

## STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH


### St Mary's in the Marketplace

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St Mary's with St Andrew's Parish Office  
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[www.stmarysinthemarketplace.com](http://www.stmarysinthemarketplace.com)

 Stockport Parish Church - St Mary's

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### 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.**

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**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](http://www.parishpump.co.uk). Electronic copy available on pdf format via the church website.*



## STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH

[St Mary's in the Marketplace]

with St Andrew's , Hall Street.



October  
2018

## Diary

## October 2018

Tuesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Friday, 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Holy Communion Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Friday, 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Morning Prayer Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Friday, 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Vernon Park – set/up & rehearsal Café Worship Vernon Park Harvest	9.30 10.45 14.30
Sunday, 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Holy Communion Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Friday, 26 <sup>th</sup> October	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> October	Morning Prayer Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15

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



## Stockport Market – under new management!



We look forward to getting to know (and working with) Market Place Management Ltd who have recently been chosen by Stockport Council to manage Stockport Market for the next five years - following an open tender process.

We have always had a wonderful relationship with the Market (both management and traders) which we hope will continue well into the future.

Market Place Management Ltd are set to bring with them a vast range of specialist market management skills, expertise and years of experience; as well as a commitment to inject a new vibrancy into the indoor and outdoor markets. With exciting plans to revitalise the market in partnership with the existing businesses, bring even more great events into the area and ensure that Stockport Market has a successful and sustainable future, the appointment will help ensure the market continues to grow and develop in the years ahead. **Their “footfall” is very much ours and an opportunity for St Mary’s (in the Market Place) to work alongside them once again and strengthen our ties.**

ACROSS: 1, Lawyer. 4, Balsam. 8, Caleb. 9, Jehoram. 10, Sparrow. 11, Exile. 12, Excellent. 17, Act in. 19, Endemic. 21, Slavery. 22, Galal. 23, Silent. 24, Tarsus.

DOWN: 1, Locust. 2, Welfare. 3, Ember. 5, Athlete. 6, Sarai. 7, Member. 9, Jewellery. 13, Condemn. 14, Temples. 15, Causes. 16, Scales. 18, Trail. 20, Dogma.

## Celebrating Paddington Bear's 60th anniversary



Paddington Bear made his first appearance 60 years ago, on 13th Oct 1958, when the book *A Bear Called Paddington*, by Michael Bond, was published.

Paddington is of course a fictional, anthropomorphised bear who has featured in more than 20 books that have been translated into 30 languages and have sold more than 30 million copies. He has also starred in two major films and has been described as a worthy successor to Winnie the Pooh.

Though he comes from darkest Peru, and not heaven, he possesses many of the characteristics of Jesus, though falling short in some areas: he has a tendency, for instance, to get the wrong end of the stick. Nevertheless, he is always polite, kind-hearted, hospitable, generous and loving. One can even imagine Jesus giving some people the Paddington “hard stare”, though it does not appear to be mentioned in the New Testament.

Paddington Brown – to give him the name of his adopted family – also has the gift of transforming other people's lives through his own goodness.

A Paddington Bear soft toy was the first item passed through the Channel Tunnel by British tunnellers to their French counterparts when the link was made in 1994.

## October 2018

*Summer is drawing to a close as we reach that time of year when the leaves change colour, and fall to the ground – those not stuck in the gutters that is! Holidays for many are well and truly over (especially for the children) and we settle down to preparing for the next chapter in the life of St Mary's – to Remembrance Sunday (commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of WW1 – the signing of the Armistice on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918) and of course Christmas.*

*As the year draws towards a close, so does the present arrangements at St Mary's as we enter into the consultation period – a legal requirement - concerning the creation of the new parish. Appropriate notices to be on public display – we are using the glass cabinet outside the main doors at St Mary's and the glass side panel of the front door at St Andrew's. These to be in place for a period of 28 days.*

*Also in the background work has now started for the three churches to both prepare individually and to work jointly to look at the many financial and administrative issues that need to be undertaken and put in place in preparation for the creation of the new single Parochial Church Council for the new parish. There is certainly a lot to consider. We'll keep readers informed as to developments as best we can.*

***A new exhibition – coming directly from Chester Cathedral - entitled the “Journey into light” will be at St Mary's from the 13<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October. The exhibition is designed to demonstrate the experience of prisoners - the stories behind their convictions and sentences. The hope is by seeing the creativity of prisoners and hearing their stories people will be able to better understand and even identify with some of the choices, mistakes and circumstances that prisoners have faced.***

*Also during October we will be celebrating Harvest with our friends at Vernon Park School and continuing to collect together our gifts to the Wellspring and our donations to the Christian Aid Harvest Appeal.*

*We give thoughts to Simon & Jude and to Bible Sunday.*

*The clocks “fall” back as Summer time officially ends and pumpkins with scary faces appear in our shops, surrounded by skeleton costumes, zombie masks, witch’s hats and sweets with gruesome names.*

*We can try and avoid Halloween (handing out sweets on the doorstep or risking the gate being taken and hidden in the garden during “Trick or Treat”) or embrace it, but how do Christians (parents in particular) deal with this annual celebration of evil and death? For of course 31<sup>st</sup> October has pagan Celtic roots – it was the evening when the souls of the dead were meant to revisit their old homes on earth, but most kids just want the fun of dressing up and scaring their friends. They are oblivious to the darker forces behind it all, or at least do not take them seriously.*

*Many Christian families (and churches) allow their children to dress up, perhaps taking them to a “Lights Party” (where the whole story is told, not just the pagan bit). Instead of discouraging any thoughts of evil and death, they encourage the children to consider the darkness – but through a Christian lens. As Christians we do not deny death and dying and evil, but we know that death has no real terrors for us at all, because it has been defeated through the cross and resurrection of Jesus. Halloween is only half the story: Christianity is the completion, because God in his love sent Jesus to save us from darkness. So – Halloween can be a time to remind our children (and to remember ourselves) that Jesus is with us in both the good and bad times of life.*

## **National Grandparents Day - 7<sup>th</sup> October**

Parents may have to wait a few years to become grandparents, but it is definitely worth it. For it is said that spending time with your grandchildren nourishes both your body and soul: the physical energy you use to keep with them keeps you healthy, and your emotional bonds with them will reinforce your own emotional well-being.

Grandparents can do so much for their grandchildren: giving them time and attention, as well as providing them with a strong sense of belonging to the family. This all helps build emotional security for their future.

*Tell your grandchildren their family heritage – reminisce about your family’s events and history. Where did your parents and grandparents come from? What did they do? Did they fight in the World Wars? Do you have old photos to show them?*

*Tell your grandchildren about what it was like going to school when you were young. Tell them stories about raising their mum or dad. Show them pictures from the family album, sing the same songs to them that you sang to their mum or dad; read them the same favourite stories. Tell them of your family traditions, from everything about the best way to make tea to how you always decorate the Christmas tree. By doing so, you link your past to their future, and greatly enrich them.*

Grandparents can really be God’s special gift to children.

## Quilty pleasures

Quilting (yes QUILTING) is making a big comeback, attracting people from all walks of life. As one quilter explains: *'In a fast-paced world where we live attached to screen, it's refreshing to step away and focus on something like quilting. It takes precision and focus, which can sometimes be just what's needed to take yourself away from modern day hectic life.'*

Whatever the reason, our interest in the traditional crafts that our grandparents enjoyed is certainly on the rise, right across the UK. So, we produce baby quilts, wedding quilts, quilts as works of art, and quilts for ourselves, to make our homes more beautiful and cozier.

Home sewing of blankets is even biblical! Proverbs 31 says: *'A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies...She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands...She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks...She makes coverings for her bed...'* (Prov. 31: 10,13,17,22)



AND – don't forget - St Mary's offers an ideal venue to start sewing: our Craft & Chat sessions are held on a Thursday from around 11am until after lunch. Some of our crafters are experts, produce some wonderful items and are sure to offer help to anyone starting quilting for the first time.



## Diary of a Momentous Year: October 1918 –

October 1918 was the month when both sides, in their different ways, decided that they had had enough war. The Germans, following their defeat at Amiens, no longer had any hope of a strong negotiating position in peace talks, let alone victory. Their economy was struggling, and morale was low. The Allies, now sure of final victory, wanted it all over without further disastrous casualties. The politicians, fearful for their own futures, wanted time, but the generals were now calling the shots. The time had come for a cease-fire, then let the negotiating begin. The military won this battle, at least. The word 'Armistice' was banded around: not a treaty, but simply (as the Latin word suggests) as a laying down of arms. The three most influential national leaders on the Allied side agreed, and the Germans and their dwindling band of associates had no choice but to go along with the solution. An Armistice was agreed for a memorable date: the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the year. Following preliminary discussions, a negotiated treaty would be finalised at Versailles in the following January. Compared to Brexit, that is express progress! The Armistice was, in some ways, simple. The guns would go silent, killing would cease from that designated hour. The Versailles negotiations, on the other hand, would be complex, though somewhat simplified by the fact that the Germans came naked to the table. They were desperate to save their land from occupation, whatever the cost. In fact, it cost them £6.6 million in reparations (probably about six billion pounds today). Each of the Allies had important items for the peace agenda. France wanted Alsace-Lorraine restored to French sovereignty, and the Rhineland demilitarised. Britain wanted German military power negated and problems in the Middle East solved. The Americans wanted democracy restored and the will of the people recognised throughout Europe. The three leaders – David Lloyd George and Presidents Clémenceau and Woodrow Wyatt agreed about most of the agenda, including the carving up of The German colonial empire in Africa. Peace would come at last, but not, as one wise man observed, the 'kiss of peace'.

## Simon and Jude – warning against moral infections

Jude the apostle and martyr (1st century) warns us in his epistle that not all 'evil' comes in the form of obvious ghosties and ghoulies. He writes instead to warn the Christians of the greater danger of people who infect others with heresy and moral failure. He writes that they are nothing more than .... "blemishes on your love-feasts...feeding themselves. They are waterless clouds carried along by the winds; autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame, wandering stars, for whom the deepest darkness has been reserved forever."

Such dangerous people can be frightening, but Jude also encourages his readers to remember "...him who is able to keep you from falling and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing...the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power and authority, before all time, now and forever..."

*According to Western tradition, Jude and Simon were both sent to preach the gospel in Mesopotamia and Persia, where both were martyred, but in actual fact we know nothing for certain about them beyond what is told of their being called as Apostles in the New Testament. St. Jude being the author of a short Epistle.*



## NEW leaflets



We have two new A6 size leaflets available for distribution as appropriate.

One is a simple introduction to Stockport Parish Church (St Mary's in the Marketplace) and which

lists our regular services and events. The second advertises the Nave Café – showing our opening hours as well as informing the reader as to what private or corporate events we are able to offer.

There are some of both in a display stand at church (near the visitors book) and a stock of both at Staircase House, BUT if you are able to take some and distribute around the Borough please ask and we'll give you some.

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## Shoe Box Gifts

This year we are supporting Team4U who last Christmas distributed over 33,000 shoe box gifts in Romania to deprived families and children who have nothing and where many families are in desperate poverty.

Please will you make up a shoe box to show you care and make a difference to a child's life.

Besides boxes for children they can also be made up for the family home.

Leaflets giving details of suitable items will be available in church, although they are printed for you on the next page.

If you are not able to prepare a box, perhaps you can donate suitable items to into a box. A collection box will be left in the hospitality area towards the end of the month where you can also leave completed shoe box gifts. Donations may be given on Sunday to Margaret Forster who is co-ordinating the boxes for St Mary's.

**The blessing of the shoe box gifts will take place on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at our 10.30am service.**

**What can go in a shoe box gift?**

Please choose a selection of items from the ideas below – this is not meant to be an exhaustive list but please do not include anything from the NO list.

**For boys or girls:**

Toothbrush & toothpaste, hair accessories/brush, soap and face cloth, stationery & paper, gloves, hat and scarf, new socks/underwear.

**Please also include:**

A soft toy, game, puzzle, small musical instruments, toy vehicles, small rubber ball/inflatable ball, sweets (use by date from June), a photo of yourself.

**For the Family/Home:**

Candles, hairbrush, small toiletries, soap, small Christmas decoration, small decorative item, headscarves, new sockd/underware, jewellery, make up, cooking utensils (no knives) plastic containers, t-towels (preferably decorative), plastic utensils, bowls & cups, washing-up cloths, clothes pegs.

**Please DO NOT include:**

Food (only exception is sweets), medicines, military themed items (such as toy soldiers/tanks/guns), fragile items (such as glass/ceramics), aerosols or anything highly inflammable, sharp items, novels.



*MIDSUMMER past, the days reach out  
Towards the Autumn glow  
Of golden corn and falling leaves  
That lead to Winter's snow.*

*So let us grasp the precious hours  
While the season lingers on,  
And keep the sunshine in our hearts  
Long after Summer's gone*

*Ann Rutherford*

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**Congratulations to Christine Mary Rablen on her appointment as Priest in Charge at St Albans effective from the 18<sup>th</sup> October**

Christine was vicar of Layton St Mary with St Edward and St Luke in the Diocese of Chelmsford.

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**Children's Society & Leprosy Mission Collection Boxes**

Could those of you with collection boxes for either/or both of the above please bring them to church for the attention of Frank. Your donations will then be sent to the charities concerned.





**What the UK Church looks like in 2018** - The church is both declining and growing! There are 270 different denominations in the UK, 95 of which exist in Scotland. For simplicity these are put into 10 groups, the three largest of which are the Anglicans, Catholics and Presbyterians. Between them, these three Churches account for one fifth, 20%, of all the denominations. But sadly, three-fifths, or 60%, of all the members, and of all three Churches, are declining. Two smaller groups, the Baptists and the Methodists are also declining. Together, they represent 4% of the denominations and 7% of the members. That leaves five groups: the Independent Churches (such as FIEC and the Brethren), New Churches (such as Vineyard and Newfrontiers), Orthodox, Pentecostals and the Smaller Denominations (such as the Salvation Army, Quakers, Seventh-Day Adventists, all the many immigrant churches, and so on). Each of these five groups is *growing* in membership terms. They account for 76% of the UK's denominations but only 33% of church members. Unfortunately, the decline by the larger denominations is too great to be offset by the growth. The faster growing denominations fall into roughly three equal groups: 1) *Immigrant churches* (especially Poles, Romanians, and Filipinos and Koreans in England and Chinese in Scotland). Most of the Poles are Roman Catholic; many of the Romanians are Orthodox, but the others are mostly Evangelical. 2) *The Pentecostal churches*, which are mostly Black, although welcoming all nationalities. The largest of these is the Redeemed Christian Church of God [RCCG] (planting 800 churches in the UK in the last 20 years). The RCCG uses a mantra straight out of Nigerian bush country, "Plant a church within 10 minutes walking distance" (of where people live), which is equivalent to about a ½ mile circle. 3) *Other growing denominations* include Hillsong, Churches of Christ, the FIEC, Vineyard, and Messy Church. These churches are planted where there is a need or an opportunity.

### **Say a "thank you" prayer at home**

A line in the Lord's Prayer asks God to 'Give us this day our daily bread'. When we say that line, we're asking God to provide the basic things in life that keep us healthy and happy.

It can start with the food we need to eat each day, but for lots of different reasons, not everyone has enough. So saying thank you for our food is important – we might thank the person who cooked it, and we might go back further and think of the people in the shops where we bought the ingredients, and even trace it right back to the farmers who grew the crops in the first place. For children who are old enough, try talking about this together one meal time, taking each item on the plate and thinking about where it came from and all the people and work that has gone into bringing it to your table. Saying grace before a meal is a way of saying thank you to God for making the earth and everything in it – all good things come from God, and it's up to us to use them in the very best and most generous way. Try singing this grace: "One, two, three, four, five, thank you God that I'm alive. Six, seven, eight, nine, ten, thank you God for food. Amen!" One of the most traditional graces goes like this: "For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful and keep us always mindful of the needs of others." Some families hold hands while they say grace – this reminds us that we are thankful not only for our food, but that we can share it with people we love, as in this prayer: "Thank you God for food, and family, and friends. Amen. or "Thank you God for food, and family, and friends, we remember those who have no food today, and those who have food, but nobody to share it. As you have blessed us, help us be a blessing for others. Amen."

### **Parents/Grand parents - Decorate a 'grace' table mat:**

Take a piece of A4 paper, and in the middle draw round a medium sized plate to make a circle, then in that circle draw round a smaller plate. You should have something that looks a little bit like a plate. Then draw a fork outline on the left, and a knife outline on the right, and a spoon above – don't worry about the quality of the artwork!

Now, have some fun decorating your plate with pictures of their favourite food – you can draw pictures yourself, or cut them out of magazines, or use pictures from food packets – and you can even label them if your child is old enough to start learning to read. Somewhere on your paper, perhaps at the top or in a corner, write 'Thank you God' in big letters and colour it in – this is your 'thank-you' place mat, a reminder of all the good things that God gives us.

Once you've finished decorating, you can either laminate your artwork, or slip it into one of those plastic folders and seal up the end with sticky tape. Use your place mat at family meal times as a reminder of your thankfulness for all God's blessings, and particularly for food.

This is such a fun activity, that you can create a new one every so often, with updated favourite foods, and perhaps even write a little 'grace' prayer of your own to go on it. Make food fun! If your child is a bit of a fussy eater, you could try making their food more fun. Maybe arrange the veggies in the shape of a smiley face?

*Article taken from [www.churchofenglandchristenings.org](http://www.churchofenglandchristenings.org) with permission.*

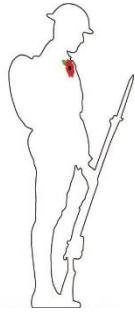


**St Mary's is about to establish a new partnership with "Self Help" working with representatives from the Stockport Psychological Wellbeing Service.**

**An information point will appear in St Mary's with other activities following on during the Autumn**

***Self Help is a user led mental health charity based in the North of England. Every year one in four of us will experience a mental health problem. Self Help believe no one should face this alone and provide a range of services and opportunities providing help and support.***





### **Coming up in November...**

November 2018 will see the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW1. Stockport Council is marking this with a series of events and St Mary's will play its part.

Stockport War Memorial Art Gallery will play a significant part in the commemorations and the exterior façade will be illuminated with a poppy projection. There will be two new exhibitions in the downstairs galleries and upstairs a community art project.

Stockport's Day of Remembrance on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November will begin with the Act of Remembrance at 11am where a two minutes' silence will be observed at the Stockport War Memorial Art Gallery. St Mary's will hold an "alternative" service of Morning Prayer at 10.30am also observing a two minute silence at 11am offering individuals the opportunity to lay their own tributes or write a personalised poppy.

A Service of Remembrance will take place later at St Mary's at 5pm followed by a "Stockport Parade of Light" where lanterns made by artists and school children will be carried in a procession from the church for the lighting of the beacon at the art gallery at 7pm.

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*Commemorative paving stones will be laid for two Stockport born Victoria Cross (VC) recipients: Wilfred Wood and James Kirk. Mr Wood's paving stone will be laid on 28<sup>th</sup> October at Hazel Grove War Memorial, and Mr Kirk's paving stone will be laid on 4<sup>th</sup> November at Cheadle Hulme War Memorial.*

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### **EVERY HORSE REMEMBERED**



**Eight million horses, donkeys and mules died in World War I from shellfire and gas attacks, freezing mud, exhaustion, and mud-borne and respiratory diseases.**

**Every Horse Remembered marks 100 years since the end of the First World War, when surviving war horses began the next and, for most, the last painful chapter in their lives.**

Dorothy Brooke went searching for these forgotten heroes, she found walking skeletons working as beasts of burden, their hard labour keeping people in Cairo out of poverty. Dorothy was appalled to find hundreds of emaciated and worn-out animals desperately in need of help so she wrote a letter to the Morning Post (which later became the Daily Telegraph) exposing their plight. The public were so moved they sent her the equivalent of £20,000 in today's money to help end the suffering of these once proud horses. Within three years, Dorothy Brooke had purchased five thousand ex-warhorses. Most were old, exhausted and had to be humanely put down. But thanks to her compassion, they ended their lives peacefully.

Dorothy knew thousands of hard working horses, donkeys and mules still suffered, so in 1934 she founded the Old War Horse Memorial Hospital in Cairo, with the promise of free veterinary care for all the city's working horses and donkeys.

The Brooke Hospital for Animals was born. From humble beginnings as a hospital for ex-warhorses in 1934, Brooke is now the leading global welfare charity for working horses, donkeys and mules.

## EVERY HORSE REMEMBERED

These brave and remarkable animals have recently been commemorated in an open-air War Horse Remembrance Service in Coverdale, North Yorkshire.

The event was jointly hosted by four churches in Coverdale. The churches invited local racing stables, pony clubs and hunts, with proceeds from the service going to the equine charity, Brooke.

Hannah Russell, of Brooke's Every Horse Remembered campaign, said: 'It's so important that we honour the contribution of animals of the past in order to ensure a better future for the horses, donkeys and mules of today.'

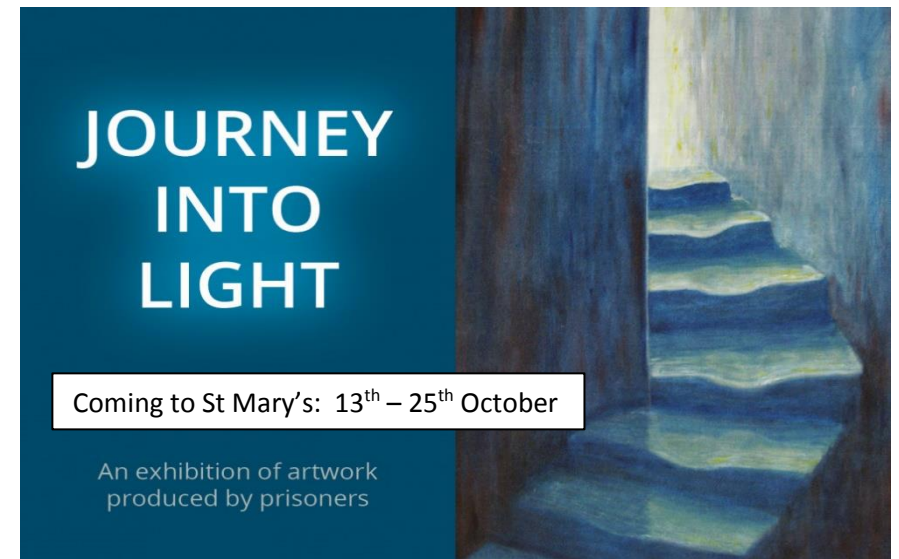
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Brooke is an international animal welfare charity dedicated to improving the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules. Operating in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Why not view their web-site for more information – purchase items from the shop or make a general donation.

[www.thebrooke.org](http://www.thebrooke.org)



Titled, *Journey Into Light*, the exhibition is made up of more than 50 individual pieces of art produced by prisoners from HMP Styal and HMP Thorn Cross, Cheshire. It has been coordinated and funded by the Diocese of Chester and Chester Cathedral. Debbie Dalby, Director of Social Responsibility at the Diocese of Chester, says: "We want people to view the exhibition and leave with a greater sense of empathy and awareness of prisoner experience. There is life beyond prison and we want to celebrate renewal and restoration and the hope of a brighter, more optimistic future. By seeing the creativity of prisoners and hearing their stories, people will be able to better understand some of the choices, mistakes and circumstances that they have faced in their lives." The Diocese of Chester has been planning the exhibition for 12 months with the support of its prison chaplains who have worked with the prisoners to produce the pieces of art. The exhibits differ in style from large acrylic paintings, abstract landscapes, and self-portraits. The Bishop of Chester, the Rt Revd Dr Peter Forster, says: "Prisoners are often viewed as "the other" yet they live in our midst, are a part of our communities, and contribute to our societies. The Bible has much to say about the plight of prisoners and the Christian faith recognises that every person is made in the image of God and is valued despite our individual mistakes and regrets. This exhibition allows us the opportunity to understand better the lived experiences of prisoners in Cheshire."

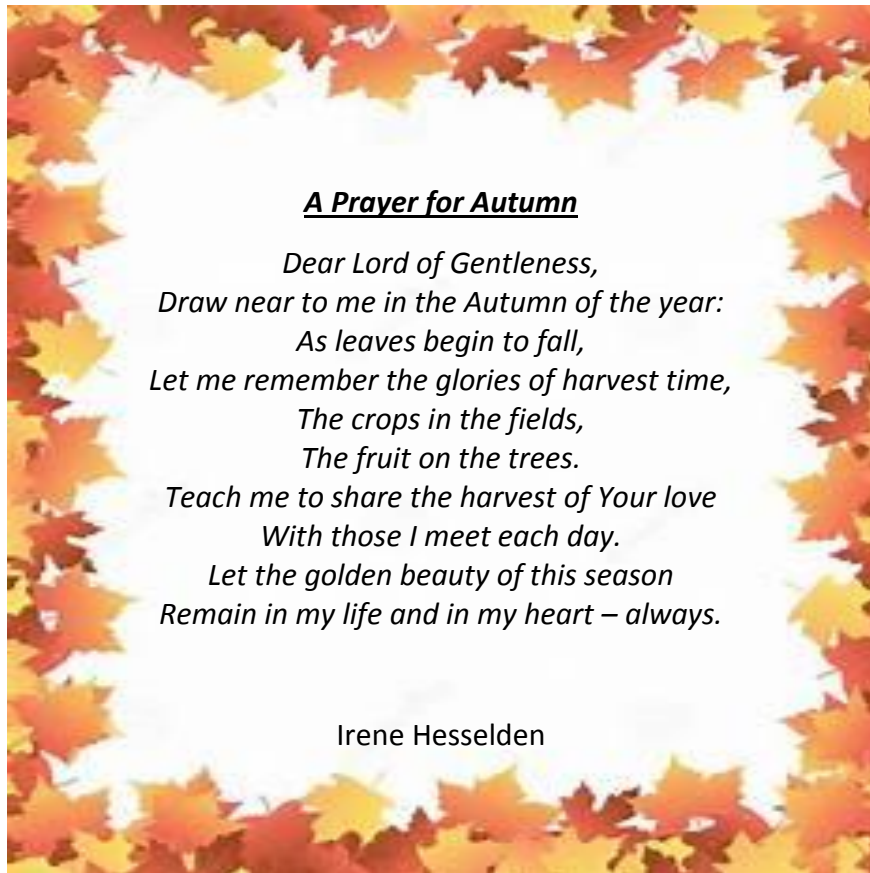
Roy & Ada Mostyn



*Would like to thank everyone for the cards and flowers received on the occasion of their 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary- and to the Rev Mike Newman for the book and special marriage blessing.*

*God bless you all.*

*Thank you*



**A Prayer for Autumn**

*Dear Lord of Gentleness,  
Draw near to me in the Autumn of the year:  
As leaves begin to fall,  
Let me remember the glories of harvest time,  
The crops in the fields,  
The fruit on the trees.  
Teach me to share the harvest of Your love  
With those I meet each day.  
Let the golden beauty of this season  
Remain in my life and in my heart – always.*

Irene Hesselden



**Share a little light this Halloween**

Some parents aren't sure quite what to feel about Hallowe'en – is it just harmless fun, or are there aspects of it that don't fit in with how we want to see the world?

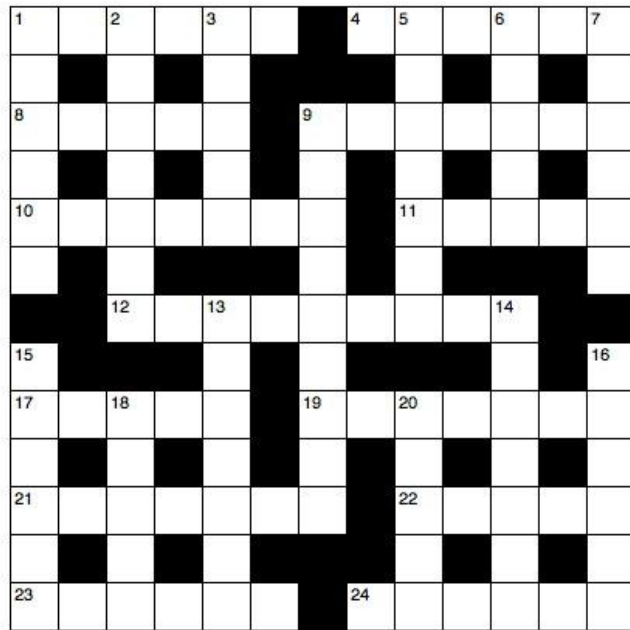
A child's christening service is very honest about the reality of good and evil, and Hallowe'en can be a good time to talk about those things and how the love of Jesus can be a 'light in the darkness' for everyone.

The word "hallowe'en" actually means "the eve of all hallows' day" – in other words, the night before the church's festival celebrating All Saints. A Saint is sometimes thought to be an exceptionally holy person – someone really special, who did extraordinary things because of their faith in God.

The famous saints are all amazing examples of what it's like to live God's way. But in the Bible, St Paul calls all Christians saints – a saint is simply a friend of God, who seeks to live their life according to God's purposes. When someone is christened, they truly become a Saint, so All Saints' Day is a celebration of the whole family of God.

**Carve a pumpkin** – Did you know that gargoyles (the scary looking faces carved in stone on churches) were originally made in medieval times to scare away evil spirits? The pumpkins with scary faces carved into them at Hallowe'en are a bit like that. But nowadays most people believe that you can't fight evil with evil – you can only fight evil by doing good, and that good will always win in the end. So why not see if you can carve a friendly looking pumpkin this Hallowe'en, as a sign that you and your family are going to be a force for good this Hallowe'en? (And you can always use the offcuts from your pumpkin to make delicious soup!)

## Crossword



### Across

- 1 Tertullus, who presented the high priest's case against Paul in his trial before Felix, was one (Acts 24:1) (6)  
 4 As balm (anag.) (6)  
 8 Having explored Canaan, he and Joshua urged the Israelites to take possession of it (Numbers 13:30) (5)  
 9 On becoming king of Judah, he had all six of his brothers killed (2 Chronicles 21:4) (7)  
 10 'Even the — has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself' (Psalm 84:3) (7)  
 11 Banishment(Jeremiah29:1)(5)  
 12 'And now I will show you the most — way'(1Corinthians12:31)(9)

17 'Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not — the same spirit and follow the same course?' (2 Corinthians 12:18) (3,2)

19 Mice den(anag.)(7)

21 How Egypt is often described in the Old Testament: 'the land of — ' (Exodus 13:3) (7)

22 One of the first Levites to resettle in Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon (1 Chronicles 9:15) (5)

23 'As a sheep before her shearers is —,so he did not open his mouth' (Isaiah 53:7) (6)

24 Paul's birthplace(Acts22:3)(6)

### Down

1 Ravenous insect inflicted on Egypt in vast numbers as the eighth plague (Exodus 10:14) (6)

2 Well-being (Philippians 2:20) (7)

3 Small piece of live coal or wood in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (5)

5 Sportsman or woman (2 Timothy 2:5) (7)

6 The original name of Abraham's wife (Genesis 17:15) (5)

7 'So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each — belongs to all the others' (Romans 12:5) (6)

9 According to Peter, a wife's beauty should not come from wearing this (1 Peter 3:3) (9)

13 'For God did not send his Son into the world to — the world' (John 3:17) (7)

14 'The Lord of heaven and earth...does not live in — built by hands' (Acts 17:24) (7)

15 'If your hand — you to sin,cut it off'(Mark9:43)(6)

16 Something like these fell from Saul's eyes as soon as Ananias placed his hands on him (Acts 9:18) (6)

18 Track(Job41:30)(5)

20 Religious doctrine(5)