

Parish Grapevine

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



A Special Candlemas at St George's!

ON 2ND FEBRUARY we had a wonderful, very well attended, service of confirmation and baptism at our morning Candlemas service. What better day than that on which our Lord Jesus Christ himself was presented at the temple! How good to be able to share with others in their own presentations.



Bishop Mark presided, and we had 18 candidates altogether for confirmation and baptism. Some of the candidates had chosen full immersion, a particular feature of some of the baptism services at St George's. We had children and adults; and some of our adults were baptised and confirmed into Christianity from countries where they had previously been persecuted. Candidates received their certificates and candles to commemorate the happy day.



Those involved in the preparation classes and reviewing the personal testimonials of the candidates found many of the stories particularly poignant. The path to overt recognition of their faith is a momentous occasion and we hold all the candidates and their families in our prayers and continue to support them in their Christian journey. You are most

welcome as members of the congregation to ask them about their own personal stories over coffee in the weeks and months to come!



We pray for Isabel, Rebecca, Sara, Ali, Alireza, Gaynor, Romina, Rik, Jade, Alex, Archie, Athena, Aurelia, Terry, Mia, Farshad, Hossein and Fatemeh.





Elaine writes:

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you, will carry it onto completion."

Philippians 1:6 NIV

In most of the jobs that I've had in my life, I've had a real sense of when it comes to completion.

It's not a spiritual tick list of all that's been done but more of a shape, an awareness, a gathering in of what has been and allowing God to prompt me as to what to do next.

I felt that familiar resonance back in 2012. One Friday night, I prayed to God to give me vision, clarity and direction as to what to do next. I had spoken to no one about that prayer. By Monday morning, I was at a Bishops' Council meeting and Bishop Robert Atwell approached me and wondered if I was looking for a job. He had been encouraged by the Bishops' staff team to ask me if I would consider looking at St George's and could he send me the profile. I have to say that I was taken aback. I would never have considered applying to St George's, imagining that I wouldn't be good enough (although I had been a vicar for over 11 years by that stage). So, in obedience to what I'd asked of God, I applied, went for an informal interview with eight people and then a formal interview with eight people and I was offered the job.

I know that I won't have achieved everything that I wanted to whilst I've been here.

I also know that my rôle in any church is to be a custodian of a very precious cargo, the people, and not just the building itself.

I am called to assist in the remoulding and remaking of areas which have been given to me in trust, in readiness for the next person and in preparation for the next phase of growing God's kingdom in this place.

As I have said, all of this is precious: walking alongside people of different ages, backgrounds and experiences and learning from them and with them.

There will, no doubt, have been some bumps in the road, but our shared highway is one where we seek to grow closer to Jesus.

That shared commitment is a huge privilege. No incumbent should ever promote themselves, but is rather called to be a servant leader. I hope the latter has been the case.

Having the ability to walk with you, having the opportunity to muck in and having been blessed when we have taken some brave steps together, I will value all these things for ever.

Thank you for allowing me to share in your lives, your experiences, your challenges and your joys, and for entrusting me with your stories.

I leave St George's much richer than I came and I hope that my presence with you has been helpful in your Christian journey, for we have grown together.

So it is with grateful thanks and a heavy heart that I step away from the leadership of St George's and St Gabriel's.

Every blessing upon you all.

A prayer for increasing closeness with Jesus and an encouragement for your future ministry to this parish.

Thank you for having me.

Elaine



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which falls on 5th March this year. See page 6 for Ash Wednesday services.

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

Vicar	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall vicar@stgeorgestockport.org.uk 456 9382	Sunday Clubs	Ask for Louise, Eliza or Andy at the 10:15 Sunday service. Eliza 07967 798453 Louise 483 3703 sundayclubs@stgeorgestockport.org.uk	Ring on Sundays 9.45-10.15am. Meet in the tower.	
Associate minister	Rev. Dr Jenny McKay 01606 891564 jenny@stgeorgestockport.org.uk	Bible Reading Fellowship Notes		Janet Neilson 483 9025 Notes are ordered on request.	
Curate in training	Rev. Jane Crook revjanecrook@gmail.com 07533 107548	Bible Study Groups		<i>contact the clergy</i> Study groups and courses are arranged from time to time.	
Readers	Peter Hall 456 9382 Rita Waters 487 3620	Choir		James Hibbert 07365 519207 actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com Practise: Thursday 7.30pm–9pm in the vestry during term time. Sing for Sunday services at 10.15am and 4pm.	
Churchwardens	Andrew Regan 440 0408 Hazel Jenkins 483 4679	Praise and Play	contact the Parish Office: 480 2453 For 0–4s and their carers. Meet every Tuesday in term time, 10–11 in the Parish Rooms.	Church Flowers	Jean Hayden (<i>donations</i>) 483 2367
PCC Secretary	Lois Kelly 439 9458	St Gabriel's		Church Gardeners	
PCC Treasurer	Andrew Regan 440 0408 treasurer@stgeorgestockport.org.uk	Festival services	Rev. Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall 456 9382	Walter Stead 430 2449 Meet on Tuesdays 9.30-12.30.	
Parish Office	Cathryn Otley 480 2453	Uniformed Groups with connections to St George's		Coffee Mornings	In church, after the 10am service on Wednesdays.
Magazine Editor	Andy Clark 07582 850454 magazine@stgeorgestockport.org.uk	Rainbows	Trisha Brown 07403 353 175 Sue Kirkland 07854 101 918 For girls aged 4-7. Meet Fridays 6.15-7.30pm in the Parish Room.	Cursillo	Usually meet on last Wednesday of the month. 7.30pm at different venues.
Safeguarding co-ordinator	Sue Cordingley 07383 690888 stgeorgestockportsafeguarding@outlook.com	Brownies	Rachel Lockett 07712 302342 Lianne Warburton 07815 482603 For girls aged 7-10. Meet Thursdays 6.30-8pm in the Parish Room. To sign up to Brownies or Rainbows please visit www.girlguiding.org.uk and click on "Join us"	Handbells	Andy Clark 483 3703 Play for All-Age and Taizé services, plus other special events. Ringers of all ages (with or without experience) always welcome. Rehearsals in church arranged around the ringers' availability.
Website	www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk	4th Stockport Scout Group	Sarah Johnson 07930 243 159 Meet at: Bridgehall Community Centre Siddington Avenue SK3 8NR	Linen Guild	Pat Rigley 487 1999 Maintain the church's linen.
Webmaster	Peter Hall 456 9382	Squirrels	For boys and girls aged 4–6 Saturdays 9–10	Magazine Editorial Group	Meet monthly to plan future issues. magazine@stgeorgestockport.org.uk
St George's Primary School		Beavers	For boys and girls aged 6 and 7 Wednesdays 5.30–6.30	Mothers' Union	Pat Durnall 483 4837 Meet on 2nd Monday of the month in the Parish Room at 2.15pm.
Headteacher	Deborah Grindrod 480 8657	Cubs	For boys and girls aged 8–10½ Wednesdays 6.30–8.00		
St George's		Scouts	For boys and girls aged 10½–14 Wednesdays 6.30–8.00		
Deputy Wardens	John Hardy 01663 764 462 Sue Burt 483 9589	Other Groups and Activities			
Director of Music	James Hibbert 07365 519207 actingdirectorofmusic@gmail.com	St George's			
Associate Director of Music	Roger Briscoe brogerdom16@gmail.com	Bell ringers	Anne Mayes 485 6477 Practise Mondays 7.45-9pm.		
Vergers	Lee Howarth Mary Cope				
Bookings for Parish Rooms	Parish Office 480 2453				
St Gabriel's					
Contact:	Parish Office 480 2453				
Bookings	Parish Office 480 2453				
Children's Activities					
St George's					
Children's Corner	Available for children (and parents) during services. Equipped with books, crayons and soft toys.				

Front cover photo:

The First Snowdrops
of the Year
by Andy Clark

Services and Events in February

see pages 6 and 22

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**The First Snowdrops
of the Year
by Andy Clark**

**Services and Events in
February**

see pages 6 and 22

A New Mode of Baptism?

This was spotted on an instruction display at a Grimsby car wash. A new mode of baptism perhaps?



Recipe of the month: Avocado Toast Plus

For 1 person

1 slice bread

1/2 ripe avocado

4-5 cherry tomatoes

2 tbsps feta cheese, crumbled (or use cheddar instead)

1 tbsp walnuts, chopped

Seasoning

Optional:

1 tsp olive oil

1 tsp balsamic vinegar

Toast the bread, halve the tomatoes and lightly grill them. Slice or mash the avocado and spread over the toast. Put the warm tomatoes on top, then the cheese and the walnuts.

Optional extra: drizzle with a little olive oil and balsamic vinegar. A few drops of Tabasco sauce would give some added heat.

Pamela Ferguson

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Parish News Roundup

Holy Baptism

2nd Feb **Full immersion baptism:**
Archie Thompson, Terence Thompson,
Mia Coles, Farshad Aghasharif

Baptism at the font:

Romina Javaher, Alireza Ghadiri,
Alexander Langton,
Hossein Baghbadorani,
Fateme Bahadorani

Holy Matrimony

None last month

Funerals

20th Feb: Derick White, in church

Communion Flowers were sponsored as follows:

Main altar

26th Jan from Jill, Anne and Lynn, in memory of Brian and Nancy Wainwright.

9th Feb In loving memory of Jean and Ron Norton, and Mary and Bill Heavyside

23rd Feb from Kate Stephenson and family, remembering Barry and all our loved ones.

Lady Chapel

16th Feb In memory of Edna and Norman Tootell

Floodlighting was sponsored by:

16th Feb: Birthday memories for Patrick Plummer. Loved and missed, from the Plummer family.

Parish News Roundup

26th Feb: Ann and Tony Lloyd, to celebrate Sarah's 21st birthday.

28th Feb: Sheila Flitcroft, in memory of Ian Graham Flitcroft.

Mothers' Union

The next meeting will be on Monday **10th March at 2.15 pm** in the Parish Room, when Howie Pickering will speak to us about his work with The Waterways Chaplaincy. Everybody is welcome and we will be serving tea and coffee.

ATC Sunday

On Sunday 2nd February, we were delighted to greet 500 RAF cadets, their leaders and supporters from the Greater Manchester Wing, at the special service proudly marking 84 years of the Air Training Corps.

It was a fabulous gathering. We welcomed the Lord Lieutenant Mrs Diane Hawkins JP LLB and distinguished guests along with the Wing Chaplain Karen Salisbury. A march along the A6 onto Greek Street completed the proceedings and participants had every right to be proud of all they had achieved.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1254186735644187>

Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll is due for renewal now, and forms are available in church. To be included on the new

Parish News Roundup

Roll you will need to complete a form and return it to the Electoral Roll Officer (Penny Bisby) by Sunday April 6th. The new Roll will be published within two weeks of that date. A list of the names on the current Electoral Roll will be displayed in church until April 6th.

Services and Events in March

Ash Wednesday falls on 5th March this year. There will be services of Holy Communion at St George's with (optional) imposition of ashes at 10am and at 7.30pm.

Lent Prayer Breakfasts: see page 8 for details of these breakfasts and talks on Saturday mornings during Lent.

Mothering Sunday: Elaine and Peter's final service at St George's will be the 10.15am Holy Communion service for Mothering Sunday on 30th March.

There will be an afternoon tea in church directly after the service. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church if you would like to attend.

Baptisms, Banns and Marriage bookings:

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

April 2025

Grapevine magazine dates:

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

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

Garden Gnomes Report

THE EARLY PART of the year has not been helpful to the Garden Gnomes and their regular Tuesday morning gardening slot. Round the turn of the year Tuesday fell on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, not good days for leaving the family home. The first Tuesday in January saw a thick blanket of snow on the ground. It is not good to walk on the grass when it has snowed. It compacts the snow into ice, damaging the grass. Normally, the untouched snow sits as a cool blanket leaving the grass unharmed. It was, therefore, not sensible to garden.

Two weeks later we were still in the remnants of Storm Eowyn, which hit on the Friday. Barbara and I had tickets for the David Hockney experience in Manchester on that Friday. We went in by tram but by the afternoon the power lines had been blown down, halting trams for the rest of the day. We, like many, had to find a bus to get us back to East Didsbury.

As I write this in early February, we are just getting back to gardening more regularly on Tuesdays. Let's hope for drier days and not too low temperatures.

We have no particular big projects in mind this year. At present we do not have enough Gnomes to consider reclaiming the garden area to the north of North Avenue. Our priorities are to look after the Garden of Remembrance, the oval beds, and the grounds immediately surrounding the church.

One job we need to tackle is to reconstruct the compost bins. The wooden pallets which were put in place a few years ago to divide the composting sections have rotted and need some urgent replacement/reconstruction. Hopefully we will do that sometime in late spring.

March is a great time to start working in the garden, weather permitting. It is the right time to prune bush roses. Prune a stem about a quarter of an inch above a bud. Preferably choose an outward facing bud so that the new growth will be away from the centre of the bush. The cut should not be straight as water could accumulate on the surface. It should be cut on an angle away from

the bud., so any rain is directed away. Remove any dead or diseased stems, making sure to remove all the affected stem.

It is also a good time to divide perennials such as hemerocallis (day lily), hosta, ornamental grasses, euphorbia, salvia, etc. To keep healthy plants it is a good idea to divide them every few years. Lift the whole clump out of the soil trying to do as little damage as possible to the roots. Smaller plants will then often tease apart. Larger and more fibrous plants are best split by putting two large forks back-to-back in the middle of the clump and then pulling the forks apart slowly which will split the clump. Some very woody plants need chopping apart with a sharp spade. It is best to discard the centre of the original clump. After division replant either in a new site or, if replacing in the same position, add some compost or liquid feed. Remember to water the new plants well for the first two or three weeks.

Barbara and I are actively considering moving house this year. We love having a large garden, but it will soon be too much for us to manage. In preparation for the move, we have taken cuttings of some of our favourite shrubs and potted them up, as well as dividing perennials. Near our front door we have a Sarcococca. In the winter when the sun is on it it has the most glorious perfume from tiny white flowers. We also have a Cornus Midwinter Fire. In early December it sheds its leaves leaving stems of vivid red and orange which glow in the low winter sunlight. We have a pot of each of them ready to take with us to remind us of our previous garden.

Enjoy the spring, and good gardening.

Peter B



Photo by [Vladimira Slyusarenko](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Reflections on Meditation

WE CAN WANT to do something but can't get started. It drifts to the bottom of the 'to-do' list. Or we get started, but the routine is interrupted. Once interrupted, somehow we never get back to it. That can be true of a meditation practice.

I think that it is important not to beat ourselves up about it. Yes, the ideal is a regular practice, but beginning again is fine and taking small steps is fine too. Meditation as part of a monastic routine is easier than out in the world. We know that if we have been on a retreat. It becomes part of the rhythm of the day. So how can we make it a part of the rhythm of our day?

Meditation requires us to be here in the present moment. So that is something we could practise anywhere at any time of the day, whatever we are involved in. Just to stop and check, take a breath and bring ourselves into the here and now and proceed with the day. That is being mindful, the basis of meditation.

I suppose that not many of us have chiming clocks – but we could set our phones – so that whenever the clock strikes, we could stop what we are doing and be still and silent for a moment. That's what they do at the Community of Interbeing monastery in France. And they had a clock that had the Westminster chimes and sounded every half hour!

We need to give ourselves the best chance of success. Here are one or two suggestions:

- The best time to meditate is the time when you are most likely to do it.
- It's best to focus on being consistent rather than on the length of your practice. Try five minutes to begin with and build from there.
- Keep your chair, cushion, stool and anything else you need, easily accessible.

- Build on other routines, linking your meditation to something you already do – like taking a shower.

Our next once-a-month Sunday session is on 2nd March. We gather for half an hour at 12 noon in the Lady Chapel, after the morning service. Everyone and anyone is welcome.

Chris Dawson



photo: Andy Clark

Lent Prayer Breakfasts – Saturdays 15th March to 12th April Tricky Topics – What do we Believe?



I PROMISED the final list of topics for this edition of Grapevine. My apologies. As Grapevine goes to press, I am not able to fulfil my promise, as we are still finalising topics and speakers. A flyer with the full programme will shortly be available.

To give you a flavour of the talks, here are two topics and speakers: Jenny McKay will address the question, "Why is there suffering?" and Jane Crook will reflect on "The Resurrection of the Body."

We will follow the usual timings: Breakfast from 9.30 am, talk from 10am for half an hour to forty minutes, followed by questions. Finish at 11am. We'd be delighted to see you there.

Chris Dawson

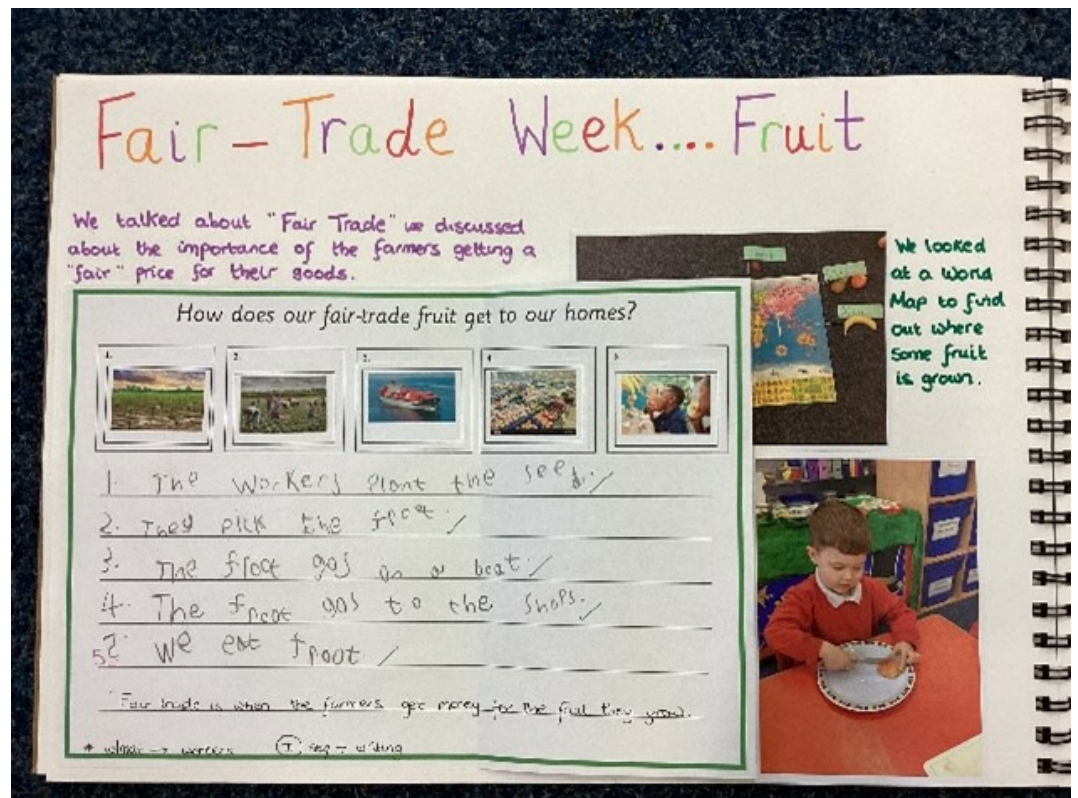
Fairtrade Week at St George's School

AT ST GEORGE'S we pride ourselves on being "Bold in Action" as part of our Christian mission. We felt it was important to explore with the children the idea of Fairtrade. First, we introduced the children to the idea of fairness – what does fairness really mean? How do we feel when something is unfair?

This involved unfair building games, tug of war matches when one side was heavily outnumbered and unfair ball games. This gave the children a real idea of what injustice feels like – how it makes us feel powerless, angry and sad.

Next, each year group was given a household item or big issue:

- Reception and Year 1 – Fruit
- Year 2 – Chocolate
- Year 3 – Tea
- Year 4 – Bananas
- Year 5 – Cotton
- Year 6 – Climate change



They were asked to research how it is made/harvested and explore whether or not everyone in the production of this item is given a fair amount of money. The children were quite shocked by how little some manufacturers or farmers are paid.

If we are going to be bold in action, it is not enough to research and know there is injustice in the world – we also need to act! The children chose how they wanted to respond – so they:

- designed beautiful posters to explain how to buy Fairtrade fruit
- wrote letters to local and national companies
- wrote letters to Pilkington's and Costa coffee
- sent a beautiful teapot card home to their families with a Fairtrade tea bag inside

The week was a huge success, and the children certainly enjoyed it. They now know that they have the power to make change happen, that it may not happen instantly but that it is possible to change the world by their choices, their behaviour or by educating others, and they have fun whilst they do it.

Jan Langton



Save the Bells Appeal Progress

WE ARE DELIGHTED to be receiving grants from The Fearn Trust and the Chester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers towards the cost of replacing the roof over the bells. These grants have given a significant boost to the appeal. We are also very grateful to those who have made individual donations. The total raised so far is now £11,000, and we are well over half way to our target.

We have also registered to take part in the Stockport Lamplighter Rotary Club sponsored Swimathon at the end of March to raise funds. Please do sponsor our swimmers.

We still need help to reach the total £16,895. Donations can be made through Just Giving at: <https://checkout.justgiving.com/q9x73zu8si>

St. George's Church Stockport

Save The Bells Appeal

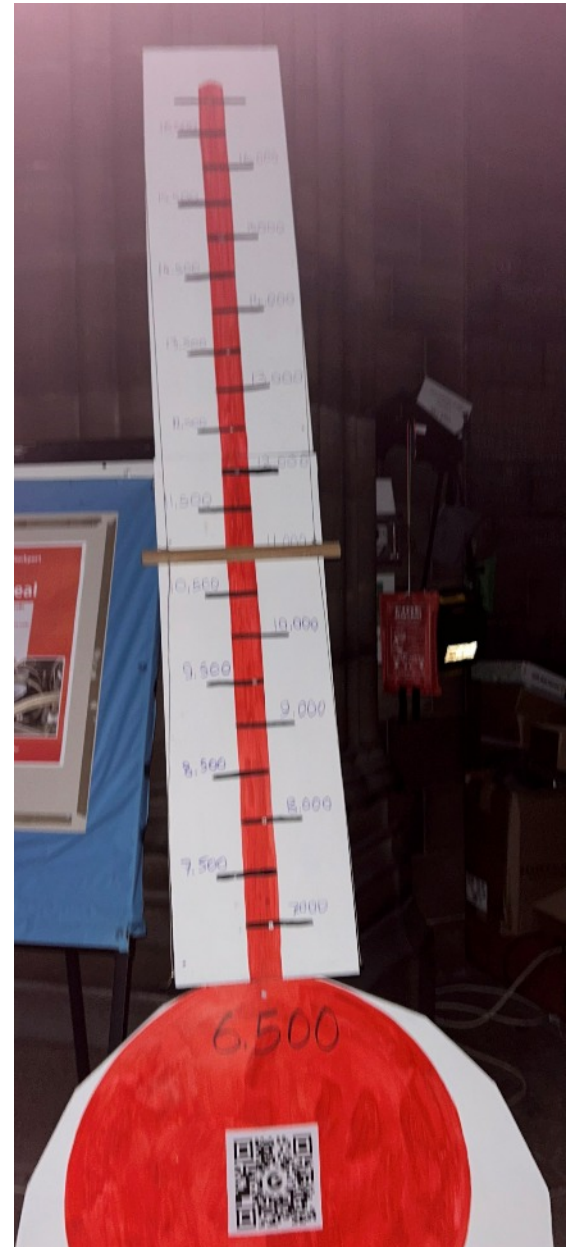
Help protect St. George's bells for the future

We need to replace the roof over the bells

- Help us save our local cultural heritage
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- Donate via our Just Giving page
- Support our fundraising events
- Ask about business sponsorship



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www.stgeorgestockport.org.uk



How Soon is Spring?

I TOOK A WALK in Peel Park today and noticed the daffodils, which made me wonder how the changing climate was altering the time at which spring flowers come into bloom. A recent report published by the Met Office provided a stark indication of the impact that humans are having on our climate system. In the UK the average temperature last year was 9.78 degrees Celsius, which is 0.64 degrees above the figure for 1991-2000, the agreed

reference period for measuring current change. On 28th January 2024 a temperature of 19.9 degrees Celsius was recorded at Achfary, Sutherland, the highest for January since records began. Overall, 2024 ranked as the fourth warmest year in the UK since records began. Warmer temperatures tend to bring more rain in temperate climate zones such as the UK and 2024 was the 17th wettest year from almost 200 years of rainfall records.

(continued on opposite page)

These changes have implications for both humans and nature. A report published in the New Scientist in 2022 based on over 400,000 observations showed that on average typical spring flowers were blooming almost a month earlier, which can affect populations of insects that rely on these as a food source. We know from data published by WWF that populations of a wide range of animals have reduced by 70% since 1970 with climate change and habitat loss being key reasons for the decline.

A recent research paper from 2022 exploring the reasons behind the lack of progress in Copenhagen achieving their goal to become a carbon neutral city by 2025 found that technology alone cannot solve the climate crisis. There is a desperate need for us to change our behaviour by being 'climate aware' and taking actions to reduce our own carbon footprint. It can be helpful to use an online carbon footprint calculator such as <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/> which will give ideas of what you can do differently and how this will lessen your impact on God's Earth.

Andy Clark

Photo taken in Peel Park, Salford, February 2025



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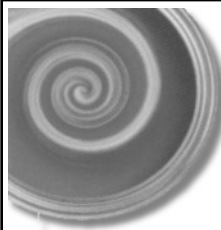
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Prayer for March 2025

Dear Lord,

In this month when Lent begins, we remember the difficult journey Jesus made to the cross, to take upon himself our sins and the sins of the whole world, to bring us the hope of eternal life by his resurrection.

Lord, we bring to you our own journeys through our daily lives. We bring our disappointments, our bewilderment, our pain, as well as our happy times. We thank You for being with us in and through all of it.

We thank you that the message of Christmas is the message of Lent and the message of every day – You, our God, are with us always, giving us hope and life, because of Jesus.

Thank you that he made that journey for us, and that all we have to do is trust in him. Help us to do that and to share his good news with others, especially those in distress. We pray in his name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Jean is always up for a spin on the dancefloor

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Burns Night Supper

MEMBERS OF the congregation, their families and friends gathered in the Parish Room to celebrate Burns Night with a traditional supper of haggis, neeps and tatties.

The event began with the Selkirk Grace:



*Some hae meat an canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it;
But we hae meat, and we can eat,
And sae the Lord be thankit.*

This was followed by *Address to the Haggis*, written by Robert Burns in 1786 to celebrate the national dish of Scotland. This begins with:

*Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the puddin-race!
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,
Painch, tripe, or thairm:
Weel are ye wordy o' a grace
As lang's my airm*

This can be translated as:

*Good luck to you and your honest, plump face,
Great chieftain of the sausage race!
Above them all you take your place,
Stomach, tripe, or intestines:
Well are you worthy of a grace
As long as my arm.*

The poem ends with:

*Ye Pow'rs wha mak mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill o' fare,
Auld Scotland wants nae skinkin ware
That jaups in luggies;
But, if ye wish her gratefu' prayer,
Gie her a haggis!*

Which translates as:

*You powers, who make mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill of fare,
Old Scotland wants no watery stuff,
That splashes in small wooden dishes;
But if you wish her grateful prayer,
Give her [Scotland] a haggis!*

The supper was then served and included, in addition to the traditional haggis, neeps and tatties, vegetable chilli



and a chicken casserole. There was even a vegan haggis for those of us who do not eat meat! After supper there was a raffle with plenty of opportunities to win a prize. The event raised £387.80 and much fun was had by everyone who attended.

Aneurin really enjoyed his four portions of haggis – one of which was the last bit in the container as you can see.

Andy Clark

Thank you Elaine!

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL for the time you have been with us at St George's and St Gabriel's, Stockport. Your steadfastness and love have shone through in the time you have been here, involved with a huge variety of services, occasions, meetings and challenges, both at our churches, our school and in the community.

Some of us can remember your first major occasion here when you were ordained as a deacon at this church on 29th June 1997, because of the restoration work at Chester cathedral; then, 16 years later, the wonderful start to your time with us starting at your induction service on 12th November 2013.

"For everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven" Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, and now it is time to say "So long, farewell". Peter has walked alongside you throughout and we are very grateful to him too, and wish you and your family a peaceful and happy retirement.

Everyone will have their own recollections of your involvement with them. A few come to mind quickly and I hope many more will follow on from other people too!

Animals feature quite strongly! We had a "Noah" festival, then post-Covid, "The Lord is my Shepherd", Pet services, Sheep in Church with St George's school. I was delighted to learn the song: "Peter Rabbit's got a fly upon his nose" at Praise and Play!

Thank you for keeping close to us online during Covid, for the services, daily prayers and Messy Bake-off. Thank you for keeping close to us through happy and sad times of ours, and also when times have been challenging for you. We pray that the fruits of the Spirit will continue to inspire you and lift you every day.

Janet Neilson

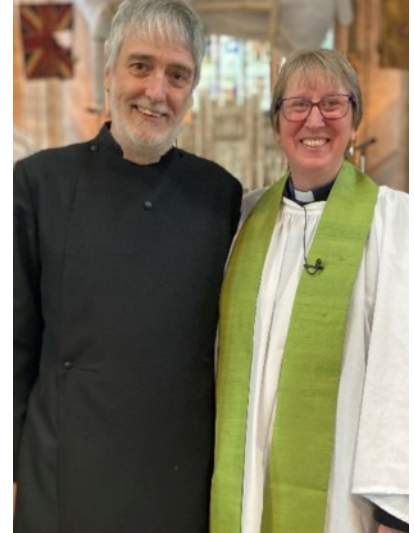


Celebrating Elaine's Recent Ministry at St George's

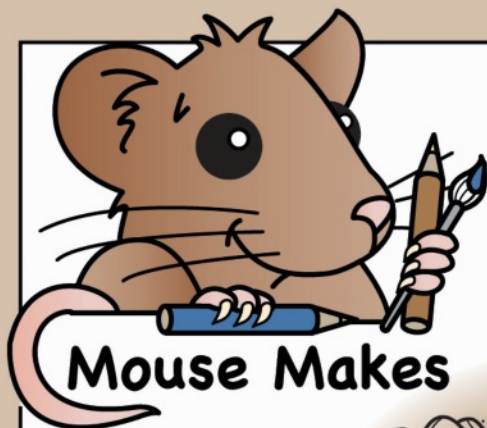
I HAVE BEEN helping to edit the Grapevine magazine since my first issue in September 2022. These are some of my favourite photos that illustrate Elaine's ministry from the past 25 editions of the magazine.

For our next edition, to be published in April 2025, we would like to bring together recollections from our parishioners to celebrate Elaine's time as vicar of St George's. We would welcome contributions, which can be sent to magazine@stgeorgestockport.org.uk

Andy Clark







Mouse Makes

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised who led him into the wilderness?

_____ Luke 4:1

For how many days was Jesus tempted by the devil?

_____ Luke 4:2

Who did Jesus say you should ONLY worship and serve?

_____ Luke 4:8



READ
the story in
Luke 4:1-13



Jesus said not to put the Lord your God to the...

_____ Luke 4:12

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

_____ Luke 4:3

What happened after the temptation of Jesus? see Luke 4:14-15

JESUS • LED
WILDERNESS
DESERT
TEMPTATIONS
DAYS • DEVIL
HUNGRY • SON
STONE • ROCK
KINGDOMS
WORLD • GLORY
WRITTEN
SCRIPTURE
WORSHIP • ONLY
SERVE • LORD
JERUSALEM
HIGH • TEMPLE
THROW • DOWN
JUMP • ANGELS
HANDS • HOLD
LIFT • FOOT

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

Find the words from the questions too!

Sudoku puzzle: easy

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

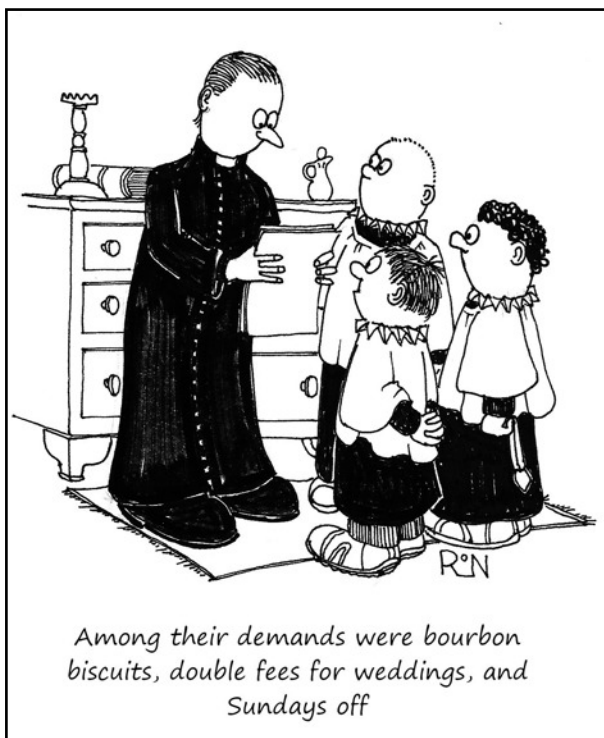
© 2008 KrazyDad.com

Sudoku puzzle: intermediate

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

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(Answers to all puzzles are on p. 22)



Crossword

	1	2		3		4		5		6		
7												8
9								10				
						11	12					
13			14		15				16			
			17									
18		19							20			
				21								
22									23	24		
				25		26		27				
28						29						
	30											

Across

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
- 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
- 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
- 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
- 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
- 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)
- 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)
- 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)
- 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4)
- 21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)
- 22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)
- 23 Edit (anag.) (4)
- 25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)
- 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)
- 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)
- 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

Down

- 2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3)
- 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4
- 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
- 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
- 6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
- 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
- 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
- 12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
- 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
- 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
- 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
- 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
- 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — —' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
- 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
- 26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
- 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)

The Bible version used in our crosswords is the NIV.



Music Scheme – March 2025



Sunday 2 nd March – The Sunday next before Lent			
10:15am	Parish Communion	4:00pm	InSpire Café Church
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne	See Order of Service for details	
Hymns:	409 Come, ye faithful, raise the anthem, 248 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, 392 Bright the vision that delighted 555 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,		
Anthem:	O nata lux – Tallis		
Voluntary:	Improvisation on 'Lauda Anima'		

Wednesday 5 th March – Ash Wednesday		
	7:30pm	Holy Communion
	Setting:	The Addington Service – Shephard
	Litany:	Marshall
	Hymns:	95 Forty days and forty nights 97 Lord Jesus, think on me, 110 Jesu, grant me this, I pray, 21 Sun of my soul, thou Saviour dear,
	Anthem:	Wash me thoroughly – Wesley
	Anthem:	Abendlied – Rheinberger
	Voluntary:	Aus der Tiefe (Op. 72. II) – Leighton

Sunday 9 th March – The First Sunday of Lent		
10:15am	Parish Communion	No Evening Service
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening	
Hymns:	95 Forty days and forty nights 96 Jesu, lover of my soul, 385 Be thou my guardian and my guide 430 Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,	
Anthem:	Lead me, Lord – Wesley	
Voluntary:	Rondeau – Purcell	

Sunday 16 th March – The Second Sunday of Lent		
10:15am	Parish Communion	No Evening Service
Setting:	Mass of St. Thomas – Thorne	
Hymns:	582 Take up thy cross, the Saviour said, 97 Lord Jesus, think on me, My heart is filled with thankfulness 578 Stand up, stand for Jesus,	
Anthem:	Hide not thou thy face – Farrant	
Voluntary:	Variations on 'Sandon' – Purdey	

Sunday 23 rd March – The Third Sunday of Lent		
10:15am	Parish Communion	No Evening Service
Setting:	A Mass for Worth Abbey – Greening	
Hymns:	368 All my hope on God is founded; 453 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, 321 Rise and hear! The Lord is speaking 503 Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing,	
Anthem:	Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake – Farrant	
Voluntary:	Erbarm dich mein, o Herre Gott – Bach BWV721	



Parish of St George, Stockport with St Gabriel, Adswood

Shining as a beacon for Christ

Music Scheme – March 2025



Sunday 30 th March – Mothering Sunday		
10:15am	Parish Communion	No Evening Service
Setting:	The Canterbury Service – Barker	
Hymns:	Music to be confirmed	
Anthem:		
Voluntary:		

Passion Sunday Meditation

LOOKING AHEAD to Passiontide, there will be a performance of John Stainer's 'Crucifixion' at 4pm on Sunday 6th April, here at St George's Church.

This will be a joint performance sung by our choir and the choir of St Thomas' Church, Mellor. St Thomas' Church is the Parish Church for Mellor and Marple Bridge.

Both choirs provide free musical education to children and young people across the local area, and in addition to their regular commitments, also undertake a number of cathedral tours throughout the year.



**Stainer's
CRUCIFIXION**

Sung by the combined choirs of
St. George's Stockport
and
St Thomas' Mellor
Organ: Roger Briscoe
Passion Sunday
6th April
4-5pm
St George's Church
Stockport
Free Admission
ALL VERY WELCOME

Refreshments afterwards including cheese & wine
Retiring collection to support the work of
both choirs

Mellor Church Choir, directed by Dr Tom Howling, sings every Sunday at their 10am service and at Choral Evensong once a month.

Admission to the performance is free, and there will be a retiring collection which will be split evenly to support the work of both choirs.

Refreshments will be served afterwards.

All are welcome!

Puzzle solutions

Easy Sudoku solution:

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

Intermediate Sudoku solution:

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

Crossword solution:

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

Lyme Community Christmas Trees 2024

Over the Christmas period a community Christmas tree festival was held at Lyme Park, which included a tree decorated by St George's Sunday Clubs children. The theme of our tree was woodland animals, including crocheted owls to which the children added eyes and beaks, and wooden spheres decorated with a variety of woodland creatures. The children's tree can be seen second from the left on the bottom row in the photo compilation.

Andy Clark



Lyme Community Christmas Trees
2024

Mothers' Union February 2025

THE FEBRUARY MEETING took the form of an afternoon tea as a fundraising event for MU projects.

The Parish Room was filled with tables covered in pretty pink cloths and vases of daffodils, a table ready with cups and saucers and another with bags, all labelled so everyone received their choice of sandwich. The kitchen had been a hive of activity, filling the bags, sandwiches from the supermarket, buttered scones, chocolate rolls and French fancies. All was ready, water boiling, tea and coffee ready.

However, to earn their tea a quiz was set, everyone was given a sheet of initials, each set being the title of either a book, play or film!! Finally the answers were given and there were winners, and we were cross with ourselves that we didn't remember things we had seen and read years ago!!



After a very enjoyable tea, the raffle was drawn, and we are pleased to say that the whole event raised £139 for the MU funds. Thanks to all who helped in any way.

Our next meeting on Monday 10th March 2025, when we will hear about the 'Waterways Chaplaincy' from Howie Pickering. Everybody is welcome and tea and coffee will be served.

Photos by Hazel Jenkins



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