



St Mary's in the Marketplace

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Rector:

Rev Roger Scoones

St Mary's Rectory

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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 Lunch-time Service

Wedding, Baptism, Funeral and other services by arrangement with the Rector.

St Mary's and the Nave Café is open – Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 9.00am – 3.00pm

Readers contributions to the magazine are always welcome. Editorial discretion with regard to content and space available will apply.

web site: www.stmarysinthemarketplace.com



Stockport Parish Church St Mary's in the Marketplace

Parish Magazine June 2015



St Mary's in the Marketplace, Stockport – June 2015

Tuesday, 2nd June	Holy Communion 10.00am Lunchtime-Service 12.15pm
Thursday, 4th June	Bible Study Group at St Andrews (Hall Street) 7.00pm
Saturday 6th June	CONCERT: Poynton Male Voice Choir 7.30pm Tickets: £7.00
Sunday, 7th June	Holy Communion 10.30am
Tuesday, 9th June	Holy Communion 10.00am Lunchtime-Service 12.15pm
Thursday, 11th June	Bible Study Group at St Andrews (Hall Street) 7.00pm
Sunday, 14th June	Morning Prayer 10.30am
Tuesday, 16th June	Holy Communion 10.00am Lunchtime-Service 12.15pm
Thursday, 18th June	Bible Study Group at St Andrews (Hall Street) 7.00pm
Sunday, 21st June	Holy Communion 10.30am Followed by Church Urban Fund "Fugal Lunch"
Thursday, 25th June	Bible Study Group at St Andrews (Hall Street) 7.00pm
Saturday, 27th June	Maia Singers – Spring Concert 7.30pm Tickets: TBC
Sunday, 28th June	Morning Prayer & Baptism 10.30am

Cover photo – through the archway VE70 weekend – Stockport Creative Festival

What is on the other side of death?

A doctor was visiting a very ill man, who was also his next door neighbour. As he finally got up to go, the man said: "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, his young spaniel sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there and that is enough."

Advance Date for the Diary:

Annual Afternoon Tea / Outdoor Service at BBQ at St Mary's Rectory

Sunday, 2nd August.

Saturday 6th June

CONCERT:

Poynton Male Voice Choir 7.30pm

Tickets: £7.00



Come and join us for an evening with Poynton Male Voice Choir.

Created over 75 years ago, in 1934, a small choir was formed to sing at a Men's Weekend Service at Poynton Methodist Church. A visitor from Alderly Edge was so impressed that he invited them to sing at his church and the choir was born. Over the years the choir has raised thousands of pounds in support of many charities and continues to do so. Members experience a friendly fellowship, providing for both their musical interest and socially with the many concerts and activities they undertake.

We are delighted to welcome the choir to St Mary's and hope that we can fill the seats to capacity.

**Returning to St Mary's on the 27th June – The Maia Singers
Spring Concert. 7.30pm**

From the Rector's "i-pad"

Dear Reader



All change! I am so sorry to have to report that the work on the Vestries which had been going so well up to now, have come to a grinding halt. You may know from personal experience that when a company goes out of business it affects many many people. This is exactly what has happened to us with the demise of the eminently well known and highly regarded firm of Lambert Walker Conservation and Restoration Limited, with whom we have been associated for nearly 10 years, and who have given us great service. So instead of celebrating the completion of Phase 6 and 10 years of work of conservation and restoration on the church this month as planned, it's "all change at St. Mary's! We shall instead be holding a Frugal Lunch in aid of the Church Urban Fund on that Sunday! Maybe God is trying to say something too us about our priorities, and about how he wants us "to be church" in these days! I hope you will support us in this venture.

At the same time please spare a thought and a prayer for the men and women who were former employees of our contractors, and for the many individuals, self employed folk, and other companies, who's lives and livelihoods have been directly affected, by the failure of this company, in this period of great change. There have, I am told, been many tears shed through these uncertain and worrying times. Naturally we hope to continue to have the work completed without undue delay, but it is easier said than done! We are relying heavily on our professional advisers, and the Project Management Team, to steer us through these difficult days. I hope very much that next month may bring better news. Please pray for us!

The other day I received an email from the Reverend Rodger Scoones! No, not my double or my cousin, but my namesake indeed! He and his dear wife Avis live in North Island, New Zealand! Rodger is a retired Minister too, though not of the Anglican Church! He reads this magazine on line, it would appear, and he wrote to wish me a Happy Birthday last month! Wasn't that kind of him, and amazing to think that this little magazine is reaching out across the world, by this modern form of communication? I must be mindful of what I say in future!



We already have an established Bible Study group on a Tuesday afternoon (after the lunch-time service at St Mary's). We are now delighted to be able to start an evening group (initially during June 2015) to be held on a Thursday evening at St Andrews Community Church (Hall Street).

St Andrews is on a main bus route with a private car park (off Webb Lane) for those of you with a car.

Thursday
4th, 11th, 18th & 25th June

St Andrews Community Church

7.00pm
(Tea/Coffee & Biscuits available)

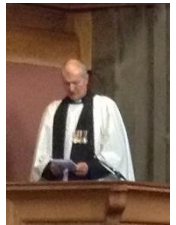
VE 70

LET THE MEMORY LIVE ON



St Mary's major contribution to the Stockport CreativeFestival was our special Sunday service to mark the 70th Anniversary of VE Day and it was certainly well attended by members of our Sunday and Tuesday congregation as well as guests of St Mary's and Stockport Council.

The sermon was given by the Revd Mike Newman CF Padre 208 (Liverpool) Field Hospital and Associate Minister St Mary's Cheadle





Our service started with the sound of an air-raid siren (operated from up in the gallery by church and Stockport Heritage Trust member Tony Marsh (it is amazing what the SHT have tucked away ready and waiting for an appropriate opportunity to dust them down and give them an airing) with the “ALL CLEAR” given by one the youngest members of St Mary’s, Kenneth Ashton.



A warm St Mary’s welcome to Allen L Whittaker DL, Mrs Catherine Whittaker and the Rev Mike Newman (to the left of Roger) with Deputy Mayor Cllr Linda Holt and Ken Holt (to the right).

Our thanks to organist Peter Williamson and our Steeple-keeper, Clive Calton with his visiting band of bell-ringers as well of course to our Standard Bearers. The collection raised £370, half of which having been donated to the Royal British Legion.



The sight and sound of fireworks.....

For those of us attending the VE70 Service and hurried out of church before an enforced Health & Safety lock-down there was more bangs to be heard than fireworks to watch. However, the finale event of the Stockport Creative Festival was (if you were stood in the right place) quite dramatic and a “first” for St Mary’s allowing fireworks to be lit from church grounds.



It is reported that over the weekend of events organised by Stockport Council (and those of us who partnered with them) there were over 7000 visitors and the feedback from people was overwhelmingly positive.

Peter Ashworth, Head of Culture and Leisure (SMBC) stated in an email to us that *“This was a really good example of everybody pulling together under a common banner to give the visitors to the Market Place an interesting and memorable experience. Historical themed events are always successful in Stockport and I hope that you will work with our team in the future to deliver other events”* We certainly will Peter and look forward to doing so.

2017



200th Anniversary

The Parish Church of Stockport (St Mary's in the Marketplace) was consecrated July 4, 1817. 200 years on and we will be celebrating with a special service around that date **but want to do a lot more, with a series of events during 2017.**

As we stated in the March magazine is it now time to start planning. It may seem a long time off, but "the clock is ticking" so have a think and let us know your thoughts.

If you are interested in joining our planning committee or just wish to submit to us ideas to celebrate this important anniversary in the history of St Mary's please let us know. Our 2017 "ideas box" will be waiting for you...

We will advertise widely when the first planning meeting is to be held.

Church Urban Fund

Raising money, changing lives

Established in 1988, the Church Urban Fund is a charity helping churches in the poorest urban areas to create opportunities and hope. If your church has been blessed by Giving in Grace, please consider making a gift to the ongoing work of CUF.

Arising out of the important Church of England report *Faith in the City*, CUF has a vision to bring about lasting and positive change in the lives of the people most on the margins of society – through investing resources, influencing change makers, and impacting the causes of poverty. Initially a grant-making charity, CUF still makes some grants and helps churches to make their work in local communities more effective, to create a framework for responding to the problems of poverty and by providing a vehicle for raising awareness of the challenges of poverty and inspiring action from those with influence, locally and nationally.



June Crossword answers:

ANSWERS

Across: 1 Care, 3 Paradise, 8 Null, 9 Profaned; 11 Legalistic, 14 Closed, 15 Stores, 17 Missionary, 20 Covenant, 21 Thai, 22 Trade-off, 23 Eden

Down: 1 Conflict, 2 Religion, 4 Arrest, 5 Affliction, 6 Iona, 7 Eddy, 10 Allegiance, 12 Preached, 13 Assyrian, 16 A son of, 18 Scot, 19 DVLA

On the 7th June the Mayor will attend a Civic Service at St. Elizabeth's Church Reddish, (in the Borough of Stockport) breaking a long held tradition of the Civic Service for the new Mayor of Stockport being held at St. Mary's, the Parish Church. Its "all change" these days! We wish the new Mayor and Mayoress a happy and fulfilling Year of Office, assuring them of our prayers and looking forward to welcoming them to St. Mary's in due course.

"I have lived in Stockport all my life and I have never been inside this church!" I have lost count of how many times people have stood in church, looking up in wonder and admiration and surprise, and have said that to me. Well, this month I'm going to say a similar thing at the Morning Service at St. Barnabas's Church Bredbury! Having lived in Stockport for 18 years, I have yet to set foot inside that church! They are without a Vicar at present, so I'm very pleased to have been invited to help out, and to make that point! That will be quite a change for me!

At the end of the month, we will welcome a family for the baptism of their infant son. Having known Michael Howes, the father of the child, since I very first came to Stockport, and his partner, Becky for almost as many years, it is a huge privilege and a pleasure to be able to welcome Cassius into the Christian family. His sister Ava was christened at St. Mary's so she will enjoy seeing her little brother following in her footsteps, so to speak!

Christian Ministry offers a rich and diverse experience to those called to exercise the responsibilities of preaching the gospel, celebrating the sacraments, pastoring the flock, and evangelising the community, in today's world. I am increasingly aware of the passage of time, and the passing of the years, and the changing of circumstances, which can change one's life overnight, and beyond one's control. This month is an expression of this fact, that change is a fact of life.

However hold onto a truth, that our God is The Same, Yesterday, Today and Forever! May you know this truth to be true for yourself, as I hold onto it mine, in these days of "all change"!

Yours very sincerely, and prayerfully,

Roger Scoones

Exhibiting his work at St Mary's as part of the Stockport Creative Festival



John Eastwood – Fine Art Landscape Photography

And... what a delight it was for us to host this wonderful exhibition of high quality photography and specially prepared prints. John is known to be one of the North West's leading Fine Art Landscape Photographers working in the light

and landscapes of Cheshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, North West Wales, Lake District and the Isle of Man. John's limited edition prints can be found in collections all over the world.

Web : www.photolandscape.co.uk
email: infor@photolandscape.co.uk

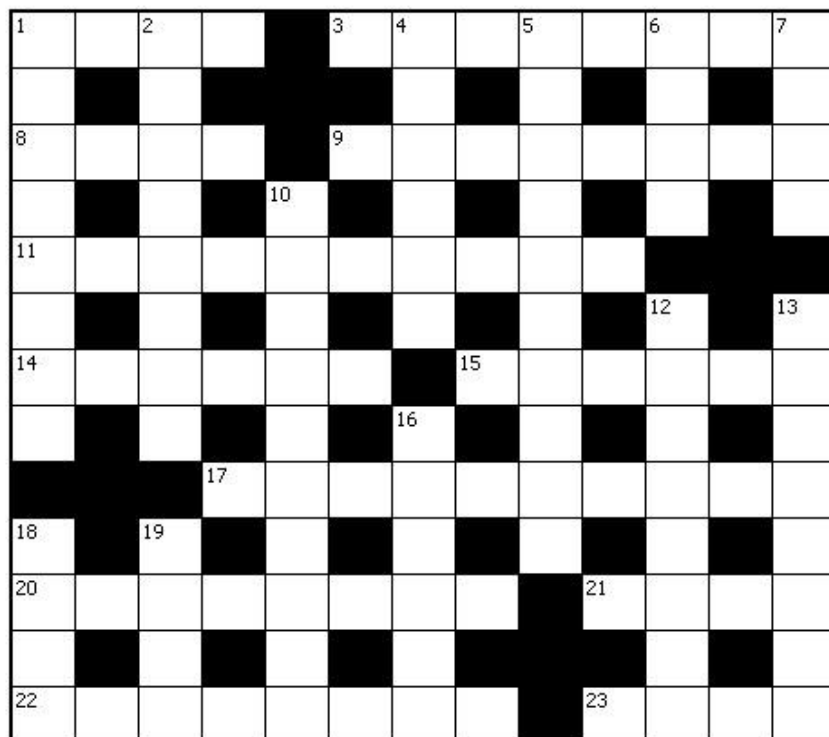
Open Mic Night

A big thank you to Ian Tait (from the Maia Singers) who joined us as pianist for the evening at our "open mic night" – great fun for all of those attending whether just listening to the music or joining in the "sing-song" round the piano.

The vocalist singing here - needs no introduction of course!



June Crossword



CLUES

Across

- 1 See 23 Across
- 3 Where the thief on the cross was told he would be, with Jesus (Luke 23:43) (8)
- 8 Invalid (4)
- 9 Blasphemed (Ezekiel 36:20) (8)
- 11 Adhering to the letter of the law rather than its spirit (Philippians 3:6) (10)

14 Shut (Ecclesiastes 12:4) (6)

15 'This is how it will be with anyone who — up things for himself but is not rich towards God' (Luke 12:21) (6)

17 Mary on Isis (anag.) (10)

20 Agreement (Hebrews 9:15) (8)

21 Native of, say, Bangkok (4)

22 Deaf fort (anag.) (5-3)

23 and 1 Across 'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of — to work it and take — of it' (Genesis 2:15) (4,4)

Down

1 Struggle between opposing forces (Habakkuk 1:3) (8)

2 James defined this as 'looking after orphans and widows in their distress and keeping oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27) (8)

4 'The one I kiss is the man; — him' (Matthew 26:48) (6)

5 'Be joyful in hope, patient in — , faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (10)

6 St Columba's burial place (4)

7 Swirling current of water (4)

10 Loyalty (Isaiah 19:18) (10)

12 'God was pleased through the foolishness of what was — , to save those who believe' (1 Corinthians 1:21) (8)

13 Camp where the angel of the Lord slew 185,000 men one night (2 Kings 19:35) (8)

16 'There is still — — — Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet' (2 Samuel 9:3) (1,3,2)

18 David Livingstone was one (4)

19 Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (1,1,1,1)

God's answer for you

For all the negative things we have to say to ourselves, God has a positive answer for it.

You say: It's impossible. God says: **All things are possible.** (Luke 18:27) You say: Nobody really loves me. God says: **I love you.** (John 3:16 & John 13:34) You say: I can't go on. God says: **My grace is sufficient.** (II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15) You say: I can't figure things out. God says: **I will direct your steps.** (Proverbs 3:5-6) You say: I can't do it. God says: **You can do all things.** (Philippians 4:13) You say: I'm not able. God says: **I am able.** (II Corinthians 9:8) You say: It's not worth it. God says: **It will be worth it.** (Roman 8:28) You say: I can't forgive myself. God says: **I FORGIVE YOU.** (I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1) You say: I can't manage. God says: **I will supply all your needs.** (Philippians 4:19) You say: I'm afraid. God says: **I have not given you a spirit of fear** (II Timothy 1:7) You say: I'm always worried and frustrated. God says: **Cast all your cares on ME.** (I Peter 5:7) You say: I don't have enough faith. God says: **I've given everyone a measure of faith.** (Romans 12:3) You say: I'm not smart enough. God says: **I give you wisdom.** (I Corinthians 1:30) You say: I feel all alone. God says: **I will never leave you or forsake you.** (Hebrews 13:5)



Thank you to those who joined us for our Christian Aid Week "soup day" or gave a donation. A further sum of £50 has been donated to assist the work of this vital organisation

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Crossing Patrol

The "Vicar Cross" Code... well it's one way to stop the traffic on Churchgate!



Photo courtesy of Stockport Council.

Roger captured assisting our congregation and guests return to church for refreshments after the firework display. [VE70]

WHIT SUNDAY.

We await the official report from Arboricultural experts as to what has happened to our tree, but a big "thank you" to Stockport Council / Solutions SK for their prompt attention in dealing with our emergency situation when



this heavy branch (shown safely on the ground) split and was left supported by the Christmas Tree lighting cable connected to the nearby street light and in need of urgent attention. Thanks to the "Control Room" and all those call-out operatives who attend to make safe the tree and the electrics.



As our Special 3pm Service on the 21st June has had to be cancelled the Nave Café will now hold a Fugal Lunch following our specially themed service of Holy Communion.

Donate the cost of your normal Sunday Lunch (minimum contribution of £5.00 per person) Special Gift Aid envelopes will be available.

Poverty Sunday is an initiative by Church Urban Fund – the Church of England’s response to tackling poverty in this country. It encourages members of local congregations to seek to become more compassionate and Christ-like in the ways they think about, care for and act towards the most marginalised in our society and those living in deprived communities.

Stockport Parish Church (St Mary’s in the Marketplace) has so much to celebrate; its present life as well as its rich history and heritage.

St. Mary’s an iconic building which Stockport people, as well as its many visitors and passers by, look to as a symbol of the continuity and status of this ancient borough, as well as the fine soaring architecture of this stately building, which was given to us 200 years ago.

We have seen the Centenary celebrations at the Town Hall (2008), the 750th Anniversary of the Stockport Market Charter (2010) – **IT’S OUR TURN NOW– “ANNIVERSARY 200” IN 2017.**

We want 2017 to be a joyous anniversary year of celebration – let’s face it – it took four years to complete the re-building work so we need a year to celebrate in style.



We want YOU to be a part of this – however large or small your contribution – your thoughts will be greatly appreciated.

First off, we are looking for ideas for us to consider including in the 2017 events diary. We’ll put all these together, work out the feasibility of each and plan a fantastic year of events.

We will not be working alone, already many of our “partners” have asked to be included – from Stockport Council to individual choirs and exhibitors.

It’s an exciting time – come and join the team.