

Parish Grapevine

A monthly round-up of
news, views, events
and services at
St George's, Heaviley,
SK2 6NU,
and St Gabriel's, Adswood
in the
Parish of St George, Stockport.
www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk



Northern Lights over St George's Church

This spectacular photo of the aurora borealis above St George's Church
in May was taken by Andrew Lindsey





Elaine writes:

What do you like to do when you're on holiday or a day out? Swimming? Visiting stately homes? Having a bite to eat? Checking out telephones?

Sorry. Let's backtrack a bit.

I know there are people who like to go

birdwatching or go on a hunt for rare orchids or plane spotting, train spotting and even drain spotting (yes, really, as they search for unusual manhole covers in the road).



I suspect there may be far fewer who check telephones and, even fewer still who rejoice when they notice that it is one they actually designed.

Note the red one here in Norway, near the mighty Troll Wall and, on the right, the designer of the said telephone holding the receiver at John o'Groats.

Never let it be said that the vicarage family don't lead exciting lives!

Our most recent telephone trip out was when we walked around the Ladybower reservoir with our grandson and Penny, the hound we were dog sitting.

Much delight ensued when we sat down for a bite to eat at the little café at Fairholmes, and spied a phone we'd not seen before.

With some degree of pride and pleasure, Peter announced to our grandson, "I made that!" and barely

skipping a beat he received the reply, "Is that why it's old and rusty?"!!!

Matthew 21:16: From the mouths of children and infants....

I just adore the boldness of children who say what needs to be said with the audaciousness and confidence that we often lack as adults.

Peter (disciple not husband), and others of the early Christian movement were fearful, uncertain and directionless after the death of Jesus. Even after seeing him again as the Risen Christ,



and being present at his ascension into heaven, it left them looking up and not out into the community. It took the power of the Holy Spirit to release them into their God-given gifts and to give them focus and belief in what they could do rather than what they couldn't. God's Holy Spirit empowered them to be much more than they could

ever have imagined and filled them with the courage to speak up and speak out to those they met in order to spread the Gospel message.

How much so can we be released by the same Holy Spirit to be transformed and confident so that we can be powerful evangelists, inspiring teachers, compassionate healers, wise listeners and joyful workers for Jesus – even if we might be feeling old and rusty?!!!

Every blessing

Elaine



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

Vicar	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk 456 9382	Sunday Clubs	Ask for Louise, Eliza or Andy at the 10:15 Sunday service. Eliza 07967 798453 Louise 483 3703	Ring on Sundays 9.45-10.15am. Meet in the tower.
Associate minister	Rev. Dr Jenny McKay 01606 891564 jenny@stgeorgestockport.org.uk	Junior Choir	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.	Bible Reading Fellowship Notes Janet Neilson 483 9025 Notes are ordered on request.
Curate in training	Rev. Jane Crook revjanecrook@gmail.com 07533 107548	Praise and Play	contact the Parish Office: 480 2453 For 0-4s and their carers. Meet every Tuesday in term time, 10-11 in the Parish Rooms.	Bible Study Groups <i>contact the clergy</i> Study groups and courses are arranged from time to time.
Readers	Peter Hall 456 9382 Rita Waters 487 3620	St Gabriel's		Choir James Hibbert 07365 519207 actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com Practise: Thursday 7.30pm-9pm in the vestry during term time. Sing for Sunday services at 10.15am and 4pm.
Churchwardens	Andrew Regan 440 0408 Hazel Jenkins 483 4679	Festival services	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall 456 9382	Church Flowers Jean Hayden (<i>donations</i>) 483 2367
PCC Secretary	Lois Kelly 439 9458	Uniformed Groups with connections to St George's		Church Gardeners Walter Stead 430 2449 Meet on Tuesdays 9.30-12.30.
PCC Treasurer	Andrew Regan 440 0408 treasurer@stgeorgestockport.org.uk	Rainbows	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.	Coffee Mornings In church, after the 10am service on Wednesdays.
Parish Office	Cathryn Otle 480 2453	Brownies	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 www.girlguiding.org.uk and click on "Join us"	Cursillo Usually meet on last Wednesday of the month. 7.30pm at different venues.
Magazine Editor	vacant	4th Stockport Scout Group	Sarah Johnson 07930 243 159 Meet at: Bridgehall Community Centre Siddington Avenue SK3 8NR	Handbells 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.
Safeguarding co-ordinator	James Hibbert 07365 519207 stgeorgestockportsafeguarding@outlook.com	Squirrels	For boys and girls aged 4-6 Saturdays 9-10	Linen Guild Pat Rigley 487 1999 Maintain the church's linen.
Website	www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk	Beavers	For boys and girls aged 6 and 7 Wednesdays 5.30-6.30	Magazine Editorial Group Meet monthly to plan future issues. magazine@stgeorgestockport.org.uk
Webmaster	Peter Hall 456 9382	Cubs	For boys and girls aged 8-10½ Wednesdays 6.30-8.00	Mothers' Union Pat Durnall 483 4837 Meet on 2nd Monday of the month in the Parish Room at 2.15pm.
St George's Primary School		Scouts	For boys and girls aged 10½-14 Wednesdays 6.30-8.00	
Headteacher	Deborah Grindrod 480 8657	Other Groups and Activities		
St George's		St George's		
Deputy Wardens	John Hardy 01663 764 462 Sue Burt 483 9589	Bell ringers	Anne Mayes 485 6477 Practise Mondays 7.45-9pm.	
Director of Music	James Hibbert 07365 519207 actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com			
Associate Director of Music	Roger Briscoe brogerdom16@gmail.com			
Vergers	Lee Howarth Mary Howarth			
Bookings for Parish Rooms	Parish Office 480 2453			
St Gabriel's				
Contact:	Parish Office 480 2453			
Bookings	Parish Office 480 2453			
Children's Activities				
St George's				
Children's Corner	Available for children (and parents) during services. Equipped with books, crayons and soft toys.			

Front cover photo:

Bee on an Iris
photo by Louise Clark

Services and Events in June:
see pages 6 and 22

Aneurin's Adventures in Llandudno

SO THE ADVENTURE started at home. We got in the car and recognised that there was road works!

We got through it in the end. Phew! After we arrived at church we were waiting for the coach and when it arrived I sat in the FRONT SEAT! I sat in the window. We set off. I ate a lot of food on the way. We played minis. We teamed up but we also missed the mini garage. It was a long journey, we went on the M60, M56 and the A55.

When we got there we went into the mobility shop. After that we went to the beach. I made a sand castle plus I can do rock throwing – I wasn't very good at it. Mimy and me went to the slots. I won 236 tickets and I got cola bottles, Tangfasticks and 2 cola stripes (mow am).

After that I went to the end of the pier. I had lunch there. I had a double scoop chocolate ice cream. Then we went to two charity shops – in the first one I got the (accidental) secret agent and in the second one we got a Mr Noisy colouring book. Then we went to a café where I had a hot chocolate. We were waiting a long time so they did take away.

Then it was time to go home. I was speaking to Dan (the coach driver) with some good questions. How many bricks on the Stockport Viaduct? There are 11,000,000 bricks. How many cars in the world? There are 1.5 billion. How many cars in a line would fit of the size of a diplodocus? ANSWER – 5 and a half. I had a really good day. I hope it happens again.



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Parish News Roundup

Holy Baptism

14th Apr Liam Marc Lanata-Hutchinson
Cameron Lanata-White
Jordan Lee White

12th May, in the 10.15am service
Coral Musaraj
Alice Cockburn

12th May Albert George Lee Hagan (Bertie)

Holy Matrimony

18th May Samuel Grinsted and Jade Turner

Funerals

22nd Apr James Heywood: burial of ashes in St George's Garden of Remembrance.

29th Apr Hilda Margaret Galley: service in church and burial at Stockport Cemetery.

Communion Flowers were sponsored as follows:

Main altar

28th Apr from the Lees family, for Geoffrey.

Parish News Roundup

5th May from the Roughley family, in memory of Dorothy Thompson.

12th May from the Grundy family, in memory of Ken and Joan Grundy.

19th May in memory of Gaynor Cartwright, from her friends.

26th May from Mike and family, in memory of Nellie Westwood.

Lady Chapel

28th Apr in loving memory of John Puddifoot, from Janice and family.

Mothers' Union

The next Mothers' Union meeting will be on **Monday June 10th at 2.15pm**. Our speaker is Linda Brooke, and her talk is 'My Times'; Linda has held all the major civic positions on Stockport council. It will be a fascinating talk, telling us what is expected of our civic

Parish News Roundup

leaders. Everyone is welcome. Do come along, we are a very friendly group.

Annual Pet Blessing Service

Everyone is heartily invited to our **Annual Pet Blessing Service** at 10.15 am on **Sunday 9th June**. Well behaved pets (and owners!) are most welcome. You may also bring a photo of a pet if that is easier. If you don't have a pet, then don't worry, because we will have two special donkeys from Alwood Donkeys, Wirral, for petting and fuss. See advert on page 22.

Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings:

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

July-August 2024

Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Fri 21st June**
Committee meeting: Tue 25th June

Visiting Choir

We welcome the Steel City Choristers from Sheffield to sing for at our Services on Sunday 2nd June 2024 at 10:15am Parish Communion and 4pm Choral Evensong.

The Steel City Choristers are an exciting and innovative choir of children and adults that sings in the cathedral tradition. Please do come and support them at both services!



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:.....

Post Code

Signature.....

Date

St George's School Eco Council

AT ST GEORGE'S we know that we are stewards of the Earth and that our actions can make a difference. The children regularly discuss how they can make a difference to the future of the planet in collective worships and in science / PSHE lessons. We also have a thriving Eco council which is doing amazing things – they are a fantastic group of children who meet once a week on Thursdays after school to do what they can to help protect and improve our environment.



So far this year they have met with a senior lecturer in environmental science, Andrew Clark from the University of Salford. He came to visit and talk to the council – they were very excited to meet him. Andrew discussed with the eco-councillors our school's close proximity to two main roads and how this links with air pollution. The eco-councillors thought about what causes air pollution. Andrew explained that he and his undergraduate student would be coming to install particle monitors.



In December, eco-councillors completed carbon footprint calculations on laptops to examine and discuss our carbon footprint and the effects of this on the planet. They looked at different leaves found in the playground,



took some cuttings and created leaf rubbings. The Eco-council made fat balls for the birds to eat over winter using oats, sultanas, breadcrumbs and lard.

In January, they took part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch. They created a tally of the birds they observed. They set up the Terracycle pen-recycling programme. Eco-council are aiming to reduce waste in school by promoting the recycling of used-up pens and highlighters in school. They collected old tin cans to use as receptacles to collect used up pens across all year groups.

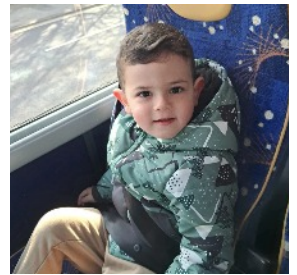


In April they could start planting: a parent kindly donated some wildflower seed balls which the children carefully planted and are very excited to see how fast they grow. Last week they designed and made bug hotels using used plastic bottles, twigs and leaves. They have placed these around the school grounds to give a variety of bugs somewhere to shelter. We are very proud of our children and all they have achieved. It's wonderful to see the interest, thought and care that these children put into caring for their environment.

Jan Langton

St George's Trip to Llandudno, Saturday 27th April





London Marathon News

SUNDAY 21ST APRIL was quite an eventful day for two St George's families. Andrew Neilson and David Kelly both ran in the London Marathon, which was quite an experience! Naturally they were supported by their families.

David was both pleased and surprised in July last year to learn that he had been allocated a place through the national ballot, as the odds against this are high. He decided to run in memory of his grandfather who had dementia.

The weather on the day was good running weather, dry but neither too hot nor too windy to make running difficult. Dementia UK very helpfully produced a map of the route showing the charity's cheer points with What3Words to help locate them. Lois and Steven were then able to plan where and when to be at certain points to see David running past and David also knew where to look out for them. Getting to their chosen cheer points brought back memories of travelling on the tube in the rush hour, in years gone by. Despite the crowds there was a lovely atmosphere along the route. At the end of the marathon the runners for Dementia UK could recuperate and meet family and friends at the Travellers Club on The Mall.

At her home near Preston David's Nanna made a point of watching the London Marathon in the hope of spotting David!
Lois Kelly



Andrew's London Marathon!

AFTER WINNING a place for the London Marathon 2024 Andrew wrote the following:

I took this amazing opportunity to fundraise for The Christie in Manchester which has treated many friends and family over the years. I planned to run in memory of my father, Christopher Neilson, who is deeply missed, and would have been 70 this year. He, like so many, received excellent care at The Christie.

The race went well and family members and friends were dotted round the course which passed many familiar landmarks. I was very glad to have everyone's support. It was an incredible experience and I finished in 3:50.32.

We then had a small family re-union in Horseguards Parade and a fabulous celebration pizza together before heading back home.
Janet Neilson



Saturday Morning Meditation

22nd June 10am – 1pm

St George's Church, Heaviley, SK2 6NU

Finding God in Silence

- Pat Higgins – World Community for Christian Meditation
- Labyrinth Walk
- Mindful Prayer Trail

Pizza Lunch – including vegan and gluten free

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Recipe of the Month: Fillets of Cod Baked with Roast Vine Tomatoes

I see no reason why the tomatoes need to be the vine type, as specified. It is a useful recipe as the tomato and shallot mixture can be roasted in advance, with the fish added for the final cooking.

6 tbsps olive oil
1lb/450g banana shallots, skinned
2lb/900g vine tomatoes
1 red chilli, seeded and sliced
1-2 fat cloves garlic, skinned and finely chopped, optional
2 tsps sea salt
6 x 6oz/170g pieces cod fillet
Black pepper

Preheat oven to 400F/200C/180C fan/gas mark 6

Heat oil in a large ovenproof sauté pan and put in the shallots, either whole or halved if large. Turn them so they are all covered in oil then put in the oven for 15 mins.

Quarter tomatoes. When shallots have roasted for 15 mins, take out of the oven, add the tomatoes, chilli and garlic and mix all well together. The tomatoes should be well oiled. Scatter over the salt and return to the oven for 30 mins more, turning it all over 2-3 times. The tomatoes should have collapsed.

If the tomatoes have been roasted ahead of time reheat them before adding the fish. Push the pieces of cod into the mixture, season with pepper, cover, and put back into the oven until the fish is cooked. This will take 10-15 mins depending on the thickness of the fillets. This final cooking can also be done on top of the cooker if your pan is suitable – but very gently.

Roast or sauté potatoes go well with this dish, and a green salad. Serves 6.

Pamela Ferguson

Jean is always up for a spin on the dancefloor

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Proverbial Wisdom

IN A Bible Reading Fellowship commentary recently, the writer asked, “What proverbs did you learn as a child?” I’m not sure to what extent it is part of the modern primary school syllabus nowadays, but I certainly remember Miss Hallworth, my teacher at Cale Green Primary School many years ago, often quoting them to us.

Two in particular have stuck in my mind. First, ‘Empty vessels make most noise’, usually applied to boys in the class who she felt were getting a bit unruly. Mind you, I think it is a trait shared with some politicians of note, and so called “online influencers”. Then there was the saying, ‘More haste, less speed’. It’s something that I repeat to myself when I rush a task, something goes wrong, and I finish up having to go back to square one.

In general, proverbs are short sayings stating a truth or piece of advice, often dating back over many centuries. Sometimes they can seem contradictory: ‘Look after the pennies, and the pounds will look after themselves’ – in other words, be thrifty with everyday costs. Compare that with, ‘Penny wise, pound foolish’, that is to say, be sensible with whatever you have managed to save. In appropriate circumstances they each contain worthwhile advice. Perhaps the answer is ‘Moderation in all things’, based on the words of the Roman poet, Horace, who lived in early Roman times, and is credited with over 100 quotes in the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations.

So, do you have any proverbs, or sayings which you still use from time to time?

This question was prompted by reading words by St Paul, written in his final Epistle to the Corinthians, Ch15, v32, which surprised me. “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die” he says. I must confess they are words I associate with the exhortations to the gladiators in ancient Rome before they were going into combat in the Colisseum – more commonly quoted as “Let us eat, drink and make merry, for tomorrow we die”. Paul’s words are actually a quotation from the Old Testament book of Isaiah, Ch22, v13, written in about 700BC, when the nation of Israel was about to be taken into captivity in Babylon.

In both these cases, the words are used when the people have lost hope for the future and resort to short-term basic sources of comfort.

Paul was writing to the Corinthians because he had received news of factions developing amongst the congregation with regard to Christian beliefs. Primarily, he is telling them that the essence of the Christian faith is the Resurrection of Jesus. If that is not true, there is no hope for those who claim to follow him, just a philosophy of eat, drink and die.

Paul was a very well-read man, and he reminds them of another saying in use at that time, words of the Greek poet and dramatist, Menander, in around 300BC: “Bad

company ruins good morals”, perhaps in contrast to “Birds of a feather, flock together” for mutual strength and support. Paul’s words are a warning for us to take care in choosing the company we keep, the people who may influence our attitudes and actions in our daily lives.

Paul closes his Epistle by promising to make time for an extended visit to Corinth to help the new followers of Christ in their difficulties as a new church.

It is a reminder for us that we should use our time wisely.

In the final analysis, time is something we try to control in our lives – but ultimately we cannot. As they say: “Time and tide wait for no one”, while “Procrastination is the thief of time”.

How often do we think, “I wish I had done that, but now the opportunity has passed”? It may just be something simple: a kind word to someone who needs support at a difficult time; or some practical help for a person who is struggling; or giving time to listen to their problems.

Possibly it’s a question of being better at managing the many demands on our time, deciding our priorities. Life has its complications for all of us and proverbs won’t provide instant solutions. But they do incorporate scraps of wisdom from the past, many of which can be found in the Bible.

So, let us ask God to help us to use wisely the time he has granted us. To live in hope and not despair: not to be attracted by the noise of the media, but consider carefully the content of what is being said; avoid rushing into comments and actions before we have thought them through.

...And to bear in mind the most important saying of all, our Lord’s command in all things, “Love God, and love your neighbour as yourself”.

Walter Stead

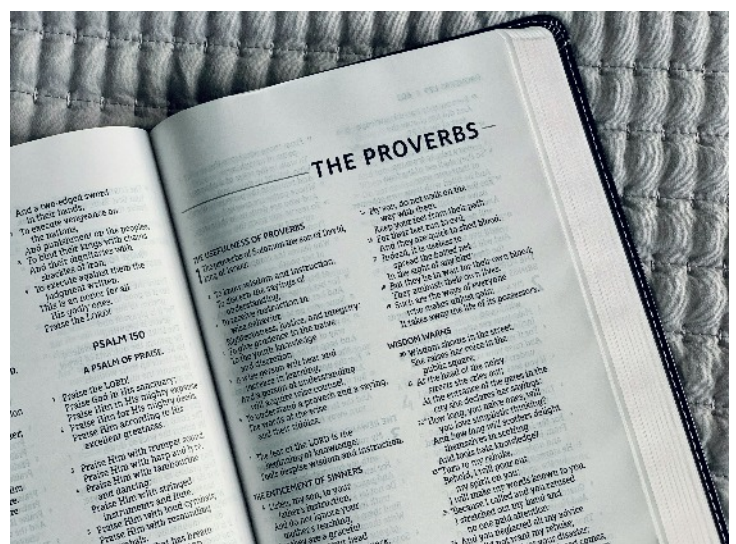


photo: unsplash.com/@timwildsmith

Garden Gnomes

AS I WRITE this article in early May, at last the temperature has started to climb. It is currently 18 degrees whereas a few days ago it was very cool and we had had lots of rain. Looking back, it feels as if up to the last two years we hardly missed gardening on Tuesday morning, but recently we have had a number of days when it was raining constantly and cold with virtually no chance of outside work.

The area where we put bedding plants to spell out 125 in celebration of that milestone for the church has now been converted to a rose bed. We did consider returning it to lawn but felt that the colour provided by the roses would be more uplifting for passersby. We have been working on the two oval beds on the west side of church which have been neglected so far this year. We hope soon to have a plan for future planting there. We would like to spend time on the area to the north of north avenue but as we are down to an average of five gardeners there has not been enough time so far this year.

It was interesting for me in late April to visit the largest urban garden exhibition run by the Royal Horticultural Society in Manchester. Judging by the crowds attending it was a success and so more such exhibitions are likely to follow. There was an exhibit focusing on house plants and the sort of conditions in which they thrive: some like light conditions, others shady, and different levels of humidity.



There were a number of small space gardens and balconies, partly designed by Manchester students with emphasis on urban gardening. You could even walk through an urban forest which was based on an ancient woodland garden created for RHS Flower Show Tatton. The venue at Depot Mayfield was very cold and rather dark, which made it difficult to see some of the exhibits but overall it was worth the trip. The most interesting part of the visit to me was to look round Mayfield Park next door. It is a new 6.5 acre park on the banks of the River Medlock. It was a surprise to me that a new park of this size could be developed two minutes' walk from Piccadilly Station.

I do enjoy growing tomatoes from seed and have done so for many years. This year, unfortunately, has been my least successful. They germinated well in late February and grew to 2-3 inches tall. They then stopped growing through March even though kept warm, and only slowly grew in April. I was talking to a commercial grower of vegetable plants at the Urban Show who said that mine was not an uncommon experience. The peat-free seed compost this year has not been as conducive to plant growth. I am in total agreement with not using peat but it does make it more difficult to get plants to thrive. I hope by the time you read this they will be starting to catch up. The cucumbers have fared slightly better as they got potted on to better compost earlier, but most of the bedding plants germinated but then died off, and even the begonias bought as plug plants had a near 50% failure rate.

June is such a lovely time of the year, so enjoy any time you can outdoors and do come and visit us some time on a Tuesday morning for a chat.

Peter B, Garden Gnome

It's a Wild World

I AM FORTUNATE to work at a University campus that is resplendent with green space. The University of Salford Peel Park campus is home to our 'living laboratory' which is part of a wider Greater Manchester greening initiative called IGNITION. Our 'living laboratory' includes a green wall on one of our School of Science, Engineering and Environment buildings, a green roof that consists of seven different types of habitat, a rain garden, and street trees. A large proportion of precipitation that falls in the area is diverted into an underground tank that stores the water for use in dry periods for watering plants across campus. Any excess rainfall beyond the storage capacity is allowed to slowly return to the environment, thereby slowing the flow to the nearby river Irwell that is prone to flooding. Across the 'living laboratory' there are a series of sensors that allow us to collect research data that can be used to explore the effectiveness of greening initiatives in combating the effects of climate change in the urban environment.

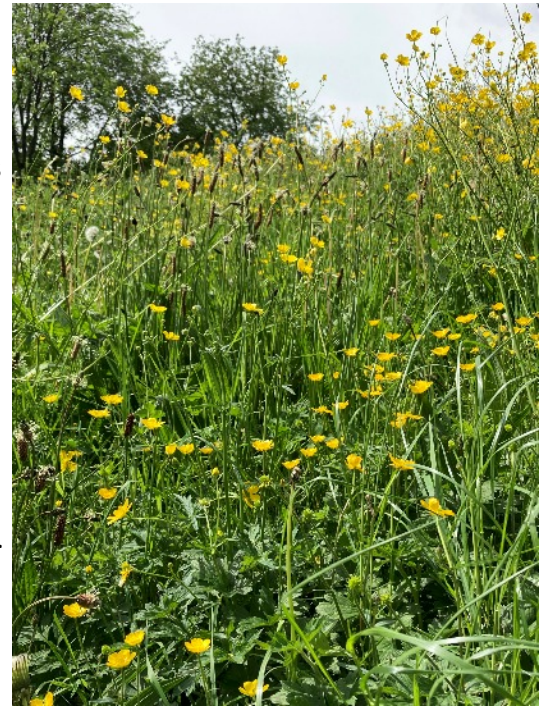


The nearby Peel Park, the Meadow and the river Irwell feel like an extension of campus and we use these areas in our teaching of geography and environmental science. Our students undertake soil analysis and water quality monitoring, tree carbon storage assessments, and ecological assessments, and in human geography we can explore the benefits of green space for human health and wellbeing. The campus and surrounding areas are fabulous environments recognised as high quality green

space with a prestigious Green Flag Award for the last five years running.

Peel Park is the oldest public park in the United Kingdom that was funded entirely by people's subscriptions. Opened in 1846, it was free to use and was a place of

recreation and leisure for Salford residents. Peel Park was also the subject of many paintings by L.S. Lowry who attended art classes at the Technical School that was situated in the Peel Building, now part of the University and the location of my current office. The park also famously features in David Lean's 1954 adaptation of *Hobson's Choice*, where Willie Mossop (John Mills) and Maggie Hobson (Brenda De Banzie) visit Peel Park on their first date. Later on the two sit on a bench next to the river





Irwell and Willie says 'I saw a river clean once... Sunday School outing...' as they look over the river at a skyline littered with factory chimneys. At the turn of this century the park became very run down and

inhospitable. A successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid has seen the redevelopment of the park since 2016 with the original planting beds seen in Hobson's Choice now reinstated.

Most days that I am on campus I will take a walk in Peel Park. It's good to get out of the office and spend some time in a green area. On a recent walk on a fine day I noticed that all around the edges of the park the vegetation has been left to regenerate naturally, a process sometimes referred to as rewilding. I call this 'messy nature' when I talk to my students – it reminds me of the nature that I was exposed to as a child, particularly from a



period of my life when we lived in an isolated part of Northumberland. These were formative experiences that triggered a love and interest in the natural environment and that influenced my study choices a few years later. But the natural world is now under significant threat with the World Wide Fund for Nature reporting a 70% decline in species abundance since 1970 due to habitat loss, climate change, invasive species, and pollution. Locally, species richness and abundance can also be affected by green spaces that are too 'well kept'. Allowing areas to regenerate naturally can provide opportunities to create diverse habitats that offer resources to plants and animals that are under threat. It can also help not to 'tidy up' green spaces, for example, leaving fallen branches provides a habitat for insects and shelter for mammals. Fallen leaves will degrade over time adding organic matter and nutrients to soils, which in turn helps to store carbon, thereby addressing climate change.



Recently, I was talking to one of my graduates who now works as a sustainability officer at the University, and she said that the rewilding included an initiative called 'No Mow May', which also supports one of the campaigns that she works on, the 'Hedgehog-Friendly Campus'. I produced my phone and said that she would be interested in a photograph that I had taken just a few days before – a hedgehog that I had seen on campus. She was so pleased because it showed that something must be working. So, if you have a garden why not let a part of it go wild and experience the beauty of 'messy nature' – you might even see hedgehogs.

Andy Clark

Music Be the Food of Fun

THE MAY MEETING of the Mothers' Union was held in the parish room and it became a room filled with beautiful sounds. Janet Neilson had agreed to come along and present a Musical Afternoon, but little did we expect that we, the audience, would have to earn our cup of tea! Janet started by explaining to us how a tuning fork worked in order for everyone to perform the correct note, then went on to show us the workings of the metronome. Both are fascinating to those of us whose musical education stopped after the third form of secondary school. We were then encouraged to join in a sing-song. Janet showed us instruments that she had collected during her trips to various places in the world, the way the local people had adapted seed pods and seeds to make sounds. These were passed around and before we could give them back we found that we were making the music with tambourines, triangles and rattles, taking many of us back to school and remembering 'music and movement' broadcast by the BBC. A very happy afternoon was had by all.



To finish we were able to wish Pat Durnall a very happy 90th birthday, presenting a cake with candles, flowers and singing "Happy Birthday" – and finally eating the cake!

Our next meeting is on Monday 10th June at 2.15pm when Linda Brooke will speak about 'My Times' and her time in all of the leading roles in civic life. Everybody is welcome.

Reflections on Meditation

YES, I HAVE changed the title. Thoughts on Meditation is too cerebral. Yes, I do some thinking about what I am going to write, but meditation is not about thinking or doing. It's about being. And that's a challenge.

Sitting still and being quiet don't come easily as we are swept along in the activity and rush of the world and with the demands placed upon us and that we place on ourselves. It's easy to think – and to think that we should be doing something.

Being silent, being quiet, can be uncomfortable. Thoughts come up. Sometimes trivial, sometimes more pressing, even negative. Sometimes undermining of ourselves and what we have done, not done, should have done and so on. That can be hard. Learning to be with them, to accept them, even smile at them and let them float by, is part of the practice. That's where returning to our breath, or to the "maranatha" mantra, can be of great help.

And we will have to do that time and time again. Which is fine. That's why we talk of having a meditation "practice". Meditation is not about success and failure. It's about practice. Every time we sit it's a new beginning a new opportunity to, as the psalmist says, "Be still and know that I am God."

One of the strangest things is that sitting together, meditating in silence, builds connection and community. Our next opportunity to practise and create community is on **Saturday 22nd June when we are holding a quiet half day at St George's from 10am till 1pm.** It includes an introduction to the World Community for Christian Meditation by Pat Higgins, their North West Co-ordinator, a mindful prayer walk and an opportunity to walk the

labyrinth. We end with a pizza lunch – vegan and gluten free included.

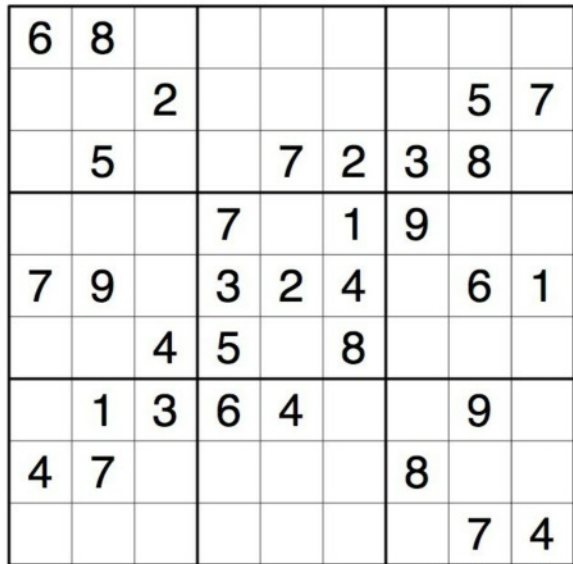
Everyone and anyone is welcome. **Please sign up on the list at the back of church** to give us an idea of numbers. There is no cost – except time and a willingness to "have a go", or rather, "to have a be!"

Chris Dawson

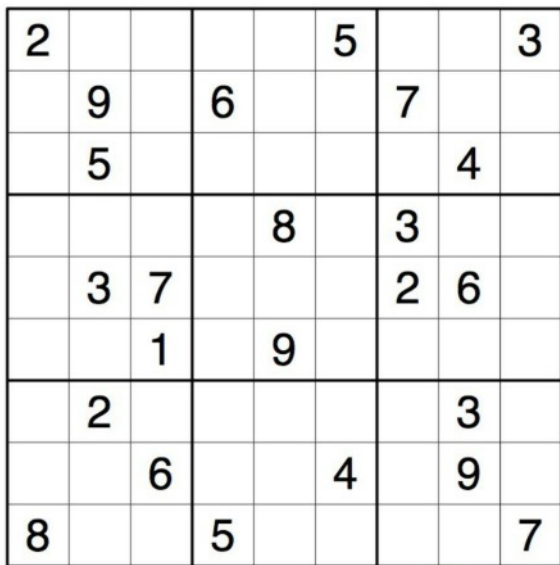


(photo: Louise Clark)

Sudoku puzzle: easy



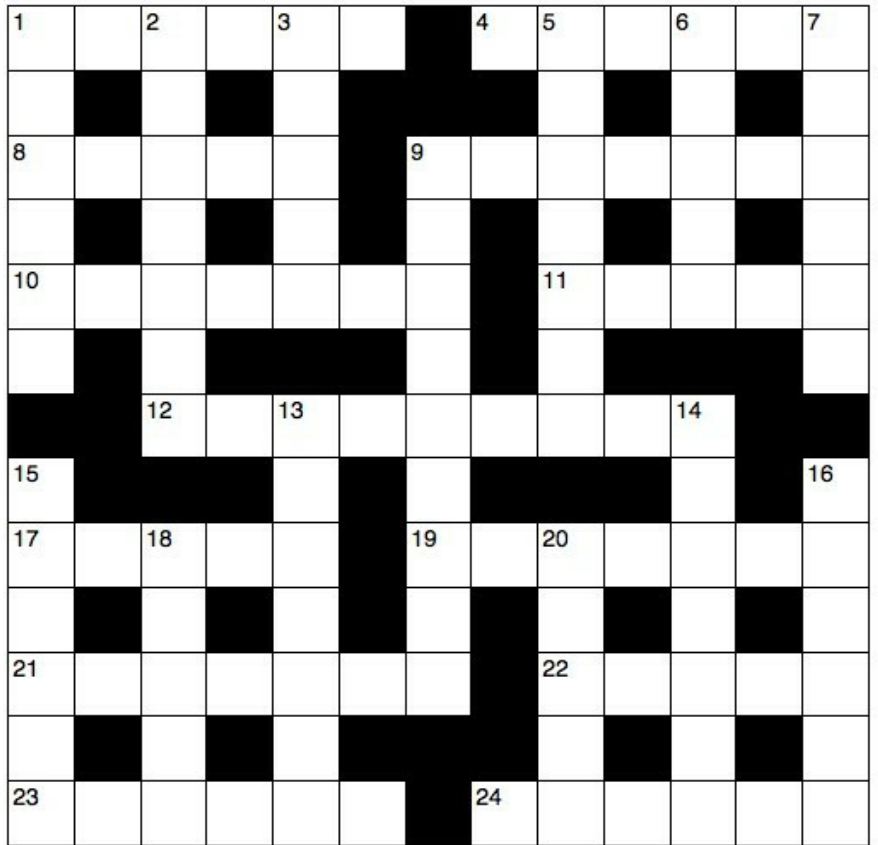
Sudoku puzzle: intermediate



(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 22)



Crossword



Across

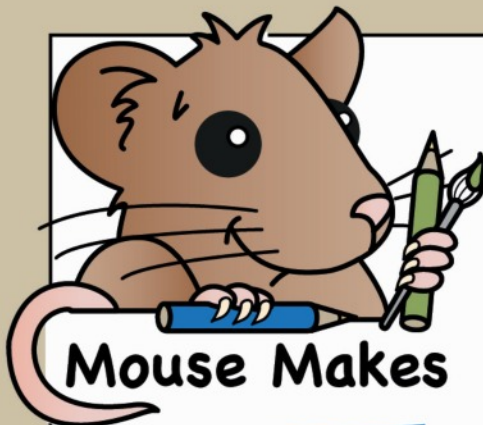
Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first

Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV.



Mouse Makes

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

TFF XIBU LJOE PG
MPWF UIF GBUIFS
IBT HJWFO UP VT
UIBU XF TIPVME
CF DBMMFE
DIJMESFO PG HPE
POF KPIO UISFF: POF

Solomon's father defeated a giant and became a King. Who was he?

1 Samuel 48-50

Whose daughter was healed by Jesus?

Mark 5:21

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

WHO IS MY FATHER?

Who was created by God and became the first father?

Genesis 2:20

Who had a son when he was very old?

Genesis 21:5

Shem Ham and Japheth's father built a huge boat, who was he?

Genesis 6:10-14

Who gave his son Joseph a robe of many colours?

Genesis 37:2-3



This Roman puzzle square reads the same from the top, bottom and sides and translates:
"Arepo the sower guides the wheel with skill."

ROTAS
OPERA
TENET
AREPO
SATOR

If you rearrange the letters it can spell **PATER NOSTER** which means **"Our Father"**.

A
P
A
T
E
R
N
O
S
T
E
R
O

Look up the Bible verses to find the fathers then look for them and the words below in the word search.

FATHER • GOD
SON • DAUGHTER
JOSEPH • ISAAC
MOSES • JOB
SOLOMON
ZECHARIAH
ZEBEDEE



Music Scheme – June 2024

Sunday 2 nd June – The First Sunday after Trinity			
<i>Services sung by the Steel City Choristers, Sheffield</i>			
10:15am	Parish Communion	4:00pm	Choral Evensong
Setting:	Communion Service in F – Darke	Hymns:	487 Jesus, good above all other, 97 Lord Jesus, think on me, 507 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Hymns:	619 When morning guilds the skies, 468 I danced in the morning... 505 Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us, 494 King of glory, King of peace,	Responses:	Smith Psalm: 35. 1-10
Anthem:	Peace I leave with you – Beach	Canticles:	Evening Service in B minor – Noble
Voluntary:	Nun Danket alle Gott, Op 65. 13 – Karg-Elert	Anthem:	In my Father's house – Stopford
		Voluntary:	Imperial March – Elgar

Sunday 9 th June – The Second Sunday after Trinity			
10:15am	Annual Pet Blessing Service	4:00pm	Evensong
Hymns:	250 All creatures of our God and King, Who put the colours in the rainbow? 251 All things bright and beautiful We are here to praise our living God,	Hymns:	369 All people that on earth do dwell, 385 Be thou my guardian and my guide, 13 Before the ending of the day,
Anthem:	Badgers and Hedgehogs – Carter	Responses:	Plainsong Psalm: 37. 1-11
Anthem:	Look at the world – Rutter	Canticles:	Plainsong
Voluntary:	Litanies – Alain	Anthem:	O sing joyfully – Batten
		Voluntary:	Voluntary in E minor – Stanley

Sunday 16 th June – The Third Sunday after Trinity	
10:15am	Parish Communion
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening
Hymns:	591 The kingdom of God is justice and joy, 270 Come, ye thankful people, come, 628 Ye that know the Lord is gracious, 503 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing,
Anthem:	Thou visitest the earth – Greene
Voluntary:	Trumpet Voluntary – Clarke
No Evening Service	

Sunday 23 rd June – The Fourth Sunday after Trinity	
10:15am	Parish Communion
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne
Hymns:	96 Jesu, lover of my soul, 413 Eternal Father, strong to save, 445 God moves in a mysterious way Will your anchor hold?
Anthem:	Do not be afraid – Stopford
Voluntary:	'Rondeau' – Purcell
No Evening Service	

Sunday 30 th June – The Fifth Sunday after Trinity			
10:15am	Parish Communion	4:00pm	Choral Evensong
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening	Hymns:	368 All my hope on God is founded; 537 O God, our help in ages past, 440 God be with you till we meet again,
Hymns:	6 New every morning is the love 475 Immortal love, for ever full, 375 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound 81 Lord, for the years...	Responses:	Ayleward Psalm: 52
Anthem:	The Lord's my shepherd – arr. Jacob	Canticles:	Evening Service A – Sumsion
Voluntary:	Praeludium in E minor BuxWV 143 – Buxtehude	Anthem:	O lorde, the maker of al thing – Joubert
		Voluntary:	Fantasia & Fugue in G Minor (BWV 542) – Bach

Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword solution:

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

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 the 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 device to keep messy spoons off the work surface (see right).



This month's mystery object (right) stands about 5" tall, is plastic and the slats can move outwards slightly, if required.
What am I?

Rosie Stead





Parish of St. George, Stockport with St. Gabriel, Adswold
Shining as a beacon for Christ



ST GEORGE'S ANNUAL PET SERVICE



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SUNDAY 9TH JUNE 10:15AM

St George's Church, Buxton Road, Stockport



Led by Rev. Dr. Jenny McKay,
The Reverend Vet



With special guests from
Alwood Donkeys, Wirral

The service will be followed by light refreshments

Recent Baptisms and Wedding



Cameron Lanata-White, Jordan Lee White and Liam Marc Lanata-Hutchinson were baptised on Sunday 5th May.



Coral Musaraj and Alice Cockburn (adult) were baptised on Sunday 12th May.

Bertie Hagan was also baptised on Sunday 12th May and is seen below along with his parents Frances and Jamie, who were married at St George's by Elaine in 2016.



Samuel Grinsted and Jade Turner were married at St George's on Saturday 18th May. *Photo by Heather Rose Duffy Photography*



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