

Diocese of Chester



STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH
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 Stockport Parish Church – St Mary's

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

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. Copy deposited as legally required with the British Library. Electronic copy available on pdf format via the church website.



STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH
St Mary's in the Marketplace
with St Andrew's Hall Street



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

Diary

Saturday, 4 th November	Bonfire Eve Dinner Party	06.00pm
Sunday, 5 th November	Holy Communion NEW SERVICE with Zeal Church	10..30am 3.30pm
Tuesday, 7 th November	Holy Communion Lunch-time service	10.00am 12.15pm
Thursday, 9 th November	FIZZ Fashion Show St Mary's	07.00pm
Saturday, 11 th November	Nave Café Coffee Morning for the Royal British Le- gion Poppy Appeal	10.00am – 12.00 noon
Sunday, 12 th November	Remembrance Sunday Service NEW SERVICE with Zeal Church	10.30am 3.30pm
Tuesday, 14 th November	Holy Communion Lunch-time service	10.00am 12.15pm
Sunday, 19 th November	Holy Communion NEW SERVICE with Zeal Church	10.30am 3.30pm
Tuesday, 21 st November	Holy Communion Lunch-time service	10.00am 12.15pm
Sunday, 26 th November	Morning Prayer & Shoe Box Service NEW SERVICE with Zeal Church	10.30am 3.30pm
Tuesday, 28 th November	Holy Communion Lunch-time service	10.00am 12.15pm

ACROSS: 1, Jehoiachin. 7, Endured. 8, Eased. 10, Rash. 11, Startled. 13, Easier. 15, Rubric. 17, Impurity. 18, Feet. 21, Eye at. 22, Ready to. 23, Holy Spirit.

DOWN: 1, Judas. 2, Harm. 3, Is duty. 4, Cheerful. 5, Insular. 6, Jezreelite. 9, Dedi-
cation. 12, Secretly. 14, Supremo. 16, Stir up. 19, Egypt. 20, Hair.

Prayer to remind us to remember

Lord, At this remembrance time, we remember those who gave their lives in the service and protection of their country, whether many years ago, or in more recent conflicts. We thank you for them and pray for those who loved them.

The death of a loved one, whatever the cause, changes our lives forever and we walk an unchosen path. There are wonderful memories, times to be thankful, but nothing takes away the pain and empty space every day. Thank you, Lord, for understanding our loss. Thank you that when we cry, we know that you cried first, when your friend died. It's all right to cry. It's all right to pour out our pain to you, as we remember...

And Lord, we remember most of all your death on the cross. We thank you that in this remembering we have hope and meaning and confidence because you rose again; you overcame death. If we put our trust in you we shall live with you forever. Lord at our saddest times, help us to remember your victory and the bigger picture! In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

New Congregation for St Mary's

In partnership with

“ Zeal Church” passionate about making a difference.

We probably all agree that we are in the midst of exciting, if unsettling, times at St Mary's - as we look towards a new appointment of a Vicar, the exploration of pastoral reorganisation in the town and our desire to develop our commitment to being a hub, within the town centre, for new ways of spreading the word of the gospel of Jesus Christ in Stockport, and working in partnership with other organisations and groups.

As part of our commitment to this mission an opportunity has arisen to plant a new congregation at St Mary's, in partnership with another Christian community who desire to reach those yet to hear and respond to the good news of Christ, as we do, and want to lend their resources to ours.

Zeal Church is an initiative of Nathan and Laura Whillians who felt a call from the Lord some years ago to see central Stockport renewed spiritually, socially and physically. Following discussions with Nathan and Laura, and having the approval of the Bishop, Wardens and PCC of St Mary's we have agreed to pilot sessions during November.

It is therefore intended that a new format of service will take place on a Sunday afternoon. The particular focus will be young adults (25-35) including those with families of whom there are an increasing number in the Parish as a result of new build housing. Everyone is of course most welcome, whatever age, new-comers to St Mary's or part of our existing congregations.

We want this to be a success, so spread the word and join Nathan, Laura and ourselves and see what you think. These pilot session will run on the 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th November, starting at 3.30pm.



Helping farmers like Frank Zulu in Malawi to plant a crop which can grow in extreme weather conditions (such as drought and flood) and to receive the necessary help needed to ensure that farmers have the right business skills was one of our Harvest Festival themes this year.

Following our BBQ and Harvest events & collections, together with donations received, we can be proud to have raised for Christian Aid the sum of **£470.00** (plus the amount of gift aid they are able to claim from our donations).

If we remember that £70 will pay for a bicycle so that an experienced farmer can reach 100 remote farms to teach business skills; that £50 will provide pigeon pea seeds, fertiliser, pesticides and farming tools for a family like Frank; and that £10 will pay for a 5kg bag of seeds – enough to plant over an acre of pigeon peas – that must be a help to them.

THANK YOU



The Listening Project

The idea of this new initiative from Rev 320 is for us at St Mary's to provide a comfortable, quiet setting allowing individuals to listen to their own inner thoughts, and if they wish, to share whatever is on their mind.

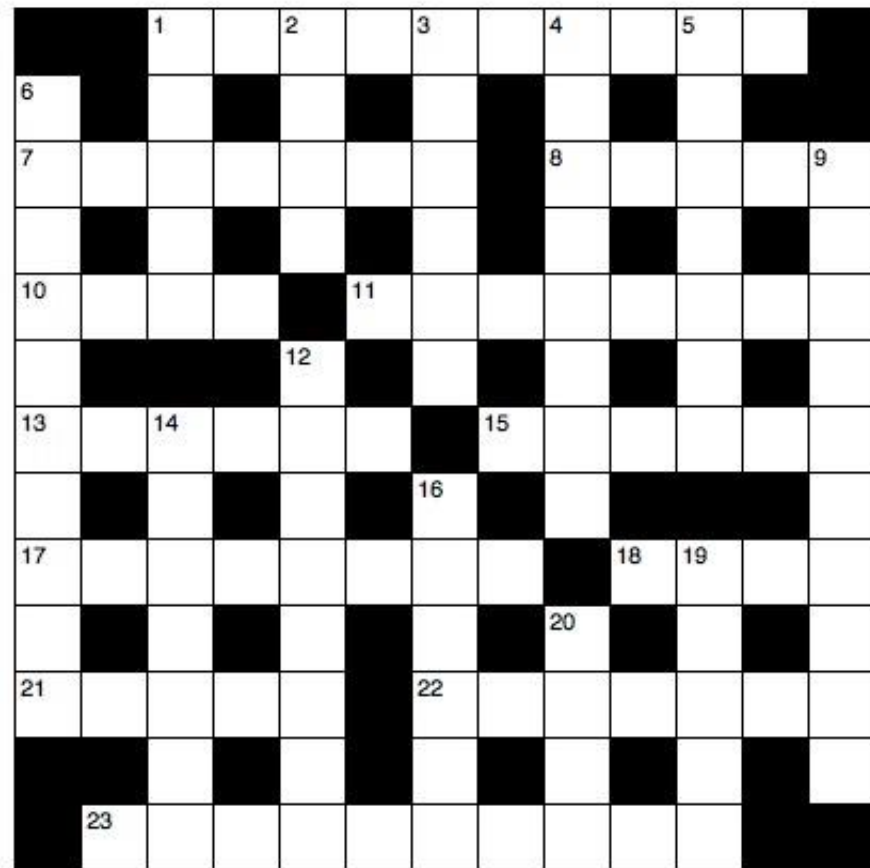
The leader will present a very simple thought or concept – not a sermon or a teaching – just a thought to get things started. The group can sit, write, draw a picture – whatever they like, to help them sit quietly and listen to their own thoughts and when/if appropriate, each person can share with the group if they wish. The leaders' role is simply to listen, maybe drawing out the conversation with open questions, or highlight things that seem to be significant – but allowing the participants to set the pace, and draw the conversation to a close whenever they choose. Sessions will end with a simple prayer. Sessions are not intended for counselling, ministry or deep prayer. The only skill needed will be the ability to listen without imposing a definite view and to be able to steer the conversation if necessary, particularly if one person is dominating, or the direction of the conversation is not helpful to the rest of the group.

Initially sessions will run to the end of November, held each Friday (unless otherwise notified) from 11am – 1pm. Light refreshments will be available.

If you want to give it a go and feel that you would benefit from some quiet time – tell your story – share others' extraordinary experiences and maybe contact with God as He speaks into your life.... or think that you would like to discuss undertaking a leadership role - why not pop along and see that you think.

Initially the Leaders will be from Rev 320 (Peter and Anne Rodger) supported by our own ministry team. The project will be reviewed at the end of November and if successful and the Listening Project proves worthwhile Rev 320 will aim to handover to leaders from St Mary's who will have the opportunity to develop the project and carry it forward during 2018.

Crossword



Across

- 1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)
 8 Relieved (5)
 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)

- 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)
 13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)
 15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)
 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)
 18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her — ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)
 21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an — , — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2)
 22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)
 23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

Down

- 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)
 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)
 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)
 20 See 18 Across



Rotary “Grow Your Own Crocus” Campaign – In Support of World Polio Day. **END POLIO NOW**

Rotary clubs all over Great Britain and Ireland have been inviting schools, youth groups and other organisations to participate in a new initiative.

Grow Your Own Crocus is a project mainly designed to educate youngsters about the devastating disease of polio and how Rotary is working to eradicate it from the world. The purple crocus is the symbol of Rotary’s worldwide campaign to eradicate polio.

Over a hundred Rotary clubs have signed up to sponsor the initiative and last month packs of crocuses, along with compost, pots and where appropriate educational material were delivered to participating groups. Bulbs purchased by the Rotary Club of Stockport have been distributed to Torkington Park, Marple Memorial Park, Marple Hall School, Smithy Court, St George’s (Stockport) and **St Mary’s in the Marketplace**. We hope that our allocation of bulbs will flower in the Spring and multiply year by year. We’ll be checking up on them early next year and reporting on their progress.

Thank you Sheila for planting the bulbs for us – your assistance was most appreciated.

Remember, remember the 5th November – and pray for the Persecuted Church

5th November is this year’s International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP). The aim is to focus a wave of worldwide prayer on Christians who are being persecuted for their faith.

IDOP began in 1996, when a coalition of Christian organisations decided that the global Church could no longer be silent in the face of such suffering. They were ‘appalled’ by the possibility that more people had died for their Christian faith in the 20th century than in all the previous centuries combined. In a statement, they pledged to end ‘our own silence in the face of the suffering of all those persecuted for their religious faith.’

If you would like to understand a bit more about what is happening, and just some of the organisations who support the Persecuted Church worldwide, the following websites will be of interest:

Barnabas Fund: <https://barnabasfund.org/>

Christian Solidarity Worldwide: <http://www.csw.org.uk/home.htm>

Open Doors: <http://www.opendoorsuk.org/>

Release International: <http://www.releaseinternational.org/>

World Watch Monitor: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/>

Ted's washcloth - a true story from Operation Christmas Child

'I was an orphan in the former Soviet Union when I received my shoebox. We had to share everything at the orphanage, including towels. When I got a washcloth in my box I thought it was my own personal towel! It was very special because it was my all just for me —something that I didn't have before. Another item was a notebook. It was awesome, because when I was moved to a different orphanage I could use it to write letters to my sisters. God used the shoebox to plant a seed of hope in me. All I knew was that there was someone who had cared enough to send me the washcloth and notebook. Through the next couple of years that was the hope that I held on to, that there must be someone out there who could care about me. My sister Tanya had heard about a God who loved her when she received her shoebox gift. So she was praying, "God, if you're real, give me and my siblings a family."

One day I received a letter from her that said, "We might be getting adopted into an American family." I again thought, there really has to be someone who cares for me. It could only be someone like a God. All these little things were pointing to this amazing, loving God and yet at this point I had little comprehension of who He was. I hadn't heard about Jesus.

When I was 13, we were adopted. After I'd learned a little bit of English, my dad told me that God loved us so much that He sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins and that it was a free gift. I immediately remembered my Operation Christmas Child gift and thought, Wow, that makes sense. Someone who didn't know me gave me a gift, and in the same way before we ever knew God, He loved us enough to give us this gift. At that moment, I realised that the hope I was feeling had been given from God. God ordained that shoebox for me. It opened my heart to Jesus, who changed my life forever.

When Elizabeth married Philip – 70 years ago

Princess Elizabeth (now Queen Elizabeth II) married Philip Duke of Edinburgh at Westminster Abbey 70 years ago, on 20th November 1947. They have reached their Platinum Anniversary.

Elizabeth and Philip of Greece, who were third cousins, met in 1939, when the future Queen was only 13 and Philip 18. The match was promoted by Philip's uncle, Earl Mountbatten, whose name Philip took before the marriage. Philip also converted from Greek Orthodoxy to Anglicanism and was given British citizenship.

The wedding took place in front of 2,000 invited guests and was broadcast on radio to 200 million listeners worldwide. The wedding dress was designed by Norman Hartnell, Princess Elizabeth using ration coupons to obtain the material. More than 2,500 wedding presents and 10,000 telegrams of congratulations were received. Most of the honeymoon was spent at Birkhall on the Balmoral Estate.

Sir William Neil McKie, an Australian organist who was the Master of the Choristers at the abbey, was the director of music, a role he filled again at Elizabeth's coronation in 1953. He wrote a song, "We Wait For Thy Loving Kindness, O God", especially for the wedding.

Elizabeth and Philip had got engaged secretly in 1946, but their engagement was not announced officially until July 9th, 1947.



Andrew - first disciple of Jesus - Andrew, whose feast day ends the Christian year on 30th November, is probably best known to us as the patron saint of Scotland, though his only connection with the country is that some of his bones were reputedly transported in the 8th century to Fife and preserved at a church in a place now named St Andrews. The Gospels record that he was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and the very first to bring someone else to Christ - his own brother. Like many fervent Jews at the time Andrew and an unnamed companion had been drawn to the desert, to be taught by the charismatic prophet known to us as John the Baptist. Many thought that he was the long-promised Messiah, but John insisted that he was not. 'I am the voice crying in the wilderness,' he told the crowds. 'Prepare the way of the Lord! One comes after me who is greater than I am.' So when one day John pointed out Jesus to Andrew and his friend and described him as the 'Lamb of God', the two young men assumed that the next stage of their spiritual search was about to unfold. So as Jesus made off, they followed him. All the more strange, then (though, on reflection, very true to human nature) that when Jesus turned and asked them what they were 'seeking', all they could come up with was a lame enquiry about his current place of residence: 'where are you staying?' Or, perhaps, they were hinting that what they were seeking could not be dealt with in a brief conversation. If they could come to his lodgings, perhaps their burning questions might be answered. The reply of Jesus was the most straight-forward invitation anyone can receive: 'Come and see'. Come and see what I'm like, what I do, the sort of person I am. What an invitation! The results of their response were in this case life-changing - for themselves, and for many other people. Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to Jesus. The next day Jesus met Philip and called him to 'follow'. Philip then brought Nathaniel. The little apostolic band who would carry the message of Jesus to the whole world was being formed. They came, they saw, they were conquered! And right at the front of the column, as it were, was Andrew, the first disciple of Jesus.

Two Minutes Silence

In the month, when we think about those who have given their lives in war, the two minutes silence is a familiar act of remembrance. We can use the silence to reflect on those who have suffered in war or on what it means to work for a peaceful world. Or do we end up thinking about lunch or panic that we haven't switched our phone off?

Victor Frankl, a victim of Auschwitz, suggested that the most intolerable of all human conditions is not imprisonment or hunger, but lack of meaning. The two minutes silence enables us to connect with Jesus' message, which offers true meaning to our lives and world. He spoke of giving ourselves in love for each other and the world, 'Love your enemies and pray for those that persecute you' (Matthew 5:44). He also demonstrated such love in sacrificing His own life, 'Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends' (John 15:13). In observing the silence, let's use it to reflect on this sacrificial love, as we remember all those who have experienced pain and conflict.

Of course, we should be serious about silence and stillness in the whole of our lives, not just for two minutes at an act of Remembrance. In busy lives where so much is clamouring for our attention, silence enables us to reassess our priorities and rediscover true meaning in our lives. Jesus made a habit of withdrawing to experience silence. He did this before choosing his disciples, after He heard of John's beheading, after feeding the 5000, after healing a leper, at the Transfiguration and to prepare for His death. 'The seeking out of solitary places was a regular practice for Jesus. So it should be for us.' (Richard Foster).

Paul Hardingham considering the value of being silent

The Ven John Barton considers WW2 in the light of contemporary terrorism

Remembering: looking back and looking forward

In World War 2 the civilian population in Britain knew what to do when an air raid was imminent. A piercing alarm would sound across the housetops and that was a signal to head for shelter. Underground stations in London, basements and reinforced rooms, makeshift bunkers in gardens: all provided temporary refuge. One could usually reach them in time because of the warning. Today's enemies are less predictable. We call them terrorists because they strike terror at any time, anywhere and without notice. Holidaymakers in Nice, sightseers in Barcelona, concertgoers in Manchester, are fair game to the perpetrators. This is war, though we are not sure why. All we know is that they are idealists, believing they are serving a higher cause, with a vision of a different world which can be established only through violence. They strike without warning. Idealistic terrorists are willing, even eager, to give their own lives for the cause, so no punishment is likely to deter them. It is a sobering thought that democracy, freedom of choice, a welfare state and whatever passes for today's Western ideals, have been dismissed by terrorists. They reckon they are on to something better. Terrorists aren't new. In NT times the Sicarii were a splinter group of Jewish terrorists, fiercely opposed to the Roman overlords. They hid small daggers (called sicae) in their cloaks and stabbed both the Romans and Jewish sympathisers with them. Some have conjectured that Judas Iscariot may have been one of them. Another disciple, Simon the Zealot, could have belonged to another extreme group. Yet it became evident to them that Christ's message of God's Kingdom surpassed everything else. Today's terrorists must be shown something far superior to the self-centred, materialistic goals of secularism. Nothing less than Christ's revolutionary Kingdom will do it. And that's a challenge to all of us.

Saturday, 4th November

Nave Café Bonfire "Eve" Dinner Party

"Early Doors" 6.00pm

Tickets: £15.00

[please book in advance]

Thursday, 9th November

FIZZ FASHION SHOW at St Mary's

7.00pm Tickets: £5.00

[please purchase your ticket in advance from church]

Saturday, 11th November 2017

Nave Café Coffee Morning

for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

10:00am – 12:00noon



Sunday 12th November 2017

Remembrance Sunday Service

10.30am

with Rev Mike Newman



The Second Battalion, The Mercian Regiment (2 MERCIAN)

Prayer and Support Request:

Some of you may have been at the Tuesday lunchtime service recently and met Philip Burrows (Padre of the 2 MERCIAN) when he kindly took the service on that day.

2 MERCIAN (formerly The Cheshires, Staffords and Worcester & Sherwood Foresters) are based in Dale Barracks in Chester and are of course our local Regular Infantry Battalion. They are (during the second half of 2017) an operationally deployed unit in the British Infantry with troops in Iraq, Turkey, Jordan, Cyprus, South Sudan and The Falklands.

Phil states that his hope is that Christians across the Diocese will pray for our soldiers and their families whilst they are away. For their safety and protection during the tour and that they will return safely to their families and loved ones. For our world leaders and the decisions they make; for humility and wisdom and that the actions they take will be in the pursuit of peace and for the common good. For the country of Iraq and it's neighbouring countries in this extremely volatile part of the world; for everyone to play their part in bringing stability and security to the region. To pray for safety and protection for all UN troops and Aid Workers in South Sudan. For families and loves ones as communications will be difficult, that home coming will not throw up too many issues caused by things experienced whilst away overseas.

Further information is available in church.



MARY'S MEALS is a global movement that sets up school feeding programmes in some of the world's poorest communities, where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education. By providing a daily meal in school, Mary's Meals attracts hungry children to the classroom, where they can receive an education that can free them from poverty.

Although Porridge was available (on our two selected lunch times) we chose to offer our customers at the Nave Café a "special" oat-based soup instead, the proceeds from which (£100.00) are being sent to "Mary's Meals" to help feed some of those hungry children.

Just £13.90 can feed a child for a whole school year.

[Photos: Mary's Meals]

