

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Chester

December  
January

2024  
2025



# Parish Grapevine

£1.20

*A monthly round-up of  
news, views, events  
and services at  
St George's, Heaviley,  
SK2 6NU,  
and St Gabriel's, Adswold  
in the  
Parish of St George, Stockport.*

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

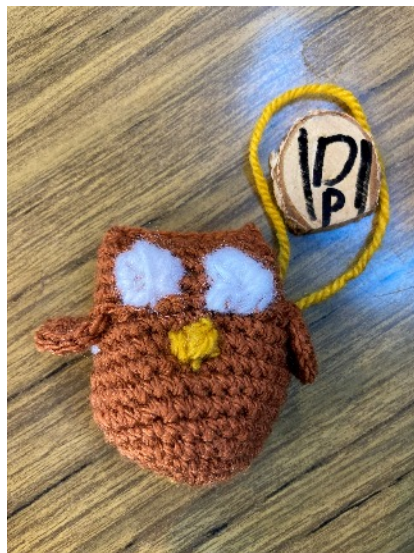




## Sunday Clubs Preparing for the Christmas Tree Festival

OUR SUNDAY CLUBS children have been working on decorations for our Christmas Tree Festival tree. This is the second year that we have been invited to participate in the Lyme Park Festival which runs until early January. The theme at Lyme this year is animals, and we have chosen to focus on woodland friends. The children are creating faces on woolly owls and depicting woodland creatures on wooden discs, so our tree will again be eco-friendly, fitting in nicely with the aims of the National Trust and our own Eco Church goals.

*Louise Clark*







## Elaine writes:

I love the film *Sister Act*. There's one bit in it when Whoopi Goldberg, as Sister Mary Clarence, is training the nuns to sing on key. Sister Alma, the pianist, drifts off as the rehearsal gets under way. Needing a series of notes, Sister Mary Clarence stamps her

foot to gain the nun's attention, and yells, "Alma! Check your battery!" Sister Alma's hearing aid batteries had run out of juice.

In more recent days, I had a need to check my battery. I had been out to the local supermarket to get some things for baking and, as usual, bought just slightly more than I could comfortably carry.

I headed off to the car, located the key fob and pressed. Nothing. I tried again, closer to the vehicle this time. Still nothing. I put the shopping on the ground, worked my way around the car to see if there was a secret, well-hidden lock so I could use the key. Well, secret and hidden it remained, so I was stuck.

Thankfully, a knight in shining armour arrived – well actually it was a lovely man called Kenny, who I stopped to ask for help because I recognised the Mercian regiment fleece that he was wearing. I'd had a number of fabulous opportunities to work alongside the Mercian and Cheshire Regiment veterans so I knew he'd do his best.

Sadly, no joy. I was resigned to walking home from Councillor Lane with an uneven, and rather heavy load of shopping.

My knight in shining armour/Mercian fleecy offered to drive me to Davenport, even though he was en route

somewhere with his daughter. A good Samaritan most definitely.

The thing is that all of this could have been avoided. The sensor on the dashboard had been telling me to change the key fob batteries for some days. I thought I'd get round to it or I'd pick up Peter's keys and use them.

Checking our batteries has a particular significance at this time of year. We rush around, hoping to achieve what we set out to achieve, and invariably fail dismally with our to-do list.

We take on too many things and don't take any time to refuel and reset. We become irritated by others. We push through the tiredness when our bodies are telling us to rest. We add too many things to a diary that is already full and spread ourselves so thinly that we barely have the strength to do the things we actually want to do.

"Check your battery" – but our batteries are dead. We feel stranded and we hope we are going to be rescued, and when we are, we paint on the face that indicates that everything is OK when people offer to help us. Accept their support.

"Check your battery" because people have been intimating that you are doing too much and that you've not met up with them for months. Listen to them.

"Check your battery" because Christmas will come and go and it will have been endured instead of enjoyed. Stay in the moment.

"Check your battery" and put your batteries on recharge so that you will be fully equipped for the weeks ahead.

*'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.'* Mt 11:28

Have a blissful Christmas, engage in the reality that God himself has come into our midst in human form and take the time simply to be.

With every blessing to you this Christmas time and in the New Year.

Elaine

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

<b>Vicar</b>	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall <a href="mailto:vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk">vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</a> 456 9382	<b>Sunday Clubs</b>	Ask for Louise, Eliza or Andy at the 10:15 Sunday service. Eliza 07967 798453 Louise 483 3703	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 Otle 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>	Sue Cordingley 07365 519207 <a href="mailto:safeguarding@stgeorgestockport.org.uk">safeguarding@stgeorgestockport.org.uk</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:**

by Louise Clark

**Services and Events in  
December/January**

see pages 6, 7 and 26



## Recipe of the Month: Christmas Pudding Ice Cream

*Some people are not keen on traditional Christmas pudding, but ice cream usually seems to go down well. You can add more fruit if you like – sultanas/mixed peel/cherries. One benefit of this is that it is all done well before it's needed.*

*For the mincemeat:*

150g/6oz raisins  
100g/4oz dried cranberries  
100g/4oz pistachios or pecans, toasted and chopped  
Grated zest 1 lemon and 1 orange  
1 tsp cinnamon  
1 tsp ginger  
1/4 tsp nutmeg  
240ml/8 fl oz orange juice  
60ml/2 fl oz alcohol – Cointreau/Grand Marnier/  
Brandy

*For the ice cream:*

400ml can sweetened condensed milk  
500ml double cream

Mix all mincemeat ingredients and set aside for 2 hours or overnight so that the fruit can soak up the liquid. Grease 2litre pudding basin and line with cling film so that it hangs over the edge of the basin.

Beat the condensed milk and cream together until fairly stiff, then add the soaked fruit. Mix well and pour into the lined basin. Tap on worktop to disperse any bubbles. Freeze 5-6 hours or preferably overnight.

To serve, take out of the freezer and after 15 mins invert onto a plate. Leave for another 15 mins then remove the bowl and clingfilm. Top with a sprig of holly.

*Pamela Ferguson*

## Gate of the Year by Minnie Louise Haskins

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:  
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".*

*And he replied:*

*"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.*

*That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".*

*So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.*

It's always helpful to reflect on the past year, what we have learned about ourselves and the world, what has been a challenge or what has been a success.

I am always grateful for the huge amount of effort people take to do just that and then write about it so we can celebrate and remember together as part of our annual report.

To start to prepare this significant document in readiness for the Church Annual Meeting on Sunday 27th April, we would appreciate each group leader providing an account of what has happened in this year up to December 2024 and maybe some hopes, thoughts and dreams to aspire to.

Please could you get these to [reader@stgeorgestockport.org.uk](mailto:reader@stgeorgestockport.org.uk) by the end of January. Thank you.

*Elaine*

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## Parish News Roundup

### Holy Baptism

17th Nov Leah Jane Robinson

### Holy Matrimony

9th Nov Michael Owen and  
Rebecca Campbell.

### Funerals

None last month

### Communion Flowers were sponsored as follows

#### Main Altar:

3rd Nov from the Lees family, in loving memory of Geoffrey and Cynthia

10th Nov from Janet Neilson, in loving memory of the Oldham and Gosling families.

17th Nov from the Choir, for St Cecilia's Day

24th Nov Christmas Tree Festival

#### Chapel:

3rd Nov from Wendy Simpson, in loving memory of Cyril and James Hindley

### Floodlighting was sponsored as follows:

1st Nov from Gill Hudson, remembering my friend, Peter Pilbeam on his birthday.

29th Nov in memory of our little brother, Adrian McCall, loved and missed, from Marion, Loraine, David and Sue.

## Parish News Roundup

### Mothers' Union

Our next meeting will be on **Monday December 9th** at 2.15pm when at great expense (two mince pies) we have our Director of Music, James Hibbert presenting his 'Christmas Desert Island Discs'. Festive refreshments will be served, everybody welcome.

Our meeting in January will be on **Monday 13th January** at 2.15pm when we will learn more about the symbols, vessels and colours used in our services. The subject will be of interest to many of our church family. Both meetings will be held in the Parish room.

### Christmas Carols

Who doesn't love a Christmas Carol, or perhaps an Advent Carol or even an Epiphany Carol?

If so, come along to our Advent Carol Service on **Sunday 1st December**, our Christmas Carol Service on **Sunday 22nd** and our Epiphany Carol Service on **Sunday 5th January 2025**, all at 6.30pm.

In the meantime, how about coming to St Gabriel's in Adswood? The church is on the corner of Garner's Lane and Clover Avenue. We are holding a community Carol service there on **Sunday 8th December** at 4pm.

Then on **10th December**, the Children's Society Carol Singing in the community starts at Davenport Manor at 6pm.

## Parish News Roundup

There will be lots of carols from our visiting school choirs and then we're back in action on **Saturday 21st** for Carols Round the tree near Davenport Station at 10am.

Our Christmas Carol service is as above and then there is an opportunity to entertain the residents of Bamford Close on **23rd December** at 4.30pm.

Start practising now!

### Toy Service

**Sunday 8th December** at 10.15am.

This gives us the opportunity to support families at our local Refuge with toys for children, gifts for young people and also for their mothers.

We are asking for new toys and gifts, which don't need to be wrapped in Christmas paper, and which can be sweets, chocolates, wrapping paper, cosmetics, or gifts sets, along with toys for various ages.

Should we be fortunate in having a lot of items donated, then any remainder will support those who are refugees and asylum seekers. Thank you.

### Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings:

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

### February 2025

#### Grapevine magazine dates:

Deadline copy date: **Fri 17th Jan**  
Committee meeting: Tue 21st Jan

## 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 .....



# Advent and Christmas Services and Events



Date	Time	Event
Sun 1st Dec	12noon – 3pm	Christmas Tree Festival
Sun 1st Dec	6.30pm	Advent Carol Service
Tue 3rd Dec	7.30pm	Stockport Schools' Festival
Wed 4th Dec	7.30pm	Stockport Schools' Festival
Sat 7th Dec	7.30pm	St George's Singers
Sun 8th Dec	10.15am	Toy Service (please bring new toys to support those at the Refuge)
Sun 8th Dec	12noon – 2.00pm	Messy Church for children
Sun 8th Dec	4pm	Community Carols at St Gabriel's
Mon 9th Dec	2.15pm	Mothers' Union: Desert Island Christmas discs
Tue 10th Dec	6pm	Children's Society Carol Singing
Sat 14th Dec	5pm	Maia Choir Carol Concert
Mon 16th Dec	5.30pm set up, 7pm start	Great Moor Infants Carol Service
Tue 17th Dec	Juniors. Start 7pm	Stockport Grammar School Carol Service
Wed 18th Dec	Seniors. Start 7pm	Stockport Grammar School Carol Service
Thur 19th Dec	2pm	St George's School Carols
Fri 20th Dec	7.30pm	Matt Glossop Concert
Sat 21st Dec	10am	Carols around the tree near Davenport Station
Sat 21st Dec	7pm – 9pm	Messy Church for adults
Sun 22nd Dec	6.30pm	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
<b>Tue 24th Dec Christmas Eve</b>	1.30pm, 3.30pm and 5.30pm	Christingle Services
	11.30pm	Christmas Eve Communion Service
<b>Wed 25th Dec Christmas Day</b>	8am and 10.15am	Christmas Day Services
Sun 5th Jan	6.30pm	Epiphany Carol Service



## It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

FOR ME, music is therapy. It has been a constant force in my life for as long as I can remember, whether that is collecting and listening on vinyl and CD or playing instruments and writing songs. From aged 15 to my mid-20s I played with friends in a band, sometimes driving the neighbours mad by playing loudly in our shed, kitchen, hall and bedroom. For listening to music I particularly like vinyl, and am frequently found digging around in dingy record stores and charity shops to unearth gems from the past. It still brings me a tingle of excitement to find a rare record at a reasonable price – the hunter-gatherer instinct driving the search. For my last birthday my brother bought me a T-shirt emblazoned with 'it's not hoarding if it is vinyl' but I think he is trying to tell me something.

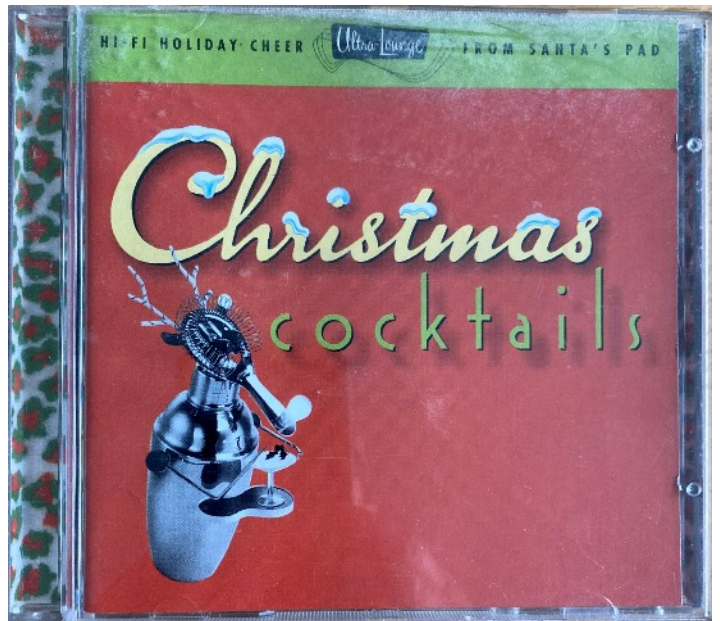
Given this background, it may not come as much of a surprise that I have a growing collection of Christmas music on vinyl and CD. One of my jobs before Christmas is to get out the music ready for playing over the festive season.



One early entry in the collection and a firm favourite is a concert recording of Maddy Prior and the Carnival band. The album contains a mix of religious and secular songs drawing on folk traditions with tunes from as early as 16th century, played on less familiar instruments such as shawms, curtal and Breughel bagpipes. A good many of these were written or arranged by Isaac Watts (1674-1748). There are some familiar carols sung to less familiar melodies and, I think, often much more interesting. For example, Away in a Manger is sung to a melody hailing from the USA in the late 19th century. This turns what I often think of as a bit of a dirge to a joyous celebration of Jesus' birth. I would love to hear our choir sing it this way. We have since added other equally wonderful Maddy Prior Christmas albums to our collection.



In a similar vein is a series of beautiful Christmas albums by Barnsley folk singer Kate Rusby. She grew up with traditional folk music, and her whole family would go from pub to pub singing traditional Christmas songs. She has multiple versions of While Shepherds Watched their Flocks, including one sung to the tune of On Ilkla Moor Baht 'at.



One CD that is often played on Christmas morning is Christmas Cocktails, a strange but highly enjoyable collection of 'lounge jazz' versions of classic Christmas songs. Last Christmas I added Peggy Lee's Christmas album to the collection.

We all love Cyndi Lauper's Merry Christmas... Have a nice life! This takes the listener on a journey from the joyous (Home on Christmas Day) to the hilarious (Minnie and Santa) and ends with beautiful renditions of In the Bleak Midwinter and Silent Night. Similarly, a firm favourite is an album called It's a Cool Cool Christmas, released in 2000 to support the Big Issue.





Finally, one of my personal favourites is the Doris Day Christmas Album. I have always loved Doris Day and distinctly remember acting out scenes from Calamity Jane in the playground at junior school on my own. I didn't identify with either of the male characters - I had to be Calamity!

As Andy Williams once sang it is the most wonderful time of the year.

*Andy Clark*

## Christingle



THE SYMBOLISM of the traditional Christingle highlights different important parts of the Christian story of Jesus. The orange represents the earth and the candle represents Jesus as the light of the world. The red ribbon tied around the orange represents the blood of Jesus, the fruits pushed onto cocktail sticks represent the gifts that we are given to share,

and the silver foil reflects the light of Christ which we are all called to do.

The Christingle tradition is said to be traced back to 1747, when a Moravian bishop, Johannes de Watteville, was looking for a simple way of telling the story of Jesus. The Christingle was later popularised in the UK in 1948 at Lincoln Cathedral by John Pensom, who was raising funds for the Children's Society. This lovely tradition carries on today.

Services will be at St George's on Christmas Eve at 1.30pm for our very young children and their families, 3.30pm for the slightly older, and then at 5.30pm for those who are allowed to stay up a bit later. The service structure will generally be the same and each person will have the opportunity to build their own Christingle in the service. Adults are welcome at all services.





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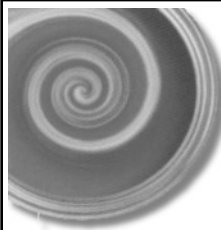
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*Silent Night, The truth from above, In the bleak midwinter,  
Candlelight Carol, Ding dong! merrily on high,  
Deck the hall with boughs of holly.*

**Saturday 14th December 2024  
5pm**

**St George's Church,  
Buxton Road, Stockport SK2 6NW**

Adults **£12.50**, Under 18s **£5**  
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[www.themaiaingers.co.uk](http://www.themaiaingers.co.uk)





## Mothers' Union – What's in the Box?

THE NOVEMBER MEETING was held in the Parish Room, made ready by the elves and fairies and warm and cosy. The topic was 'Festive Treats' and we were led by member Enid. We had asked her to help us make items that would be acceptable for Christmas, and she came up with boxes.

Enid brought along kits for everybody, providing cardboard cut-outs for base and lid in a wide selection of colours and designs, toppers for decoration and tissue for packaging. Typical of us, we didn't listen to all the instructions and tried to make up the bases with the tabs outside instead of inside, so we had to listen and start again! When the corners were glued together, our glue was purple! But we were assured it would dry clear; paperclips were put on to hold the corners in place until the glue dried. Then on to the lid, having learnt by our mistakes and these were quicker and easier to do! The second box progressed much faster! We were then allowed to decorate the outside with peel offs, put in the tissue and fill with chocolates.



We were thrilled with our efforts, and, as one member said, it was the best craft afternoon since primary school, and another intended to take one of hers to a friend who has to stay in at the moment.

Thank you, Enid, for a very enjoyable, informative and entertaining afternoon.



At our December meeting on Monday 9th December we will welcome our own Director of Music, James Hibbert, with his 'Christmas Desert Island Discs'; everybody is welcome and we will serve seasonal refreshments.



Pat R will speak at the January meeting on Monday 13th January 2025, when she will introduce us, give the history and meaning of the symbols, articles and colours that we use at the services in church.

We welcome everybody to all our meetings.



## St Gabriel's – Fresh Start

SOME OF YOU will be aware that since May St Gabriel's has had a makeover. This has been led by Jackie Vandyes whose DIY skills are extensive. With Elaine's help the Thursday Tidy Team was started, to help Jackie tidy up the grounds as well as the building which has received very little TLC in recent years.



Overgrown bushes and a tree have been cutback, the children's play area cleaned and the grass cut. Benches which had been hiding in the bushes have been stained to protect them. Just before Hallowe'en the GoodGym Stockport spent an evening helping to clear the bush and shrubs which were overhanging the pavement on the cul-de-sac behind the church and bagged everything up to be taken to the tip.

There was a clear-out of out-of-date foodstuffs and children's toys which had accumulated over the years inside the church. The kitchen has been decluttered and cleaned and the accessible toilet cleaned and redecorated. Guttering has been put up to protect the front door (which is due to be replaced soon) and the rest of the gutters round the church have been cleared.

The Jubilee Room has also been given some care and attention. The door and windows have been stained and weather-proofed. The gutters around the Jubilee Room have also been cleared, and the tree that was growing in the roof and guttering has been removed! The eaves which were falling off have also been repaired.



At the start of October we had a meeting with Pam Robinson, the Community Development Manager at St Matthew's, who gave us some ideas for funding for materials to help with the makeover. Thanks to Pam we received a grant of £500 from The High Sheriff Trust to pay for a petrol mower, new flooring for the Jubilee Room and paint. She also introduced Jackie to community groups who might be able to help. The Community Project Group have agreed to come and paint the inside of the Jubilee Room and put down the new flooring. They will also clean the patio area behind the Jubilee Room, sort out the hedges and the rest of the garden, and paint the inside of the fence around St Gabriel's.



Plans for further improvements include getting a new kitchen and a new accessible toilet and repairing the fence which is falling down. To raise the money needed to do this work we will be applying for grants and a JustGiving web page is in the process of being set up, with the link to be made available soon.







St Gabriel's is currently being hired by Stockport Pentecostal Church at weekends, but with the makeover it is hoped that other community groups will use it during the week.

If you haven't ever been down to St Gabriel's or you haven't been down there recently, please do pay a visit so you can appreciate just how it has been improved.



*Lois Kelly*

## Reflections on Meditation

MAKING TIME for a regular meditation practice can seem a bit daunting, something of a challenge when we already have so much to do. Ah, "to do" – that's the thing, isn't it, we humans tend to be about "doing". Doing nothing is a luxury, or even a sign of sloth and idleness. And yet, and yet, what if just being quietly in this moment were what enabled us to be at our best, our most effective, our most fulfilled? What if letting go control, even for a moment, were the most powerful thing we could do – even the thing that brought us most in contact with God?

Meditation is simple, but not easy. Starting something new and unfamiliar and sustaining it, particularly on our own, is challenging. That's why being part of a group helps. Silence is challenging too. We're used to sound and noise around us. And when we enter silence, distractions arise from within, all those thoughts about this and that. Then we judge ourselves as a failure and give up.

But what about starting really small – catching those moments that can occur anywhere, at any time, those moments when, however briefly, we stop to be with what is, there in front of us, when we allow our attention to focus gently, say, on an autumn leaf or a bird singing? When we say nothing we notice, we breathe and we edge forward to a deeper and more regular meditation practice.

A blackbird singing,  
God is, I am, we all are.  
Between is silence.

Our next once-a-month Sunday session is on 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*



# ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AT ST GEORGE'S AN



*Bishop Sam visited St George's in January to officiate at the baptism and confirmation service.*



*Lilly Hydaryan was baptised in August by her Granda, Revd Brian Robinson.*



*Children from St George's Primary School re-enacted the Easter story with Elaine.*



*Revd Jane Crook joined us as a curate in February.*



*The sound sphere was removed from its lofty height in October.*



*Sol Hulton-Bristol was baptised by full immersion in February. This was one of 34 baptisms this year, including 10 adults.*



*Sue Cordingley was licensed as a pastoral worker at Chester Cathedral in October.*



# ST GABRIEL'S OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS



*Andrew Mayes installing the new chamber organ in February.*



*Alton Hebhard and Patricia Bailey were married at St George's in July. A total of seven weddings were held at St George's this year.*



*Members of St George's enjoyed a coach trip to Llandudno in April.*



*Pat Durnall celebrated her 90th birthday at the Mothers' Union meeting in May.*



*Coral Musaraj and Alice Cockburn (adult) were baptised in May.*



*The choir sang for services at Blackburn Cathedral on their summer tour.*



## Jean is always up for a spin on the dancefloor

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# Reflection for Remembrance Sunday

AS WE GATHER to commemorate Remembrance Sunday, we are drawn into a deep and solemn space where we honour the sacrifice of countless individuals who have served and fallen in wars throughout history. This day, marked by silence and reflection, beckons us to remember not only the bravery and dedication of these individuals but also the profound impact of war on families, communities, and nations.

In the Christian tradition, remembrance is deeply rooted in our faith. We recall the words of Jesus at the Last Supper, “Do this in remembrance of me.” Just as we remember Christ's sacrifice, today we remember those who have laid down their lives for the freedoms we cherish. Each poppy we wear, whether red (in memory of those lost in war), purple (remembering animals lost in war) or white (praying for peace globally), serves as a poignant reminder of the lives lost and the families forever altered by conflict.

As we observe our period of silence, let us allow ourselves to feel the weight of this remembrance. In that silence, we are not only honouring the past but also acknowledging the pain and loss that resonates through generations. We remember the stories of those who fought bravely, but we must also remember the innocent lives affected by war – the children who grew up without parents, the spouses who faced an uncertain future, and the communities left to grapple with the aftermath of violence.

Particularly today, as we also reflect on the ongoing conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza and Lebanon, it is crucial to recognise what we may have failed to learn from history. Despite the lessons of sacrifice and the human cost of war, it seems we often repeat the same patterns of violence and discord. The past reminds us of the fragility of peace, yet time and again, we find ourselves in cycles of conflict.

The wars, particularly in Gaza and Lebanon, remind us that the consequences of violence extend far beyond the battlefield. They leave scars not only on the land but also on the hearts of people. Families are torn apart, dreams are shattered, and the very fabric of community is frayed. In our remembrance today, we must ask ourselves: What have we learned? And importantly, what have we not learned?

Have we learned to value dialogue over division? To prioritise understanding over hatred? The Christian call to love our neighbours as ourselves seems distant in the face of such suffering. We are reminded that peace is not merely the absence of conflict but the presence of justice, understanding, and compassion.

Today, let us not only remember those who have fallen but also call for wisdom and courage in our responses to ongoing conflicts. We must recognize that every act of violence creates ripples that affect us all. All people caught up in today's wars deserve our empathy and our

prayers. Their stories, often overshadowed by political narratives, remind us of our shared humanity.

Today, let us commit ourselves to being peacemakers in a world that desperately needs healing. Our faith calls us to action—not just in prayer but in advocacy for peace, justice, and reconciliation. We are challenged to confront the injustices that lead to conflict and to work towards a future where dialogue prevails over discord.

May our remembrance inspire us to strive for a world where love conquers hate, where understanding overcomes division, and where the peace we seek is not just a distant hope but a present reality. Give us all courage to be instruments of God's love in a broken world. Amen.

*Jenny*



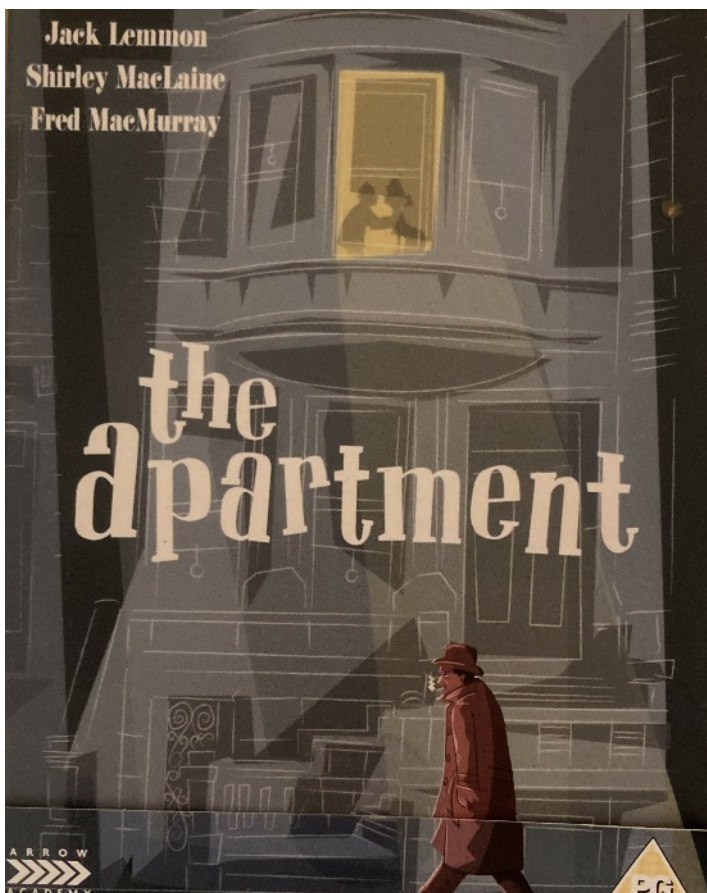


## One More Sleep 'Til Christmas

I COME from a family of film enthusiasts and this love of moving pictures has been passed on to our children. My early memories of living in Malta in the late 1960s and early 1970s revolve around the beach and the cinema, as we would start school early in the morning and finish in the early afternoon, allowing us time to visit one or the other attractions. At that time you could still go into the cinema half way through a film, watch to the end and then stay to catch the first half.

In the run-up to Christmas and over the festive season we have particular films that we watch, some of which are always enjoyed on a specific day.

My all-time favourite film is *The Apartment*, written, directed and produced by Billy Wilder. The film won multiple Oscars in 1960, including best picture and best director along with three others. Wilder was originally a scriptwriter and famously became a director only because he was dismayed by other directors changing his scripts. Although this film is set at Christmas and New Year it is not exactly festive, having a cynical but funny first half and a rather dark second half. I used to watch this at any time of the year, but more recently I have established the tradition of always viewing it on my birthday, 15th December which is a signal to the rest of the family that they can start watching Christmas films.



A firm family favourite is *Trading Places* (1984), which links to Billy Wilder by being a latter-day screwball comedy with a brilliant cast that includes Don Ameche, who appeared in the Wilder-scripted *Midnight* in 1939.



This is always a 'must watch' in the period running up to Christmas and is probably the most quoted film during conversations around the Clark family dinner table (at all times of the year).

Come Christmas Eve there is only one film that we must watch. Following our traditional dinner of stew (now vegan) and my special layered potatoes (a bit like Dauphinoise but much nicer!) we do the washing up and prepare the vegetables for the next day and then settle down in front of the TV. What is the film? Well, of course, it is *The Muppet Christmas Carol*, which is apparently the adaptation closest to Dickens' classic story, although I







think that the design and feel closely echo *Scrooge* starring Alastair Sim from 1951.

Sofi has just about convinced me that *The Green Knight* (2021) is a Christmas film, given that the action involving Sir Gawain and the Green Knight takes place on Christmas Day. Regardless, it is a wonderful retelling of this medieval story. I'm sure that we will be watching it again this year.

I have many other favourites, including *Desk Set* (1957), a less well-known film starring Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn about a computer introduced to replace the staff in a research department of a big TV network, proving that fears of computers and AI taking over the world are not a new phenomenon. I also love *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946) although the rest of the family beg to differ; it's certainly not Frank Capra's best film. Finally, a film which I would recommend to everyone is *The Shop Around the Corner* (1940), a wonderfully funny and romantic film set at Christmas and directed by Ernst Lubitsch – the only director that Billy Wilder would trust with his scripts.

Andy Clark

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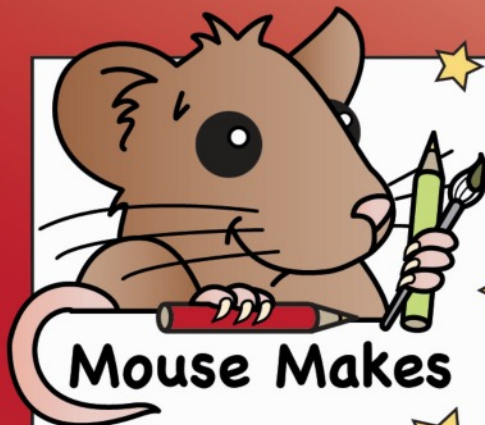
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## Mouse Makes

"Jesus said,  
I am the \_\_\_\_ Y  
and the \_\_\_\_ U \_\_\_\_  
and the \_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_.  
No one comes to the Father  
except through me."  
*John 14:6*

"The child to be born  
will be called  
H \_\_\_\_ , the  
\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_"  
*Luke 1:35*

"For unto you is born  
this day a  
S \_\_\_\_ who is  
\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_  
the \_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_"  
*Luke 2:11*

## THE GREATEST GIFT

"She will bear a son,  
and shall call his name

\_\_\_\_\_  
for he will save his  
people from their sins."  
*Matthew 1:21*

"Jesus said,  
I am the

\_\_\_\_\_  
and the life."  
*John 11:25*

B L I G H T L O  
R A Y W O J J R  
E M M A N U E L  
A B Y J E S O  
D S A V I O U R  
S A V R J S D

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

**JESUS**  
—  
**THE**  
**GREATEST**  
**GIFT**  
**OF ALL!**

P R O P H E T I  
R E D E E M E R  
I E M I L I G  
E M E S S I A H  
S R M E G F T  
T E A C H E R E

E V E R L A S T I N G  
K I N G O F K I N G S  
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S E S O N O F G O D D  
S E W O C O U W O R D  
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Find the words from the Bible verses too!

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## Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

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## Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 26)



## Crossword

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

### Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
- 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
- 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
- 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
- 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
- 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
- 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
- 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
- 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
- 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
- 23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

### Down

- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)
- 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)
- 4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)
- 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
- 6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
- 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
- 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)
- 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
- 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
- 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)
- 18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)
- 19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)



## Trees of Christmases Past

Here is a selection of photos from St George's Christmas Tree Festivals in previous years. This year's festival will be in full swing as this issue appears!  
*All photos are by Louise Clark*



2010



2011



2013



2015



2018



2022



2023





## Music Scheme – December 2024



Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December – The First Sunday of Advent			
10:15am	Parish Communion	6:30pm	The Advent Carol Service
Setting:	The Addington Service – Shephard	See Order of Service for details	
Hymns:	32 O come, O come, Emmanuel, 31 Lo, he comes with clouds descending, 37 The Lord will come and not be slow, 607 Thy kingdom come, O God,		
Anthem:	Adam lay y'bounden – Ord		
Voluntary:	Improvisation on 'Veni, veni Emmanuel'		

Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> December – The Second Sunday of Advent			
10:15am	The Annual Toy Service	4:00pm	St. Gabriel's Adswood Community Carol Service
Setting:	The Addington Service – Shephard	See Order of Service for details	
Hymns:	26 Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding; 35 People, look East. The time is near SP13 Longing for light, we wait in darkness. 513 Lord, the light of your love is shining		
Anthem:	From the squalor of a borrowed stable		
Voluntary:	Prelude on 'Rorate Coeli, 1 <sup>st</sup> Advent Suite – Yon		

Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December – The Third Sunday of Advent			
10:15am	Parish Communion	No Evening Service	
Setting:	The Addington Service – Shephard		
Hymns:	24 Come, thou long-expected Jesus, 34 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry... 36 The advent of our King 27 Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,		
Anthem:	Never weatherbeaten sail – Campion		
Voluntary:	Allegro moderato – Bunnett		

Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December – The Fourth Sunday of Advent			
10:15am	Parish Communion	6:30pm	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
Setting:	The Addington Service – Shephard	See Order of Service for details	
Hymns:	244 Virgin-born, we bow before thee, 362 Tell out, my soul,... 238 For Mary, Mother of our Lord, 58 Long ago, prophets knew		
Anthem:	The angel Gabriel – arr. Pettman		
Voluntary:	Three Liturgical Preludes, No. 2 – Oldroyd		

Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve			
1:30pm	Christingle Service	11:30pm	Midnight Communion
3:30pm	Christingle Service	Setting:	The Canterbury Service – Barker
5:30pm	Christingle Service	Hymns:	56 It came upon the midnight clear, 76 While Shepherds watched their flocks by night, 62 O come, all ye faithful, 53 Hark! the herald angels sing
See Order of Service for details		Anthem:	In dulci júbilo – arr. Malcolm Archer
		Anthem:	Star Carol – Rutter
		Voluntary:	Toccata (Organ Symphony No. 5) – Widor





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



## Music Scheme – December 2024

Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day		
10:15am	Parish Communion	No Evening Service
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne	
Hymns:	66 Once in royal David's city 63 O little town of Bethlehem, 67 See amid the winter's snow, 62 O come, all ye faithful,	
Anthem:	In the bleak midwinter – Darke	
Voluntary:	Trumpet Voluntary in C Op. 5, No.1 – Stanley	

Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> December – The First Sunday of Christmas		
10:15am	Parish Communion	No Evening Service
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne	
Hymns:	57 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Child in the manger, infant of Mary; 73 Unto us a boy is born! 81 Lord, for the years...	
Voluntary:	Prelude in D – Gartshore	

## Review of the “Be a Chorister for a Day” event

ON SATURDAY 2nd November, we held a very successful "Be a Chorister for a Day" event, welcoming a number of children from across Stockport to join our Junior Choir for a day full of singing, playing, and having fun with friends old and new!

The children had an opportunity to play the organ, try on choir robes, and enjoyed playing football on the school playground at lunchtime as the weather was favourable. They worked hard to learn five pieces of music for a short service at the end of the day, in which they also led the readings, prayers and talk, which they delivered brilliantly!

Thank you to all who helped throughout the day to keep it running smoothly. As a result of this event, seven new probationers (trainee choristers) have joined the choir – please do make them feel welcome as they begin to sing for Sunday services.







## Music Scheme – January 2025

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> January – The Second Sunday of Christmas / The Eve of the Epiphany			
10:15am	Parish Communion	6:30pm	The Epiphany Carol Service
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening	See Order of Service for details	
Hymns:	84 Brightest and best... 62 O come, all ye faithful, [Verses 1,2,5,6 only] 83 As with gladness men of old, 89 O worship the Lord in the beauty of...		
Anthem:	In dulci jubilo – Pearsall		
Voluntary:	Morning light – Moore		

Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> January – The Baptism of Christ			
10:15am	Parish Communion	No Evening Service	
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne		
Hymns:	175 Come down, O Love divine, 93 When Jesus came to Jordan... Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; 437 Go forth and tell! O church of God, awake!		
Anthem:	Do not be afraid – Stopford		
Voluntary:	Canon in D – Pachelbel		

Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> January – The Second Sunday of Epiphany			
10:15am	Parish Communion	4:00pm	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne	See Order of Service for details	
Hymns:	260 Morning has broken,... SP131 As man and woman we were made 281 Author of life divine 90 Songs of thankfulness and praise,		
Anthem:	Draw us in the spirit's tether – Friedell		
Voluntary:	Marche Religieuse – Gluck		

Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> January – The Third Sunday of Epiphany			
10:15am	Parish Communion	4:00pm	Choral Evensong
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne	Hymns:	85 Earth has many a noble city; 86 From the eastern mountains SP4 Light of gladness, Lord of glory,
Hymns:	87 Hail to the Lord's Anointed, 267 Thou, whose almighty word 383 Be still, for the presence of the Lord, The Spirit lives to set us free,	Responses:	Ayleward
		Psalm:	33
		Canticles:	The Short Service – Gibbons
Anthem:	Teach me, O Lord – Attwood	Anthem:	Almighty and everlasting God – Gibbons
Voluntary:	Highland Cathedral – Korb & Roeber	Voluntary:	Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern – Richter





## Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword solution:

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

## 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)

## Christmas Stockings

THE LEGEND of St Nicholas and the origin of Christmas stockings is well known and most children (and some adults?) hang up a stocking on Christmas Eve ready for Father Christmas to fill during the night.

My own family's stocking story started when my first baby, then aged five months, was sent a knitted stocking from America for his first Christmas. This had his name at the top and was decorated. When I had a second child, I felt I had to make one for her too. I had no pattern so made one up. The result is clearly recognisable as a stocking, but the heel usually looks a bit odd as turning a heel on two needles is not one of my strong points.

I went on to make stockings for my third child, five grandchildren, for my daughters' husbands and the children of a few friends. They are always white at the top with the owner's name, then red or green for the main body with a few appliquéd felt decorations. These vary but usually have a tree (decorated with sequins and shiny

beads, whatever I had to hand) and also may have bells, a star, gingerbread man, striped candy cane, etc. You'll get the idea.

The only complaint I've had is that they are on the big size so take quite a lot of filling. The benefit of it being knitted is that the stretchiness is helpful for awkwardly-shaped presents. Over the years some have been attacked by moths and been mended. I enjoy doing them and have recently done one which is going to Australia. My elder daughter now has two grandchildren and has carried it on by knitting stockings for them.

Pamela Ferguson





## November Baptism

THIS IS Leah Jane Robinson and her family, on the occasion of her baptism on Sunday 17th November.



## November Wedding

CONGRATULATIONS TO Michael Owens and Rebecca Campbell, who were married by Jenny on 9th November.



## Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

THESE ARE SOME of the 50 shoe boxes which were collected from St George's on Saturday 16th November. Over 100 shoe boxes in total will be sent to children in Ukraine. Thank you to all who contributed.





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