play, Sue Burt and Lois Kelly.

Week by week they have steadfastly planned, prepared and delivered high quality Christian teaching in a friendly and informal environment.

They have got to know the children, their families and carers and have built up wonderful relationships which have lasted.

We say a fond goodbye to them: Sue left at half term, and Lois at Easter and we wish them well in the next stage of their ministries.

Thank you for all you've done.

### Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings:

Please contact the vicar:  
Telephone: 0161 456 9382  
or email:  
vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk

### May 2024

**Grapevine magazine dates:**  
Deadline copy date: **Fri 19th Apr**  
Committee meeting: Tue 23rd Apr

## St George's floodlighting – sponsorship request form

(Please return to Andrew Regan, 153 Acre Lane, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, SK8 7PB).

Name ..... Phone no .....

Date of evening requested ..... £20 or £..... donation enclosed (Please make cheques payable to St George's Stockport PCC)

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 want to Gift Aid my donation of £..... to St George's Church, Stockport. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.*

Title..... First name or initial(s).....Surname.....

Home address:.....

6 Post Code .....

Signature.....

Date .....



# A Service of thanksgiving for the life of Stephen Howell Jones

19th March 1942 – 30th January 2024

A SOLEMN CELEBRATION of Holy Eucharist was held for Stephen at St George's church, on Tuesday, 5th March, conducted by the vicar, Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall.

In her address, Elaine mentioned the many rôles Stephen had held at St George's. Firstly, in the early 1980s when Christopher Biddell was vicar, Stephen and his son, Matthew, joined the choir in which Stephen continued to sing tenor for the next 40 years.

Having been made redundant from his job with Royal Insurance in 1990, his new-found freedom came to the notice of the vicar, John Roff, who immediately persuaded Stephen to become a church warden, alongside Andrew Garlick. During this period, Stephen became more and more involved in church life. He researched, and wrote, the History of St George's for the centenary, which is still available at the back of church.

When his time as church warden came to an end, Stephen transferred to treasurer, a rôle he held till 2014.

Born and brought up in Uttoxeter, he attended Alleyne's Grammar School, where he showed an aptitude for maths and sciences, and then studied for a degree in electrical engineering. Stephen decided in the 1960s, that computers were the way forward, so taught himself to code and became an expert in large instrumentation and measurement systems and the emerging technology of computing.

Although appearing calm and gentle, Stephen had a love of travel and adventures. He visited Russia in the 60s. Libya in the 80s and was tailed by Libyan Secret Service in Tripoli!

Having known each other from school days, Olga and Stephen met again singing with the Uttoxeter Choral Society. They married in 1967. Olga was Stephen's rock, full of life and energy and encouraging him to broaden his horizons. When redundancy loomed in 1969 they took the opportunity to travel, and Stephen secured a job with Anglo-American, working on the copper belt in Zambia. They travelled by liner to South Africa, driving to their new home in Kitwe – the adventure of a lifetime for two 27-year-olds.

Their daughter, Naomi, was born whilst they lived in Zambia, and after three years they returned home, Stephen now working for British Titan in Teeside. Their son, Matthew, was born whilst they were living there. In 1979 they moved to Stockport, to the house on Nevill Road, home for 45 years and their long connection with St George's.



At the Advent Carol Service last year, Stephen was delighted to see the choir thriving and hear their richness of sound. When he and Matthew joined in the 1980s, the choir consisted of 24 boys and more than 20 men. Stephen never lost his enthusiasm for singing, even when only a handful of singers remained. In November 2022, after the Advent Carol Service, James Hibbert, Director of

Music, presented Stephen with a long service award, richly deserved after 40 years' commitment.



After the death of Olga in 2020, Stephen preferred to stay quietly at home, but enjoyed nothing better than a well cooked meal, a glass of fine wine and the company of Naomi and Matthew or other family members. Stephen was a gentle man, quiet, kind, thoughtful, incisive, a fount of all knowledge. He lived a life of love and for that his children are immensely proud and thankful.

*Edited version of the eulogies  
Rosie Stead*

## A New (Old) Chamber (Continuo) Organ

IT IS something of a rare event to be offered a pipe organ, but this was my recent good fortune. For the reason of the offer, it is necessary to go back nearly sixty years! In 1966, my enthusiasm for the organ led me to join the Hammersmith-based organ builders, Grant, Degens and Bradbeer. I was young and enthusiastic and soon became assistant to Frank Bradbeer (a qualified architect with a passion for organs) and was thus involved, not only in the construction, but also the design of pipe organs. The late 1960s was a period of change in organ building: the organ reform movement, which advocated a return to the principles of 17th and 18th century organ design and construction (the 'Back to Bach' idea advocated by Dr Albert Schweitzer) was becoming increasingly influential. Grant, Degens and Bradbeer were very much at the forefront of this, and designed, built and installed important instruments for the Chapel of New College Oxford, The Lyons Concert Hall at the University of York and St Paul's Girls' School in Hammersmith (where Gustav Holst had been the music master), instruments now considered of historic importance in British organ building.

But it wasn't just large instruments we constructed, and in 1969 Frank Bradbeer and I drew up plans for two identical small organs, each with just three stops, which could easily be transported to locations where such instruments were required for concerts and recordings (they were frequently taken to the BBC studios in Maida

Vale). These were known as continuo organs, and at this point a technical digression is required!

In the 17th and 18th centuries the bass line of music was frequently written with figures above the notes to indicate the harmony to be played by a harpsichord, chamber organ or possibly a lute. This was known as the 'basso continuo' or figured bass. It was a feature of chamber, orchestral and choral music for the entire 'baroque' period. See below, part of a facsimile of the opening of Handel's Recorder Sonata in F major published in 1732 – the figures above the bass (lower) line indicate the harmony.



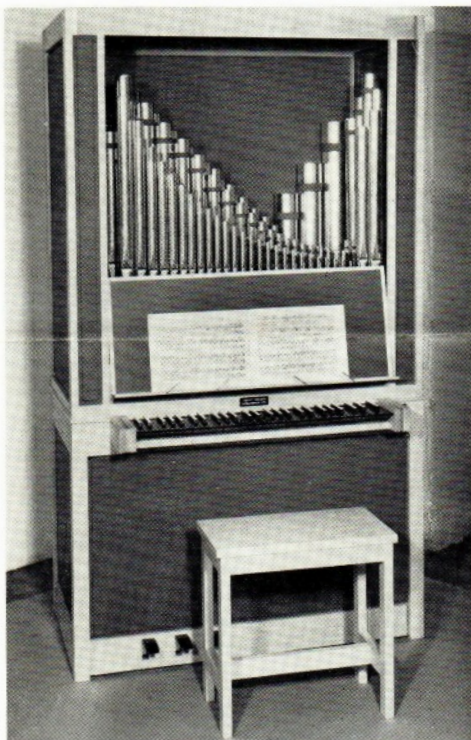
A chamber organ is frequently now used as a continuo instrument in baroque music, but is also very effective in accompanying voices. During the period when the new organ at New College Oxford was being installed, it was intriguing to hear how effectively one of our continuo organs was able to accompany the choir at Evensong in the chapel.

In 1970 the lease expired on the Grant, Degens and Bradbeer workshops and the firm amalgamated with and moved to an organ builders in Northampton. Frank Bradbeer returned to architecture and, after a brief spell during which I worked with another organ builder, he invited me to join him. It was a total change of career and I trained and qualified as an architectural technologist. Nevertheless, I retained my links with organ building and designed a handful of organ cases. One in particular, at St Joseph's Roman Catholic church in Keighley, was featured in the very first volume of the journal of the then newly-formed British Institute of Organ Studies in 1977.

Fast forward to July last year: still involved with organs, I was assisting with a recording of the organ at Albion Church in Ashton-under-Lyne. It is a fine instrument constructed in 1895 by the organ builder T. C. Lewis. It was carefully rebuilt in 1953, but has had little attention since, other than the necessary regular maintenance, now provided by Wood Pipe Organ Builders of Huddersfield. The hot weather at the time began to cause technical problems, so David Wood (who also rebuilt the organ at Blackburn Cathedral and maintains the organ in Manchester's Bridgwater Hall) came to make the necessary on-the-spot repairs. I asked him a couple of questions from which he detected my

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previous involvement in organ building, and enquired where I had worked. On telling him it was Grant, Degens and Bradbeer, he noted that he had one of their continuo organs in his workshop, and generously offered it to me. My first thoughts were that it was one of the two with which I had been involved back in 1969, but an inspection revealed that it was a later instrument, built at the Northampton works in about 1975 and based on the earlier models. David explained that it had been in a small church in Northampton, where they decided that a much larger organ was required – so large, in fact, that only an electronic instrument would fit the space available. In attempting to find a new home for the small pipe organ, the church had advertised in local newspapers, but when this failed to attract any interest, they considered breaking it up and dumping it in a skip! David was horrified and bought the organ from them for a nominal sum. He had been using it as a temporary instrument in churches where he was rebuilding the existing organ, but it was taking up valuable space in his workshop and he wanted to find it a permanent good home. The idea of reuniting it with someone who had worked for Grant, Degens and Bradbeer appealed to him, and to me too!

I very much wanted to accept David's kind offer, but it couldn't be accommodated at home, so some careful thinking was required. What about St George's? Here was a building in which I was certain it would sound well and make a positive contribution to the well-established musical tradition. I could tune and maintain it, and it would be available for use at services, and I could play it from time to time. I consulted James Hibbert, who agreed that this would be an exciting addition to the music at St George's, but this had to be agreed with the clergy and PCC. We also established that a faculty would be required, which consumed much time and rather frustrated our efforts, but having obtained that, David



Wood was able to bring the organ to St George's on Tuesday 20th February, and it was placed in the Lady Chapel.

James had been planning a special choral Evensong at which the organ could be introduced, and this took place on Sunday 25th February. Included was the anthem *Lord, let me know my end* by Maurice Greene (1696-1755) which was composed with a figured bass accompaniment for organ, and for which the chamber organ was ideal. Its capabilities were also clearly

demonstrated when Roger Briscoe played the variations on *Mein junges Leben hat ein End* by Dutch composer Jan Pieterzoon Sweelinck (1562-1621) as the organ voluntary. It has a bright, clear sound, and the distinct 'chiff' with which each note begins is a characteristic of the 'classical' organ.

Enabling organ, organist and singers to be in close proximity provides a musical intimacy that members of the choir have already noticed – it is similar to the difference between performing orchestral and chamber music. Time and use will reveal many other musical contexts in which the organ will enhance the music at St George's, and I have acquired my own historic instrument!

Andrew Mayes



# A Service to celebrate the Life of Marjorie Lees

19th October 1937 – 3rd February 2024

THE SERVICE, conducted by the vicar, Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall, was held on 8th March at St George's Church, Stockport. There were a great many people in church – Marjorie's four sons, Martin, Andrew, Richard and Edward, along with their families and her many friends.



Elaine began by saying that Marjorie was a much-loved member of the church family. One of the flower arrangers, she would have appreciated the beautiful display of flowers, put together by her friends, Jean and Dorothy, for the service.

Marjorie was connected with people at the highest and lowest points in their lives. She and Jean attended marriage preparation courses, doing their level best to accommodate the various requests and enquiries from the happy couples, but sometimes offering a reality check to those whose demands may have stepped outside the bounds of what nature could provide.

Elaine named Marjorie the Flower Fairy because incredible displays just appeared without anyone noticing how they got there. In 1997, Barbara Lee-Wood, (who was running the flower team at the time) put a request for volunteer flower arrangers in the church magazine. Marjorie responded, offering her services, and was immediately recruited. She remained a member of the team until 2022, when she had to retire. Elaine paid tribute to Marjorie's long service in this ministry, knowing she would be greatly missed.

One of Marjorie's sons, Rick, spoke on behalf of the family and said how much his Mum loved a party and

would have been happy to see so many people attending the service to say farewell.



She was educated at Stockport High School for girls, a few years below Joan Bakewell. Marjorie was just as inspirational. She took the tough Apothecary exams in London, one of only a few of her contemporaries to pass, leading to a job as a Dispensing Assistant at Hardings Pharmacy in Stockport. Around this time she met Geoff – they married in 1960, settling in Catherine Road and having Martin, the first of four boys, the following year, moving later to Egerton Road, Davenport, where they stayed, providing fantastic memories for all of them. As Marjorie was a talented cook there was nothing she liked better than the whole family sitting round the table enjoying meals together. Even when the boys had grown up and moved out, Marjorie would have big groups over for dinner, particularly at Christmas. She was an excellent hostess and the chat and drinks before the meals were always great fun – especially if things were running a bit behind schedule so there was time for another drink!

After Geoff died in 2011, Marjorie struggled with the loss. But her old friend, Neville, whom she had known since childhood, had also suffered the loss of his wife. They began to spend time together and the friendship blossomed. They managed 50 holidays over their 11 years together. They were impulsive, carefree and happy.

Along with her four boys, Geoff and Neville, Marjorie's other love was for Stockport County. She was a season ticket holder for many years, attending matches, rain or shine, at home and very often away.

Rick described Marjorie as a force of nature – full of energy, unstoppable and unforgettable. She certainly was all of these things and will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

*Edited versions of the addresses*



Knowing Marjorie's love of flowers, the family distributed envelopes containing a heart-shaped, biodegradable mat, impregnated with seeds, and encouraged everyone to plant it in memory of both her and Neville.

*(I would suggest placing the 'mat' on top of seed compost in a plant pot and covering it lightly with more compost, keeping it damp, and placing it where you can keep an eye on it – Rosie)*

This appropriate poem was read at the funeral:

### **My Mother kept a garden**

My mother kept a garden, a garden of the heart  
 She planted all the good things that gave my life a start  
 She turned me to the sunshine and encouraged me to dream  
 Fostering and nurturing the seeds of self-esteem  
 And when the winds and rain came, she protected me enough  
 But not too much because she knew I'd need to stand up strong and tough  
 Her constant good example always taught me right from wrong  
 Markers for my pathway that will last a lifetime long  
 I am my mother's garden, I am her legacy  
 And I hope today she feels the love reflected back from me

*Author unknown*



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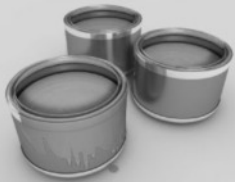
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## Recipe of the Month: Chicken Thighs with Lemon and Olives

- 50g plain flour, seasoned
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 8 chicken thighs, bone in and skin on
- 2 tabsps olive oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 celery stalks, finely chopped
- 1 fennel bulb, cut into eighths
- 1 lemon, quartered longways and cut into 1cm pieces
- 30g pitted Kalamata or other black olives
- 4 garlic cloves, peeled
- 150ml dry white wine
- 1 tabsp honey
- 1 tabsp flat leaf parsley, chopped
- salt and pepper

Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan) mark 4.

Tip flour onto a plate and mix in dried oregano. Coat chicken thighs in the flour, tapping off the excess. Heat olive oil in ovenproof casserole and when hot add chicken pieces and brown all over. Remove to a plate. Add onion,

celery and fennel to the casserole, reduce heat and cook gently for 5 minutes then add lemon pieces, olives and garlic. Cook for 1 min then add honey and wine. Bring to a simmer, then return chicken thighs to the dish, along with 150ml water. Cover and cook in the oven for 35 mins, then remove lid and cook for 10 mins more.

Season to taste. Sprinkle with the parsley and serve.

Serves 4-6



Pamela Ferguson

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## Where is Hope in the Wilderness?

A NUMBER of people asked after the morning service on 18th February if they could have a copy of my reflection. So, here it is!

I continue to be variably frustrated, cross and heartbroken at the situation in Gaza, and I was truly hoping that, by now, there would have been a ceasefire. Sadly, there hasn't been. I feel that I've become close to a number of these people on social media, especially dear Aler Saeed, who is trying to maintain the only animal rescue centre in Gaza (after several moves now) with its lack of veterinary care. If there is ever any peace, I would dearly love to spend some time with his charity.

We must do what we can to press for peace, and, to this end, on March 9th, I joined 400,000 people in a peace march in London from Hyde Park Corner to the US Embassy. Jews, Muslims, Christians, those of all faiths and none, joined in this 4.5 mile march, united together in a call for a ceasefire.

### **Sermon: 18th February, based on Mark 1: 9-15**

I've given my reflection a title this morning as it's a question that I have been asked many times over the past months. Where is Hope in the Wilderness? Where is hope in this world full of pain and anguish? And there's no better time than Lent to think through such a profound question. Can this Gospel reading of Jesus' baptism followed by his forty days in the wilderness help me answer this question? Forty days and nights is symbolic. It replicates the fasting of Moses when he went into the wilderness to fast for forty days and forty nights before receiving the ten commandments; likewise the prophet Elijah fasting until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God when the word of God came to him. The forty days in each of these stories reflects a time of testing and preparation, a time to trust in God's faithfulness and provision. Time spent in the wilderness leads to renewed trust and faith, and a fresh expression and realisation of God's graciousness and love towards his people. In the story of Noah, the rainbow symbolises God's promise to save his people. The word for "bow" in Genesis is the same word in Hebrew that is used for a bow as in "bows and arrows." It's as if God is putting down his weapons of anger and renewing the covenant of love with creation. It's heartening to know that Jesus is with us in our own wilderness and whatever we endure he promises never to let us go.

We all have wildernesses. My wilderness is what is happening in the Holy Land. My eyes were opened when I visited the Holy Land in 2011 when the stark contrast between one side and the other of the nine-metre-high West Bank Barrier wall was clear to see if you looked closely – modern Western world on one side and a deprived population on the other.

My wilderness is people like Nawal Slemiah who came to speak to some of us in Chester about her struggles

building a co-operative for women in Hebron. Her husband had been killed with tear gas in a massacre that took place in her village and she had to try and set up some sort of business with other women to produce beautiful Palestinian cloth garments and accessories. Two weeks ago her shop was destroyed by Israeli settlers. My wilderness is seeing a rainbow in the refugee camp in Gaza with children playing and laughing and the next day to hear they were all killed. My wilderness is photo-journalist Bisan who built up her own business, had just bought an apartment in Northern Gaza, who then lost everything and was crying last night that she feared to be killed. My wilderness is the endless displacement of Aler Saeed who has the only animal rescue centre in Gaza and has been transporting dogs and cats and disabled animals from pillar to post for 134 days and who stays up all night feeding orphaned kittens. My wilderness is for Dr Haya Hijazi, obstetrician in Gaza, performing Caesarean sections without anaesthesia, and pretty much the last doctor standing in Nasser Hospital. And my wilderness is for the families of the hostages held by Hamas, still not knowing where they are, caught in the midst of all this fighting.

My wilderness is in how I answer questions, mainly from people who have no faith: Where is there hope, Jenny? How do we carry on in the face of such atrocity? How can you say your religion gives you hope when there is nothing but death and destruction? I struggle too; just because I'm a priest doesn't mean that I don't struggle to tell people there is a God who cares for them and loves them. Who wouldn't struggle?

And yet I am amazed by the resilience and faith and intelligence of the Palestinian civilians. Despite the dreadful genocide going on, these beautiful intelligent people help others, take orphans into their meagre tents, look out for each other and no matter what the atrocity they lean on Allah as they call God, they retain their trust in him and they believe that there is something better than this, a better heavenly kingdom, worth living for. The way they handle their pain and grief gives me hope and it should give us all hope that there is another way to live, that there is common humanity and a deep love between us and God that cannot be broken despite our fallen world. I am amazed by the work of societies like Bridges in Bethlehem and Jewish Voices for Peace, Christians, Muslims and Jews all working together for peace in the Holy Land. They all have shown us, by lifting a veil on what is truly happening in that part of the world, how our silence in the Western world is complicit. But the eyes are opening, the world order is changing. We're observing angels – and I literally mean angels – whose hope and faith in God gives all of us hope that there is a deeply embedded faith and love in our humanity waiting to be released.

Perhaps now I can see a hope in the wilderness. Perhaps I do have a better answer for my work colleagues

and friends. The good news is being encountered and lived out in the wilderness through people like Nawal and Dr Hijazi and the members of Jewish Voices for Peace. My baptism was the beginning of a journey and I need to remain on the road and not just be there when it suits me. The road may be hard but there are signs of hope that we are not alone. Jesus is in the wilderness, he is under all

that rubble, he goes before us, is alongside us, behind us and through his suffering and death he has triumphed and saved us. Whatever happens, whatever the wildernesses we endure, God, in Jesus, will be there. That is my, and, I hope, your own Lenten hope.

AMEN

Jenny



## Thoughts on Meditation

WHY MEDITATE? It's a fair question. A quick answer might be, "Why not meditate? Give it a go." But if we dig a bit deeper there are reasons why meditation is worth trying. There are also reasons why we might hold back from doing so.

We live in an age of frantic doing and busyness, so stopping for a bit and being quiet is restorative. Just sitting and breathing for a moment can help us to balance and renew ourselves. Calmly coming into the present moment is, of itself, constructive and powerful. Stopping doing something enables us to do – or be – something else.

And that might be a reason not to meditate. Because it is about "being". Being still and being with ourselves. That can be uncomfortable. Sitting in silence can be uncomfortable, particularly if we are not used to it, or have negative associations with it.

Silence is challenging and it's fine to find it so. We can be kind to ourselves and take things gently. Meditation is not about success and failure. It's not about achievement. It's about being in touch with ourselves and, for those of us with a faith, an opportunity to be in touch with God. It's what Father Laurence Freeman calls "pure prayer", a form of prayer that doesn't supplant other forms of prayer, but enhances and enriches them.

Meditating with others is also an act of connection and communion. No words, no ideas, no sound needed. Just being present with one another.

Our next monthly meditation is at 12 noon, after the morning service, on Sunday 28th April and then on 26th



*photo: Andy Clark*

May. On Saturday 22nd June we are having a half day of meditation from 10am to 12.30pm. More details to follow. As always, everyone is welcome.

*Chris Dawson*

## The Place to Eat

DAVE AND I recently called into Grill Zone, a café run by Peyman and Sareh from our congregation. We enjoyed a fabulous brunch in the company of the proprietors. If you are in Cheadle Hulme precinct do go and visit them on the corner just past Asda. You'll be made very welcome.

*Hazel Jenkins*





### Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

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### Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 22)

### Crossword

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

#### ACROSS

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
- 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
- 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
- 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
- 13 Muslim holy month (7)
- 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
- 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
- 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
- 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
- 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

#### DOWN

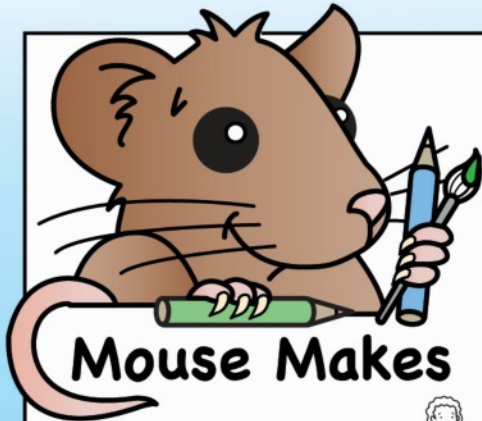
- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)

- 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
- 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
- 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
- 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
- 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)



R&N

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## Mouse Makes



How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

Read John 21:14



How many disciples were there? Who were they?

Read John 21: 11

Some time after Jesus had risen a few of His disciples met together to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. As the sun rose a man on the shore asked; "Have you caught anything?" "Not a thing" they answered.

He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net.

Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"



**READ**  
the story in **John 21**



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Colour in all the fish

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## How should I read the Bible?

IT CAN BE quite difficult to know where to start.

Most Bibles have an Old Testament and a New Testament. Each part has lots of books, rather like a library. They tell stories, poems, adventures, histories and lists of families, rather like a "Who do you think you are?" programme.

In the first part the books are about God's relationship with the Jewish people and many of those who they met in ancient times. Then in the New Testament we can read about the life and times of Jesus and all that happened after his resurrection and the power of the Holy Spirit in The Acts of the Apostles. After this there are many letters from St Paul to the cities where the early church was growing. Finally, we have the book of Revelation.

When I go to a library I love to browse and pick out the books I am interested in and also choose some new ones. You can do this with the Bible. If you want to find out

about Jesus why not start with one of the four Gospels? St Luke's begins with his birth. It's a complete record of Jesus' life and can be read all through or in shorter parts. He continues the story in The Acts of the Apostles.



### BRF is short for THE BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

This idea began in 1922 when a vicar helped his congregation to read the Bible with notes to provide explanations and insights. The BRF is still going strong in 2024 and I hope you will be able to look at a sample of the books that are currently produced, which I plan to display in church.

This is just one way to keep in daily contact with God. Each study book has about 10 different themes. These are split into short daily Bible passages, with notes and reflection. Please take a look at the display, and if you are interested, have a chat with me at church or contact me by email. [janet03neilson@aol.com](mailto:janet03neilson@aol.com)

Good reading!

*Janet Neilson*

## Making Daffodil Posies for Mothering Sunday



*photo: Hazel Jenkins*

## Church family trip to Llandudno: Saturday 27th April

WE ARE LOOKING forward to a day by the sea in lovely North Wales. Thank you to all who have given generously, supporting the raffles and beetle drive, which have helped fund the outing. Special thanks go to Peter Smith for having the idea and for leading the fundraising and planning.

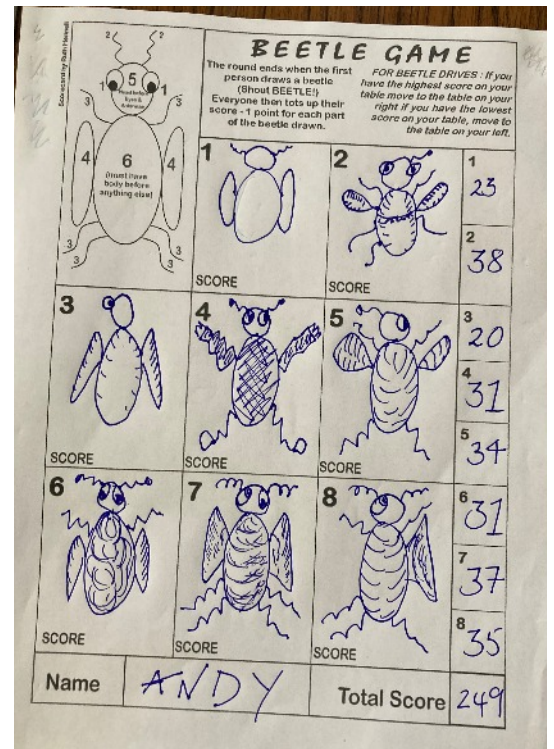
A very enjoyable evening was had by all one evening at the end of January. We gathered in the Parish Rooms and had a hilarious time playing the Beetle game. Sue Cordingley and Morag Ranson provided a delicious spread of cheese and cold meats, dips and other tasty bites, directed by Peter of course, and helped by a wonderful band of helpers setting up, and then washing up and clearing away at the end of the evening.

A family meal for the beginning of April is planned – listen out in church for details. There will be a sign-up sheet in church. All are very welcome.

Details of the day out itself will be shared at church with timings and other important information. The bus will be going from outside church on the A6 near the gates to the Avenue.

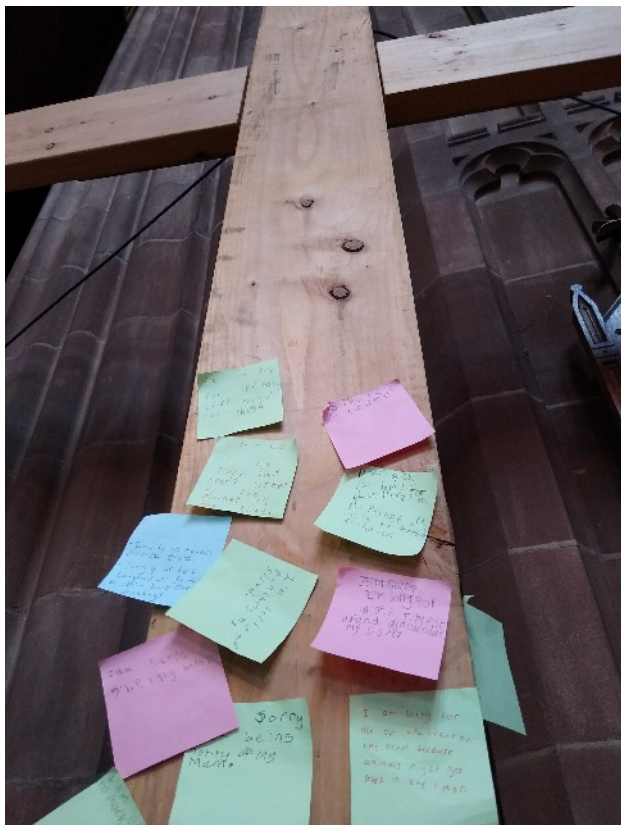
Any queries – contact Peter Smith (tel. 07510 222402)

Morag Ranson



## St George's School Collective Worship

ST GEORGE'S SCHOOL collective during March focused on the subject of forgiveness. Earlier in the month they used the parable of the unforgiving servant as their Bible passage. Mrs Langton wrote that she was so proud of them; they spoke up, were confident and knew what they were talking about. The Key Stage One collective worship on Monday 18th March looked at forgiveness through the lens of Easter. The children placed their responses on the cross knowing that Jesus died so we can know that our sins are forgiven.





## Music Scheme – April 2024

Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> April – The Second Sunday of Easter / Low Sunday	
<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>
<b>Setting:</b>	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening
<b>Hymns:</b>	140 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. Blesséd Thomas, doubt no longer 136 Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen... 527 New songs of celebration render
<b>Anthem:</b>	This joyful Eastertide – Wood
<b>Voluntary:</b>	Tuba on parade – Marsh
<b>No Evening Service</b>	

Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> April – The Third Sunday of Easter	
<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>
<b>Setting:</b>	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne
<b>Hymns:</b>	612 We have a gospel to proclaim In Christ alone my hope is found, 305 I come with joy, a child of God, 437 Go forth and tell! O Church of God, awake!
<b>Anthem:</b>	Lead me, Lord – Wesley
<b>Voluntary:</b>	Grand Choeur No.2 in C Major – Hollins
<b>No Evening Service</b>	

Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> April – The Fourth Sunday of Easter			
<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>St. George’s Day Scouting Service</b>
<b>Setting:</b>	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening	<b>See Order of Service for details</b>	
<b>Hymns:</b>	395 Christ is our corner-stone, SP314 The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want. 517 Loving Shepherd of thy sheep, 145 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!		
<b>Anthem:</b>	The Lord is my Shepherd – Goodall		
<b>Voluntary:</b>	Trumpet Voluntary in C Op. 5, No.1 – Stanley		

Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> April – The Fifth Sunday of Easter			
<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>Choral Evensong</b>
<b>Setting:</b>	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne	<b>Hymns:</b>	600 Thou art the way: by thee alone 534 O for a thousand tongues to sing 21 Sun of my soul, thou Saviour dear,
<b>Hymns:</b>	87 Hail to the Lord’s anointed 137 Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and... 321 Rise and hear! The Lord is speaking, Man of sorrows! What a name	<b>Responses:</b>	Rose <b>Psalm:</b> 96
<b>Anthem:</b>	O taste and see – Vaughan Williams	<b>Canticles:</b>	Evening Service in D – Brewer
<b>Voluntary:</b>	Three Liturgical Preludes, No. 2 – Oldroyd	<b>Anthem:</b>	Abendlied – Rheinberger
		<b>Voluntary:</b>	Prelude & Fugue in B minor BWV544 – J.S. Bach

## Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword solution:

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

## Regular Services at St George's

### Services in church, with congregation:

**Sundays:** 8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.15am Parish Communion (also live streamed)  
4pm Choral Evensong (last Sunday of the month, also live streamed)

**Wednesdays:** 9.30am Morning Prayer (also live streamed)  
10am Holy Communion (BCP)  
(during this winter, the Wednesday morning services are in the Parish Room)

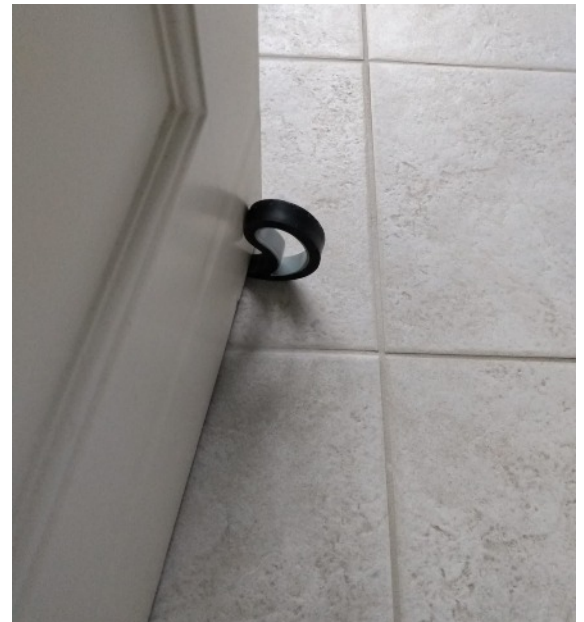
### Services which are live streamed only:

**Mondays to Fridays:** 9.30am Morning Prayer (also in church on Wednesdays)

The church will also be open for individual private prayer in the chapel on Wednesdays and Sundays from 11am to 12 noon

## What am I?

LAST MONTH'S 'What am I?' (below) is a doorstep (see right).



This month's item is about 6 inches long and is made of wood. What am I?

*Rosie Stead*

# Wedding of Adrian Knight and Denise D'Almeida Jesus

These photos are from the wedding of Adrian Knight and Denise D'Almeida Jesus on Saturday 24th February at St George's Church.



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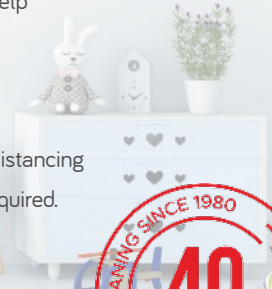
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