



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 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.

*Easter
blessings*



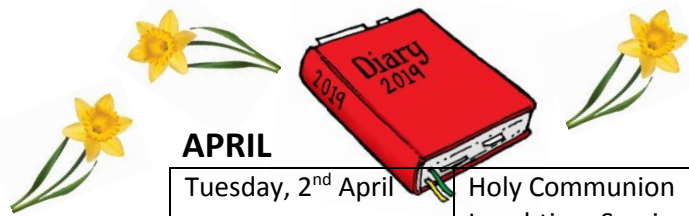
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[St Mary's in the Marketplace]



Parish Magazine

April 2019



APRIL

Tuesday, 2 nd April	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Thursday, 4 th April	Vernon Park School Easter Assembly	14.30
Friday, 5 th April	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 7 th April	Holy Communion Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 9 th April	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Friday, 12 th April	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 14 th April Palm Sunday	Holy Communion Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting Zeal Church	10.30 12.00 approx 15.30
Tuesday, 16 th April	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Maundy Thursday 18 th April	Holy Communion	19.00
Good Friday 19 th April	Walk of Witness [Meet 11am at The Entertainer (Warren Street) returning for a short service at St Mary's] Good Friday lunch at the Nave Café 2pm Devotional Service (St Marys)	
EASTER SUNDAY 21 st April	Holy Communion Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 23 rd April	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Friday, 26 th April	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 28 th April	Morning Prayer Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 30 th April	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15

received life-changing surgery to straighten his fingers. Having been loved and nurtured back to health by the caring staff at Anandaban Hospital, he is beginning to find the inner-strength to claim back what leprosy has taken from him.

Just as Jesus reached out to the man with leprosy and gave him complete healing – physically, emotionally and spiritually – The Leprosy Mission is asking Christians to follow our Lord's example by praying for and supporting its Heal Nepal campaign. Heal Nepal will not only train local leaders to find people affected by leprosy and get them the cure. It will also provide love and acceptance.

It will help people regain their mobility and reclaim their income. Their freedom. Their dignity. People with leprosy are often hidden in remote, hard-to-reach villages and mountainous areas, and Heal Nepal will help train local workers to find people and get them the cure before leprosy takes hold. For those who have already been seriously affected by leprosy, Heal Nepal will bring them to Anandaban Hospital for vital treatment such as physiotherapy, surgery and prosthetic limbs. It costs just £24 to find and cure somebody with leprosy. And the amazing news is that thanks to UK Aid Match, from 27 January to 27 April 2019, your donation will be doubled by the UK government. So if you give £24 to find and cure one person from leprosy, you are actually helping two people. BBC Songs of Praise presenter Pam Rhodes recently visited Anandaban Hospital. Pam said: "Leprosy has been completely curable



for over 30 years yet still has the power to crush and oppress our brothers and sisters. The staff at Anandaban Hospital are on a Christ-like mission to heal and love people with leprosy." Visit www.healnepal.org.uk to find out more



The Leprosy Mission is asking us to pray with them for those hiding symptoms of leprosy for fear of rejection in its bid to rid Nepal of the ancient disease.

Although often regarded as a disease confined to Biblical times, leprosy is a real 21st Century problem with around a quarter of a million new cases diagnosed and treated each year. There are thousands of cases of undiagnosed leprosy in Nepal today, leaving many already living in poor conditions disabled and shunned because of stigma and fear.

Leprosy causes nerve damage leaving hands and feet numb and vulnerable to wounds, leading to infection, amputations and permanent disabilities. The problem is made worse when the stigma of leprosy means the person is outcast and often extremely poor. Many have no access to healthcare, and live in makeshift homes where poor sanitation presents a constant threat.

Twenty-five-year-old Ram lives in Nepal and used to work as a stonemason, a job requiring intricate craftsmanship, but is no longer able to work after leprosy caused his hand to claw. Ram is newly-married but his young wife is unaware his disability is caused by leprosy. Ram is afraid his wife might not accept him if she knew the truth. Often there is fear around leprosy in communities like Ram's, where this ancient disease can be seen as a curse. But everyday leprosy patients are being met by outreach workers, diagnosed, given the cure, and nurtured back to health at Anandaban Hospital in the foothills of the Himalayas.

Anandaban Hospital is a light in the darkness for Ram, a hospital shining bright on a hill. It was at Anandaban Hospital that Ram

Appointment of Rector for Stockport and Brinnington

We were delighted to announce on the 10th March the appointment of the Revd Lynne Cullens as the new Rector of Stockport and Brinnington, subject to all legal formalities being fulfilled.

Although we have no official start date at the time of writing this magazine it is very much hoped that Lynne will be able to join us around June – ending just over three years of having no Rector at St Mary's.

We all look forward to Lynne joining us and starting work in her new Parish – there will certainly be lots to get on with.

In the meantime it remains business as usual as we approach Easter, everyone is invited to our Joint Service of Holy Communion (with the Ven Ian Bishop Archdeacon of Macclesfield) on Palm Sunday at St Mary's (10.30am). We hope that as many of you as possible will then join us for the Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting for the new parish. At the "Vestry meeting" the Churchwardens for the three churches will be appointed, at the APCM members of the Parochial Church Council, Deanery Synod representatives, Sidespersons and Officers of the PCC as required. *[The PCC Secretary, Treasurer, Electoral Roll Officer and Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator appointed by the PCC at their first meeting after the APCM in accordance with Church Representation Rules]*. Look out for our Annual & Treasurers Report for 2018 which will be available prior to the meeting. We will be holding a service of Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday evening with the Rev Mike Newman, taking part in the Walk of Witness and holding services on Good Friday and to officiate for us on Easter Sunday, Canon John Briggs.

April Fool

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1st April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'.

And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for *The Life of Eve's Mother*. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: 'Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.' Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula: 'April-Fool-Day's-past-and-gone-you're-the-fool-and-I-am-none!



faces, and in the taste of the metallic-tinged sea spray. They feel it even more when they're praying to survive the sudden storms that whip up at sea. Mary Ann wasn't always a fisherwoman. She comes from a family of dressmakers, so she's a dab hand with the sewing machine.

This Lent, our help is urgently needed. £71 can pay for a solar powered flash light / £39 for a solar panel / £18 for training to protect marine life.

Give the gift of solar light

"We use solar to charge mobile phones, fans, television, cook and for me to sew" says Mary. Solar light allows her to earn extra money by sewing and tailoring. With solar light, she and Jose can also fix their squid traps after dark, and catch squid without poisoning them with kerosene lamps. The children can study and stay in education – and the family can enjoy their time together. But with our support, they can do more. ***"We need more solar lights, that would be helpful. We have three at the moment but we need more for fishing, and for the home"*** Clean energy allows families and communities like Mary Ann's to enjoy full and active lives, rather than just subsist at the edge of survival.

Rise up for climate justice this Lent. Millions of the world's poorest people are feeling the worst impacts of climate change, and experts predict more floods, drought and extreme weather patterns to come. For those living in poverty, this means more hunger, conflict and insecurity. A donation from us could support advocacy training, empowering communities like Mary Ann's to fight for their rights on climate change.

Supporting Christian Aid Lent & Easter Appeal

Climate change is happening. We can't ignore its effects any longer.

For fisherfolk like **Lope and Eva** and **Mary Ann** in the Philippines, life at the sharp end of climate change has pushed their communities to the edge of survival.



Lope and his wife Eva remember what it was like when Super Typhoon Haiyan pounded their tiny island of Tabugon in 2013. Lope told us: **“The wind blew so strong, the trees and houses around us were almost destroyed. Through our prayers, we were safe until the typhoon ceased”**. Fishing is their only real means

of income – but climate change is making that increasingly dangerous.

Mary Ann has been squid fishing for 20 years. Every evening, she takes to the water with Jose, embracing the challenges: **“It’s unusual for women to join their husbands to fish. I felt I needed to learn what my husband knows, to also help him, although I don’t know how to swim”**. Climate change is pushing Mary Ann, together with her husband Jose, to work even harder against unforgiving elements. It's getting tougher now to support their 10 children. **“Since Haiyan, the weather's really changed. The typhoons now are stronger and the waves are always big. I’ve experienced several dangerous situations”**. Out on the water, Mary Ann and Jose feel the climate changing in the intense heat burning their



Stockport Community Garden Project

You may have seen the plans and the model on display in church or even attended the first public meeting – but just in case this has passed you by there are plans in place for Phase 1 of a new Community Garden Project to be created on Council owned land at the top end of Churchgate car park and to potentially expand into Phase 2 to incorporate the overgrown and presently hidden graveyard – St Mary’s “secret garden/graveyard”

The seeds were sown by Sam (from Where the Light Gets In) and Jon (from the Wellspring) both seeing an opportunity to turn an under-used patch of land into usable community space.



There is a long way to go of course before we see before us neatly cut lawns and raised beds however it is anticipated that the project will start this Spring – on the Council owned land at the top end of the car park (right of the entrance). The existing trees will remain – excluded on the Architects drawings just to show the details of the scheme.



Phase 2 will take much more work to accomplish – would need a lot of preparatory work and necessary approvals. To open up from Phase 1 with access to the lower level (disabled access from the church end near the steps) and utilise the space – it certainly would make that patch of land a “secret garden” for real. The garden would be for everyone who has a bit of will and time on their hands to spend time outdoors, working with a common goal. Everything to be sourced locally, repurposed or recycled with minimal purchases. Everyone from the community to get involved at every stage. A chance for people from all walks of life to meet, talk and build something together.

and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday. The custom of observing a period of three hours’ devotion from 12 midday to 3 pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The ‘Three Hours of the Cross’ often take the form of an extended meditation on the ‘Seven Last Words from the Cross’, with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.



Easter Sunday 21st April 2019

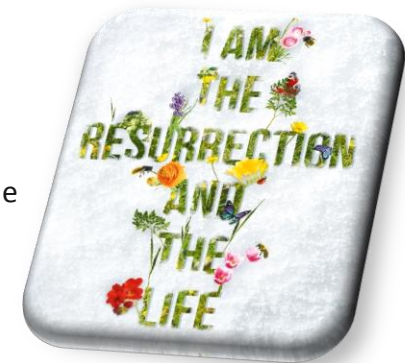
Service of Holy Communion
at St Mary’s **10.30am**

with
Canon John Briggs

EASTER

Even though the darkness raged
And all was still, the sun had gone
Still they shouted their abuse
Taunting Him – ‘you’re not God’s Son!
Elijah hasn’t rescued you
Renounce your claim, you’re just like me

Everyone can see you hang
Arms outstretched, nailed to a tree’
So it seemed that all was lost
Their hopes their dreams forever gone –
Eternity had other plans
Resurrection Day was soon to dawn



By Megan Carter

Maundy Thursday – time to wash feet: Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before his death: the washing of his own disciples' feet. (see John 13) Jesus washed his disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another. In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ. But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion. Jesus and his close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together – for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as he, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

GOOD FRIDAY: the day the Son of God died for you Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9am in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year, and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion

The project team hope to:

- Create a place that has a purpose
- Improve perception, attraction and safety of this area
- Create a new public space for everyone in Stockport.
- Create events and activities throughout the year
- Offer welcoming outdoor space and programme for vulnerable members of our society
- Offer organised educational programmes for pupils and adults
- Extend the offer of the Wellspring Centre
- Involve local businesses in providing resources or skills

What for:

- To appreciate the process of growing food – from seed to table
- To connect with nature
- To learn about the importance of organic, local and seasonal produce
- To enjoy time outdoors with people you otherwise may not meet
- To learn about the town through walks and lectures

What are the known benefits of gardening and community gardens?

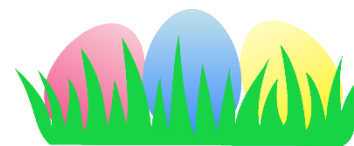
- Access to fresh and healthy food – improved diet – obesity prevention
- Learning and connecting with food production and healthy eating
- Increased levels of physical activity

- Promote mental wellbeing through meaningful, worthwhile and enjoyable activity
 - Improved education, health and employment prospects
 - Support recovery, rehabilitation and coping with physical and mental health challenges
 - Reduce anxiety, stress and stress related illness
 - Improved social interaction and cohesion, sense of connection and belonging
 - Improve quality of life for people with dementia
 - Makes the lives of people struggling with substance misuse more meaningful, provide purpose and a feeling of being needed
 - Helps to reduce dependency/ pressure on NHS-GPs/mental health workers/social care.
-

Everyone is welcome to express their views as to what they would like to see happen – it is a community project – everyone is welcome to take part in the project in whatever way they wish.

With regard to the church land - our secret graveyard was used for burials for just 39 years in the middle of the nineteenth century.

Find out more by popping into the Stockport Heritage Trust – there is an interesting little book “Heritage Book 6 St Mary’s Graveyard Trail Guide” by Jill Trumble – well worth a read and costs just £2.



Why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it’s easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

Annual & Treasurers Report 2018

Our Annual & Treasurers Report for the old St Mary’s is now available. Copies are being issued in advance of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on the 14th April. St Thomas and St Luke have produced their own individual reports – like us for the last time. Pick one up from church or download from our web-site.

Permanent Repairs to the Porch Roof

Work will commence on Tuesday, 23rd April to repair properly the south porch roof. It is anticipated at the moment that the works will take around eight weeks to be completed. Access arrangements into church will remain unchanged. Our contractors are Heritage Conservation Restoration Ltd from Ashton under Lyne.

Thanks to Canon John Briggs we have been awarded a grant towards the work from Historic England which will go a long way towards paying for this essential work. Thanks also to John for getting on with all the necessary arrangements for this work to be done in consultation with our Architect Duncan Sanderson (Lloyd Evans Prichard).

Easter morning: the 'Other' Mary [Canon David Winter] As the traditional Easter story is rehearsed again this month, you may notice that there is one name that frequently occurs. It is that of the 'other' Mary – not the mother of Jesus, but Mary of Magdalene, who stood by her at the cross and became the first human being actually to meet the risen Christ. That's quite a record for a woman who, the Gospels tell us, had been delivered by Jesus from 'seven devils' – New Testament language for some dark and horrible affliction of body, mind or spirit. As a result, her devotion to Him was total and her grief at His death overwhelming. In church history Mary Magdalene became the 'fallen woman' a harlot who was rescued and forgiven by Jesus but there is no evidence to prove she was a 'fallen woman' but the contrast is sublime, Mary the virgin mother, the symbol of purity. Mary Magdalene, the scarlet woman who was saved and forgiven, the symbol of redemption. Surely, we all fall somewhere between those two extremes. The dark cloud from which she was delivered may have been sexual, we are not told. What we do know is that the two Marys stood together at the cross, the Blessed Virgin and the woman rescued from who knows what darkness and despair. The second great moment for her was as unexpected as it was momentous. She had gone with other women to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty. An angelic figure told them that Jesus was not there, He had risen – and the others drifted off. But Mary stayed, reluctant to leave it like that. She became aware of a man nearby, whom she took to be the gardener. She explained to Him that the body of 'her Lord' had been taken away and she didn't know where to find Him. The man simply said her name 'Mary' and she instantly realised it was Jesus. She made to hug Him, but He told her not to touch Him because his resurrection was not yet complete. She was, however, to go to the male disciples and tell them she had met Him. She did – but they couldn't believe her.



The flowers have now disappeared for another year but worth remembering why they are there. The purple Crocus bulbs (planted in the lawn at the side of church) were supplied by the Rotary Club of Stockport (Autumn 2017) in support of the "End Polio Now" campaign. The Stockport Club also provided bulbs at St Georges Church, Marple Memorial Park, Torkington Park, Marple Hall School and a few others can be found in private gardens. The second season after planting and they have taken nicely and starting to spread – just like the campaign to rid the world of Polio once and for all.

We only see these lovely little flowers in Spring of course (although World Polio Day is actually in October) but they pop up in the grass to greet the warmer weather as we look forward to saying farewell to winter. BUT, as lovely as they look, they were planted with a message in mind as they spread from year to year as a reminder of how important the work of eradicating Polio has been – and that one last little push can see it gone world-wide.

Poliomyelitis was known since the ancient times, but the first clinical description of the disease was provided only by English physician

Michael Underwood in 1789. The virus struck the developed countries at the end of the 19th century, at the beginning of the 20th century it appeared in the USA and Europe. The disease reached its peak during the 1950s, when it started to shift from infants to children aged from five to nine. Polio affects the further life of those children who once suffered it.

The first efficient attempts to fight the virus were made by Jonas Salk in 1955, who led the first team to develop and test the inactivated vaccine. Salk's inactivated vaccine and Sabin's oral vaccine helped save thousands children.

The use of the vaccines led to establishment of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, that reduced the worldwide cases of polio by 99%.

The Rotary Crocus Campaign started (in Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland) when initially millions of real crocuses were planted around the country. Then for Rotary Day 2012, the fabric Crocus was trialled and were an instant success. They were rolled out nationally for Rotary Day 2013 when 20 Districts distributed over 150,000 crocuses raising some £150,000. By 2017 that total stood at around £1,000,000 and the Crocus distributed in 15 countries.



EASTER: the most joyful day of the year Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God. Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April. Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely. Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943. **Why the name, 'Easter'?** In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month', but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

St George and Hiccup and the dragon

Have you seen the film *How to Train your Dragon*? It's set in a Viking village under attack from dragons, who steal livestock and burn down houses. Hiccup, the village Chief's son, invents a machine to capture dragons. However, when he catches one of the most dangerous dragons, he cannot kill it, when he sees that the dragon is just as frightened as he is. Through this friendship, the people and dragons eventually live in harmony.

This month we celebrate St. George, the patron saint of England. He is famous for slaying a dragon, a tradition which became popular in the Middle Ages. Whether he killed an actual dragon is open to question! However, we do know that the original George was a Roman soldier at the time of Emperor Diocletian. He refused to renounce his faith, as commanded by the Emperor, resulting in his death on 23 April 303 AD.

The contrast is clear: St. George slayed the evil dragon, while Hiccup refused to kill one. However, they also have something important in common. Both acted according to their conscience, defying the popular understanding of those around them and not worrying about the personal cost to themselves. St. George was martyred for standing up for his faith in Jesus before a pagan emperor, while Hiccup risked rejection by his father and village because of his compassion. Today, we are still called to stand for Christ against wrongs and injustice in daily life, whatever the personal cost. However, we also need to be ready to look our enemies in the eye and meet their hostility with love and compassion. This is why we also remember this month that Jesus died and rose again, so that we might have God's power to do this in our lives.

Time for change....

Pure Innovations are set to leave the Nave Café at the end of May

For some considerable time now the number of customers using the café during the week and at weekend has reduced drastically to the extent that it was simply not cost effective to have food prepared in advance of an order being received or have stocks of items in the store room that were running out of date before being used and having to be given away to the Wellspring or thrown in the bin.

Our original five-year plan was to work towards a steady increase in customers and the range of menu items available. To develop the skills of the Pure Innovations clients attending to enable them to move forward and where possible take on a real job.

For awhile this was the case we were relatively busy most days and our income more than satisfactory (give or take) but something obviously happened (although we are not entirely sure what) and it was more than DISAPPOINTING when the trend turned.

We had seen a good return on sales and some of Pure Innovation's clients moved on to more skilled tasks, but those remaining with us more recently becoming "bored" and simply not motivated or able to find things to do. Finding alternative tasks within St Mary's proved difficult and not very effective. The café project has been an excellent outreach opportunity with Pure Innovation for just short of six years (since we opened the café), highly beneficial to both parties, but the time has come to part company. Their decision not ours (in case you were wondering). Continued

From our end, it takes a lot of work in the background to keep the café running, food ordering, maintaining standards, repair and maintenance of equipment, reviewing food hygiene requirements, training etc. The laundry, dealing with Trade Waste and other contracts and working in the kitchen and supporting the café essential of course. It would be easy to throw in the towel BUT: the café is an income stream to St Mary's which we need to keep.

It is a new future for St Mary's and a new future for the Nave Café.

Initially we will need to review our volunteer base as to how best offer a "coffee shop" facility during certain hours when the church is open. Hot and cold drinks with "table top" pre-packed snacks.

We will also consider when those of us holding a Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate can offer freshly made sandwiches and hot food on Tuesday / Thursday / Friday and Saturday as well as reviewing our "special occasions" catering (especially at a weekend) and where there is potential demand. We will also explore where other groups/individuals may be "recruited" to assist us.

We appreciate that there are quite a few catering establishments in the area, café and food outlets in and around the Market Hall and that these are on the increase, but by changing our ways of working and the purpose of having the café in the first place with new users potentially using our premises there is a lot of work to be done.

There is also a lot of interest and support for community projects - so we are not down-hearted and look forward to the challenges ahead.

What's the point of Easter? Rev Paul Hardingham What difference can the Resurrection make to my life?

My past is forgiven: Have you ever been half-way through a project and wanted to start again? In life we all have regrets about things we have done, said or thought. The good news is that Jesus died to forgive these things: *'All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant cancelled and nailed to Christ's cross.'* (Colossians 2:14, The Message). The resurrection is the guarantee that we can know Jesus' pardon and forgiveness. Do we need to let go a load of guilt and unforgiveness that we are carrying?

My present is under control: How often do we say *'My life is out of control.'* We can't control life, but God can! The *'incomparably great power at work for those who believe'* is the same power that raised Christ from the dead (Ephesians 1:20). God promises us the power that we need to face any situation, as we trust Him: *'I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.'* (Philippians 4:13).

My future is secure: Death is the great certainty, *'one out of one dies!'* Yet Jesus overcame death by the resurrection, that we might experience the life of heaven, both now and for eternity. *'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die.'* (John 11:25,26). We don't need to fear death; but if we are to really live, we have to be ready to die! How does the resurrection affect our view of death? ***'The best news the world has ever had came from a cemetery near Jerusalem: the tomb was empty!'***

New code of practice on ecumenical cooperation approved by General Synod

The General Synod has given overwhelming backing to new guidance which will help Church of England congregations to share mission and ministry more easily with a range of churches in their areas.

Members voted (February 2019) in favour of a code of practice giving guidance to bishops, clergy, lay workers and Church of England Readers on how to work more flexibly with other Christian denominations in their communities.

The vote comes after an overhaul of rules underpinning ecumenical relations was given final approval by the General Synod last year opening the way for parishes to take part in joint worship and share buildings with more churches than previously possible.

The new rules include churches without a large national presence which will particularly affect newer independent evangelical, Pentecostal and Charismatic groups including many black-led churches.

The Bishop of Chichester, Martin Warner, addressing the General Synod, said: “We hope and pray, as has already been noted, that this will be a sign of encouragement and enthusiasm, which will lead to the renewal and deepening of our life together and our witness to Jesus Christ.”

General Synod backs plans to mobilise one million worshippers

Plans to encourage the Church of England’s one million regular worshippers to be more confident in spreading the Christian message in their everyday lives were given the backing of the General Synod in February. Members of the General Synod welcomed the Church of England’s campaign *Motivating the Million*, which is aimed at helping congregations in speaking about and living out their faith in homes, communities and workplaces. The plans include work to create more lay leaders in the Church of England and a project to help build the confidence of worshippers to invite their friends to church events. The General Synod also backed a call for all the Church of England’s 12,500 parishes to become involved in the global prayer movement ‘*Thy Kingdom Come*’ for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. The Revd Barry Hill, from the Diocese of Leicester, moving a motion at the General Synod commending the work of the Church of England’s Evangelism and Discipleship department, said evangelism could not be left to clergy alone. “Evangelism doesn’t belong to any one part of the Church, it needs all of our church to reach all of our nation,” he said. “Most people know a Christian – most people don’t know a bishop or even a vicar.” The Bishop of Leicester, Martyn Snow, described evangelists as a ‘gift’ to the Church, and said we needed more of them. “Today’s evangelists will not be lone rangers – today’s evangelists will not be loud extroverts who frighten everyone with their enthusiasm. “The evangelists of today need to be team members who mentor and coach others in everyday faith conversations, helping people to overcome their anxiety and helping them to think through the tough questions that anyone who publicly owns the name of Christian will get asked.”

General Synod backs drive to create new churches on estates

The General Synod of the Church of England has given its overwhelming backing to a drive for a church to be set up on every significant social housing estate in the country, as part of a programme of Renewal and Reform.

All dioceses will now be asked to include evangelism on social housing estates in their strategies and clergy deployment plans.

The Bishop of Burnley, Philip North, who heads the Church of England's Estates Evangelism Task Group, told the General Synod that in the past, the Church had closed churches and withdrawn clergy from social housing estates.

But now, the Church has a new vision. "It's a very simple one. To have a loving, serving, worshipping Christian community on every significant social housing estate in the nation. To plant back in the estates we have abandoned, to better support our presence in the places where we're struggling. If we can do that, the impact on church and nation will be transformative."

A fifth of the Church of England's 12,500 parishes are estimated to be 'estates parishes', meaning that they include at least 500 social housing units.

Easter trivia quiz

What was the largest ever Easter egg hunt? - The most-ever entrants for an egg hunt competition was 12,773. It was The Fabergé Big Egg Hunt, as part of World Record London, in London, UK in April 2012.

What was the largest-ever decorated Easter egg? - This was built in March 2008, by Freeport in Alcochete, Portugal. It measured 14.79 m (48 ft 6 in) long and 8.40 m (27 ft 6 in) in diameter.

What was the largest ever chocolate Easter egg? - It was made in Tosca (Italy) and weighed 7,200 kg (15,873 lbs 4.48 oz). It had a circumference of 19.6 m (64 ft 3.65 in) at its widest point. It was exhibited in a shopping centre in Cortenuova, Italy, in April 2011.

What was the largest ever Easter egg tree? - This was set by Zoo Rostock GmbH, Rostock, Germany, who decorated a tree with 76,596 painted hens' eggs in April 2007.

What about the most expensive hot cross bun? - This was baked in 1829 in Stepney, London, UK. It was bought by Bill Foster (UK) for £155 at the Antiques for Everyone show at the NEC in Birmingham, West Midlands, UK, in April 2000. Hot cross buns were originally made to hang in the kitchen to ward off evil spirits.

What was the biggest-ever (real) Easter bunny? - So far, the longest rabbit was Darius, a Flemish giant rabbit owned by Annette Edwards (UK), who was found to be 4 ft 3 in (129 cm) long when measured for an article in the UK's Daily Mail newspaper in April 2010.



Palm Sunday
14th April 2019 10.30am
Joint Service of Holy Communion
St Mary / St Thomas / St Luke
at Stockport Parish Church
(St Mary's in the Marketplace)
with the Ven Ian Bishop (Archdeacon of Macclesfield)



Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to his own people in their capital city, and yet he came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war-horse. As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into his path. They knew his reputation as a healer, and welcomed him. But sadly the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put him to death. On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.

Parish of Stockport and Brinnington

St Mary / St Thomas / St Luke

Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday, 14th April 2019 at Stockport Parish Church (St Mary's)
following morning service

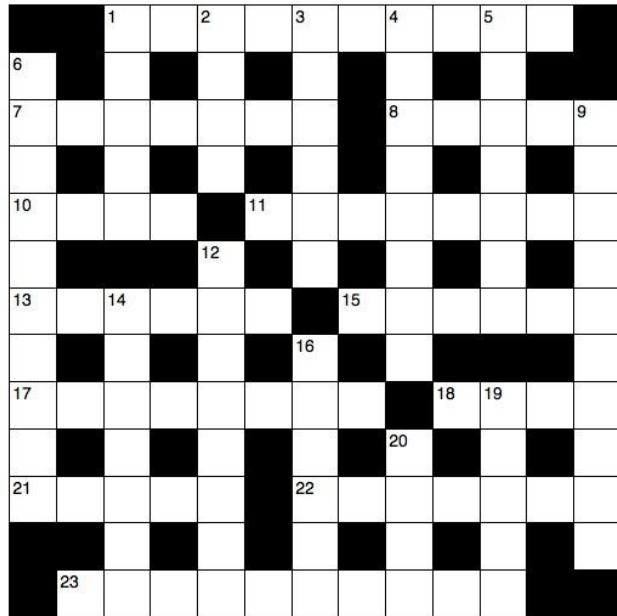
The man who proved there is a God – Saint Anselm of Canterbury

Anselm is a good saint to remember next time someone asks you to prove that there is a God. His brilliant and original *Proslogion*, written 1077-8, sets out the 'ontological' proof for God's existence. Nearly ten centuries later, it is still studied by theological students as one of the great philosophical 'proofs' of God's existence.

Anselm was born at Aosta in 1033, the son of a spendthrift Lombard nobleman, whom Anselm detested. In time he decided to become a Benedictine monk, and so joined Lanfranc's famous monastery at Bec (c. 1060). He became prior, then abbot. He was loved by his monks, appreciated for his sensitivity and intuitiveness. He remained friends also with Lanfranc, who had gone on to be Archbishop of Canterbury. After Lanfranc's death, Anselm reluctantly agreed to accept the job.

Archbishops did not have press offices in those days, but Anselm made his views on Church-versus-King known all the same, and they did not please the king. William Rufus exiled him in 1097 and King Henry I exiled him in 1103. Anselm was utterly committed to what he saw as the cause of God and the Church, and therefore had no time for temporal politics. Peace between archbishop and monarch was not achieved until 1106.

Crossword



Across

- 1 'You are a chosen people, a royal — ' (1 Peter 2:9) (10)
 7 Exact copy (Joshua 22:28) (7)
 8 Jesus' first words to Jairus's daughter, 'My child, — — ' (Luke 8:54) (3,2)
 10 Idol made by the Israelites while Moses was on Mount Sinai (Exodus 32:4) (4)
 11 Role allotted to Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 42:6) (8)
 13 'Lord, when did we — — hungry and feed you?' (Matthew 25:37) (3,3)
 15 'Though seeing, they do — —; though hearing, they do not hear or understand' (Matthew 13:13) (3,3)

- 17 Happening (1 Kings 21:1) (8)
 18 'Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the — of Christ' (Philippians 3:7) (4)
 21 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1,1,1,1,1)
 22 Stamp on (Amos 2:7) (7)
 23 Liable to rot (1 Corinthians 15:42) (10)

Down

- 1 Of the pope (5)
 2 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything — — ' (Psalm 24:1) (2,2)
 3 Hebrew word for the kind of peace that Jesus promised (6)
 4 Member of a 16th-century Protestant reform movement in France (8)
 5 Sing out (anag.) (7)
 6 Ceremonial column of people on the move (1 Samuel 10:5) (10)
 9 One of the things love always does (1 Corinthians 13:7) (10)
 12 Esther's cousin who foiled a plot to assassinate King Xerxes (Esther 2:7, 22) (8)
 14 See cape (anag.) (7)
 16 'No one can — them out of my hand' (John 10:28) (6)
 19 Often mistakenly identified as the fruit that led to the first sin (Joel 1:12) (5)
 20 'He was led like a — to the slaughter' (Isaiah 53:7) (4)

