



Diocese of Chester

STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH

St Mary's in the Marketplace

Churchgate, Stockport, SK1 1YG .

Tel: 0161 480 1815

St Mary's with St Andrew's Parish Office

St Andrew's Community Church, Hall Street, Stockport, SK1 4DA.

Tel: 0161 429 6564

Mobile: 07421 000123



e-mail: st.marysstockport@gmail.com

www.stmarysinthemarketplace.com



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 9.00am – 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. Electronic copy available on pdf format via the church website.

Parish Magazine



July
2018

STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH



Diary

July 2018

Sunday, 1 st July	Holy Communion Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 3 rd July	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Friday, 6 th July	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 8 th July	Morning Prayer (Sea Sunday) Zeal Church	10.30 15.00
Tuesday, 10 th July	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Friday, 13 th July	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 15 th July	Holy Communion Baptism Zeal Church	10.30 12.00 15.30
Tuesday, 17 th July	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Friday, 20 th July	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 22 nd July	Morning Prayer Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 24 th July	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Friday, 27 th July	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 29 th July	Morning Prayer Zeal Church	10.00 15.30
Tuesday, 31 st July	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15

A contribution towards the cost of producing this magazine would be appreciated please – in the donations box.

Thank You

Our best wishes to Hans and Sandra as they pack their bags to leave Stockport and move to Switzerland. We will miss you at St Mary's, are sorry to see you go, and very much hope to keep in touch.

Sanda wishes to host a buffet lunch after the Tuesday service on the 24th July. If you wish to stay behind after the service please let us know (numbers required for catering purposes) . Thank You.

Crossword solution:

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

A Plastic Revolution *The Rev Paul Hardingham considers the problem of plastic from a Christian point of view.*

The recent Blue Planet II series exposed just how much plastic waste is an issue in our seas. The Prime Minister has called plastic waste '*one of the great environmental scourges of our time.*' The best estimates suggest 10 million tonnes of plastic ends up in our oceans, contaminating and killing sea life. How should we view this issue from a Christian perspective?

When God created the universe, He saw '*everything He had made, and indeed, it was very good.*' (Genesis 1:31). He calls us to share in His care of creation: '*Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves on the ground.*' (Genesis 1:28). Our rule over living creatures is not an excuse to exploit them in a selfish way. As those who made in the image of God, we are entrusted to care for them with responsibility and trustworthiness.

Why do the sea creatures being killed by plastic matter? Because of human rebellion against God (see Genesis 3), our relationship with God and His creation was damaged. No longer do we live with living creatures in harmony and interdependence. Yet after the flood, when Noah rescued the animals in the ark, they are included in God's everlasting promise to protect the earth: '*I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that was with you.*' (Genesis 9:9, 10). This also points to God's cosmic plan to restore all creation to Himself.

What is our response to be? Where is God calling us, as His people in this time and place, to make a stand in protecting His creation? Time for a plastic revolution?

July is a relatively quiet month for us at St Mary's with no significant news to share at the present time. It will hopefully be an opportunity to take some time out and relax before we approach our Autumn season, when we hope to have news from the Diocese about the recruitment of a new Rector and the plans for restructuring of parishes.

Already we have exciting plans for a couple of exhibitions to come into church – the first due to arrive in July (staying until September). Phil Alexander is a local artist and will be displaying an installation in the south aisle in the form of a wooden henge, constructed from roof timbers from the ancient Norbury Mill. This promises to be quite an exciting display at ground level - although we have ancient roof timbers of our own if you look up at the chancel roof. The second will be coming in the Autumn having been on display first at Chester Cathedral – more details in due course. The Classic Vehicle Show will be back in the market place in August so we'll see what we can do to tap into that. Heritage Open Days cover two weekends in September – again we'll do what we can to take part. We are planning with Stockport Council for a Civic Service on the 11th November, a special evening service to be followed by a lantern parade from St Mary's to the War Memorial/Art Gallery and the lighting of a beacon to mark the 100th anniversary of the ending of WW1. We have bookings for harvest time and for Christmas – so it will be all "go" again very soon.

As warden/administrator this Secretary Bird wants to fly off (not literally alas) for a break away from the laptop.

If you are going away this month, have a lovely break – if you are not we hope to see you at St Mary's.

St Mary's as a venue for business events...



If you are a food and drinks professional in the region you would most likely have attended (or at least been invited to) the Food & Drink Trade Show held in and around the Marketplace here in Stockport. Between 10am – 4pm exhibitors were located in the Market Hall and at various locations around Stockport Market. Just a pity it was such a windy day, and at times raining - but at close of play the organisers seemed pleased with the way every-

thing went - the closing reception on this occasion being held at Robinsons Brewery, whilst we held the first Parochial Church Council meeting of the year in church. For St Mary's it was an easy win when asked to assist the organisers "FoodSync" (when looking for a location to hold speaker sessions) for us to be able show-case our own facilities as a venue for training, meetings and small conferences etc.



A little too windy for our Junior Steward "Roggie" who could hardly keep his ears up or his eyes open!



It was lovely to hear the clear sounds of "Flute Salad" six amazing flute players and of course the Poynton Male Voice Choir.

Everyone joined in at the end (including the audience) with what better item than "Jerusalem". A most enjoyable evening and a "full house".



Ladybrook Singers:

Musical Director: Alison Bletcher
Accompanist: Celia Maylor

Flute Salad:

Musical Director: Caroline Hawkins

Poynton Male Voice Choir:

Musical Director: Eileen Rigg
Accompanist: Joyce Deighton





Ladybrook Singers 90th Anniversary Concert

**with Flute Salad
and Poynton MVC**

It was a pleasure to welcome back to St Mary's the Ladybrook Singers for their 90th anniversary concert.

This talented choir sang a varied programme of songs during the evening from Elgar to Rutter – Goodall to Jenkins, Berlin, Lennon/McCartney.....



Nave Café

Private Functions and Corporate events...

For any organisation or individuals thinking of holding a private party/function/dinner etc. why not think about St Mary's – a wonderful venue for your event.



In-house, the Nave Café will happily cater for a drinks reception or reasonably sized buffet/meal. For a larger party then we are more than happy to work alongside outside catering outlets.

Shown here on a social evening the Rotary Club of Stockport..

As many readers will be aware the Rotary Club of Stockport assists with the management of the café on the first Saturday of each month and also operates the "Book Exchange" located in the south aisle.



THE WAY I SEE IT – Holidays and Holy-days

Canon David Winter considers the stages of holidays....

‘Going to go somewhere nice for your holidays?’ is the standard hair-dresser’s opening gambit at this time of year. ‘Yes’, I reply, ‘I’m staying here’. They laugh politely, but clearly that’s not their idea of a holiday.

In an average life holidays go through stages. Do you remember your late teens, and the thrill of independence – hitch-hiking with a friend across Germany, or scuba diving, or climbing mountains or camping (in the rain)? Then it’s couples, and memorable meals in little cafes in Italy or France. Next, perhaps, it’s children – warm sunshine, beaches, Spain or Cornwall. Then it’s retirement, and apart from grand-parent duties it’s cruises (‘cheaper than staying at home!’ they tell me, but I don’t believe it).

The final stage is where I am now, the holiday season as a time when the fever of life cools, when there’s room on the buses and trains, and blissful idleness punctuated by the occasional theatre outing or visit to Lord’s to snooze and watch county cricket.

Each phase has its appeal, and each can fulfil the fundamental principle of a holiday, which is hidden in the very word. It is, of course, a holy-day, because God commanded us to rest as well as work, and space and time to think, reflect and pray are precious holiday gifts.

At the different stages of life our holiday needs are different. What it should offer is a change from the normal, a new environment (even if it’s only the local park) and new experiences to treasure during the months of winter. God invented the Sabbath because we needed it. Enjoy your holy-days, wherever or whatever they are.

Thomas More, Reformation martyr

These days, lawyers and politicians are held in the lowest esteem by the public, along with tabloid journalists and estate agents. St Thomas More was both a lawyer and politician, who is today much admired for holding steadfastly to his faith-based principles. He lived in dangerous times, when anyone, even queens, who displeased King Henry VIII could find themselves in a condemned cell in The Tower of London.

Sir Thomas More held the office of Lord High Chancellor and at one time was the king’s most trusted adviser. But when King Henry took personal control of the Church in England in order to divorce his first wife, More courageously opposed him. Thomas More was a social philosopher and the author of ‘Utopia’. This book described an imaginary republic governed by an educated elite who employed reason rather than self-interest for the general good of everyone. He was himself one of the pre-eminent scholars of his age. As a Christian theologian he supported orthodox doctrine, vigorously opposed heresy and argued strongly against the new Protestant ideas taking hold in Europe. Although holding the highest political and legal office he was far from being a pragmatic politician and opportunist lawyer. In every matter he was a man who held firmly to what he believed was right in God’s eyes. When Thomas More fell from favour with the king, as a result of his unflinching views, he was falsely accused of taking bribes. When this charge failed, his enemies accused him of supporting a celebrated seer of the times who was strongly critical of the king. This too failed. He was then required to swear to the Oath of Supremacy, acknowledging Henry’s position as head of the Church of England. This he could not do in conscience. He was put on trial and condemned to be hung, drawn and quartered for his treason, a punishment later changed to beheading. He died in 1535 and on the scaffold his final words were ‘I die the King’s good servant, but God’s first.’ He has been officially declared a martyr saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

SHOW BOX APPEAL – T4U



For a few years now we have been supporting “Operation Christmas Child” by providing shoe box gifts for children overseas who would otherwise receive no gift at all.

Last year, with, our friends from Stockport Rotary & Bolshaw Primary School (Heald Green), a good number of boxes were sent from St Mary’s for distribution via the charity “Samaritans Purse”.

This year we are planning to do the same thing, but slightly differently, now working with “teams4U”, the charity set up by Dave Cooke. Dave was inspired to set up this valuable aid work and has 20 years experience of international relief and development.

Recently celebrating 25 years of changing the lives of deprived children and their community, the charity supports (with its partners) various education and healthcare projects - as well as providing those so welcomed “shoe boxes”.

We hope that you will continue to support us for Christmas 2018 – by completing full boxes or providing items to be included in one if you haven’t time to complete a full box. Details will be made available as to collection dates etc. later on. Items to put in the boxes will also be made available although you can have a quick peek on the charity web-site. www.teams4u.com

Many thanks

Any queries please speak to Margaret Forster

Church of England brings prayers to millions with Alexa

The Church of England is launching an Alexa skill, enabling users to ask the Church of England for prayers, explanations of the Christian faith and where to find their nearest church for local events and services based on their location.

Daily prayer resources are central to the skill, offering a prayer for the day, as well as morning, evening and night-time prayers and a grace before meals all recorded for Alexa devices. The skill is also integrated with A Church Near You, to find the nearest services and events, and seeks to increase users’ knowledge of the Christian faith by answering questions such as: what is the Bible? Who is God? What is a Christian?

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, who is featured in a video to promote the Alexa skill, said: “We’re thrilled to be launching the Alexa skill today, to enable regular churchgoers and those exploring faith to connect with God in another way at a time that’s right for them. A quarter of UK households now own a smart device and, after transforming the Church of England’s and Archbishops’ national websites last year, this fast-growing area was identified as a priority for development.

“More broadly, this work is part of our wider Renewal and Reform programme, which seeks to ensure the Church of England is a growing Church for all people and in all places.”

Adrian Harris, Head of Digital at the Church of England, said: “Platforms such as Alexa give the Church the ability to connect people with God and to weave faith into daily lives, whether for daily prayers or exploring Christianity. We also see this as a fantastic opportunity to encourage people into

their local church, which is why the link to A Church Near You is so important, particularly at key moments in the Christian year such as Easter and Christmas.

“We’re prioritising Alexa at this stage to reach as many people as quickly as possible, but plan to launch on Google and Apple devices in due course. The recent Church of England Digital Labs event highlighted the importance of voice as a major area of focus and the insights from this day were really useful.”

Thomas Allain Chapman, Publishing Manager at the Church of England, said: “The Alexa skill means prayers that Church House Publishing has previously made available in books, apps and e-books will now be available in audio to a new audience in many homes.”

This is phase one of the AI project, built jointly by the Church’s Digital and Church House Publishing teams, with future development planned to ensure users can find more answers to faith questions.

Users must activate the Church of England skill by saying “Alexa, open the Church of England”. A full list of commands is available on our dedicated Alexa page.

One million people go to a Church of England church and more than four million attend at Christmas. The integration with A Church Near You will mean even more users are able to find a local place to worship at key events.

This skill is one of the first significant faith-based skills available for smart speaker users in the UK.

Civic Service 2018



We were delighted to welcome the new Mayor and Mayoress of Stockport – Cllr Walter Brett & Mrs Maureen Brett to the Civic Service on the 3rd June. In attendance the Bishop of Stockport, The Rt Rev Libby Lane.

Our thanks to the standard bearers (arrangements made by Jim Baker) and visiting bell ringers (organised by Clive Calton) who always add that little bit of something “special” to occasions such as this. This service is of course organised in liaison with Stockport Council (Democratic Services) – thanks to David Clee and Carol Hargreaves for their input and support.

Organist: Peter Williamson / Service led by: Rev Mike Newman

Sea Sunday is on the 8th July

– join Rita of our service of Morning Prayer at 10.30am



Meanwhile... The Fishermen's Mission is selling yellow wellington boots as part of its campaign to raise awareness of those lost at sea while working in the fishing industry in the past ten years.

For every pair of boots sold, the charity will tie a yellow ribbon to the flag-pole outside its head office in Hampshire. The campaign, '100in10', hopes to highlight the dangers of working on trawlers, and the impact of deaths on families and communities. The Fishermen's Mission is a Christian charity established in 1881 who provide a range of support and guidance to fishermen and their families around the whole of the UK coastline. Years of experience and well-trained staff mean that they have a deep understanding of fishing and fishing communities. The charity receive no government or lottery funding. More details at: www.fishermensmission.org.uk

Maritime Christian Ministries

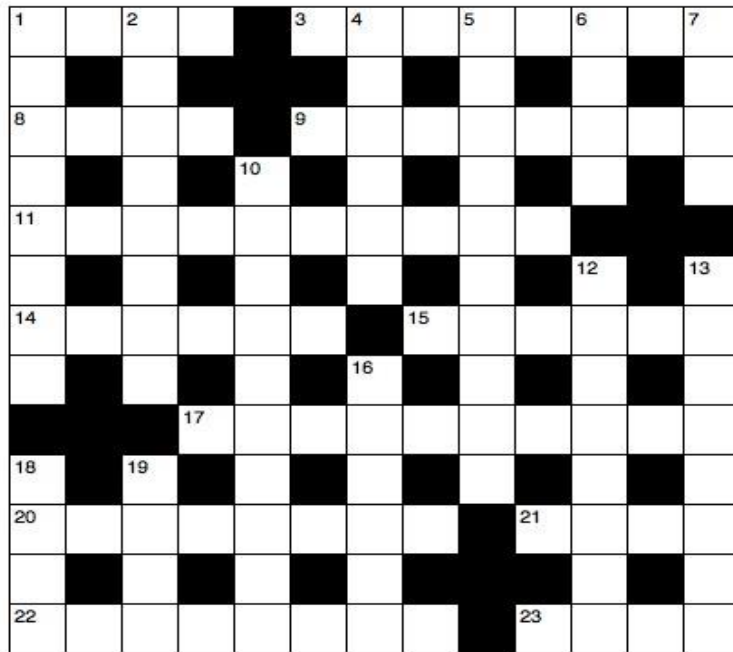
www.mcmuk.com

Your hats, scarves and warmers are still welcome please to support the Maritime Christian Ministries. We have provided a fantastic number of items for which the charity are delighted – please keep those knitting needles clicking...

St Joseph of Arimathea – the man who buried Jesus

Have you ever suffered from gossip? Ever discovered that people are saying some really wild things about you? If so, Joseph of Arimathea would understand – and sympathise with you. This decent, godly man of the gospels seems to have fired the imaginations of all sorts of odd people down the centuries. Joseph was a rich, prominent member of the ruling Jewish council – the Sanhedrin. Mark's gospel describes him as having been 'waiting for the kingdom of God' for years, and even being a secret disciple of Jesus. He played no part in the trial or crucifixion. When Jesus was pronounced dead, Joseph had the seniority needed to approach Pilate for the body – and get it. Near to where Jesus had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, cut deep in the rock. Joseph himself already owned it – and it was still new and empty. So Joseph laid Jesus there, and wrapped him in a linen cloth, according to Jewish burial custom. Joseph did not bury Jesus alone – Nicodemus helped him, while some women who had followed Jesus trailed miserably behind. Matthew tells us that the last thing Joseph did for Jesus was to sadly roll a big stone across the entrance to the tomb, and then go away. With that, Joseph passes out of history – and into legend. For in the centuries that followed, Joseph was swept up into the Legend of the Holy Grail, the Legend of Glastonbury, and even bits of the Arthurian legends. It was said that the Holy Thorn, which flowers at Christmas, had sprung from his staff. The mind boggles at what Joseph would have made of it all. One suspects he would have preferred to stick to the simple, but far better, true story: as having had the immense, unique privilege of laying the body of Jesus Christ in the tomb. Even if Jesus didn't stay very long!

Crossword



Art Trail 2018 Woodsmoor Artists

St Mary's is participating in the 2018 Art Trail organised by Woodsmoor Artists – see some of the exhibitions in church and pick up a leaflet for more details.

ACROSS

- 1 Proverbs describes her as being 'of noble character' (Proverbs 31:10) (4)
- 3 'Shall we go up again — — against the Benjamites, our brothers?' (Judges 20:23) (2,6)
- 8 A descendant of Shem (Genesis 10:28) (4)
- 9 'Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my — ' (Luke 14:27) (8)
- 11 Resentment(Ephesians 4:31)(10)
- 14 In Cain(anag.)(6)
- 15 'Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to—' (Psalm 139:6) (6)
- 17 Intense (1 Thessalonians 4:5)(10)
- 20 Third Order of the Roman Catholic Church(8)
- 21 'At midnight the cry rang out, "Here's the bridegroom!Come out to — him"' (Matthew 25:6) (4)
- 22 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in — ' (2 Corinthians 12:9) (8)
- 23 'As the — pants for streams of water,so my soul pants for you, O God' (Psalm 42:1) (4)

DOWN

- 1 Nickname of popular First World War chaplain, the Revd G.A. Studdert Kennedy, — Willie (8)
- 2 Occasion of religious joy (Lamentations 2:22) (5,3)
- 4 'We three kings of — are' (6)
- 5 Allegation or charge (Jude 9) (10)
- 6 Kind (1 Chronicles 12:33) (4)
- 7 'Open your — and look at the fields!' (John 4:35) (4)
- 10 Also known as the Feast of Lights (John10:22)(10)
- 12 Area that saw the healing of two demon - possessed men and a herd of pigs stampeding to their deaths (Matthew 8:28) (8)
- 13 Forebear(James2:21)(8)
- 16 Name given to the first two books of the Apocrypha(6)
- 18 Esau sold his birthright for this (Genesis25:34)(4)
- 19 Rear(anag.)(4)