

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 10.00am – 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.



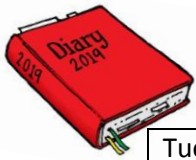
STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH

[St Mary's in the Marketplace]



Parish Magazine

July 2019



Tuesday, 2 nd July	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Thursday, 4 th July	Prayer Meeting	19.00
Friday, 5 th July	Café Worship SK Festival	10.45 17.00-20.30
Saturday, 6 th July	SK Festival	17.00-20.30
Sunday, 7 th July	Holy Communion (TR) Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 9 th July	Morning Prayer Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Thursday, 11 th July	Bible Study Group	19.00
Friday, 12 th July	Café Worship	10.45
Saturday, 13 th July	Block 4 The Art of Sound	15.00-21.30
Sunday, 14 th July SEA SUNDAY	Morning Prayer (RW) Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 16 th July	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Wednesday, 17 th July	Bible Study Group	19.00
Thursday, 18 th July	Installation and Institution Service Rev Lynne Cullens	19.30
Friday, 19 th July	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 21 st July	Holy Communion (LA) Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 23 rd July	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Thursday, 25 th July	Bible Study Group	19.00
Friday, 26 th July	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 28 th July	Morning Prayer (RW) Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 30 th July	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15

CHURCH PICNIC **AN INVITATION FROM THE RURAL DEAN**

We have all been invited to join in with people from churches around Stockport for a Church Picnic on

Sunday 7th July, 1-3pm in Cheadle Heath Park **(formerly Gorsy Bank).**

The plan is to have a very short welcome, prayer and worship – then eat (bring your own picnic) and play some games.

There will be use of the Rose Walker Pavilion for toilets etc. and in case the weather suddenly turns inclement.

There are a couple of car parks – one at the top and one at the bottom of Essex Avenue.

Feel free to pass this on to other local churches. All are welcome so also feel free to drag along your non church family and friends.

ACROSS: 1, Riches. 4, Abner's. 7, Soul. 8, Damascus. 9, Statutes. 13, Add. 16, Craftsmanship. 17, Old. 19, Redeemer. 24, Walls are. 25, Wise. 26, Target. 27, Thief.

DOWN: 1, Rest. 2, Courtyard. 3, Sadhu. 4, Arm he. 5, Nose. 6, Round. 10, Tutor. 11, Timid. 12, Sense. 13, Ashbelite. 14, Dips. 15, Echo. 18, Lhasa. 20, Exact. 21, Erect. 22, Flog. 23, Mede.

Introducing BLOCK 4

As I am sure you will appreciate we receive a lot of emails on the church account, some more interesting than others, but on this particular day one stood out and needed prompt attention.

Here's an extract from it:

...“Growing up in Stockport ... I am always keen to bring music to my home town. We are very passionate about bringing the recorder into as many areas as possible and showcasing the full extent of what this instrument can do. With our full 12 piece consort of renaissance instruments ranging from the descant to the 6 foot tall contra bass recorder as well as our modern square Paetzold consort we aim to inspire and excite everyone into loving our instrument...”

Block 4 has become one of the leading recorder ensembles of their generation with their unique and dynamic style. Emily Bannister, Lucy Carr, Katie Cowling and Rosie Land are gifted musicians and whatever you may think of the recorder (perhaps like me from school days) this quartet are refreshingly “new” so if you can't wait for the 13th July to listen to Block4 – then just pop onto their web site and enjoy a little preview.

Returning to Stockport on the 13th July this will be the final stop of their “Stargazing” tour, performing with visual artist Lynda Beckett a concert programme and workshop for schools. It is going to be a busy but brilliant day – do come along.

July 2019

As the light at the end of the tunnel turned brighter by the day, the interregnum drawing to a close, we are delighted to finally be able to welcome our new Rector to Stockport this month. Lynne's “Induction and Institution” service (at Stockport Parish Church) on Thursday, 18th July marks the beginning of a new chapter for all of us within the new Parish of Stockport and Brinnington and we are confident that our friends and colleagues at Stockport St Thomas and Brinnington St Luke are as excited as we are.

Now the real work begins.... but before we turn the page and start to write a new chapter we note once again our appreciation to all those who have helped us out – and at St Thomas' and St Luke - since Roger, Andrew and Andy moved on to pastures new. We are not of course necessarily saying goodbye and hope to see everyone back with us from time to time.

Coming up this month, we are hosting some of the elements that make up the SK Festival (Friday 5^h & Saturday 6th July) and a Workshop/Concert for Block 4 (13th July).

Joining us to take Sunday Holy Communion will be Tony Rablen and a return visit from Lawie Adam. Ken Kenrick will be with us to take Holy Communion (as his diary permits) on a Tuesday with John Knowles and John Briggs taking our lunchtime services. Rita will be taking Morning Prayer at St Mary's including one specifically for Sea Sunday when we will again welcome local Sea Cadets.

The service of the month, the Induction and Institution of the Rev Lynne Cullens, with the Bishop of Chester on the evening of the 18th. Lynne will start to take services at all our churches as we merge and review arrangements already in place, fill in the gaps and start to sort the new church diary.



SK1 Festival (5th, 6th & 7th July)

The “SK1 Festival” is a multi-disciplinary music and arts festival based in Stockport Old Town.

Venues include:

The Church
Fri / Sat - 17:00 - 20:30

The Space
Fri / Sat - 20:30 - 02:00,
Sun - 1:00 - 20:00

Poundland
Exhibition space from
29th June - 13th July



We at St Mary’s are pleased to be able to host some of the events incorporated into the SK Festival on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th July.

It looks as if this could be a brilliant weekend and we wish the organisers all the very best of luck with their arrangements.

Tickets on sale online via Resident Advisor & physical tickets available from SK1 Records in Stockport -

Friday ticket - £12.50

Saturday ticket - £12.50

Sunday ticket - £5

Weekend ticket - £25



Walthew House
112 Shaw Heath
Stockport
SK2 6QS

0161 480 2612
admin.walthewhouse@ntlbusiness.com

Free Counselling for Sight Loss

Walthew House have qualified counsellors who specialise in the issues that sight loss brings. Couples counselling is also available as often close relationships can be affected by the issues that sight loss brings

STOCKPORT TALKING NEWSPAPER

Keeping blind or visual impaired people in touch with local news and events

www.stockporttalkingnewspaper.org.uk
0161 430 7808 / 0161 439 4873 / 0161 494 1197

Looking ahead to August:
Emergency Services Day Friday 23rd August 2019
12.00 – 16.00 St Peters Square

North West Ambulance Service, St Johns Ambulance,
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service,
CSI, First Responders, the Police Special Constabulary
and Blood Bikes with a variety of other companies/charities
who will all be allocated stalls.

The event is aimed at families and is intended to:

- Encourage personal safety and respect for local residents.
- Increase community engagement and interaction
- Reduce anti-social behaviour
- To help local agencies, charities and businesses network and make community connections to benefit each other.
- To educate about the work the emergency services do.
- Encourage the public to engage with other local agencies.
- To increase community spirit
- To engage with local youths

The theme for this year's event is 'Knife Crime' where the services will be spreading the word amongst the young people of Stockport about the dangers of carrying knives and the horrendous damage they can do to so many people's lives.

The local police team are holding a 'design a poster' competition for all the schools in Stockport. They will be awarding a prize to each winner as an incentive to take part and each winner will be invited to tour the Police Horse & Dog facility at Hough End.

Here is a curious thing: even just one cup of coffee a day can reduce the risk of an elderly person falling – by up to a third.

A recent study* of thousands of older patients from the UK and Spain has found that even small amounts of coffee are enough to make them steadier on their feet. That is good news for many elderly folk, as about one in three people over 65 will have at least one fall a year, and half will fall frequently. This is because older people can suffer balance problems, weaker muscles, dementia or low blood pressure.



So there we are then – we MUST drink more COFFEE just as the Nave Café goes BEAN-TO-CUP. Years in the wanting, months in the planning, but finally we have a coffee machine installed and in use. Drink in or takeaway - do come and try our range of coffee drinks – all for just £1.20 (large measure). Also available - as a drink is too wet without one – a complimentary biscuit - although we do have an extended range of goodies on our “kiosk” table. AND..... loyalty cards for regular coffee drinkers at the Nave Café.

* The study was done at a university in Madrid. All in all, it costs the NHS £2.3billion a year to treat and care for elderly patients who suffer a fall.

Saturday: 13th July 2019

Block 4 (Recorder Quartet) & Lynda Beckett present

The Art of Sound

St Mary's in the Marketplace, Stockport

Creative Workshop for budding artists and musicians (no experience necessary) – aged 6+ - music making / creative composing / art to take home

10.00 – 13.00 £6.00 (booking essential as places are limited: block4recorders@gmail.com)

St Mary's in the Marketplace, Stockport

An exploration of art and music featuring works from the Medieval to present day with a new commission by Andrew Crossley

15.00 Tickets on the door £10/£5/ free under 18s

www.block4.co.uk

Invitation

**to the Induction and Institution
of the Rev Lynne S Cullens
to the Parish of Stockport & Brinnington
at**

**Stockport Parish Church
(St Mary's in the Marketplace)**

Thursday, 18th July 2019 at 19.30

The service was conducted by the Ven Ian Bishop: Archdeacon of Macclesfield; assisted by Rita Waters: St Mary's Licensed Reader; with guest organist Peter Williamson





Civic Service

A St Mary's welcome to the new Mayor of Stockport Cllr Laura Booth, attending the Civic Service along with Deputy Mayor & Mayoress: Cllr John Wright & Mrs Christine Wright; Deputy Leader of the Council: Cllr Tom McGee and Chief Executive Stockport Council: Pam Smith

Photo below
With the standard bearers:
the Ven Ian Bishop, Cllr Laura Booth,
Pam Smith, Cllr Tom McGee,
Christine Wright & Cllr John Wright.



Have you a smart speaker?

If you have the right device you can ask Amazon's Alexa to read a prayer, the Ten Commandments or the Lord's Prayer, to recite grace before a meal, or answer questions such as "Who is God?". The smart speakers also have a "church near you" function to encourage people to visit their local church...

... and now a year after its launch

Church of England Alexa asked 75,000 questions in first year

The Church of England's award-winning Alexa skill has been asked more than 75,000 questions, according to recent data. The smart speaker skill was originally launched with prayers, explanations of the Christian faith and details of where to find the nearest church for local events and services based on location.

The data also reveals a trend of highest numbers of people using the skill in the evening. As a result of this, the Church's Digital and Church House Publishing teams added a wider range of mealtime, evening and night prayers during the year.

More family prayers have also been added, and integration improved with **A Church Near You**, the national church finder tool, to show maps of where the nearest church is. A range of videos have also been added to bring the Christian faith to life and showcase the social action work of churches across the country. In a typical week people ask the following questions by topic area:

Read today's daily 'Easter Pilgrim' reflection – 16%
Say a prayer – 40%
Explore the Christian faith – 31%
Share a grace before a meal – 6%
Where is my local church? – 7%.

The skill is average 4.2 out of five stars on the Alexa store, with comments such as "Love it – great example to the kids on how to pray".

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, said: "The aim of the Alexa skill is to help users to know more of the love of Jesus Christ, to enable regular churchgoers and those exploring faith to connect with God in another way and at a time that's right for them."

Adrian Harris, Head of Digital at the Church of England, said: "We are pleased with the levels of engagement in the first year of launching the skill, which was built in just three months in 2018." The skill has also been recognised at a number of leading digital industry awards.

To activate the Church of England skill "*Alexa, open the Church of England*". A full list of commands is available on the C of E's dedicated Alexa page at <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/try-church-englands-alexa-skill>

The absent-minded William Spooner

If you like mixing up words, such as 'The Lord is a shoving leopard' instead of 'The Lord is a loving shepherd' then you will like spoonerisms... by Tim Lenton.

William Archibald Spooner, university lecturer, dean and priest, was born 175 years ago, on 22nd July 1844, in London. Known for his absent-mindedness, he sometimes mixed up the syllables of words, to comic effect. These are now known as spoonerisms.

Spooner was an albino and suffered from defective eyesight. He studied at New College, Oxford, and then lectured there for 60 years in history, philosophy and divinity. He was well liked and respected, kind and hospitable. He was also highly intelligent, and it was suggested that his mind was occasionally too quick for his lips to follow – resulting in the unintended plays on words that made him famous.

Many of those attributed to him are undoubtedly apocryphal, but it is fairly certain that in 1879 he gave out from the pulpit the first line of a hymn as "Kinkering Kongs their titles take". He is said to have disliked the reputation he gained for getting his words muddled, but at the same time he is believed on occasion to have made the "errors" deliberately.

According to Roy Harrod, Spooner exceeded all the heads of colleges at Cambridge or Oxford that he had known in "scholarship, devotion to duty and wisdom". He died in 1930.

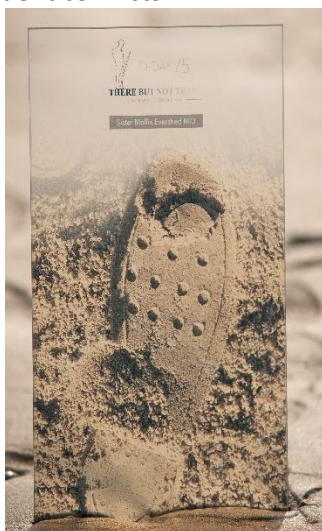


You may have noticed in the south aisle a new display near to our “There But Not There” silhouette.



The new plaque shows a simple boot print and has been issued by the charity “There But Not There” specially for the 75th Anniversary of D-Day. These Bootprints commemorate those 22,763 who died on D-Day and in the ensuing Battle of Normandy, as well as those who have died in subsequent conflicts.

Made by veterans, any surplus funds from the sale of the commemorative D-Day Bootprint will be distributed to projects that support veterans today, ensuring that the sacrifices of our servicemen and women are never forgotten.



Remembrance Weekend 2019:

Make a note to join us at St Mary’s for a Coffee Morning to raise funds for the Royal British Legion, Saturday, 9th November

AND for our Remembrance Day service on Sunday, the 10th November.

Sir David Attenborough backs major new report on plastics from Tearfund

A new report has revealed for the first time that one person is dying every 30 seconds in developing countries from diseases and illnesses caused by plastic pollution and uncollected rubbish dumped or burnt near their homes. The new figures were released in *No Time to Waste: Tackling the Plastic Pollution Crisis Before it’s Too Late*, by international relief and development agency Tearfund, in collaboration with conservation charity Fauna & Flora International (FFI), the Institute of Development Studies and waste management charity WasteAid. The report looks at the health impact of plastic pollution and rubbish on the world’s poorest people for the first time. It found that each year between 400,000 and a million people (at the upper end one person every 30 seconds) are dying in developing countries from illnesses and diseases like diarrhoea, malaria and cancers caused by living near uncollected waste and plastic pollution. The report calls on multinational companies to fundamentally change their business models by committing to reporting the number of single-use plastic items they distribute in developing countries by 2020, and halving this by 2025. “This report is one of the first to highlight the impacts of plastic pollution not just on wildlife but also on the world’s poorest people,” Sir David, a vice president at Fauna & Flora International, said. “It is high time we turn our attention fully to one of the most pressing problems of today – averting the plastic pollution crisis – not only for the health of our planet, but for the wellbeing of people around the world.” “We need leadership from those who are responsible for introducing plastic to countries where it cannot be adequately managed, and we need international action to support the communities and governments most acutely affected by this crisis.” Globally two billion people (one in four), don’t have their rubbish collected. This often leads to disease and death. When rubbish isn’t collected it often

builds up in rivers and causes flooding, which can lead to diarrhoea and a host of infectious diseases. Often the only other way to dispose of waste is to burn it in the streets, with the resulting fumes being extremely damaging to health as well as – in some countries – being the single largest source of carbon emissions, contributing to climate change. Dr Ruth Valerio, Global Advocacy & Influencing Director at Tearfund said: “Tearfund’s new Rubbish Campaign calls for urgent action from four multinationals – Coca-Cola, Nestlé, PepsiCo and Unilever. “They sell billions of products in single-use plastic packaging in poorer countries where waste isn’t collected, in the full knowledge that people will have no choice but to burn it, discard it in waterways or live among it.

Other key facts in the report:

- Every second a double-decker busload of plastic waste is burned or dumped in developing countries.
- Global plastic production emits 400 million tonnes of greenhouse gases each year – more than the UK’s total carbon footprint.
- An estimated 8 – 12.7 million tonnes of plastic is entering the oceans every year.
- Every 30 seconds the UK throws away 2 double-decker busloads of plastic waste.
- Living amongst plastic pollution and uncollected waste doubles the incidence of diarrhoeal disease.

To read the report log onto www.tearfund.org/notimetowaste

The joys of maintaining a Grade 1 Listed building

Work on the porch roof hit a slight snag when it was realised that the repairs were more extensive than first thought. We have been extremely lucky that the old roof has lasted as long as it has and didn’t actually collapse before we got to it. We were never going to know fully the extent of the rot until the old roof was removed but it is a total re-roof – nothing is left of the original covering – requiring some adjustment to our schedule of works and permissions from Historic England –who are largely funding the project.

Even our organ has been “playing up” – but not quite as any of our organists expected - and not the fault of a mouse nibbling at the electrics this time (at least we don’t think so) but once again we are in the capable hands of “Organ World” to sort out the problem. We hope to have all keys, registers, stops and pedals working correctly again shortly.

You may have noticed the time but not that there have been no chimes on the hour for awhile now. We have managed to keep the quarter chimes going and the clock itself BUT extensive repairs are required. As soon as we have the necessary approvals from the Diocese, clockmakers Smiths of Derby are all set to start some major works. The auto-wind system is 50 years old, the motors are no longer manufactured and the system no longer meets with the conservation requirement for The Council for the Care of Churches. The clock mechanism could be deemed as unsafe under Health and Safety legislation for various reasons so we are keen to upgrade. Work will start as soon as possible to replace the full auto-wind system for the clock. We are thankful for the agreement of Stockport Council to fully fund the cost of repairs.

Quiet Peace

O Lord, my heart is all a prayer
But it is silent unto thee
I am too tired to look for words
I rest upon thy sympathy
To understand when I am dumb
And well I know thou hearest me

I know thou hearest me because
A quiet peace comes down to me
And fills the places where before
Weak thoughts were wandering wearily
And deep within me it is calm
Though waves are tossing outwardly



By Amy Carmichael (1867 – 1951)

The Bible that was thrown away

The story is told by Brother Andrew, who worked for many years with the Persecuted Church, of a Christian pastor who was travelling some years ago on a train in the old Soviet Union. There was just one other passenger in the railway car, and soon the two men were chatting. The subject of religion came up, and the other man extolled the logic of atheism and criticised religious belief. Then the Christian bravely expressed his own views, and even took out his Bible to show the man some relevant verses. But the atheist was both unmoved and annoyed. As the futility of their argument became clear, the men lapsed into silence. When a little later the Christian was nearing his stop, he left the compartment for a few moments to get his suitcase. He returned to find his Bible was missing. The atheist was just closing the train window and sneered at him. It was clear that he had thrown the Bible out. The journey continued the final few miles in stony silence.

A few months later, a stranger came to call upon the Christian pastor in his village. It was a man from a neighbouring village who asked to be baptised. The pastor was astonished and asked him what he knew about such things. The stranger told him this story: “Until a few months ago I knew nothing of Christianity.

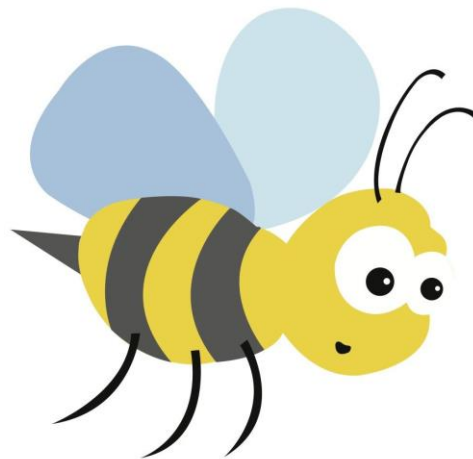
I am just a local builder, working on a site near the railway track. Then suddenly one afternoon a book came flying out of the window of a passing train and landed in the dust nearby. I walked over and picked it up. It was a Bible – the first I had ever seen. “So I took it home and out of curiosity began to read it. I was amazed by what I read, and I have become a Christian. Now I want to be baptised and meet with other Christians. I have heard rumours that you are also a Christian, so I hoped that you would help me.” The astonished

Christian pastor did indeed baptise the builder, and also confided his side of the story of the flying Bible.

Within a few years the builder had converted several of his neighbours, and a tiny Christian church had been planted within his own community. All because of a thrown-away Bible.

National 'Don't Step on a Bee' Day is 10th July

This annual day encourages people to protect and encourage their local bees. For ideas of how you can best help the bees in your garden, visit: www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/dont-step-on-a-bee-day-2019/



Holy Days or Holidays?

The Rev Paul Hardingham considers the benefits of a holiday.

Some porters were hired to carry a group's possessions on a trip through the jungle. The pace quickly increased until the head porter called a halt: 'We've come so far, so fast we need to take a break and allow our souls to catch up with our bodies!'

How often do we feel like this? July is a month when many of us take a break. Jesus and His disciples often took time to withdraw from the crowds: 'because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, He said to them, 'Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.' (Mark 6: 31,32). Jesus saw how tired and stressed His disciples were and wanted to give them a break from their busy lives. He loved them and cared about their wellbeing. He longs to do the same with us, so we can restore the balance of work, rest and play in our lives. Going on holiday or taking time off gives us an opportunity of letting go the burdens of everyday life and renewing our rest in Him. This enables us to entrust Jesus with our issues and concerns, as we take time aside declare a holy day or holiday!

The story is told of the aged Apostle John playing with doves. A passing hunter expressed surprise at what a man as pious as John was doing. John pointed to the bow in the hunter's hand and asked him why he carried it with a loosened string. The hunter replied, 'it loses its strength unless it is given the chance to unbend'. John replied, 'why are you surprised that a servant of Christ should not relax to keep himself stronger for his work?'

Everything holds together by Malcolm Guite

Everything holds together, everything,
From stars that pierce the dark like living sparks,
To secret seeds that open every spring,
From spanning galaxies to spinning quarks,
Everything holds together and coheres,
Unfolding from the center whence it came.
And now that hidden heart of things appears,
The first-born of creation takes a name.

And shall I see the one through whom I am?
Shall I behold the one for whom I'm made,
The light in light, the flame within the flame,
Eikon tou theou, image of my God?
He comes, a little child, to bless my sight,
That I might come to him for life and light.

Malcolm Guite's words have been set to music by Ian Stephens in a number of arrangements suitable for choirs and singing groups of all ranges and sizes. Scores are all available for free - along with a *recording produced with the support of the CofE's Mission and Public Affairs- at:*

<http://www.stbrides.com/webcast/2019/05/a-song-for-the-season-of-creation.php>

Prayer spaces in public places

Churches across the UK are to launch Hope Spaces in 2020.

The Talking Jesus research found that 41% of practising Christians say that a spiritual experience or an experience of the love of Jesus was a key influence in their coming to faith. The aim of Hope Spaces is to help people to experience God's love and presence, so they can come to know Him for themselves.

In 2020, 24-7 Prayer and HOPE Together are inviting churches to unite in their village, town or city, to host a creative, public prayer space.

Rachel Jordan-Wolf, National Mission and Evangelism Advisor to the Church of England, and one of the team behind the projects says, "Invite your community to experience God through talking and listening to Him in prayer. Imagine, all over the country, people meeting the God of hope in schools, work places, high streets, gardens and unexpected public places. Will you offer your community a place they can meet God in prayer?"

HOPE Together and 24-7 Prayer are developing an information pack and resources to give churches everything they need to set up HOPE Spaces in an empty local shop, a gazebo in a park, a beach hut ... wherever local people might feel welcome and comfortable to explore prayer for themselves.

BOOK REVIEW



This book is a Christian view of retirement. Attitudes to retirement vary, and in this book Wendy Billington draws on her pastoral skills and life experience to ask the question: what is a Christian view of retirement?

If we believe that life is a gift from God, should we not be viewing retirement as part of an integrated whole and see our latter years as part of God's plan? This book is intended for all to read: individuals preparing for retirement and in their retirement

years as well as their families, friends, befrienders, carers and professionals. Written in two sections, 'Uprooting the weeds' and 'Sowing the seeds', it includes questions for group discussion at the end of each chapter, followed by a meditative thought for the day and a closing prayer.

Available for £8.99 on Amazon

First performance of a Song for the Season of Creation

The choir of St Bride's Church Fleet Street gave the first ever performance on Rogation Sunday of "***A song for the Season of Creation***", written for churches throughout the land to include either as part of their Season of Creation services or Harvest Festivals later in the year.

The anthem is a song of praise for God's Creation and a timely reminder of our duty of stewardship to protect & enhance the environment in which we live.

The song, which uses poet Malcolm Guite's words, has been commissioned by the CofE's Environmental Working Group and has been arranged for singers of various ranges. Sheet music, rehearsal files and recordings can be downloaded free of charge from the St Bride's website.

The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury, Lead Bishop for the Environment said:

"We can see the urgency to care for God's earth, our common home. Music and worship give form to our Christian lives. This is a song for God's creation we can all sing this Season of Creation."

Time to welcome Lynne to her new home.

It seems quite a long time since we waved good-bye to Roger and announced the vacancy at St Mary's, but three years down the line (a newly created Parish) and a removal van on an inward journey to Stockport from Crewe.

St Mary's Rectory is looking fine (although there is still some work to complete), the cat-flap is fitted and everything put in place to welcome Lynne, her two dogs and cat, to their new home in Gorsey Mount Street.



The garden is perhaps of jungle proportions, but nothing that can't be sorted. It's amazing how you don't notice how overgrown gardens can become in three

years until you wander through the house and actually look out of an upstairs window and think "oh dear" should have had that cut back – but at least we did maintain the lawn (even if our gardener mowed down the spotted orchids). The

Lavatera "Barnsley Babe" has had to make way for the new patio, but the "Rambling Rector" (Rose) remains and I predict "conkers" this year on Frank's not so little Horse Chestnut tree.



Walking on the moon in July 1969



Tim Lenton remembers a momentous day for mankind

American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin became the first people to walk on the surface of the Moon 50 years ago, on 21st July 1969.

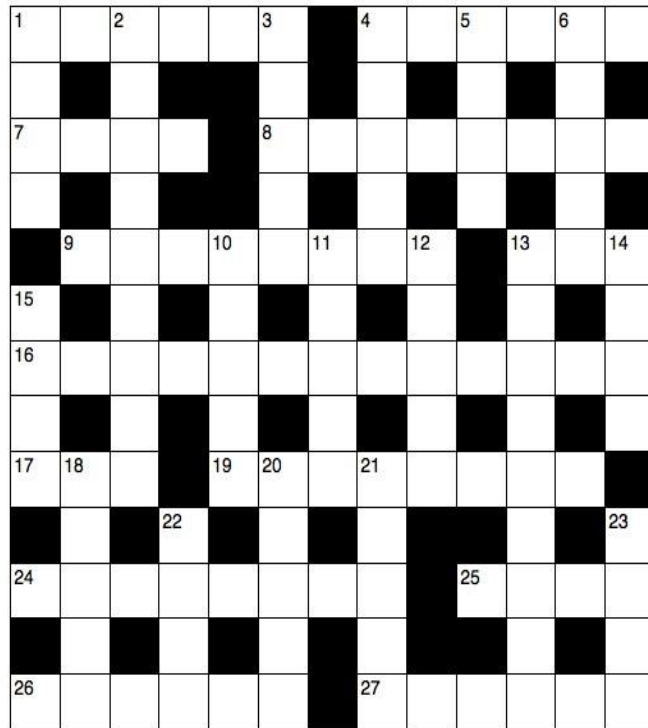
There had been some dispute over who would step first on to the Moon's surface, but Apollo 11 commander Armstrong was given the privilege partly for technical reasons. Lunar module pilot Aldrin followed him almost 20 minutes later. Both men were Christians. Aldrin, who was an elder at Webster Presbyterian Church, Texas, had got special permission to take bread and wine with him to space and take Communion privately. He did this with Armstrong watching in silence.

Armstrong wrote later: "We had come to space in the name of all mankind – be they Christians, Jews, Muslims, animists, agnostics or atheists. But at the time I could think of no better way to acknowledge the Apollo 11 experience than by giving thanks to God."

The two men spent 21.5 hours on the lunar surface before rejoining the command module Columbia in lunar orbit.

Armstrong's first step onto the lunar surface was broadcast on live TV to a worldwide audience. He described it as "one small step for a man – one giant leap for mankind".

Crossword



Across

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)
 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)
 7 'Praise the Lord, O my —

' (Psalm 103:1) (4)

8 See 5 Down

9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)

13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)

16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)

17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)

19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)

24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)

25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)

26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)

27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

Down

1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)

2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)

3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)

4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)

5 and 8 Across The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)

6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5)

10 Trout (anag.) (5)

11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)

12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)

13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)

14 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who — bread into the bowl with me'" (Mark 14:20) (4)

15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14) (4)

18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)

20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)

21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)

22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)

23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)