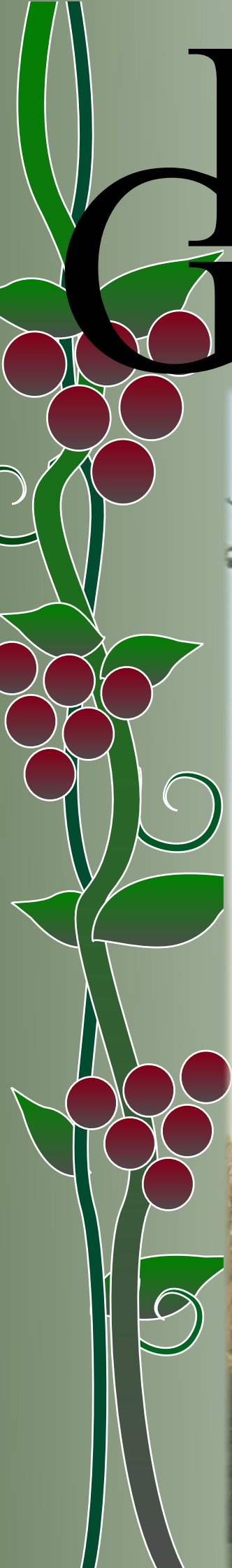


A monthly round-up of  
news, views, events  
and services at  
St George's, Heaviley,  
SK2 6NU,  
and St Gabriel's, Adswood  
*in the*  
*Parish of St George, Stockport.*  
[www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk](http://www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk)





## Harvest Festival Bounty

HERE ARE some photos from the St George's School Harvest Festival service in church. The tables were fairly groaning under the weight of the very many generous gifts provided by the families. The Wellspring was delighted to receive them. Also, we presented the first tub (and box) of unwanted pens, felt tips and Tippex containers to some of the representatives from the eco council. These will be recycled to make plastic products such as benches. The tub is back in church, ready and waiting to be refilled. *Elaine*



## Celebrating 30 Years of the Ordination of Women

ON FRIDAY 11th October, members of the clergy from around the country gathered at St Paul's Cathedral to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood. Amongst the celebrants was the Revd Liz Lever, the first female priest appointed to our parish. She had personally been invited, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, to the service. Also in attendance was the



Revd Veronica Hydon from Macclesfield (also from the Class of '94) pictured with Liz in one of these photos.

Bishop Sarah presided over the service on Friday evening, which was also

led and assisted by many female members of the clergy from across the Church of England. The service was attended by lay and ordained women from across parishes, sector ministry, theological education, cathedrals, community ministry, campaigning rôles and the leadership of dioceses.

Full details of the service can be found at: <https://bishopoflondon.org/news/celebration-of-the-30th-anniversary-of-the-ordination-of-women-takes-place-at-st-pauls-cathedral/>





## Jenny writes: Remembering from the Past

LAST MONTH, I walked the D-Day Beaches in Normandy with a Nordic Walking instructor, Ian Northcott, and the historical aspect of the trip was led by Stuart Baxter of Baxters' Battlefields Tours. The D-Day Normandy landings were the sea and airborne operations carried out by the Allies on 6th June 1944 in Operation Overlord during the Second World War. I was aware in only a cursory manner of the details, so this trip was a wonderful way to learn more and get fitter!

We sailed from Portsmouth to Caen (fortunately very calm!) and our first port of call was the Bayeux British Cemetery which provided a moving prelude to the remainder of the visit. This cemetery is the largest Commonwealth cemetery in France, holding over 4000 soldiers, and we learned that many of the D-Day landing soldiers were actually buried here, although many were unidentified.



Day 2 was a visit to Pegasus Bridge, a crucial bridge to take command of, in order to limit the effectiveness of a German counter-attack in the aftermath of the D-Day landings. Incredibly, many soldiers landed accurately at night in Horsa gliders and took Pegasus and other bridges within 10 minutes! We then walked 9 miles along the easternmost Sword Beach to Juno Beach. It was a peaceful, sunny afternoon and hard to imagine the carnage the beach would have seen at the time of the landings!

Day 3 was a 12.5 mile walk along the remainder of Juno Beach and Gold Beach. And along the way and the following day, we visited various museums, batteries, bunkers and memorials. The most profound moment for me was on the last day at the British Normandy Memorial opened in 2021. Commanding a view over the whole of the D-day beaches, and with memorials of others who fought in the war and survived, placed on the

edge of the dunes, the main Memorial itself records the names of the 22,442 servicemen and women under British command who fell on D-Day and during the Battle of Normandy in the summer of 1944. It was a "thin" place, very emotional with a great feeling of the loss there and of those now at peace.

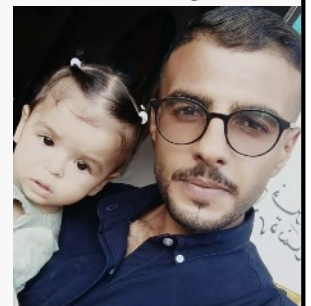
There was also a particularly poignant moment where we visited the La Cambe German Cemetery. The German cemeteries have a very different feel to the well-tended and pristine cemeteries of the Allies. Shaded, with dark grey unmarked crosses and limited information on the ground-based slab headstones, there was clearly a bleak feeling of darkness. Two Nazi officers were also buried there.

Along the whole trip, it was with deep sadness that I recalled that we never seem to learn from our wars, and that the path to peace lies in the absence of war. As we watch over a year of genocide of hundreds of thousands in Gaza, and now extending to Lebanon, I wonder what "our World War II boys" would have felt if they knew the world we lived in was so full of war even now. In the 1940's a genocide unfolded in quite a hidden sense, whereas genocide in 2024 is revealed in full detail online and through fear, guilt or other reasons, it is widely ignored.

We are a global village and we are not isolated from our neighbours across the world. I include an image to remind us that the Palestinians are real human beings, like us, wanting peace and a chance to live out their dreams too. I pray that my friend and veterinarian, Dr A'aed Abu Nejem and his little niece, Eileen, in Gaza, will survive and live to see an end to the current war. As we approach Remembrance Sunday, the act of remembering for all of us must be integrated into individual acts of calls for peace and an ending to injustice. We all have a part to play in this, to learn from the horrors of the past, and to ensure that God's Kingdom on earth comes close and as Isaiah foresees "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them".

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### What's Where...

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| P 2 Harvest Festival Bounty and Celebrating 30 Years of the Ordination of Women | P 10 Mothers' Union meeting for October and Reflections on Meditation                   | P 17 Feeling powerless about the products you buy?             |
| P 3 Clergy letter   | P 11 "Crabbit Old Woman"  | P 18 Children's Page   |
| P 4 Who's who   | P 12 Notice seen outside a pub  | P 19 Puzzles and cartoon                                       |
| P 5 Christmas Tree Festival   | P 14 Announcing a Wedding and Praise and Play   | P 20 The Sound Sphere's Demise!                                |
| P 6 Parish News Roundup   | P 15 Recipe of the month: Fruit and Nut Christmas Pudding Loaf and Harvest Thankfulness | P 21 Music Scheme  |
| P 7 Sue Cordingley Licensing and The Bears Are Back in Town                     | P 16 Harvest Sunday Sermon by Jenny   | P 22 Puzzle solutions, Regular Service Times, and God in Music |
| PP 8-9 A Service to celebrate the life of Bill Roughley                         |   | P 23 Recent Baptisms   |

## 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	Ring on Sundays 9.45-10.15am. Meet in the tower.
<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 Reading Fellowship Notes</b> Janet Neilson 483 9025 Notes are ordered on request.
<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>	contact the Parish Office: 480 2453  For 0-4s and their carers. Meet every Tuesday in term time, 10-11 in the Parish Rooms.	<b>Bible Study Groups</b> <i>contact the clergy</i> Study groups and courses are arranged from time to time.
<b>Readers</b>	Peter Hall 456 9382 Rita Waters 487 3620	<b>St Gabriel's</b>		<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>Churchwardens</b>	Andrew Regan 440 0408 Hazel Jenkins 483 4679	<b>Festival services</b>	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall 456 9382	<b>Church Flowers</b> Jean Hayden ( <i>donations</i> ) 483 2367
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Lois Kelly 439 9458	<b>Uniformed Groups with connections to St George's</b>		<b>Church Gardeners</b> Walter Stead 430 2449 Meet on Tuesdays 9.30-12.30.
<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>Coffee Mornings</b> In church, after the 10am service on Wednesdays.
<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>Cursillo</b> Usually meet on last Wednesday of the month. 7.30pm at different venues.
<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>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>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>Linen Guild</b> Pat Rigley 487 1999 Maintain the church's linen.
<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>Magazine Editorial Group</b> Meet monthly to plan future issues. <a href="mailto:magazine@stgeorgestockport.org.uk">magazine@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</a>
<b>Webmaster</b>	Peter Hall 456 9382	<b>Cubs</b>	For boys and girls aged 8-10½ Wednesdays 6.30-8.00	<b>Mothers' Union</b> Pat Durnall 483 4837 Meet on 2nd Monday of the month in the Parish Room at 2.15pm.
<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.	
<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 Cope			
<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:

Moon in the Morning  
by Andy Clark

### Services and Events in November

see pages 6 and 22





St George's Church, Buxton Road (A6)  
Stockport, SK2 6NU

# Christmas Tree Festival 2024

Wednesday 27th November 12:00 - 6:00pm  
Thursday 28th November 12:00 - 7:00pm  
Friday 29th November 12:00 - 8:00pm  
Saturday 30th November 10:00 - 6:00pm  
Sunday 1st December 12:00 - 4:00pm

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## Parish News Roundup

### Holy Baptism

None last month

### Holy Matrimony

None last month

### Funerals

3rd Oct Edna May Day at the Cypress Chapel.

8th Oct Alex Barrett

10th Oct Bill Roughley.

31st Oct Erika Szaniszló.

### Communion Flowers were sponsored as follows:

#### Main Altar

29th Sep from David Gittings, for Margaret.

6th Oct from the Stead family, in memory of Leslie and Lucy Williams.

13th Oct from the Buxton family, in loving memory of Elsie and Robert Buxton.

20th Oct in loving memory of Kathleen Heaward and her parents, George and Bertha Heaward.

27th Oct from The Garlick family, in loving memory of Wilfrid and Edith Garlick.

#### Chapel:

27th Oct in loving memory of Gordon and Margaret Sharrard.

## Parish News Roundup

### Mothers' Union

Our next meeting is on Monday November 11th at 2.15pm in the Parish room when Enid will show and help us to make 'Festive Treats' for us to give at Christmas. Everybody welcome; there is a meeting fee of £2.

### Services and Events in November

#### Celebration of Life Service

This will take place on **Sunday 3rd November** at 4pm in St George's Church, followed by afternoon tea. We welcome you warmly to attend as we give thanks for the lives of those people we knew. Please know that all are welcome whether a bereavement has been recent or some years ago. A list will be available on the table near the hymn books for people to write in the names for reading out during the service.

#### Remembrance Sunday.

10th November: Remembrance Service at 10.15am, followed by laying of wreaths at the War Memorial.

**Taizé style church service.** Sunday 10th November at 4pm. Turn up for 3.30pm so we can enable people to be seated. Live streamed.

#### Christ the King Evensong service:

Sunday 24th November at 4pm.

#### Christmas Tree Festival:

See page 5 for dates and times.

## Parish News Roundup

Father Christmas will be visiting the Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday morning and afternoon and also on Sunday afternoon.

**Advent Carol Service:** Sunday 1st December at 6.30pm.



### Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings:

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

### December 2024 – January 2025 Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Fri 15th Nov**  
Committee meeting: Tue 19th Nov

## 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 .....

## Sue Cordingley Licensing

AS MOST of you know, it was my Licensing Service on Saturday 12th October. I'm now a fully-fledged Pastoral Worker with a lovely badge and certificate to prove it.

Saturday marked the end of a 3-year course (it actually took me four years as I took a year out during Covid to help my youngest daughter with her first baby.) Where has that time gone?

I started, not knowing what I was letting myself in for. I found the first year Foundations for Ministry hard going. With each assignment I wanted to give up. But Rick, my husband, was a tower of strength for me and he would say, 'Keep going, even if you pass by one mark you've passed'. Much to my surprise I did quite well. I've since found out that the first year is now two twelve-week blocks, which is a much better idea. (So don't let my experience put any of off thinking of becoming a Pastoral Worker).

The next two years were much more me, this was the actual Pastoral Worker Training. Having been a General Nurse and a Mental Health Nurse and working in Children's Safeguarding, I found that I could relate to the themes of the course. We covered Families within the Church, Bereavement, Listening to God, Yourself and others and How to look after yourself in your Ministry. I found that my reflective skills improved and for my final assignment I completed seven reflective essays on different experiences I had encountered during the two years.

It was a great honour to be part of the course. My course mates were such wonderful and inspirational people. My tutors, Jenny Bridgeman, Simon Chesters, Janette Howe and Karen MacMillan, were amazing so helpful and motivating, I can't thank them enough.

## The Bears Are Back in Town

THE BEARS have been helping us to explain some of the stories from the Bible to our lovely children at St George's School when they come over to church for collective worship.

These three bears represented the three guests that Abraham invited in and showed them hospitality. You can see how well the children in Key Stage 1 (infants) interpreted that Bible story and that that they made our guests very welcome.

*Elaine*



*photo: Stephen Freeman, Chester Diocese Communications Department*

I would like to say thank you to my family for their encouragement and love.

Which brings me to thank everyone at St George's. Each and every one of you has helped me in some way. Maybe it was a comment, your encouragement or a hug at the right time – thank you.

The Ministry Team could not have been more helpful and encouraging. Elaine and Rita have listened to me and helped me – thank you both.

I also could not have gotten through without God listening to my prayers. He listened and sent Bible Readings during services to lift me and comments from people to keep me going. The reading that has followed me when I was feeling confused was Isaiah 43 1-4:

'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine'.

*Sue Cordingley*





# A Service to Celebrate the Life of William Henry Roughley ("Bill")

21st March 1936 - 21st September 2024

THE SERVICE was conducted in church by Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall, and also streamed online for the benefit of people unable to attend. Elaine welcomed everyone and said that Bill was very much a part of the church family at St George's, a lovely gentleman in every way, and that we would miss him. Bill loved a good sing, and the hymns during the service were those he enjoyed.

There were thoughts and memories from Bill's family, beginning with those from Stuart.

"William Henry Roughley. Where to start? If Bill were standing here, it would be 'Good morning, how are you all? Thank you for coming.' There the pleasantries would end, and the joking insults begin. 'Dad was always happy when he had an audience he could take the mickey out of.'"

Bill was born on 21st March 1936 around the corner from St Gabriel's church, the youngest of five children. He attended St Thomas' school on Hillgate and on leaving school he first became a labourer, working on various building sites around Stockport, and going on to work for Stockport Council Maintenance Department, where he was a Supervisor for many years.

Bill met Doreen in 1956 on a coach trip to Blackpool and they became engaged in 1958. Bill was doing National Service at the time and their courtship was mostly by letter – around 200 of them which are currently in two biscuit tins with Doreen at Plane Tree Court! They married at St George's on 26th September 1959, devoting themselves to each other and their family. They lived all their married lives on Beech Road until 12 months ago when Bill needed to go into care and was joined soon after by Doreen.

Stuart was born in 1960, followed five years later by twin boys, Graham and Paul, who sadly passed away shortly after birth due to health issues. Stuart has many happy memories, having been taught by Bill to enjoy life. Bill was a very keen crown green bowler, winning many trophies at Stockport Cricket Club's bowling green. They enjoyed countless weekends away with the club over the years and both Bill's and Doreen's lives revolved around the bowling green and the Cricket Club, often spending five or six days a week playing in various leagues. Bill's legacy to the club is a brick-walled archway in the members' lounge, which he built. He became President of

the club in 2004, a title he was very proud to hold for 20 years.

Bill supported Stuart in everything he wanted to do – singing in the choir at St George's, working on the buses (against everyone's advice!) and even tolerated him supporting Manchester City.

When Stuart and Jane married in 1982, he was on hand to help get their first home up to scratch. He adored his grandchildren, Adam and Kate. Weekends spent at Blackpool, watching the Waterloo Bowls finals and the Illuminations are still favourite memories shared by all.

Bill loved his cars, although his driving career wasn't totally without incident. Stuart recalls a time when he and Jane were with Bill speeding down Reddish Road at 36 mph followed by a police car. He was up to 42 mph when he was finally convinced to pull over. He told the police he was trying to get out of their way! In true William style he got away with it!

Bill loved his football, Manchester United being his team, and he would wear his cap everywhere, even in church. Stuart wishes he had a pound for every time his Dad said 'Stuff it, I'm never watching them again' – only to continue to support them.

Bill had many loves – his cats, the garden and his garden gnomes, also coming to church where he particularly enjoyed singing hymns, especially the rousing ones. His first venture to

St George's was to get married but he soon became involved in helping Doreen with whatever she was doing with Young Wives or church fayres and jumble sales. Parish Parties were held in the Town Hall in those days and Bill could always be relied upon to help set up tables for these occasions.

Jane recalls many fun times they had, especially being mistakenly thought of as a couple wanting to leave their toddler son, Adam, in his own room in a Blackpool guesthouse. She thanked Bill for the fun and laughter they shared.

Bill's grandson, Adam, affectionately called AP (Adam Paul) by his Grandad, recalls summer Saturday afternoons at cricket where Bill was more than happy to sit with Gran and watch Adam keep wicket for three hours, then bat for about five minutes! Long before Adam knew what cricket







really was, he recalls running around the Cricket Club bowling green thinking his Grandad was the most popular man he'd ever seen. He was definitely the kind of Grandad you met for a drink at the club on a Wednesday night rather than call round for dinner. Adam much preferred the can of coke and Mars bar to the questionable pie his Grandad once served him. No knife in the world was sharp enough to cut through the brick he thought was food to say nothing of the amount of salt he'd used. Adam enjoyed taking his Grandad to watch Manchester United play, even though he secretly supported the opposition. He was a wonderful Grandad and a wonderful man who taught Adam what it was to be an extremely active member of a sports' club. For that, Adam will be forever grateful.

Bill's granddaughter, Kate, feels she has lost her best friend, and the other pea in the pod, as people always said they were like two peas in a pod when they were together. All through her childhood and now as an adult, Bill was always there for her, filling her heart with happiness and warmth with his big cuddles. Kate said she would do anything to hear him say, "You stupid girl!" again, always when she had done something to make him laugh (even when he should have been telling her off.) Christmas was always Kate's favourite when they would go to church and Bill would jiggle his keys in his pocket during the hymns, making Stuart think something was wrong with the organ! Bill got excited when Adam and Kate got new toys, and he could play with them together. He liked to play on Kate's touch screen phone, so she decided to get him one. That went down like a lead balloon, and he never did get the hang of it. Kate remembers New Year's Eve at the club

when they would put up decorations and balloons and Bill once falling through the false ceiling in doing so. She has fond memories of being in the car and Bill singing along to ABBA which he thought was 'proper' music. Her thoughts finished with, "Once again, Grandad, you have been my best friend."

Stuart ended by thanking the staff at Plane Tree Court Nursing Home for their care, kindness and support to all of them. On behalf of Doreen, Jane, Adam and Kate, Stuart thanked Bill from the bottom of their hearts for being a devoted Husband, an amazing Dad, spectacular Father-in-law, and a wonderful and fun-loving Grandad. Also for others, being a great uncle, colleague, president, but more than anything being a good friend to all. As Bill would say, "It's been marvellous."

In her address, Elaine spoke of love, reminding us that Jesus commanded we love one another, and that God is the source of all love. Marriage and family life were all-important to Bill. Married for almost 65 years, he and Doreen stayed close to each other. Even in Bill's declining years, they stayed emotionally and physically close in Plane Tree Court where neither he nor Doreen left each other's side.

Engaging with love and sharing that love with family and friends was key to who Bill was and is.

Jane read a poem:

'Afterglow' by Helen Lowrie Marshall, with the final line adapted for the occasion:

*I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.*

*I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.*

*I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways  
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny  
days.*

*I'd like the tears of those that grieve to dry before the sun  
Of happy memories that I leave, now my life is done.*

Music during the service:

Entry music: Nimrod: Variations on Enigma by Elgar

Hymns: Stand up, stand up for Jesus

Onward Christian Soldiers

O Worship the King

The Day Thou Gavest

The choir sang the Nunc Dimittis

Exit music: Toccata: from Symphony No.5 by Charles-Marie Widor

(proper organ music according to Bill!!)

*Edited version of the addresses*

*Kate Stephenson*

## Mothers' Union meeting for October



WE HAD a very well attended meeting on Monday and were pleased to enrol another member to the group, Vicar Elaine enrolled Marissa and we have a photo to show.

We welcomed Elmira Khoshrouz and Matthew Hartley from 'Visiting Angels' as our speakers. 'Visiting Angels' are a one-stop company who will give help and advice on a wide variety of

care options. There is help available, but it does take time and a lot of effort to find what is right for you. After an assessment to see what help and care is needed, there are several ways in which the money may be accessed:

- by the local authority who will select the providers and have control over times and days,
- or a direct payment to the client who will make their own choice of provider and have more control of times and days,
- or you may have no local authority input and just want us to provide help and support and are willing to pay all costs.



*photos by Hazel Jenkins*

"Meditation is the steady flame of a lamp sheltered in a windless place."

The Bhagavad Gita

ALL THE MAJOR religions have a contemplative strain within them, in which meditation, silence and being present in the moment are highly valued. It's there in Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. Indeed it is central to Buddhist practice, though Buddhism would probably see itself more as a spiritual practice than a religion.

Sitting alongside other forms of prayer, meditation has been described as "pure prayer." It is certainly about connection, connection with self, with others and ultimately with God. Though it may seem counter-intuitive, meditation builds connection and community, most obviously when we meditate together as a group. A bond is formed through silence. Less obviously, through regular meditation we create a closer and more loving connection with ourselves and this gradually informs our relationships with others. We become more accepting, more tolerant and more loving.

The more regularly we practise, the more these connections grow – with ourselves, with others and with God. But it's not like going to the gym to exercise and bulk up our muscle mass. It's not about effort and trying, but about letting go and being. And, as we know, that doesn't always come easily – distractions, concerns and thoughts interrupt us – and that is OK. It's about gently returning to the breath, the phrase, the mantra. Whatever is right for us.

The Bhagavad Gita is a sacred Hindu text composed in about 200 B.C. The image it gives of a steady flame sheltered in a windless place, captures meditation perfectly for me. It is, of course, a picture of the ideal. We know that thoughts and agitations flicker the flame. But we also know how to come back to the present and steady it.

The dates for our once-a-month Sunday sessions are as follows: 24th November and 15th December. We gather for half an hour at 12 noon in the Lady Chapel, after the morning service. Everyone and anyone is welcome.

*Chris Dawson*



## "Crabbit Old Woman" by Phyllis McCormack

*This poem was used by Elaine at the October meeting of the Mothers' Union, members of which have asked if it could be included in the magazine.*

What do you see, nurse, what do you see?  
What are you thinking, when you look at me -  
A crabbit old woman, not very wise,  
Uncertain of habit, with far-away eyes,  
Who dribbles her food and makes no reply  
When you say in a loud voice, I do wish you'd try.  
Who seems not to notice the things that you do  
And forever is losing a stocking or shoe.  
Who, unresisting or not; lets you do as you will  
With bathing and feeding the long day is fill.  
Is that what you're thinking, Is that what you see?  
Then open your eyes, nurse, you're looking at me.  
I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still!  
As I rise at your bidding, as I eat at your will.  
I'm a small child of 10 with a father and mother,  
Brothers and sisters, who loved one another-  
A young girl of 16 with wings on her feet, Dreaming that  
soon now a lover she'll meet,  
A bride soon at 20 - my heart gives a leap, Recalling the  
vows that I promised to keep.

At 25 now I have young of my own who need me to build a  
secure happy home;

A woman of 30, my young now grow fast, Bound to each  
other with ties that should last;

At 40, my young sons have grown and are gone, But my  
man is beside me to see I don't mourn;

At 50 once more babies play around my knee, Again we  
know children, my loved one and me.

Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead, I look at the  
future, I shudder with dread,

For my young are all rearing young ones of their own.  
And I think of the years and the love that I've known;

I'm an old woman now and nature is cruel - Tis her jest to  
make old age look like a fool.

The body is crumbled, grace and vigour depart,

There is now a stone where I once had a heart,

But inside this old carcass, a young girl still dwells,

And now and again my battered heart swells,

I remember the joy, I remember the pain,

And I'm loving and living life over again.

I think of the years all too few- gone too fast.

And accept the stark fact that nothing can last-

So open your eyes, nurse, open and see, Not a crabbit old  
woman, look closer – See Me.

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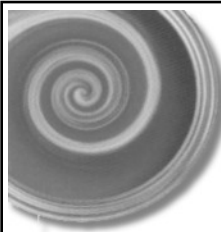
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A notice seen recently outside  
a pub on the A6 Buxton Road





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## Announcing a Wedding

WE THOUGHT we would share with you a couple of photos from our grandson's wedding, which we attended on the 21st of September this year. The wedding was held at **St Bartholomew and All Saints Church, in Royal Wootton Bassett**. The church is a lovely little church, and we recommend that if you are in the vicinity then you visit and meet the ministers.

After the service we all went outside for photos. During this time the Town Crier announced the wedding to the local population. It so happened there was a competition, an annual event in Wootton, for Town Criers. As we returned to the cars, the Town Criers gathered around with the Mayor and Town's officials to give the newly married couple their blessings. A wonderful gesture, we thought.

We continued from there to a local village hall for the reception and wedding feast. We ate roast beef, a pudding and cheese. In the evening celebrations continued and a whole roast hog (spit-roast pig) was enjoyed by all. We had a wonderful weekend with all our family together.

*Olwen and Peter Smith*



## Praise and Play

HERE IS a photo of Tracey, one of the leaders of Praise and Play, telling children about the sneaky snake, who seems to have wrapped himself around her! Praise and Play is open for babies to pre-school plus their parent or carer. We meet in the large parish room on Tuesdays in term time from 10am to 11am. All are very welcome. If you feel you'd like to come and help then just have a chat with Tracey, Sue, Andrea or Elaine.

*Elaine*

*We can all have an opportunity to wear the birthday hat (photo: Hazel Jenkins)*





## Recipe of the month: Fruit and Nut Christmas Pudding Loaf

*I must start by saying I have not yet tried this recipe but think it looks good. It can be frozen for 8 weeks before Christmas or made up to 4 weeks beforehand and kept in the fridge.*

Serves 8.

400g mixed dried fruit  
85g glacé cherries, roughly chopped  
1 cooking apple, about 175g, peeled and grated  
Zest 1 orange and 1 lemon  
150ml apple juice  
2 tbsps brandy  
2 tbsps Cointreau (or use extra brandy)  
140g butter, plus a bit for greasing  
140g dark muscovado sugar  
2 large eggs, beaten  
85g self raising flour  
100g white breadcrumbs  
2 tbsps golden syrup or honey  
2 tsp mixed spice  
1 tsp ground cinnamon  
1/2 tsp salt  
25g toasted nuts (pecan/hazelnut/blanched almonds) roughly chopped

For the topping:

50g butter  
50g dark muscovado sugar  
1 tbsp golden syrup  
1 tbsp brandy  
25g each toasted hazelnuts, pecan nuts, blanched almonds and glacé cherries, left whole

Put the dried fruit, cherries, apple, zests, apple juice, brandy and Cointreau in a bowl and microwave on high for 1 minute. Leave overnight to soak.

Butter and line a 2lb loaf tin. Heat oven to 180 °C/160 °C fan/gas mk4. Put a kettle on to boil and have a roasting tin ready, together with some buttered foil.

Beat butter and sugar together until it is a little paler, then stir in eggs, flour, breadcrumbs, syrup/honey, spices, salt, soaked fruit and nuts. When all is mixed together spoon into the loaf tin and smooth the top. Scrunch the foil loosely over the tin, twisting the corners to tighten it round the edges. Put it in the roasting tin and pour round a few cms boiling water. Carefully move to the oven and bake for 40 mins. After that time turn oven down to 160 °C/140 °C fan/gas mk3. Cook for another 1½ hours, topping up the water occasionally as necessary.

To reheat the pudding, either put in the oven in its tin for 30 mins or microwave on a serving plate for 5 mins on medium heat. For the topping, gently heat butter, sugar and syrup together until the sugar dissolves, then stir in brandy, nuts and cherries. Spoon over top of the hot pudding before serving.

For a more traditional shaped pudding cook in a 2-litre pudding basin which has been buttered and base lined with a circle of baking paper. Fill the basin with the mixture, cover with pleated baking paper and foil and tie with string. Put in a large pan, fill half way up with boiling water and steam for 3 hours, topping up the boiling water as necessary.

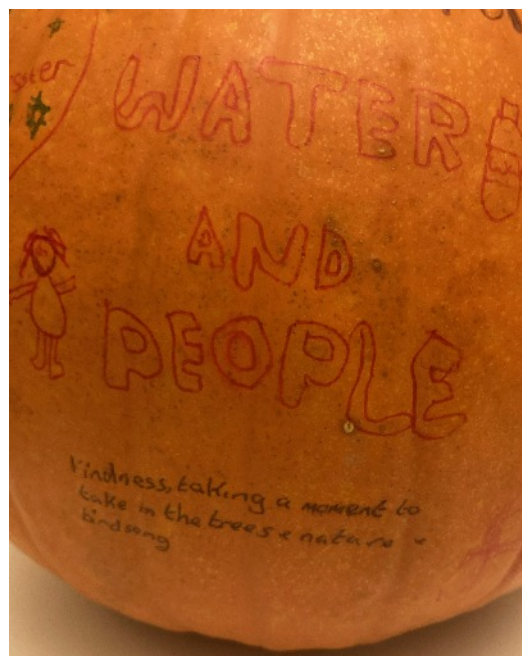
*Pamela Ferguson*

## Harvest Thankfulness

DURING THE RECENT harvest festival service our youngsters shared their own thoughts and expressed their thanks by writing on a "thankfulness pumpkin". They were thankful for a wide range of things such as the world that

God has given to us and the resources within it, our God-given talents, siblings, school, and very specifically, cucumber, a favourite of one of our choristers.

*Andy Clark*



# Harvest Sunday Sermon by Jenny on 13th October

*I was asked to publish my Harvest Sunday Sermon based on Mark 10: verses 17-31*

TODAY, on Harvest Festival Sunday, we give thanks to God for the beauty and richness of the wonderful creation we live in. For all of us, it's a time to stop and remember that life is a gift from God and to be treasured by us all. We live in one world, a global village, shared literally with the birds of the air, and the animals of the earth (anthem). As a human race, we must remember that we are made in the image and likeness of God. We share a common humanity, and most people are good and kind. We only have to look at the generosity here today.

But there is inequality and injustice in our world, isn't there, and today's Gospel reading really invites us to think about our relationship with our possessions, and there's no better Sunday for that than Harvest Festival. We've handed over the tins of food, the fruits and vegetables but where next? Jesus really challenges us today in the Gospel reading to examine our relationship with possessions and money.

Did you know that this is the only story in the Gospels of Jesus directly inviting someone to follow him and them refusing? And the reason the rich man refuses is that he can't let go of his possessions. He's not a bad man. He has been keeping the commandments since his youth and Jesus lists these. However, he does miss out the commandment "Thou shall not covet", which of course is all about being satisfied with what we have and not nurturing a desire for what belongs to others. Jesus seems to know that this is the man's weakness. Jesus also adds in another commandment, "You shall not defraud. Again, perhaps Jesus is seeing something in this young man that he wants to draw attention to: is there something not quite right about his accumulation of wealth??

I read a very interesting tale recently where the hoarding of gold was literally the downfall of some people. In 1859, the ship, the Royal Charter, set sail from Melbourne, destined for Liverpool, carrying an estimated £17 million worth of gold and around 370 passengers, including gold prospectors, bringing home their findings from the gold rush that had taken so many people to seek their fortunes. They kept their riches close, with gold nuggets sewn into their clothing. On the night of 25th October, with the ship only three hours from Liverpool, a hurricane blew up. The wind was so strong that the anchor chains were broken and the ship was driven into the rocks off the Isle of Anglesey, where, pounded by waves, she broke up and quickly sank. Most, including crew, died, many of them pulled down into the waters by the weight of the gold they carried. They were literally weighed down by their possessions and it was the end of them in that dreadful hurricane.

And we've had another hurricane recently, haven't we? Hurricane Milton sweeping across Florida. The climate

scientists have said that Hurricane Milton was made worse by climate change. Global warming made wind speeds around 10% stronger and rainfall greater by between 20% and 30%, according to an analysis by World Weather Attribution. Milton intensified from a Category 1 storm into a tempestuous Category 5 in less than 24 hours, feeding off record-warm waters in the Gulf of Mexico. This extra heat made Milton the third-fastest intensifying Atlantic hurricane on record, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said, with maximum sustained wind speeds reaching 180 mph.

So I would suggest that we not only think of ways of being generous in material ways, but that it is important to think of care and generosity in the general care and thoughtfulness we can exert around our own everyday activities, which can contribute to this, our biggest existential threat: climate change.

Of course, we need much more than our individual actions to stop the climate emergency, but we can begin by thinking of where our food comes from. Was it grown locally or was it airborne? Was it seasonal British food or was it a luxury fruit flown in to make us feel we were still living in the summer? These are other ways of thinking of generosity in terms of being good stewards of our planet.

But back to our Gospel reading. What did this young man really desire? It's there in the question he asks of Jesus "What must I do to inherit eternal life? One theologian and former Bishop of Durham, Nicholas Wright, has suggested that the question rather than meaning "How do I get to heaven when I die"? may mean "How can I be part of that promised Kingdom on earth here and now", a world saved and transformed by God. Perhaps he wants to be part of that picture. Perhaps he senses that his material wealth is not enough and will never satisfy him in this life.

So what about us? Do we fall into the same category as this man who had many possessions? Does the suggestion of go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor leave us shocked? Do we love our possessions so much that we would turn down an invitation to follow Jesus? My interpretation would be, and you can take it or leave it, that we don't all necessarily have to sell all we have and give it to the poor. But we do need to be ready to give, to be generous when God calls us to. Like so many things generosity needs to be practised. Perhaps the young man was terrified at the idea of giving away of his wealth because he never had given any of it away. Giving financially, to church or to charities, is part of what it means to follow Jesus. Because that is what keeps us from being pulled down, as that ship was, by the weight of our own possessions. It's how we work with God to bring about God's Kingdom on earth, a world of freedom, justice and peace; how we can have treasure here and now, on earth as it is in heaven.



And, just to finish, one very practical way is not to buy products from companies which, through their profits, are complicit in the killing of innocent children, operating on land that does not belong to them or their profits being used in loans and underwriting to military technology and weapons companies. I've put a leaflet about this at the

back of church (please see flyer in magazine) and even if you choose one product not to buy or consume, it is a help and you are playing your part in creating a better world and sowing the seeds of love and hope in the lives of others and building a treasure for them, here and now, on earth as it is in heaven.



photo by [Erik-Jan Leusink](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## Feeling powerless about the products you buy?

[URL: https://bdsmovement.net/get-involved/what-to-boycott](https://bdsmovement.net/get-involved/what-to-boycott)

*Check the labels of products you buy and companies you use which are linked to human rights abuses. You may be surprised!! Try removing just one or two from your buying list!*

### **Avoid purchases of**

- KitKat
- Danone
- Twix
- Sprite
- Coca-Cola
- Pepsi
- Bounty
- Snickers

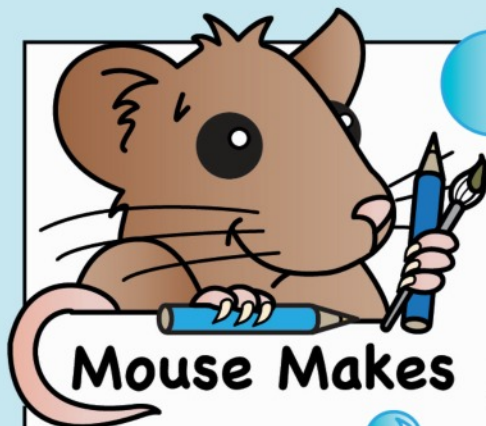
- Nescafe
- Pringles
- Kinder
- M&Ms

### **And purchases from**

- Amazon
- Starbucks
- Costa Coffee
- McDonald's, KFC, Burger King

**Thank you from the children of the world**





## Mouse Makes



### READ

the story in  
**John 13:1-17**

### "DO AS I HAVE DONE FOR YOU."

The disciples had met with Jesus in an upper room to share a meal together, but there were no servants to wash their dusty feet. Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer clothing, wrapped a towel around his waist and began to wash the disciples' feet just like a servant would do.

Then Jesus said:

*"Do you understand what I have done for you?  
Now that I, your Lord and Teacher have washed  
your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.  
I have set you an example, that you should  
do as I have done for you."*



By washing his disciples' feet, Jesus showed that as God's people we are never too important to serve and care for others.

S C L O T H I N G S  
N U N D E R S T A N D T  
G S W I P E T E R E W R  
W D A U A S E R V A N T A E H M  
A O R P S C L E A N X O T X O A  
I U M P H I J E S U S W E A T S  
S F E E T P A S S O V E R M H T  
T E N R B L E S S E D L L P E E  
K E T X T E A C H E R O O L R R  
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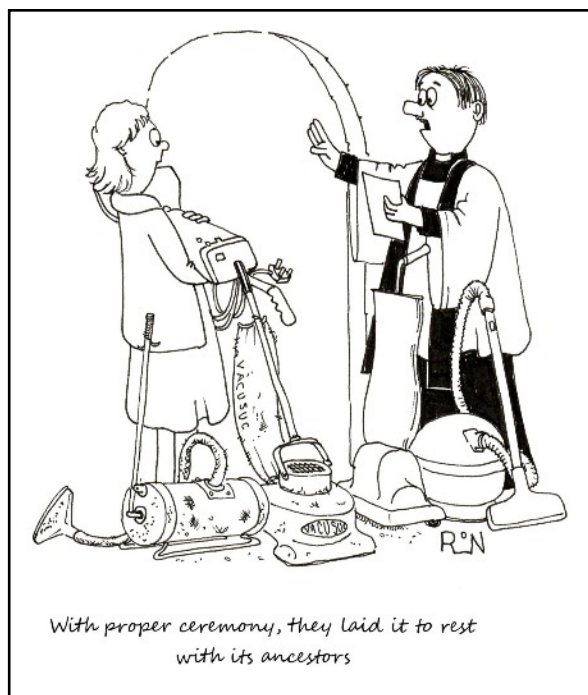
## Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

## Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 22)



## Crossword

[illegible]

### Across

- 1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)
- 9 'No — , impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)
- 10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)
- 11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)
- 13 Taverns (4)
- 16 'Be on your guard; stand — in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)
- 17 'He will not always — , nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)
- 18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1–2) (4,4)
- 20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)
- 21 She married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)
- 22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)
- 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)
- 25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)
- 28 Annie (anag.) (5)
- 29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)
- 30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)

**Down**

- 2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
- 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
- 4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)
- 5 — Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)
- 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)
- 7 'Our — is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)
- 8 'This is a day you are to — ' (Exodus 12:14) (11)
- 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)
- 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it' (John 12:14) (3)
- 15 Liverpool dialect (6)
- 19 'Remember the — day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)
- 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)
- 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)
- 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)
- 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)
- 27 See 18 Across



# The Sound Sphere's Demise!

WHICH SOUNDS rather like a horror story but isn't.

After various quotations for scaffolding to remove the sound sphere from the rafters, we eventually contacted a company called Working Heights.



Dan and Josh were a great team and removed the now defunct sound sphere, which was serving no useful purpose, and brought it down to earth, safely and carefully.

How did they do it? The pictures show part of the story but to get the rope over

the high beam they used a catapult with a weight on the end of a fine line and fired it over the beam. It was a bullseye in one – much to their delight! – so they then attached a strong rope and hauled it over.

While they were working up high, we asked if they could change the failed light bulbs on either side of the nave, so as soon as they had removed one bulb, Hazel went to the suppliers and managed to get five new bulbs.



Dan then went up onto the gallery where the lights are and, roped and helmeted, inched his way along and changed the light bulbs.

The middle rope was passed to him, and he then swung into the middle and using a device called an ascender was able to climb up the rope to the top. Once there, he severed the chain using a battery angle grinder – did you



even know such things existed? The sphere was then lowered safely to the ground where we weighed it, 23 kg, which is 50 lb in old money or 3.6 stone.

The two chaps were great to work with, amazingly efficient and very respectful of the space they were working in. Also, we now have a much brighter church although two lights still don't work, and this is because there is a fault in the unit.

All in all an exciting and productive morning.

*Hazel Jenkins*







## Music Scheme – November 2024



Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November – All Souls'		
	<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>Be a Chorister for a day Collective Worship</b>
	<b>Introit:</b>	If you believe and I believe – arr. Weaver
	<b>Hymns:</b>	251 All things bright and beautiful SP314 The Lord's my Shepherd 513 Lord the light of your love is shining
	<b>Anthem:</b>	Lead me, Lord – Wesley
	<b>Voluntary:</b>	Fanfare: Shine, Jesus, Shine – Tambling

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November – All Saints' & All Souls' (Transferred)			
<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>Annual Celebration of Life Service</b>
<b>Setting:</b>	Mass of St Thomas – Thorne	<b>Introit:</b>	Crossing the bar – Arbo
<b>Hymns:</b>	232 For all the saints, who from their... 482 Jerusalem the golden, 466 How shall I sing that majesty? 227 Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days	<b>Hymns:</b>	455 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer, 375 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, 507 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
<b>Anthem:</b>	Never weatherbeaten sail – Wood	<b>Psalm:</b>	46 [From Luther]
<b>Voluntary:</b>	Wine of peace – Camilleri	<b>Anthem:</b>	Come to me – Hill
		<b>Voluntary:</b>	Cantilene – Archer

Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Sunday			
<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Remembrance Sunday Service</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>Taizé Service</b>
<b>Setting:</b>	The Hadleigh Service – Ridout	<b>See Order of Service for details</b>	
<b>Hymns:</b>	413 Eternal Father, strong to save, 355 I vow to thee, my country, 455 Guide me, O thou great Redeemer, 537 O God, our help in ages past,		
<b>Anthem:</b>	Crossing the bar – Arbo		
<b>Voluntary:</b>	No Organ Voluntary		

Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> November – The Second Sunday before Advent			
<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>No Evening Service</b>	
<b>Setting:</b>	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening		
<b>Hymns:</b>	368 All my hope on God is founded; 214 Disposer supreme, and Judge of the earth, 547 Oft in danger, oft in woe, 356 Judge eternal, throned in splendour,		
<b>Anthem:</b>	Lead me, Lord – Wesley		
<b>Voluntary:</b>	Voluntary in D minor – Croft		

Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> November – Christ the King			
<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>	165 Christ is the King! O friends rejoice; 568 Sing alleluia forth ye saints on high, 22 The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
<b>Hymns:</b>	563 Rejoice! The Lord is King, 505 Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us, 278 Alleluia, sing to Jesus 497 Let all the world in every corner sing,	<b>Responses:</b>	Wilby <b>Psalm:</b> 72
<b>Anthem:</b>	King of all ages – Isom	<b>Canticles:</b>	Evening Service in D – Brewer
<b>Voluntary:</b>	March from Scipio – Handel	<b>Anthem:</b>	Mighty, glorious is God the Father – Bach
		<b>Voluntary:</b>	Chorale Prelude on 'Gelobt sei Gott' – Willan

## Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword solution:

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

## Regular Services at St George's

### Services in church:

#### 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)

## God in Music

*The Rev Michael Burgess looks at great works of music*

### 'Glorious the song when God's the theme': 'Valiant-for-Truth'

"What a composer has to do is to find out the real message he has to convey to the community and say it directly and without equivocation... if the roots of your art are firmly planted in your own soil, and that soil has anything individual to give you, you may still gain the whole world and not lose your own souls." Those are words of the composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams, from a lecture of 1932.

Over 90 years later, we rejoice that the message of his music still speaks to us from those deep roots, which included folksong, poetry and the heritage of Tudor composers, that nourished his own compositions. It is difficult to imagine church life and worship without his glowing hymn tunes of Down Ampney ('Come down, O Love divine) and Sine Nomine ('For all the saints'), without his rapturous settings of George Herbert and the mass, and without the Oxford Book of Carols, Songs of Praise and the English Hymnal of which he was the musical editor.

Vaughan Williams was born in 1872, the son of Margaret and Arthur, the vicar of Down Ampney in Gloucestershire. He began collecting folk songs and composing after studying in London. Although he made such an important contribution to Christian music, he remained an agnostic throughout his life, albeit an agnostic of great visionary fervour. Poetry and prose were powerful sources of inspiration, and he set Shakespeare, J M Synge, Edmund Spenser, Walt Whitman, and, for this month's article, John Bunyan.

Bunyan was imprisoned in Bedford gaol in 1660 for his preaching. Confined to a cell for 12 years, he wrote a

powerful allegory on the Christian journey, The Pilgrim's Progress. It prompted several works by Vaughan Williams: a cantata, a large opera, and a short, but intense choral work, Valiant-for-Truth. The opera took more than 40 years to complete, and Vaughan Williams used the name Pilgrim for the hero, rather than Bunyan's Christian, for he wanted the work to speak to people of all beliefs. Within that long period of germination, he focused on one particular pilgrim, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, in a motet composed in 1940 on the death of a friend, Dorothy Longman.

The motet is certainly not as well-known and well-loved as one of his more popular works, The Lark Ascending of 1914. There the music traces the journey of the bird as its flight weaves ever higher and higher, dissolving into the shimmering skies above. The motet is a much surer pilgrimage that arrives at the Eternal City. It is a glorious piece of word painting. We hear the hero telling his friends that the final stage of the journey has arrived. He gives away his sword, his courage and his skill, but he keeps the scars of life to witness to his discipleship. As he crosses the river of death, the music moves magically from major to minor. The trumpets begin to sound, quietly and distantly to begin with, but growing louder and louder, as they welcome him to the other side, when the fanfares in Bb major move triumphantly to the final G major.

In this month of All Souls, we remember with thanksgiving all those who, like Mr Valiant-for-Truth, have crossed that river to reach the heavenly Jerusalem. We pray for that quality of valour for truth in our own pilgrimage, and we give thanks for the remarkable vision of truth, and its companions, beauty and goodness, that we find in the music of Vaughan Williams.



## Recent Baptisms



Alice Mary Grundy was baptised on Saturday 28th September



Louis Michael Bradshaw was baptised on Sunday 29th September and is seen here with his parents Alex and Leah.



Hallie Evelyn Lowe, baptised on 30th June, with her parents, Callum and Vicky



On 14th July we had a lovely joint family baptism with Milo John Keighron and parents, Rebekah and Nicholas (left), and also baby Archie Stone with his parents Natasha and Samuel (right).





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Please e-mail contributions to:

**[magazine@stgeorgestockport.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stgeorgestockport.org.uk)**

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