



Diocese of Chester

## STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH


### St Mary's in the Marketplace

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 Stockport Parish Church - St Mary's

### Service times at St Mary's

**Sunday: 10:30 Holy Communion /Morning Prayer**

Normally the first and third Sunday is Holy Communion with Morning Prayer on the second and fourth.

**15.30 Zeal Church**

**Tuesday: 10.00 Holy Communion**

**12.15 Lunchtime Service**

**Friday: 10.45 Café Worship**

**Wedding, Baptism, Funeral and other services by arrangement.**

**St Mary's and the Nave Café is open – Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 10.00am – 3.00pm**

*This magazine is written (and other submissions edited as deemed necessary) by S M Heap with additional material used by permission from [www.parishpump.co.uk](http://www.parishpump.co.uk). Electronic copy available on pdf format via the church website.*



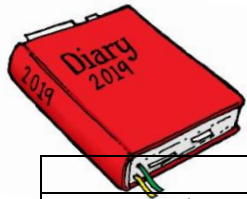
STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH

*[St Mary's in the Marketplace]*



**Parish Magazine**

**June 2019**



Sunday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Holy Communion Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Thursday, 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Prayer Meeting	19.00
Friday, 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Civic Service Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Thursday, 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Bible Study Group	19.00
Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Holy Communion Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Thursday, 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Bible Study Group	19.00
Friday, 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Café Worship	10.45
Saturday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Love Stockport	TBC
Sunday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Morning Prayer Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Wednesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> June	PCC Meeting (St Thomas)	19.30
Thursday, 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Bible Study Group	19.00
Friday, 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Morning Prayer Zeal Church	10.30 15.30

### **Maritime Christian Ministries**

Dave and Dot Robertson send their thanks for the hats and chest warmers received. All were given out on a Russian/Filipino ship. Our thanks too for Ann for making all the arrangements from our side to get these valued items sent over to the Charity.

### **Leprosy Mission**

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our Lent and Easter Appeal for "Help Nepal".

We were pleased to have been able to send to the Leprosy Mission a total of £245.50 with private donations using debit/credit cards sent separately.

### **Christian Aid**

Doing a double appeal is always difficult – so for our Lent and Easter Appeal for Christian Aid we have forwarded just £50.00 from lunch takings and donations.

Further donation to be made following our events for Christian Aid week .

The tragic fire at Note Dame Cathedral shocked the whole world. Seeing such a magnificent building engulfed in flames saddened all who saw the devastation unfold. It was a monumental blow to the nation of France. It will take years to rebuild this famous place of worship. One striking image from the fire showed the interior of the church scorched and ruined, its art treasures lost, its contents still smouldering. But high up in the background, unbowed by the flames, stands a golden cross, brightly shining in the darkness of the surrounding debris. Since the fire took place at Easter, it is hard not to see this picture as a parable. One Anglican vicar made this comment: 'Notice what is left inside, untouched, after the destruction of all sorts of 'priceless' works of arts at Norte Dame Cathedral? **The Cross.** What an image for Holy Week and what a picture to describe secular Western Europe.' As I pondered the picture it spoke to me of the abiding value of the Cross.

The words of a hymn came to mind: ***In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time;  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.***

The place of worship may be destroyed, but not the God we worship. The message of the Cross, at the centre of our faith, remains a timeless, undamaged truth

## June 2019

The Nave Café goes “bean to cup” this month giving us the ability to serve freshly made coffee in a variety of styles – our customers able to enjoy a drink sat in the café - or to buy one to takeaway. We will be having new crockery (new takeaway containers) and new advertising - starting off the next chapter in the life of the Nave Café.

We will be running a “kiosk” service during the week (mainly of pre-packed snacks) to accompany our tea/coffee and hot chocolate. Freshly made soup, sandwiches etc. will be restricted to pre-ordered and special event catering during the week (at least for now) and to our Café Kitchen on a Saturday when we will run a more selective menu. Regrettably at the moment we just haven't sufficient “Food Hygiene” qualified volunteers to be able to maintain a full café service on all days.

We are now all sign-up with the “Department of Works and Pensions” (Jobcentre) to offer voluntary work to those seeking some “work experience” – we'll do some in-house training, help boost experience that can be included on a CV and offer the opportunity for a reference to a potential permanent employer further down the line. Generally speaking these placements are for around eight weeks – but it's all new to us so we'll see how it goes...

As with any new venture there will be “ups” and “downs” and no guarantees BUT that makes it all the more exciting as we move forward. AND.... The Nave Café will be going vegetarian!

**Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019**  
**Day of Pentecost – Whit Sunday**

**Civic Service**  
**for the Worshipful the Mayor of Stockport**

**With Ven Ian Bishop**  
**Archdeacon of Macclesfield**

**Stockport Parish Church (St Mary)**  
**10.30am**

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Parish of Stockport and Brinnington**  
**Induction of the Rev Lynne Cullens**

**Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 19.30**  
**Stockport Parish Church**  
**(St Mary's in the Marketplace)**



## **D-Day 75: Operation Tiger**

**THERE BUT NOT THERE**

COMMEMORATE. EDUCATE. HEAL

On 28th April 1944, 749 American servicemen were killed off Slapton Sands in Devon during a rehearsal for D-Day called Operation Tiger. As the troops were on the water preparing to practice landing on the beaches, German E-boats were alerted to activity in the area and attacked.

Due to the need for absolute secrecy the tragedy was kept quiet and, even today, is not as well-known as it should be.



These servicemen were the first casualties of D-Day, so to highlight this story and to launch the D-Day 75 commemorative campaign, "THERE BUT NOT THERE" laid 749 pairs of Bootprints on the same beach at Slapton



Sands. D-Day and the Battle of Normandy saw over 50,000 servicemen and women die - from Britain, the Commonwealth and America - in a battle that would turn the tide of the Second World War.

This year's There But Not There Campaign encourages you to walk in the bootprints of those servicemen and women who gave their lives in this extraordinary battle.

## 21st June Summer Solstice – longest day of the year

June, of course is the month of the summer solstice, the month of the Sun. *Sol + stice* come from two Latin words meaning ‘sun’ and ‘to stand still’. As the days lengthen, the sun rises higher and higher until it seems to stand still in the sky. The Summer Solstice results in the longest day and the shortest night of the year. The Northern Hemisphere celebrates in June, and the Southern Hemisphere celebrates in December. *While the Druids worship at Stonehenge and elsewhere, here are some Christian alternatives that honour the Creator rather than the created.*

### A Canticle for Brother Sun

Praised be You, My Lord, in all Your creatures,  
Especially Sir Brother Sun,  
Who makes the day and enlightens us through You.  
He is lovely and radiant and grand;  
And he heralds You, his Most High Lord. *St Francis of Assisi*

### God in All

He inspires all, He gives life to all, He dominates all, He supports all. He lights the light of the sun. He furnishes the light of the night. He has made springs in dry land. He is the God of heaven and earth, of sea and rivers, of sun, moon and stars, of the lofty mountain and the lowly valley, the God above heaven, and in heaven, and under heaven.

*St Patrick*

## When the Spirit Came

*Pentecost is widely considered to be the ‘birthday’ of the Church. By Lester Amann.*

For Christmas we have the build-up of Advent, and Easter Day is preceded by Holy Week. But when it comes to Whit Sunday, it just suddenly arrives. Yet Pentecost is all about the birth of the Christian church and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Surely, that is something to get excited about!

For forty days following our Lord’s resurrection, Jesus appeared to His followers and taught them about the Kingdom of God. Just before His ascension into Heaven, Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Spirit.

Ten days after His ascension, it was the Feast of Pentecost and this was a significant festival for the Jews. It was an annual occasion for people to assemble in the Holy City. The day marked the time when the barley harvest officially ended. This feast day was characterised by religious ceremonies and the offering of sacrifices. No work was done. It was a day of thanksgiving. A time to remember deliverance from Egypt and God’s mercy and reconciliation with His covenant people.

On the day of Pentecost, the followers of Jesus met together in an upper room. Its location was probably on Mount Zion to the west of Jerusalem. The site can be visited although it’s not *the* Upper Room. It’s an ancient building dating from the 14th century and built on the site of a church destroyed by the Persians seven centuries earlier. But the first floor chamber is large with old paving

stones, surrounded by stone pillars and arches. According to tradition, this is where Jesus ate the 'Last Supper' and His followers received the Holy Spirit.

On Whit Sunday we would do well to remember why the Holy Spirit was sent to us. We are given power to live God's way:

to lead us into the things God has prepared for us;

to worship and glorify Him;

to enable us to pray;

to lead us into truth;

to give us a desire to share the love of Christ with others and to help us trust God for all our needs.

This Pentecost may our prayer be for God's Spirit to transform us, for the gentleness of His Spirit to lead us, and for the gifts of His Spirit to equip us. Amen.

## What's so important about the Trinity?

***Trinity Sunday falls on 16th June this year. The Rev Paul Hardingham considers the mystery of a God which is Three in One.***

*'We worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Essence.'* (Athanasian Creed).

On Trinity Sunday we will celebrate God as one God in three Persons. This understanding is based on how we see God at work in the world. We trust in a God who is: *'God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist; God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again and God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world'* (CofE Baptism Service). The Trinity provides a model for **Christian community**. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit relate together in a love relationship of mutual accountability with one another. They complement and build on the work of each other. At His baptism, Jesus the Son is obedient to His Father, who declares His approval as the Spirit anoints Jesus for ministry. *'The Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'* (Luke 3:22). To what extent does the life of our church reflect this? We also find our **mission** in the Trinity. Jesus said, *'As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.'* (John 20:21). As the Father sent His Son into the world, so Jesus sends us out to do the Father's work, equipped by the Spirit of God. How are we called to share in God's mission ourselves? If we live with a renewed awareness of the Trinity, our spiritual lives will deepen, our vision of God's mission will expand and take on a new vitality.

## How long could you make £60 last?

That is the latest challenge from Children's Society, as they seek to highlight the plight of many poor people.

Children's Society says: "Imagine the worst week. Your car needs repairs, your boiler has broken, you need to get the groceries in, but you have only £60 left until you get paid next week. Can you make it last?"

If you would like to test yourself, to see how you would manage, take the quiz at <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/news-and-blogs/our-blog/difficult-decisions-in-a-crisis?>

[Log-on if you can and give the test a go – makes you think just how difficult life can become, what hard decisions have to be made and how easy it could be to "take risks" which could result in accidents or even death]

Behind the quiz, the Childrens' Society is deadly serious. "Low wages, poor housing and public service cutbacks have left many families struggling. They have to make impossible choices every single day. One bit of bad luck quickly leads to families not being able to afford the basics.

"To make matters far worse, the council-run emergency funds that used to be there to support vulnerable families are at risk, and have disappeared altogether in some areas, leaving people with nowhere to turn."

## Holidays can be 'holy days'

Tony Horsfall

No doubt you are beginning to look forward to your summer holidays. Just think about it – sun, sea and sand, time to relax and unwind, no deadlines to meet, no responsibilities to shoulder . . . ah, bliss!

We are fortunate to live at a time when workers are encouraged to take time off from work for the sake of their well-being. Most employees are given 4-6 weeks paid holiday each year, plus Bank Holidays. What a blessing that is, and a far cry from the day when the only time workers had off was on church Feast days – the original holy days.

This year, rather than go on holiday and forget God, we might use our time away to become even more aware of God's presence in our lives. Here's how:

- (1) Thank God for recreation. Whatever helps you relax and wind-down is a gift from God to be received with thankfulness and enjoyed to the full.
- (2) Take extra time to sleep and adopt a slower pace. This is how you will recharge your batteries and be refreshed.
- (3) Make space for the relationships that matter to you, especially your family and friends. Enjoy each other's company, talk and laugh together, enjoy unhurried meals.

(4) Notice God in the world around you. Let the beauty of God’s creation fill your soul with wonder. Linger and look deeply at everything you see.

(5) Take a good book with you that will nourish your inner life; listen to music that will help you relax. Breathe deeply and walk slowly, there’s no need to rush.

Psalm 23:2 comes to mind: ‘He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul.’

Happy Holidays!

## Sudoku

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

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

Pigs are some of the thirstiest animals – although bacon is the one thing that doing without could cause me most concern. Although when we decided to take the Nave Café in a new age of being “vegetarian only” the lack of turkey at the Christmas Fayre was also high on the list.

Then there is deforestation to consider – tropical rainforests lost not for timber but for the land to graze cattle or grow palm oil and soya. As soya becomes the world's major crop for chicken feed, so the industry is driving cattle ranching deeper into the forests.

Industrial-scale agriculture now dominates the western livestock and poultry industries, and a single farm can now generate as much waste as a city. A cow excretes around 40kg of manure for every kilogram of edible beef it puts on and when you have many thousands crowded into a small area the effect can be dramatic. Their manure and urine is funnelled into massive waste lagoons sometimes holding as many as 40m gallons. These cesspools often break, leak or overflow, polluting underground water supplies and rivers with nitrogen, phosphorus and nitrates.

We could carry on talking about spoiling the oceans, ruining the air and making us prone to disease, but best not get too depressed.

BUT we can’t get away from climate change – our planet needs help – we live at a critical time. If like me you don’t want to go completely vegetarian then why not try a day or two a week “meat free” and experiment with some new veggie dishes.

[Source: The Guardian]

SMH



## Helping to Save the Planet by going Vegetarian...

Did you know that we humans eat about 230m tonnes of animals a year, twice as much as we did 30 years ago. Next time you get a pork chop out of the freezer just give that some thought.

For those of you who attended the Archdeacons Visitation service at St Paul's (Compstall) you may have been inspired (as I was) to give some thought to at least in part giving up meat – Ian Bishop a vegetarian for some years now. Now sadly I was so engaged with the thought of this I somewhere along the line missed the main theme of his address – BUT this is important stuff – so sorry Ian – let's stick to helping save the planet (at least for now).

We mostly breed four species – chickens, cows, sheep and pigs – all of which need vast amounts of food and water, emit methane and other greenhouse gases and produce mountains of physical waste.

Nearly 30% of the available ice-free surface area of the planet is now used by livestock, or for growing food for those animals. One billion people go hungry every day, but livestock now consumes the majority of the world's crops. "Food" for thought!

Eat a steak or a chicken and you are effectively consuming the water that the animal has needed to live and grow. Vegetarian author John Robbins calculates it takes 60, 108, 168, and 229 pounds of water to produce one pound of potatoes, wheat, maize and rice respectively. But a pound of beef needs around 9,000 litres – or more than 20,000lbs of water. Equally, it takes nearly 1,000 litres of water to produce one litre of milk. A broiler chicken, by contrast, is far more efficient, producing the same amount of meat as a cow on just 1,500 litres.

## Remembering D-Day

Canon David Winter

Recently I asked a group of about 30 people, the youngest 36, the oldest 90, what would we be commemorating on June 6<sup>th</sup>? No one knew, though after a bit of prompting some of the older ones said D-Day. To be fair, most of them weren't even alive, or were small children when that great turning point of the Second World War took place: the Normandy landings. But as our discussion continued distant memories on what many historians rate as the greatest sea-borne invasion of military history slowly emerged. Strangely enough we remembered or remembered being told about the Doodlebugs which preceded the invasion in the summer of 1944. In fact, those horrible missiles and their deadlier counterparts the V2 rockets were, if we had known it at the time, simply the grim overtures to what was to be a staggering feat: the liberation of Europe from Nazi occupation due to the surrender of Germany and eventually the end of the war. As a choirboy, I had sat amazed at one of the King's National Days of Prayer. The first of which was in 1940 before Dunkirk. Our north London church was packed (standing room only) to pray for peace and, I noticed, the liberation of Europe. Seldom could prayers have been more spectacularly answered. Of course, it wasn't a walk-over. There are many untold personal experiences. My 19 year-old brother was one of the hundred thousand strong invading force drawn from five nations. Under enemy fire he drove an RAF truck up a beach in Normandy on D-Day plus one. The film 'The Longest Day' told the story of the bravery of the others who dropped from the skies by parachute or glider. One of these men was Private John Steele an American paratrooper whose parachute caught on the church tower in the village of Sainte-Mère-Église. Eventually the occupying troops retreated as the Allied forces made their way into Germany. To the horror of the troops the discovery at Belsen confirmed that the Nazi regime was truly evil.

## Funding repairs is 'top problem' facing churches

A new online poll has revealed the top five problems facing the UK's church buildings. In the poll, run on the National Churches Trust's website, people were asked to identify what they thought was the biggest problem facing the UK's church buildings. The top problems were identified as:

- Not enough money available for repairs – (identified as top problem by 32% of people)
- Declining congregations – (identified as top problem by 26% of people)
- Shortage of volunteers to help look after church buildings – (identified as top problem by 16% of people)
- Lack of modern facilities – (identified as top problem by 14% of people)
- Lead theft – (identified as top problem by 8% of people)

Claire Walker, Chief Executive of the National Churches Trust said:

“Over the last two years, there has been a 56% increase in applications for our grants, with numbers rising from 381 in 2016 to 593 in 2018. One of the reasons for this increase is that less money is available from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the end of Government backed schemes such as the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund.”

“Our nation's religious heritage belongs to all of us and is too precious to lose.”



*The Message Trust*

*A worldwide movement with a passion to share Jesus Christ with the hardest to reach young people.*

**Thanks to Les Hutchinson for talking to us at a recent Sunday service about his work with “the message” - a worthy Christian charity doing a great job.**

The Message Trust was founded in 1992 but has its roots in Message '88, a week-long youth mission that took place at the Manchester Apollo in 1988, pioneered by founder and CEO Andy Hawthorne and his brother and business partner Simon. Having employed many young men in their Wythenshawe clothing factory and discovering how little they knew of Jesus, Andy and Simon felt stirred to do something that relevantly presented the good news in language they could understand.

In schools - creative arts mission teams relevantly share the gospel of Jesus through music, dance and theatre, seeing thousands of young people make decisions to live for Christ every year.

In local communities - a sharp focus on the most deprived neighbourhoods, Eden sends urban missionaries to live sacrificially, share the gospel and build authentic community.

In prisons – the trust help young people find Jesus in prison and assist with housing and jobs through our Message Enterprise Centre, breaking the spiral of youth reoffending and saving the taxpayer millions.



## St Mary's Prayer & Bible Study Group Judges – The flawed and the flawless

The book of Judges is an exciting read. But it is not an easy one. These pages of the Bible feature lying, assassination, murder, massacres and worse. And that's just the judges – the men and women appointed by God to save his people, Israel, from their enemies and from themselves. It is a dark story, full of flawed individuals living in a deeply flawed society. What is it doing in the bible? It's the gospel! Judges shows us that the Bible is not a series of nice stories – it is a book of unvarnished history. It is about real people. And it is about the real God. Judges shows us a God who is relentlessly loving to unlovely people; who continually rescues people from the consequences of their own flaws and failings; and who points forwards to the flawless Leader and Saviour who he will one day send. And it shows us how to live as God's people in a society which offers a dizzying array of alternative "gods" to worship. So today, surrounded by the gods of wealth, celebrity, ideology and achievement, we need this book.

These six studies will take you through the twists and turns of Judges, bringing you face to face with famous names such as Deborah, Gideon and Samson – and, still more excitingly, with God himself.

Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> June 7pm – Prayer meeting

Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> June 7pm – Study 1 A shaky start (*Judges 1v1 - 3v6*)

Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> June 7pm – Study 2 Othniel, Ehud, Deborah: Expect the unexpected (*Judges 3v7 - 5v31*)

Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> June 7pm – Study 3 Gideon: The dangers of success (*Judges 6v1 – 8v31*)

Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> July 7pm – Prayer meeting

Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> July 7pm – Study 4 Abimelech and Jephthah: Dark times (*Judges 8v32 – 12v15*)

Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> July 7pm – Study 5 Samson: A shadow in the darkness (*Judges 13-16*)

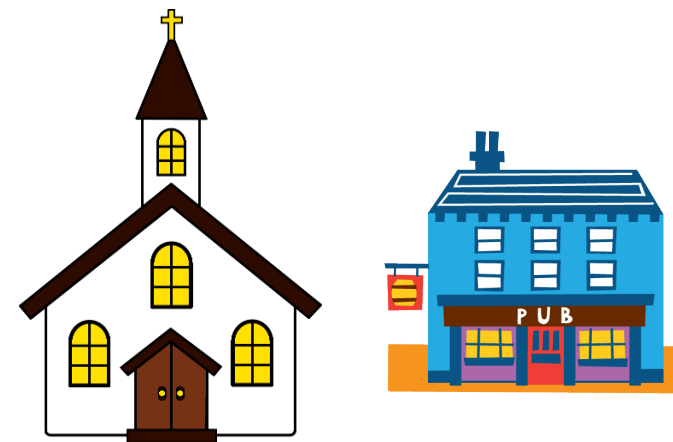
Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> July 7pm – Study 6 "Israel had no king" (*Judges 17-21*)

## More churches than pubs

The UK now has more churches than pubs, according to new data published by the National Churches Trust. There are around 39,000 pubs in the UK, according to the latest figures from the Office of National Statistics, with more than 11,000 pubs having closed in the UK in the last decade – a fall of almost a quarter (23%). However, there are around 40,300 church buildings in the UK open to the public and being used for worship, according to research carried out for the National Churches Trust by the Brierley Consultancy.

The number of church buildings is also substantially higher than other key public buildings in the UK. There are currently around 14,300 supermarkets operated by grocery retailers, 11,500 post office branches, 7,500 bank branches and 3,600 public libraries.

An increasing number of churches in the UK are also becoming local 'community hubs', hosting children's nurseries, senior citizen lunch clubs, concerts and exhibition venues. Some even house post-offices, GP surgeries and farmer's markets. Around 6,000 of the UK's approximately 32,000 polling places are located in church buildings.



## Loneliness week – 17th to 21st June

Britain is in the midst of a loneliness epidemic. A survey by the Jo Cox Commission in 2017 revealed that nine million of us in the UK are affected by it.

So, no wonder that last year the Government even appointed the world's first loneliness minister, Tracey Crouch. And no wonder that the Marmalade Trust aims to raise awareness of isolation in the UK.

Loneliness hurts you physically as well as mentally. It has even been said that it can be as bad for your health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. It can raise blood pressure, and cause diabetes and obesity.

Technology is a big factor: we send emails rather than talk, we have virtual team workspaces rather than speaking in person. We use LinkedIn and Facebook to keep in touch. One health expert said, "We're getting out of the habit of actual conversations."

People who work from home and who also live alone can go days without speaking to anyone. No wonder that the millennial generation, for whom technology accounts for an increasing percentage of their interaction, are reporting high levels of anxiety.

Experts advise that you simply try and make as many social connections as you can, however brief. Make tea for someone at work, or chat to your neighbour.

## St Erasmus, a good saint when you're all at sea

Do you like messing about in boats? If so, then you'll have heard of St Elmo's Fire. It is the light that is sometimes seen on mastheads of boats after storms at sea.

St Elmo is another name for St Erasmus, a fourth century Syrian bishop who was not afraid of violent storms. Legend has it that one day when Erasmus was preaching outside, a thunderbolt hit the ground right beside him. That might have distracted many modern bishops, but not Erasmus – he just kept on preaching. His courage won him the respect of sailors, who also had to brave the elements of nature in their daily work. He died about 300AD

But when Erasmus was made the patron saint of sailors, it led to a curious confusion. His emblem became the windlass, a kind of hoist used by many sailors at sea. So far so good, but many medieval Christians, seeing the windlass emblem, assumed it was some sort of torture instrument. They knew that Erasmus had died in the persecution of Diocletian, and concluded that a windlass had been used to hoist out his intestines (which it hadn't).

But no matter – Erasmus was still adopted by another set of suffering people. Not only did sailors remember the thunderbolt, and look to him, but soon, anyone with gut ache as well!

**Is sea level rising?** Yes is the simple answer to that question and until a village in mid-Wales hit the spot light (first in 2014 and now more recently) it never really occurred to me just how serious this problem is. For those of you who do not know my tale of woe - this small Welsh village has hit the headlines potentially being the first in the UK that will be “decommissioned” (given back to the sea) when it is no longer cost effective (or even possible) to maintain the sea defences. Unfortunately this “news” has left property owners (yes I’m one of them) facing plummeting house prices, in a village that is now “blighted”, with no sign of a workable plan to re-locate and absolutely no offer of compensation from the Government for the loss of homes/businesses and land (considering that it is freehold). Am I (or my estate) going to own a patch of salt-marsh – very probably depending on when this all happens. I am of course deeply depressed at the entire situation (particularly financially) not that it is the end of the world – or is it? Fairbourne may be the first, but it won’t be the last, village to fall victim to the sea and lets face it however “inland” we may be here in Stockport we are living on an island! When sea levels rise as rapidly as they have been, even a small increase can cause destructive erosion, flooding, contamination of agricultural soil with salt and a host of other problems including lost habitat for fish, birds, plants and if I move to Fairbourne permanently potentially me. Flooding in low-lying coastal areas will force more of us to move to higher ground, and millions more will be vulnerable from flood risk and it has been said (I read it somewhere) that the prospect of higher coastal water levels will threaten basic services such as Internet access, since much of the underlying communications infrastructure lies in the path of rising seas. Well that really is serious... but maybe not so much as more dangerous hurricanes and typhoons resulting in more powerful storm surges that can strip away everything in their path. This is indeed a world-wide problem but none of us can get away from “climate change”

SMH



### **Are you worried about our Bumblebees?**

2018 was a tough year for many of the UK’s 24 bumblebee species according to a report released by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

Whatever the size of our garden (from a planter to an allotment, a postage stamp of land to large estate in the country) we can all plant some bee-friendly flowers to help boost our local bumblebee population. In return, they will dutifully pollinate our flowers, crops, fruits and vegetables.

The Bumble Trust suggest planting at least two kinds of bee-friendly flower for every flowering period.

Bee-friendly flowers are rich in pollen and nectar which bees can easily access throughout the year (in particular from March until October but remember that some species of bee are active in the winter).



## Wordsearch

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

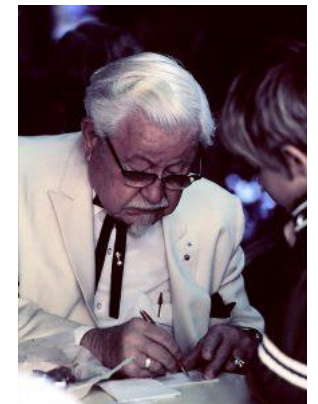
M D R G R L E I E S M O S C  
 M D M L E R D I T R L R T V  
 G U I D I N G I V W I Y A N  
 I C L T A S F R T H G I R B  
 S S O L O K L E C E T D A T  
 G N E M T C M A A H Y E L I  
 N R L L P A O R N R U A O L  
 I A N U L A F N E D L R H P  
 K B U F C L N T V L C E C I  
 I M P R E S S I V E T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

They became the secret recipe that is still used to day. Kentucky Fried Chicken had arrived.

He then persuaded a local restaurant to offer it to their customers. They loved it, and Colonel Saunders' Kentucky Fried Chicken was on its way to fame. By 1935 his picture with the white moustache, goatee and cane were famous. (The white suit came later). By 1963 there were 2000 franchised restaurants and Kentucky Fried Chicken was the largest fast-food franchise in the country.

In the meantime, Colonel Sanders became a Christian. He'd had an off-on relationship with God for years, but one night he dropped into a Christian tabernacle meeting and was deeply moved. He went on to ask Jesus to forgive his sins, and to come into his life.

He wrote later to a friend: "I pray to God almighty that you will also commit your life to Jesus. If you will, no matter what hard times you may go through, He'll help you through." Harland Colonel Sanders died in December 1980. He was 90 years old.



(Photo: Wikimedia Commons)

## The man behind Kentucky Fried Chicken

Hundreds of thousands of us will have a meal this summer courtesy of Colonel Sanders – his chicken is indeed finger lickin’ good. But did you know that Colonel Sanders was named Harland Sanders, born in Indiana in 1890, and became a Christian

When Harland was only five, his father died, so his mother ran the farm and raised the four children – and took the children to church each week. She taught them: “Always tell the truth, don’t cheat, and be kind to each other.” She also taught Harland to cook.

By the age of 12 Harland was a farm hand, and in the rough and tumble years that followed his jobs included: locomotive fireman, railroad section hand, insurance salesman, a petrol station operator and finally – a restaurateur. Harland was a born enthusiast and grabbed every opportunity as it came along. But even he never dreamed that running a local Shell petrol station would be the start of something big.

For most of Harland’s petrol customers were truckers, and most of them were hungry. So, one day Harland dragged out an old table and began to cook food. The truckers ate – and ate! From this a large restaurant grew. But heartache was never far behind – his son died, his wife left, and his business went under during the Great Depression.

Finally, aged 65 and struggling to survive on social security, Harland wondered what he could do. He knew his old customers had loved his chicken. But this time he added a mix of 11 herbs and spices.

## He had no home

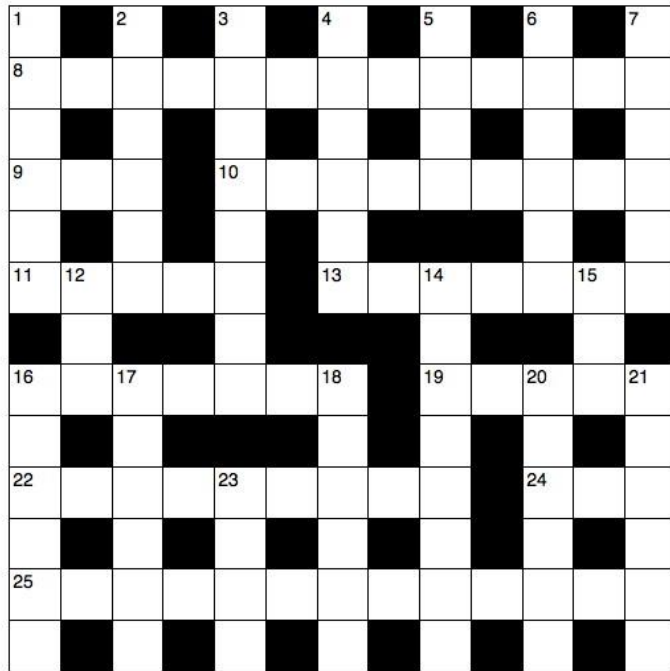
He had no home,  
The birds of the air had nests  
But He had nowhere to lay His head.  
He lived as a poor man  
Supported by friends,  
But fed the thousands with fish and bread.

He preached three years  
Persecuted by Pharisees  
Who thought He came to destroy the Law,  
But the people listened  
And some believed  
That He was the One they all waited for.

He came to save  
When He was lifted up  
On Calvary’s cross of suffering and pain,  
The curtain tore,  
The way made through  
And man once lost was found again.

*By Megan Carter*

## Crossword Clues & Answers for June 2019



### Across

8 Laban complained he had not been allowed to kiss them when Jacob fled with his family (Genesis 31:28) (13)  
 9 In favour of (3)  
 10 'The child's father and mother — at what

was said about him' (Luke 2:33) (9)

11 Swagger (Psalm 12:8) (5)

13 'Terrors — him on every side and dog his every step' (Job 18:11) (7)

16 Bay bits (anag.) (7)

19 Preach, address an audience, speak in public (5)

22 Holy Communion (9)

24 'On their way to — out the land, Joshua instructed them, "Go and make a survey of the land"' (Joshua 18:8) (3)

25 Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint these to administer his grain storage plan (Genesis 41:34) (13)

### Down

1 'Assyria's pride will be brought down and — sceptre will pass away' (Zechariah 10:11) (6)

- 2 'And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in — with God and men' (Luke 2:52) (6)  
 3 The descendants of Esau (Genesis 36:9) (8)  
 4 The components of the crown that Jesus was made to wear before his crucifixion (John 19:2) (6)  
 5 Colour of cloth which was to cover holy objects in the tabernacle when moving camp (Numbers 4:6–12) (4)  
 6 One of the gold articles plundered from the Midianites offered to the Lord by the Israelite army 'to make atonement' (Numbers 31:50) (6)  
 7 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set — — ' (Jeremiah 31:29) (2,4)  
 12 Ate (anag.) (3)  
 14 'We ourselves... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our — as sons' (Romans 8:23) (8)  
 15 Abram's nephew (Genesis 14:12) (3)  
 16 Rupture (Job 30:14) (6)  
 17 'Yet to all who received him... he gave the right to — children of God' (John 1:12) (6)  
 18 'I... asked him the true meaning of all — . — he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things' (Daniel 7:16) (4,2)  
 20 Military units (Exodus 14:20) (6)  
 21 'Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to — her to public disgrace' (Matthew 1:19) (6)                      23 Diva (anag.) (4)

**DOWN:** 1, Egypt's, 2, Favour, 3, Edomites, 4, Thorns, 5, Blue, 6, Armlet, 7, On edge, 12, Tea, 14, Adoption, 15, Lot, 16, Breach, 17, Become, 18, This So, 20, Armies, 21, Expose, 23, Avid.

**ACROSS:** 8, Grandchildren, 9, Pro, 10, Marvelled, 11, Strut, 13, Startle, 16, Babysit, 19, Orate, 22, Eucharist, 24, Map, 25, Commisioners.