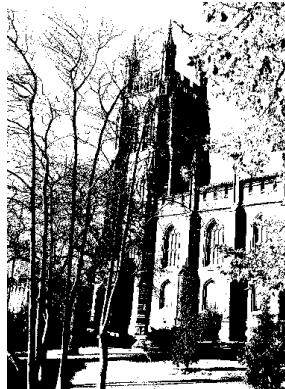




Diocese of Chester



## STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH St Mary's in the Marketplace

Churchgate Stockport SK1 1YG  
Tel: 0161 480 1815 [07969 101335]

Temporary Correspondence Address:  
127 Shearwater Road  
Offerton  
Stockport SK2 5UZ

e-mail: [st.marysstockport@gmail.com](mailto:st.marysstockport@gmail.com)

[www.stmarysinthemarketplace.com](http://www.stmarysinthemarketplace.com)

### Service times at St Mary's

**Sunday:** 10:30am Holy Communion or  
Morning Prayer

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

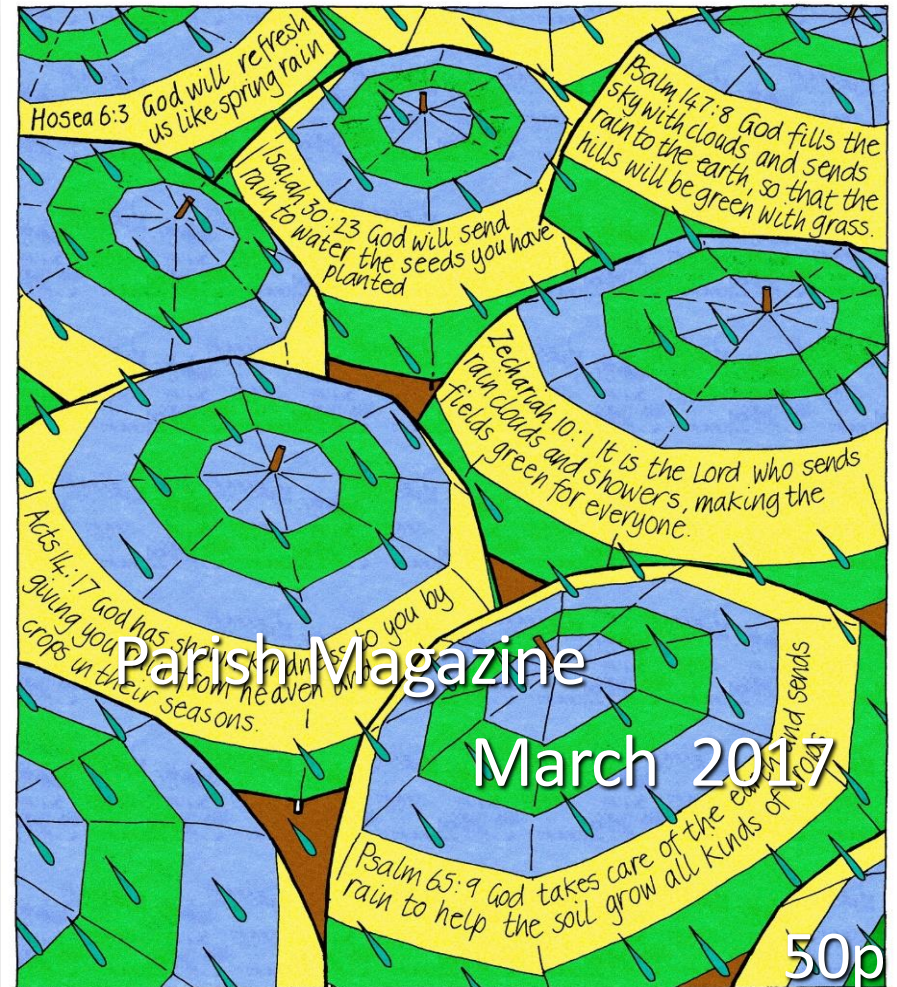
**Tuesday:** 10.00am Holy Communion  
12.15pm Lunchtime Service

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



## STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH St Mary's in the Marketplace



DIARY FOR MARCH 2017			
Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup> March	Ash Wednesday Service of Holy Communion	7.00pm
Saturday	4 <sup>th</sup> March	High Tea at the Nave Cafe	5.00pm
Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> March	Holy Communion	10.30am
Tuesday	7 <sup>th</sup> March	Holy Communion Lunch-time Service	10.00am 12.15pm
Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup> March	Morning Prayer	10.30am
Tuesday	14 <sup>th</sup> March	Holy Communion Lunch-time Service	10.00am 12.15pm
Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>CONCERT</b> Manchester Chorale	7.00pm
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup> March	Holy Communion Baptism  Sunday Lunch at the Nave Cafe	10.30am  1.00pm
Tuesday	21 <sup>st</sup> March	Holy Communion Lunch-time Service	10.00am 12.15pm
Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup> March	A Special Service for Mothering Sunday	10.30am
Tuesday	28 <sup>th</sup> March	Holy Communion Lunch-time Service	10.00am 12.15pm
Thursday	30 <sup>th</sup> March	Vernon Park Easter Assembly	2.00pm

**Tuesday Lunch-time service 12.15pm**

**A new way of living - The Sermon on the Mount**

**Rev Canon John Briggs**

**March 7th**

The Law filled out (Matthew 5: 17-26)

**March 14<sup>th</sup>**

Love without limit (Matthew 5: 38-48)

**March 21st**

Prayer without pretending (Matthew 6: 11-15)

**March 28<sup>th</sup>**

Free from worry (Matthew 6: 19-34)

**April 4<sup>th</sup>**

Big choices (Matthew 7: 1-14)

**April 11<sup>th</sup>**

Solid ground (Matthew 7: 15-29)

**ACROSS:** 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

**DOWN:** 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.

## Thank You Note

Just a few words of thanks to everyone who attended church on the 24th Jan. to celebrate my 80th birthday. Firstly, a huge thank you to Sue and her helpers for a superb array of food, fruit and many other goodies.

I've been told everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, I certainly did.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks for the beautiful presents/cards, enough to fill my lounge, thanks one and all, I certainly enjoyed myself, you will have to wait now for my 90th ha ha!

Thanks again  
Anne Mather



## Edith (Betty) White

## An Appreciation

Betty's life was bound up with the history of Stockport Market in the 20th Century. She loved to tell the stories of her childhood on the Market, and of her family's shop. Listening to her speaking about those days seemed to bring the old sepia photos one sees of Stockport Market to life.

Betty was a gentle lady, with perfect manners and graces. She always welcomed me to her home with a smile and the words "Hello Rector, I was just thinking of you!" In her latter years, being unable to get to St. Mary's on Sunday, Betty felt bereft of the church she loved, and of which she always spoke with great affection. She loved the services, kindly brought by her son David; and, being the oldest member of the congregation, Betty was always touched to be able to greet a newly baptised infant, as it was carried round in my arms, and introduced to the congregation. Betty would often say "You are so good with children, Rector; you ought to be married!"

For many years Betty lived in a comfortable flat in Mile End Road, from where she had a lovely view of the Pennine hills, which she greatly appreciated. She also enjoyed watching the comings and goings of folk in the street beneath. This meant that every time I visited another elderly lady in the house opposite, my visit never went unnoticed!

Betty was a woman of faith, and she valued prayer, especially the Lord's Prayer, when I visited her. Betty was cared for in a lovely home for the last years of her life, and she had a display of family photos on the wall, which was a constant reminder of those whom she knew and loved.  
cont.

Betty enjoyed the comfort and peace of her own room, and watching television, as well as reading a newspaper, all of which kept her mind active till the very end of her long life.

She was the easiest, and the most delightful of people to visit, both in her flat, when she was still living independently, and latterly in her Care home. One day I visited her at the very same time as the final laps of the Tour de France cycle race in Paris were being shown on tv. Betty did not mind at all, that I sat happily next to her, avidly watching the race, instead of talking to her! Betty was a very gracious lady.

Even when I arrived in the middle of mealtimes, she would always welcome me, and insisted that I joined her for a cup of tea, and to engage in conversation with the other residents.

Betty was very proud of her family, and always spoke warmly and lovingly of them, knowing how much they cared about her.

She was a lovely lady, and I will always remember her with great affection. After all, she was part of Stockport Market's history, and of the Parish church too. It was a privilege to have been her minister, "the Rector" as Betty always called me.

Rev Roger Scoones

## **St David's Day – time for daffodils**

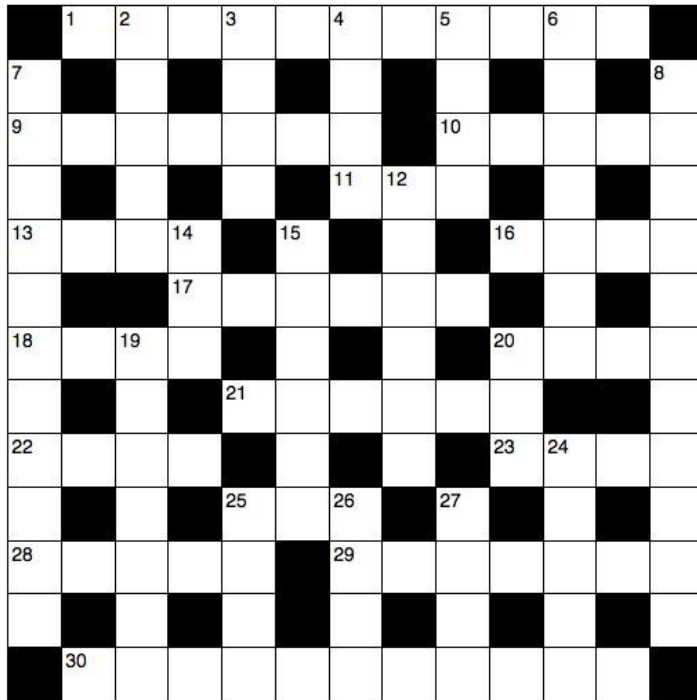
1st March is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' - but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery!

We do know that David - or Dafydd - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.







**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)

Michael Burgess considers Samson, as painted by the German artist, Lucas Cranach the Younger. You may see the full picture by googling: Lucas Cranach the Younger Samson.



## **God in the Arts – Samson’s tragedy**

‘Eyeless in Gaza at the mill with slaves’: that is how John Milton expresses the tragedy of Samson’s life in his poem ‘Samson Agonistes.’ There is an irony in his blindness and powerlessness, for Samson means ‘sunshine.’ As we read the story in Judges 13-17, he was called to be God’s agent in bringing the dawn of a new day to the Israelites and freedom from the Philistines. But he breaks his vows as a Nazirite, and leads a life of sex and violence: the stuff of film and opera, of art and poetry. Then he falls in love with Delilah, who uses her feminine wiles and intelligence to find out the secret of his strength. That moment is depicted in this painting of 1537 by the German artist, Lucas Cranach the Younger. We see Samson clad in armour, but barefoot – a sign of vulnerability for Delilah is ready to cut off his hair and so deprive him of his power, symbolised by the jawbone of an earlier victory. The Philistines wait in the background, ready to capture him, while the partridges and fruitful trees are signs of temptation. The artist is telling us how easy it is to turn away from God’s purpose, and the sleeping Samson is once again oblivious to that calling. The book of Judges tells us how the tragedy unfolds: the Philistines imprison him and set him to grind corn. Called to bring light to Israel, Samson has been blinded. The world is a dark place for him, but then at the Philistines’ festival celebrations he remembers his God. With renewed strength he brings down the temple and the people within it. That is why we find Samson’s name in the list of heroes of faith in Hebrews 11. It is a reminder that we can all only too easily make a mess of life and God’s calling, but God can still use us and work through us to bring new life and hope.

The Rev Paul Hardingham says that Lent is an ideal time to find yourself...

## **Mirror, Mirror on the Wall**

### **– how do you see yourself this Lent?**

Somebody asked a Christian friend why he was eating doughnuts, when he had given them up for Lent! He answered, ‘At the bakers I told God, that if He wanted me to buy doughnuts, He should provide a parking space in front. On the eighth time around, there it was!’ Rather than seeing Lent simply as a time to give things up, let’s use it intentionally for self-examination, reading Scripture, penitence, fasting and prayer.

At Jesus’ baptism, God’s voice says, ‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.’ (Luke 3:22). The Holy Spirit then leads Jesus into the wilderness, where we find Him coming to terms with who He is. Satan’s temptations challenge Jesus in key three areas of His identity: social action, political power, and religious identity (Luke 4: 1-13). It is as though Jesus looked into the mirror at Himself to discern what kind of Saviour He would be. We can also think of Lent as an opportunity to hold a mirror up to ourselves and ask the question, ‘who am I? It is a season of honest encounter with who we are, what we’ve done, and the world in which we live. How will you keep Lent period of 40 days running up to Easter?

What will you see when you hold up the mirror to yourself? Alongside taking time to read Scripture, study a Christian book and pray with fasting, why not give up texting for Lent and simply talk on the phone; commit ourselves to just working 40 hours a week or spend five minutes each day in silence! Whatever we do, Lent is a season for self-reflection, as we put ourselves in a position to receive afresh the forgiveness and healing that God offers.

## **Ash Wednesday: a good time to admit you are sorry**

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

‘I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance’ (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

‘Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

‘Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.’ (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it, and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

## **Women’s World Day of Prayer 3rd March – Philippines**

On Friday 3rd March over 5,000 services will be held in the British Isles on the theme of ‘Am I Being Unfair to You?’ The Christian women of the Philippines wrote the service and it has been translated into 1,000 different languages and dialects, to be used, throughout the whole world, on that day, starting at sunrise over the island of Samoa and continuing until sunset off the coast of American Samoa.

In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan – named locally as ‘Yolanda’ – struck the Philippine islands in the western Pacific Ocean. This is mentioned in the service but you will also hear the stories of a girl, a mother and an older woman, recounting their situations and their hopes and fears.

The service focusses on the Bible story of the workers in the vineyard: Matthew 20 v 1-16. There is a reflection on the artwork designed by Rowena ‘Apol’ Laxamana-Sta.Rosa. It is very thought provoking and illustrates contrasting scenes. Why not find out more about the theme, the Philippines and the service? The Day of Prayer is not just for women. Everyone is welcome to attend the service.

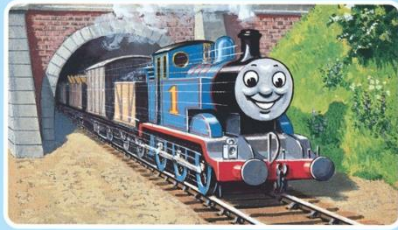
For more details, visit [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)

## **The Stockport Centre Group Service**

**will be at 2pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017**

**at St Joseph’s RC Church, Tatton Street.**

## **Thomas the Tank Engine**



THE REV. W. AWDRY

## **The man who brought us Thomas the Tank Engine**

A reluctant author who created characters loved by millions of children died 20 years ago this month, on 21st March 1997, aged 85.

The Rev Wilbert V Awdry is best known as the writer of Thomas the Tank Engine and 25 other railway books, which at the time of his death had sold an estimated 50 million copies. They have also given birth to toys, games, videos and a television film series.

He invented the stories initially to tell his son Christopher when he was ill with measles, and had to be persuaded by his wife Margaret to get them published. Mr Awdry, who was made an OBE shortly before his death, was a clergyman who ministered in Hampshire, Wiltshire, Birmingham and Cambridgeshire. He was also a pacifist who once lost his curacy as a result. He was always interested in railways, having been fascinated as a child in Wiltshire by listening to steam trains ascending the grade into the nearby Box Tunnel.

The Fat Controller in the stories is sometimes thought to be a God-like figure, but he was intended as a satire on bureaucracy. For Mr Awdry, the morality of the stories was clearly Christian, and analogies between the Christian faith and the ways of the railway were obvious: the engines are meant to stay on the right track, and they pay the price if they go off the rails. But they are always forgiven, and never scrapped.

Asked how he hoped to be remembered, he said he would like his epitaph to say that “he helped people see God in the ordinary things of life, and he made children laugh”.

## **Introducing the Rev Mike Newman Part-time secondment to St Mary’s**

Joining us on a part-time basis, for the next six months, we are delighted to welcome to St Mary’s Mike Newman, Associate Minister at St Cuthberts, Cheadle.

Mike will assist us to ‘move forward’ as well as take on some of the day to day ministry and mission of St Mary’s. It was a wonderful offer made to the Bishop of Stockport from the Cheadle Deanery, to make available resources to help us. An offer we simply couldn’t refuse!

---

Our continued thanks (goes without saying really ) to Rev David Parker, for covering so many of our Sunday Services over the last year as well as over Christmas. Rev Andy Williams (St Luke’s Brinnington); Rev Canon John Briggs and Rev Ken Kenrick for continuing to support our Tuesday services as well as taking funerals, baptisms etc. as the need arises.

---

## **Phase 7 – is on its way!**

Our “rest” from undertaking Conservation and Restoration Projects appears to be nearing an end with us having to face the situation on the South Porch roof (and surrounding stonework).

Safety works have taken place to remove the plaster board and make safe the roof structure above – but this is very much a temporary measure with a full repair project needing to be formulated, submitted for approval and funded as a matter of urgency.



## Special Dates for your diary:

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Will this year take place on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> April at 1pm**

### **Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> June**

**Civic Service in the presence of the Worshipful the Mayor of Stockport & the Bishop of Stockport**

**To be followed by a service of Remembrance at Hopes Carr for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stockport Air Disaster.**

### **Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> July**

**200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service St Mary's in the Marketplace with the Bishop of Stockport**

### **Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> September**

**A day of celebration!**

**The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of St Andrews, Hall Street.**

## **Norbury Walking Group**

**Hot Pot & Apple Pie x 30+** was indeed a slight challenge to the Nave Café on a Thursday lunch-time, but we did it and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves which was of course a great relief!

It just goes to show what can be achieved, with our partners Pure Innovations, and we look forward to many more private functions.

---

## **Nave Café "Vacancies"**

We would very much appreciate some additional support in the Café, in particular on a Saturday.

**Food preparation and kitchen management:** A Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate will be required for those preparing food and generally managing a "shift" in the kitchen, along with completion of the Food Standards Agency "Food Allergy" online training.

**General kitchen/café support:** General training will be given "in-house" for anyone who just wishes to help us generally either in the kitchen or café area.

**Stocktaking and ordering of goods:** Help would be appreciated to ensure that our stocktaking is undertaken on a weekly basis and that sell-by dates are checked, storage areas keep clean and tidy. Preparation of list(s) for ordering from approved suppliers.

## Sunday Lunch at the Nave Cafe

Many thanks to those who supported our latest Sunday Lunch at the Nave Café.



Join us on the 4<sup>th</sup> March for  
Saturday "High Tea" at 5pm  
& Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> March for  
Sunday Lunch at 1pm



The  
Manchester  
*Chorale*  
Musical Director: Jill Henderson-Wild  
in Stockport  
presents

*The*  
**Enchanted Concert**

with the Choir of  
**St Thomas' CE Primary School, Heaton Chapel**

**St Mary's in the Marketplace**

Churchgate, Stockport SK1 1YG  
7.00pm Saturday 18th March 2017  
Tickets £5.00 - Children Free  
from the Church, the School, through the Chorale website  
[www.manchesterchorale.org.uk](http://www.manchesterchorale.org.uk) or on the door

*'Little Miss Muffet' set to Beethoven. Paradise in the garden. Nicolette meets monsters in the forest. And my soul soars enchanted. I know where I'm going. My young love said to me. Tell my ma when I get home. Who'll come a'walzing? Nella fantasia io vedo un mondo giusto. Goodnight my angel, time to close your eyes. A smile without a cat? I've never seen that! Wonderful songs from across the world. It must be spring.*