

Diocese of Chester



STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH
St Mary's in the Marketplace
Churchgate Stockport SK1 1YG
Tel: 0161 480 1815 [07969 101335]

St Mary's with St Andrew's Parish Office
St Andrew's Community Church
Hall Street Stockport SK1 4DA
Tel: 0161 429 6564

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

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www.stmarysinthemarketplace.com

 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**



STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH
St Mary's in the Marketplace



Parish Magazine

May 2017

50p

DIARY FOR MAY 2017			
Tuesday	2 nd May	Holy Communion Lunch-time Service [Frank's 90 th Birthday Celebration] Alpha Course	10.00am 12.15pm 1.15pm
Friday	5 th May	Charity Concert (Jazz Trio & Choir)	7.30pm
Sunday	7 th May	Holy Communion	10.30am
Tuesday	9 th May	Holy Communion Lunch-time Service Alpha Course	10.00am 12.15pm 1.15pm
Sunday	14 th May	Alternative Morning Prayer	10.30am
Tuesday	16 th May	Holy Communion Lunch-time Service Alpha Course	10.00am 12.15pm 1.15pm
Thursday	18 th May	<i>Prayer Breakfast – Kevin McKenna</i>	
Saturday	20 th May	Christian Aid Week "BIG BREKKIE"	
Sunday	21 st May	Holy Communion	10.30am
Tuesday	23 rd May	Holy Communion Lunch-time Service Alpha Course	10.00am 12.15pm 1.15pm
Sunday	28 th May	Morning Prayer	10.30am
Tuesday	30 th May	Holy Communion Lunch-time Service Alpha Course	10.00am 12.15pm 1.15pm
<p><u>Notice to Churchwardens and Sidespersons:</u> <u>Visitation Service</u> <u>18th May</u> <u>7.30pm St</u> <u>Thomas'</u></p>			

Christian Aid Week
14-20 May 2017



JOIN US IN THE NAVE CAFÉ
FOR OUR "BIG BREKKIE"
Saturday, 20th May
from 09.30am
 Booking required.

ACROSS: 1, Baby. 3, Stimulus. 8, Liar. 9, Forsaken. 11, Episcopacy. 14, Eagles. 15, Clergy. 17, Strengthen. 20, Holiness. 21, Obed. 22, Bethesda. 23, Stay.

DOWN: 1, Believer. 2, Beatings. 4, Troops. 5, Musicology. 6, Like. 7, Sent. 10, Acceptance. 12, Prohibit. 13, Dying day. 16, Sensed. 18, Ahab. 19, Blot.

If you have read our Annual & Treasurers Report you will note the cash flow situation we face and appreciate the juggling we have done to keep in the "black" during 2016. The situation continues, which brings to mind the character Mr Micawber from David Copperfield and his famous and frequently quoted, recipe for happiness:

"Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen [pounds] nineteen [shillings] and six [pence], result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery."

Our financial statement for the first quarter of 2017 (January to March):

Opening Balance:	£7,127.85
add Income:	£16,750.40
	_____ £23,878.25
less expenditure	£18,987.60

Closing Balance	£4890.69

We are clearly not in a happy position our expenditure exceeding our income by £2,237.16 for the first three months of this financial year!

A Prayer for St Mary's

YOUR KINGDOM COME

Lord Jesus Christ, may your kingdom come more fully in our hearts each day. Please help us to be:

- **Faithful servants** of the good news of your kingdom. Bless the services we hold, including the Tuesday lunchtime outreach, Alpha course and all contact with families, shoppers, office workers and visitors
- **Good stewards** of our building and heritage. Thank you for the completed repairs and ongoing restoration, for the new interior space, the ministry of the café, and other facilities which enable us to welcome so many visitors each week.
- **Willing fellow workers**. Lord, we are one branch of your Church, seeking to serve you in the busy town centre. Bless all others who serve our community, including Borough Council officials and planners, emergency services, Wellspring and Street Pastors.

Especially we ask you to guide our diocesan authorities as they plan for the future of ministry in the town centre, and for the Wardens, Administrator, PCC, clergy and other ministers.

Give us glimpses of glory to sustain us until that day when your kingdom finally comes, to the glory of your name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen

Canon John Briggs

New series:

Tuesday Lunch-time Services

<i>Living Lord – Easter people</i>	
April 25	Living Lord - How do we know Jesus rose?
May 2	Risen with Christ - What difference does it make?
May 9	Christ the first fruits - What about our future?
May 16	The risen Christ - hope for the world
May 23	Christ our Pioneer - a Man in heaven!
May 30	Thy Kingdom Come: A call to pray
June 6	Good news for all (Pentecost)
<i>The Spreading Flame (Acts 3-5)</i>	
June 13	A day in the life of...(Acts 3)
June 20	Called to account (Acts 4: 1-12)
June 27	Standing firm (Acts 4: 13-22)
June 27	Standing firm (Acts 4: 13-22)
July 4	200 th Anniversary Service
July 11	The whole world in his hand (Acts 4:23-31)
July 18	Belonging together (Acts 4: 32-37)
July 25	Shadows and glory (Acts 5: 1-16)
August 1	Onslaught and aftermath (Acts 5: 17-42)

St Andrew's Re-furbished...



agreed to pay for some extensive restoration, including the replacement of all flooring (with the exception of the toilets and store room area), including necessary asbestos removal. Replacement of the fire door, and glazing to the external doors to the car park. The total amount of work paid for under



The 9th May 2016 was a dramatic day in the life of St Andrews, the discovery of a break-in resulting in considerable damage. However, with every cloud there is a "silver lining" and our Insurance Company - having employed Loss Adjusters (Quadra Claim Services Ltd) -



the insurance cover alone amounting to just under £25K. Who would have guessed on that Monday afternoon last year, when faced with a building swimming in chemicals with the contents of every cupboard, drawer and storage area thrown all over the floor, what extensive and costly damage had been caused by pure vandalism.

The Manchester Chorale with St Thomas' CE Primary School (Heaton Moor)

The Enchanted Concert

Fantastic..... one of the best concerts we have held! Who would have thought that "Little Miss Muffet" along with various other nursery rhyme characters could be performed to Beethoven. The lyrics were perfect and the music exceptional.

Under the direction of Musical Director Jill Henderson-Wild it was truly an enchanted evening. The Chorale (Accompanist Dave Robinson) sang Prelude/Second Eve, A Nursery Suite (Soloists Jo Weller (Soprano) and Chris Barrow (Tenor)), The Earthly Rose, Nicolette, Ronde. The Lark in the Clear Air (with Helen Baldwin – Flute). I know where I'm going, She moved through the fair, Tell my ma, Waltzing Matilda, Nella Fantasia (Soloist Caroline Vince (Soprano)), Lullabye – Goodnight my angel), Scarborough Fair & Alice. **St Thomas' CE Primary School** – Over the Hills, Maliswe, Gospel Train. With both choirs singing together O-re-mi to complete the evening.

NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sunday, 4th June 2017

Service of Commemoration

50th Anniversary of the Stockport Air Disaster

10.00am at Hopes Carr Memorial

[Refreshments at the conclusion of the service at St Mary's in the Marketplace]

Civic Service at Stockport Parish Church (St Mary's in the Marketplace)

12.15pm

St Mary's will remain open after the service for light refreshments and viewing of the exhibition stand(s)

Both services will be led by the Bishop of Stockport- Rt Rev Libby Lane



Who loves the Bluebell?

Spotting a carpet of bluebells in a woodland is a highlight of any springtime walk in the countryside. From secluded valleys to ancient woodlands, they look so beautiful.

Best left alone in the wild for us all to enjoy – if fortunate enough to be in the right place at the right time, but most of us probably know where there are some to be seen, a favourite place perhaps!

The National Trust is one of the most important organisations in the UK for Bluebell conservation, with a quarter of their woodland an ideal habitat. The native bluebell is apparently quite fragile, a flower that doesn't like change or disturbance preferring ancient woods where the ground has been left undisturbed for years.

More hardy Spanish Bluebells were introduced into gardens around 300 years ago and of course began to hybridise with natural flowers. So what's the difference? The main visible difference is that the native Bluebell is slightly smaller, has narrower leaves, drooping heads and a more "violet" coloured bell shaped flower with a delicate distinctive fragrance. The Spanish are wider leaved, stand erect, are a more "Hyacinth blue" colour and have no scent.

YOUR CHALLENGE – find some Bluebells this month, take some photographs, print off your best effort and let's have a look. Your name and contact number on the back of the photo.

Equally the Woodland Trust would appreciate assistance with their "Big Bluebell Watch": www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

It has taken TEN months from the incident to signing off the claim and for us to also have time to bring in our own contractors to completely decorate the building internally, re-floor those areas not included in the insurance claim and undertake some other maintenance works (including replacing the boarding beneath the windows). A few final touches to follow, and we are more or less there, ready to officially re-launch later in the year. We have replaced the old tables with light-weight folding ones and provided a table trolley for easy storage. A sort out of our original chairs, we have retained the black stacking chairs previously stored at St Andrews and St Marys and disposed of everything else.



We are all set to look for new (appropriate) hirers and aim to make St Andrews even more profitable than it was before. In addition we will be using the building on an almost daily basis ourselves as the "Parish Office" has relocated to our Hall Street premises. The large store room off the small hall has been transferred into an office.

We will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the opening of St Andrews on the 16th September. It is now an absolute pleasure to walk into the building to find everything looking "spic and span". St Andrews is once again a valuable asset to the Parish and in a position to move from strength to strength towards supporting the work of St Marys.



WELLSPRING SLEEP OUT

AN EVENT WHERE PEOPLE SLEEP ROUGH FOR ONE NIGHT TO RAISE FUNDS AND HIGHLIGHT THE CHALLENGES THAT HOMELESS PEOPLE HAVE TO FACE EVERY SINGLE NIGHT

Homelessness in Stockport – Where to start!

You don't have to travel far away from the grounds of St Mary's to see for yourself that Stockport has a homelessness issue. So very frequently someone has (or is) sleeping rough in the porch in an attempt to shelter from the worst of the weather. So often the possessions of the homeless stashed in plastic bags hidden behind the bushes in the graveyard.

SO WHY? It is possible to become homeless for many different reasons, being evicted because of rent arrears, inability to pay the mortgage (repossession), the breakdown of a relationship, domestic violence or abuse, harassment by a landlord or a disaster such as a fire or flood (worrying thought). Loss of employment, failure of a business venture, illness – so many potential reasons, some totally unavoidable to the person involved. You can of course be classified as “homeless” even with a roof (of sorts) over your head – if temporarily staying with friends or family, staying in a hostel or night shelter, living in a tent. Living anywhere illegally or by simply living in unsuitable accommodation. Homelessness is ageless, genderless – you may be a young person leaving home for the first time (either by choice and forced to leave). A person of any age discharged from prison or other institution; pregnant with nowhere to go when the baby comes, someone affected by benefit cuts, an asylum seeker or refugee, seeking security. Not just individuals, whole families effectively “out on the streets”.

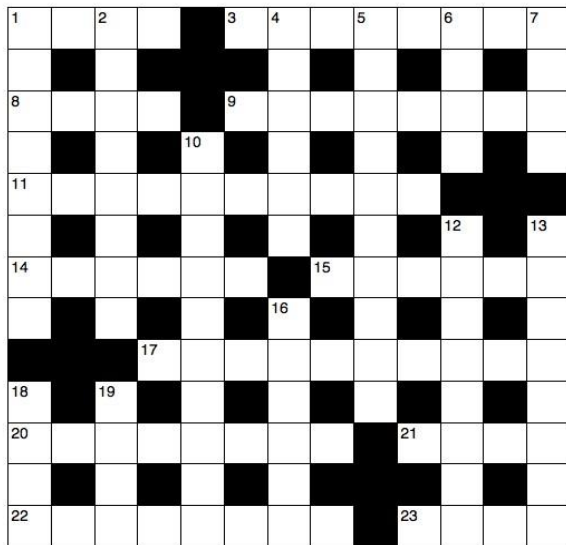
May at St Mary's is relatively straightforward this year, we won't be dancing round the May Pole but we hope to report next month on the events held in support of the Stockport Folk Festival.

We've not forgotten Christian Aid Week and will donate a percentage of from our “café taking” on the 20th May from our “Big Brekkie” event. We hope that you will pop down to town and join us – advanced booking required. Our own finances are such that we are simply unable to do any significant “fund raising” for other organisations but where we can we will aim to do our bit!

There is no further news at the present time with regard to the Interregnum as we enter into the second year of being in a “vacancy” situation. The Churchwardens and PCC will keep you updated of any developments as and when we can.

The Clock

Our apologies to everyone who relies on us knowing the time (or who has just found the situation most annoying), that our clock had been a hour out for so long after British Summer time actually started. The situation has now “thankfully” been rectified.



CROSSWORD - Across 1

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
- 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)
- 8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)
- 9 'My God, my God, why have you — me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)
- 11 Anglican form of church government (10)
- 14 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like —' (Isaiah 40:31) (6)
- 15 Ministers of religion (6)
- 17 Make stronger (1

Thessalonians 3:13) (10)

20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)

21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)

22 Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)

23 '[Jesus] said to them, " — here and keep watch"' (Mark 14:34) (4)

Down

1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)

2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)

4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6) - 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)

6 'I am God, and there is none — me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)

7 'And how can they preach unless they are — ?' (Romans 10:15) (4)

10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10) - 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)

13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)

16 'About midnight the sailors — they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)

18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30–31) (4)

19 'According to your great compassion — out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1) (4)

THE PARISH OFFICE

The "Secretary Bird" has moved office location to St Andrews. Converting the old store room into a nice compact office with all necessary facilities (including telephone and broadband) it is simply brilliant and avoids the problems of "working alone" as faced at St Mary's when the building is closed to the public. Light, bright, warm, and with free parking! The Rector's Vestry



will revert back to the use it was first intended and kitted out accordingly. For the first time since moving out of Roger's study at St Mary's Rectory we have once again allocated space available to hold our files and work in a professional way, with plenty of space for meetings. Also an advantage is to be able to use the premises and "keep an eye" on what is happening with the hirers. The two pews Roger purchased a few years ago for the garden have been rescued and make ideal seating both in the office and "reception area" — a bit of St Mary's in St Andrew's.



May Day

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to 'all sorts'! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli. For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence and unbridled merriment. The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day - and in 1644 May Day was abolished altogether. Many May poles came down - only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was "the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England", according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire. May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and - since 1833 - Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well-known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day. An old May carol includes the lines: The life of man is but a span, it flourishes like a flower. We are here today, and gone tomorrow - we are dead within an hour. There is something of a sadness about it, both in words and tune, as there is about all purely sensuous joy. For May Day is not Easter, and the joys it represents have always been earth-bound and fleeting.

SO WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

St Mary's will be supporting the Wellspring by allowing "Wellspring Sleep Out" to be located in the grounds. All attendees will meet at the Wellspring from 7.30pm onwards (potential date being Friday, 14th July 2017) to register and receive their free meal. They will then travel over to the sleep out venue, set up their sleep out equipment (cardboard, sleeping bags, tents) and remain in the area until whatever time suits them, although they are encouraged to stay for the completion of the event. Toilet facilities will be available at Harvey Street - just in case anyone was wondering!

Throughout the night there will be group activities and attendees will hear from guest speakers including Wellspring members who have experienced homelessness themselves. Police Community Support Officers and a team of volunteers will be available to provide security, assist sleepers and answer any questions.

Wake up (assuming anyone actually managed to sleep) and clear up will begin at 6.30am and from 7.00am participants will be invited into St Mary's (Nave Café) for a free light breakfast. Those who have participated in the sleep out will be awarded with a certificate.

It is a delight to be involved in the project (even just as breakfast chef) and to work with project workers Lauren Gill and Jonathan Billings to assist them to develop public awareness of the issues surrounding homelessness in the North West; highlight and provide attendees with an insight into the hardships that rough sleepers face; raise funds for The Wellspring project; promote the Stockport community and of course promote St Mary's in the Marketplace.

Vestry Meeting & Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Many thanks to those of you who attended the Meeting of Parishioners (Vestry Meeting) and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on the 11th April.

Annual & Treasurers Report 2016/17

Copies of the Annual & Treasurers Report remain available on the side table in Church for anyone who has not already obtained (and would like) a copy. An electronic copy can also be downloaded from our website. Copies sent to the Chester Diocesan Board of Finance, the Bishop of Stockport, Archdeacon of Macclesfield and our own Rural Dean.

The most important element to note is without doubt that 2016 has been a year of significant change following the retirement of the Rev Roger Scoones (Rector) officially at the end of April. Members of the congregation being notified of the *“Benefice of Stockport St Mary Notice of Suspension or Presentation Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011”* in June, by the Bishop of Chester. This of course same of no surprise as it has for many years been apparent that the Parish is financially unsustainable with our long history of not being able to pay the Parish Share in full and an endless struggle to keep the “business account” afloat. We have of course been blessed with funding for the Conservation and Restoration projects undertaken over recent years, all of great benefit to St Mary’s.

We have continued very much “business as usual” during the first twelve months of the Interregnum with little change to our normal schedule of services and programme of events. With thanks to Rev Canon John Briggs for taking responsibility of our Tuesday lunch-times services and to Rev Andy Williams for undertaking the majority of our 10am Tuesday Holy Communion services. Our Sunday worship has seen a number of visiting

Clergy and Readers, in particular Rev David Parker. As we enter into the second year of this “vacancy” we are pleased to have a part-time secondment from St Cuthbert’s, Cheadle in the form of Rev Mike Newman.

The Financial Situation

Critical is a word that springs to mind when it comes to looking at the financial situation of St Mary’s. Considering that our arrears to the Diocese presently stand at around £162K and increasing month by month it is little wonder that we are deemed to be “unsustainable”.

As for our “business account” - we have managed to stay in the “black” at the bank (just about) but overall our income is less than our expenditure and we have survived thanks to some generous donations from individuals to “bail us out” as it were. We are (without any doubt whatsoever) “unsustainable” financially. The 2017 accounts (to date) are a worry to say the least with large direct debits leaving our account each month for gas, electricity and insurance (for both premises) – as well of course the Parish Share (which we have to pay irrespective of having anyone in post).

We continue to look for solutions, opportunities to improve our finances and fully take on board the challenges ahead of us BUT every bit of help we can get (financial and otherwise) is valuable to us. We clearly need more money, but we equally need more help (in various forms from working in the café at weekend, maintaining both St Mary’s and St Andrew’s, organising a “fund-raiser” or “promotional event” or just offering a helping hand here and there). We have a beautiful Grade 1 listed Parish Church and a more modern (40 year old) Community Hall, both need developing and using. Sustainability being the name of the game!

Now what about those old £5.00 notes...

On the 5th May 2017 the old fashioned cotton paper notes will no longer be legal tender, which means you won't be able to buy anything with them. The Bank of England has estimated that the number of old notes in circulation has already halved – but that means there are still around 165million out there to be spent before they are completely phased out. You can always pop yours in our donations box! **What happens if you haven't spent your old £5 note by 5 May?** Well it isn't the end of the world, if you want to swap the old notes over for new tender you will have to make the trip into a bank, building society or Post Office. It is possible (although unlikely) that a high street bank will stop exchanging them after the cut-off date but The Bank of England is legally obliged to. So what will happen to all those used notes? – those eco-friendly chaps over at the bank intend to recycle the old paper fivers using a composting treatment.

There are of course plans to release a new £10 note this summer (which will feature classic British author Jane Austen) followed in three years time with a new £20 note (which will feature British painter JMW Turner)

Deadline for cashing in your old £1 coins - Now starting to circulate generally the new pound coins. The Treasury has just brought out a new 12-sided £1 coin. The face side of the new £1 coin features the Queen, while the tail side features four emblems: the English rose, the leek for Wales, the Scottish thistle and the shamrock for Northern Ireland – all emerging from a single stem within a crown. Already we are told to dig into the pockets of our coats, rummage down the backs of our chairs, empty our piggy banks, look in our car – do whatever it takes, to FIND all those old £1 coins before it is too late. For this autumn, the little round £1 we have known since 1983 will become worthless too.

Volunteer crisis

When did you last see a 'young' volunteer in your local charity shop? Many organisations which depend on volunteers report that young people are less and less willing to give up their free time. The average time people aged 25 to 34 spend volunteering fell from 15 minutes a day in 2000 to six minutes a day in 2015, according to figures from the Office for National Statistics. This is the age group that were entering the workforce when the recession hit. Many of them are still struggling to get jobs that they really want; meanwhile many are working only part-time and zero-hours. Such stress will have an effect on their ability/enthusiasm to volunteer. There is some good news: those aged 16 to 24 have increased from nine minutes a day to 17. Experts said this was because teenagers were increasingly being told that volunteering was necessary for them to get a job later on.

Either way we are experiencing a volunteer crisis of our own – any age range!

We really do need more help to run St Mary's / St Andrew's on a day to day basis. Both our premises need a jolly good clean with regular maintenance cleaning especially at St Andrews. Toilets need servicing daily, glass and brass need cleaning and polishing, furniture dusted. We need more people on the team to "meet and greet" in order to have reasonable "shifts" and to be in a position to extend opening/hire opportunities. The café needs support both in the kitchen and in the hospitality areas. We are also in need of support with marketing and promotional activities as well as event planning.

Volunteer application form available on request or at church.

Thank You – St George’s Poynton



We are delighted to accept the kind gift of a television and stand (along with a substantial cash donation) to assist with the ministry and mission of St Mary’s from St Georges (Poynton Parish Church). To quote from the letter received from them: *“The leaders here want to show our support for your good work in the Lord’s name. We hope that this money will help you in your initiatives to reach the people of central Stockport with the good news message of Jesus Christ”.* Rev Canon .Rob McLaren

Our television has already been used at the “Spaces of Hope” event held recently hosted by our own Matthew Barber, and now regularly available for “Alternative” Morning Prayer Services and our weekly Alpha course.

Birthday Wishes to Frank Hamnett

celebrating his 90th Birthday

and “ninety years of church life”.

There is very little that Frank doesn’t know when it comes to St Mary’s, as Verger, Churchwarden, Treasurer (jack of all trades) Frank has been there and worn the T-shirt.

Our Churchwarden Emeritus has attended St Mary’s for the past ninety years, how brilliant is that. It was an occasion not to be missed and thank you Frank for wishing to share your celebrations with us at St Mary’s. Lovely to see so many family, friends and members of our Sunday and Tuesday congregations able to share the day.



Frank will write a few words for next month’s magazine, but for now on behalf of our “birthday boy” a very big thank you to everyone who attended the party and who generously contributed towards his “present” – cash - which Frank has kindly donated to St Mary’s. A lovely gesture gratefully received.

Photo: Barbara Ashton (who kindly said a few words) with Frank and Irene Hamnett.

Never wishing to miss the chance of a little publicity, the Nave Café is always happy to provide catering for a private event. We were delighted to be asked to prepare the buffet for Frank and Irene, an absolute pleasure for such a special couple.



Time to make a wish and blow out the candles!

