

STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH
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 Stockport Parish Church – St Mary's

Service times at St Mary's

Sunday: 10:30am Holy Communion or Morning Prayer

Normally the first and third Sunday is Holy Communion with Morning on the second and fourth.

**Tuesday: 10.00am Holy Communion
12.15pm Lunchtime Service**

Wedding, Baptism, Funeral and other services by arrangement.

St Mary's and the Nave Café is open – Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 9.00am – 3.00pm

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STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH

St Mary's in the Marketplace

with St Andrew's Hall Street

Jesus said,
"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name
welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me
welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Mark 9: 37



Parish Magazine
September 2017

A minimum donation of 50p would be appreciated – please leave in the donations box – thank you.

Diary

Sunday, 3 rd September	Holy Communion	10..30am
Monday, 4 th September	SMBC - PUBLIC MEETING	6PM- 8.30PM
Tuesday, 5 th September	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00am 12.15pm
Thursday – Sunday 7 th – 10 th September	HERITAGE OPEN DAYS	
Saturday 9 th September	Nave Café “Heritage Open Day” Special with the Rotary Club of Stockport	10.00am 12.15pm
Sunday, 10 th September	Morning Prayer Baptism	10.30am 12.00noon
Tuesday, 12 th September	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00am 12.15pm
Saturday, 16 th September	St Mary’s CLOSED ST ANDREW’S 40th anniversary OPEN DAY	All Day From 12.00 noon
Sunday, 17 th September	Holy Communion	10.30am
Monday, 18 th September	PPC meeting at St Mary’s	7.30pm
Tuesday, 19 th September	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00am 12.15pm
Saturday, 23 rd September	Harvest Supper + & Quiz at the Nave Café (for Christian Aid)	6.00pm
Sunday, 24 th September	HARVEST SUNDAY Soup Lunch (for Christian Aid)	10.30am 1pm-2pm
Tuesday, 26 th September	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00am 12.15pm

The comfort of a staff

“Your rod and your staff, they comfort me” Psalm 23.4

Shepherds used to use a tall staff with a crook neck for caring for their sheep. They could slip the crook end around a lamb that had wandered off and fallen into a ditch, and lift it out to safety and comfort. At other times, the shepherd would use his staff to deftly prod a wayward sheep back onto the right path. Then again, there were always the reluctant

Many a Christian has found that our Good Shepherd uses his heavenly staff in much the same way. Sometimes we fall into circumstances beyond our control, and need rescuing and comfort. Other times, we are stubborn and going our own way – and need a firm hand to prevent us causing even more trouble. And finally, there are those times when we are too timid to move forward and grasp what God has given us for the next stage in our lives. Then, we need a firm, loving push!

Whatever way we need the staff, the Bible assures us that our Good Shepherd will take good care of us. As long as we are following Him, nothing can get at us without first coming past Him.

ACROSS: 1, Also. 3, Offering. 9, The Magi. 10, Rules. 11, Soper. 12, Help me. 14, Isaac and Jacob. 17, Scorch. 19, In man. 22, Loads. 23, Inertia. 24, Vicinity. 25, Belt. **DOWN:** 1, Artistic. 2, Sleep. 4, Faith in Christ. 5, Enrol. 6, Islamic. 7, Gasp. 8, Fabric. 13, Abundant. 15, Archaic. 16, Jailer. 18, Resin. 20, Mitre. 21, Slav.

'England's Rose' *The Rev Paul Hardingham remembers Diana, Princess of Wales...*

This month marks 20 years since the funeral of Princess Diana on 6th September 1997. Recently Prince William described how his mother's death was like an earthquake, the shockwaves taking time to sink in. When we remember the days leading up to the funeral, the whole nation seemed touched by her death. Over 32 million people watched the funeral on television. As we look back to this event, what is its continuing significance?

As those made in the image of God, we are called to reach out to show love to others. 'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.' (1 John 4:7). Princess Diana did this, especially the vulnerable in our society, remembering especially her work with AIDS sufferers and landmine victims. However, she was also a flawed individual, who fought various 'demons' in her own life and struggled with relationships. People identified with her humanity as one like us: fallible, weak yet more than good enough. There is always something powerful about vulnerability in others; we can identify with them because, like us, they don't have it all together. God uses flawed people in his purposes, as we clearly see in the pages of the Bible: Abraham, Moses, David and Paul, to mention just a few! Ironically, Mother Theresa died the day before Diana's funeral. Again, she was somebody who was much loved for her work among the poor. However, despite being declared a saint last year, she openly talked about the vulnerability of her faith. Mother Teresa revealed that she spent nearly 50 years without a tangible feeling of God's presence in her life! It's not easy to be a perfect saint! 'I think the biggest disease the world suffers from in this day and age is the disease of people feeling unloved.' (Princess Diana).

200th Anniversary of the rebuild of the Nave and Tower

Many thanks to those of you who attended our special celebratory service to recognise the 200th anniversary of the rebuild of the Nave and Tower.

Special thanks to Stockport Council, Stockport Heritage Trust and the Vernon Building Society for staging our 200th Exhibition at St Mary's as well as the War Memorial Art Gallery. Thanks too to those of you who contributed towards the cost of the drinks reception after the service.

We thank the High Sherriff of Greater Manchester, Kui Man Gerry Young OBE DL, and his wife for joining us on the day and Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Philip Horton. Regrettably the Mayor of Stockport Cllr Linda Holt was unable to be with us due to an engagement in France, and the time frame for the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Walter Brett, requiring him to be at the opening of Stockport Pride. Our thanks (once again) to the Rt Rev Libby Lane, Bishop of Stockport for joining us and to Rev Mike Newman for leading the service. To Jill Trumble (SHT) for her presentation during the service and Clive Calton our Steeple-keeper for arranging a team of visiting bell ringers on the day. Our organist was Peter Williamson. A happy and enjoyable occasion, but our celebrations didn't end there, with a 200th Anniversary "Afternoon Tea" served for local members of "Contact The Elderly" on the 13th August. Our Heritage Open Days this year also mainly connected to the 200th Exhibition.

St Mary's has been "on the go" longer than just 200 years of course and we are presently looking towards the next chapter – the next 100 years and beyond. None of us know at this stage what the future has in store, but discussions are taking place with the Bishop of Stockport and others to determine the best way forward.

Work is good for you!

It is good to keep working. The UK's Chief Medical Officer, Professor Dame Sally Davies, in a recent annual report on the state of the nation's public health, said that the health benefits of staying in work, as a volunteer, in paid employment or as part of a community group, 'cannot be overestimated'.

With this in mind:

Can you spare an hour or so to help community projects running from St Mary's:

Nave Café – supported by Pure Innovations & the Rotary Club of Stockport but we could still do with some additional help on a Saturday morning or Saturday afternoon. You don't have to be "on your feet" in the kitchen or serving customers directly – taking the money and orders would be a great help too and just supporting the café team generally. A Food Hygiene Certificate is NOT required for everything we need to do (you will be please to know) – providing someone with one is on-site keeping an eye on things that is absolutely fine.

Rotary Club "Book Exchange" – can you help us to promote and manage this new project? It doesn't just have to be available for people to exchange books when Rotary Club members are around. With your help we could perhaps expand availability of reading material for those wishing to use this facility on others days.

We are open to ideas for new projects to involve ourselves with and attract people into St Mary's. Friday remains a relatively quiet day and would benefit from some new initiative.

The Wellspring (Harvest)

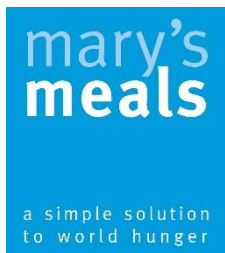
Collection at St Mary's – 19th to 26th September

Tinned meats for sandwiches (corned beef, ham, luncheon meat)
Tinned meats for use in soups etc. (stewed meats, hot dogs and meat balls)
Vegetable and meat soups
Tinned potatoes
Tinned fruit
Pie fillings – sweet and savoury
Pickle
Sugar
Tinned rice pudding
Tinned of packaged custard
Biscuits
Shower gel and (liquid) soap
Shaving foam, razors
Roll on deodorants (no spray cans)
Coffee
Cordial
Mayonnaise

Could you please ensure everything is within the use by date – thank you.

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING as the Wellspring have sufficient quantities:

Baked Beans, Kidney Beans, Chick Peas, Grapefruit, Prunes, Tinned tomatoes, Sweetcorn, Tinned Salmon, Marmalade and Jam, Packets of Pasts and Rice, Tinned spaghetti.



Mary's Meals – World Porridge Day Tuesday, 10th October



Many of you will remember supporting the charity “Mary’s Meals” in the past. This year the Nave Café will be doing so again on “World Porridge Day” – Tuesday, 10th October.

At the present time Mary’s Meals are producing 1230,171 meals every school day – some achievement!

We will give you a bowl of our porridge for your lunch (with toppings) and ask for a donation of your choice to Mary’s Meals. If you order any other main food item from our menu we will charge you an additional £1.00 and put that towards our donation to Mary’s Meals. Tea/Coffee and “table items” excluded from this fund raising activity. We’ll do exactly the same on Saturday, 14th October to further increase the money we can raise for this very worthwhile cause.

Who are Mary’s Meals – should you not be aware... **Named after Mary, the mother of Jesus, who brought up her own child in poverty. Mary’s Meals consists of, respects, and reaches out to people of all faiths and of none.**

Every child deserves an education – and enough to eat. The vision of the charity is that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education and that all those who have more than they need,

share with those who lack even the most basic things and by working together with those who share that vision, there is no good reason why this cannot be realised.

Mary’s Meals provides life-changing meals to some of the world’s poorest children every day they attend school. Just £13.90 feeds a child for a whole year.

The main focus of Mary’s Meals is their school feeding programmes but they also have a long history of providing emergency relief to vulnerable regions around the world.

Mary’s Meals grew out of a response to the Bosnian conflict in the early 1990s. Since then they have been involved in emergency relief work in countries including Myanmar, Haiti, India, Kenya and Thailand.

At the heart of any emergency relief work they undertake, it is always based on the principle of feeding vulnerable children in a place of education. In many cases, extending their support to reach wider communities.

Mary’s Meals has strong relationships with partners operating throughout the world. Should an emergency situation arise in an area, where there is a trusted local partner, they will work together in order to reach those suffering most.

By providing a daily meal in a place of learning, Mary’s Meals can meet the immediate needs of hungry children and encourage them to go to school to gain an education that can, in the future, be their ladder out of poverty.



Nave Café with the Rotary Club of Stockport

Saturday, 9th September

HERITAGE "OPEN DAY" with Stockport Heritage Trust
Look out for our "Heritage" Specials. ALSO launch of the Rotary Club of Stockport Book Exchange from St Mary's.

Saturday, 14th October

IN SUPPORT OF "MARY'S MEALS" & WORLD PORRIDGE DAY... We will give you a bowl of our porridge for your lunch (with toppings) and ask for a donation of your choice to Mary's Meals. If you order any other main food item from our menu we will charge you an additional £1.00 and put that towards our donation to Mary's Meals. Tea/Coffee and "table items" excluded from this fund raising activity.

Saturday, 11th November

With Remembrance Day in mind – "we will remember them" Nave Café Coffee Morning 10am-12noon proceeds in aid of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Normal café menu 12noon to 2pm.

Saturday, 2nd December

ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS FAYRE - Join us for the start of our Christmas celebrations and enjoy some seasonal treats at The Nave Café. Turkey and stuffing come to mind and the first of the mince pies.

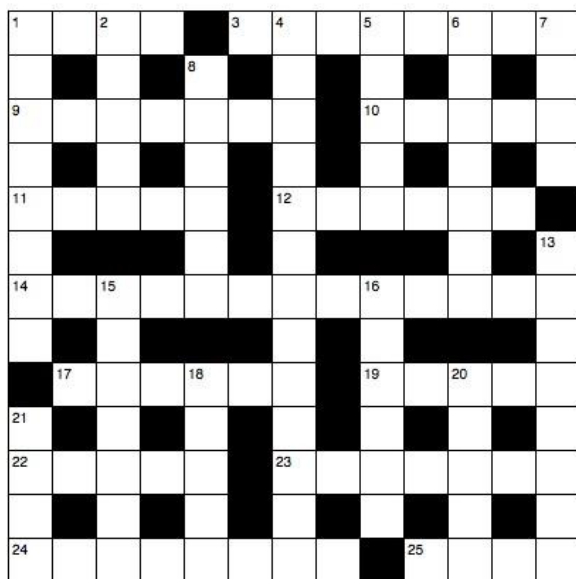


Rotary Club of Stockport – Book Exchange at St Mary's



Adult and child literacy is a major goal for Rotary across the world so the Rotary Club of Stockport wish to assist in the challenge to raise reading standards here in our home town by promoting the enjoyment of reading to both adults and their children. Why is literacy important? – it has been established that people with good literacy skills are more likely to have high esteem, better health, better jobs, higher wages and are generally more able to take advantage of the opportunities life may offer them.

As a new project for the Club we will start small and hope to expand as time goes by. We will start by holding a "book exchange" at Stockport Parish Church [St Mary's in the Marketplace] one Saturday a month. Anyone is invited to bring us a book (good quality appreciated) and to swap it with one in stock. There will be no charge for swapping books although a donation would be welcome (to develop the project and donate to local good causes) but that is completely up to individuals to decide. Why not come down and check it out for yourself. Come in and pick up a book, it's a good way to expand your reading repertoire and experiment with new authors because if you take a book that turns out not to be to your taste, you can come back and change it at no cost. Both hardback and paperback books, all pre-owned, can be taken away for a donation to our Rotary Charity. We'll tell you what the money is spent on and show you the work that the Rotary Club of Stockport undertakes in our community. We also hope that our "book exchange" will give people the opportunity to meet with others in St Mary's beautiful Grade 1 listed building, have a look round and stay for a coffee or something to eat at the Nave Café. **Saturday, 9th September 2017 (launch day – as part of the Heritage Open Day at Stockport Parish Church). Saturday, 14th October / Saturday, 11th November and Saturday 2nd December.**
SMH President Rotary Club of Stockport



CROSSWORD

Across

1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)

3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)

9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)

10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2

Timothy 2:5) (5)

11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th- century Methodist, Donald — (5)

12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)

14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)

17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)

19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)

22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)

23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)

24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)



photo Christian Aid "pigeon peas" a vital crop in Malawi. Story of Frank Zulu refers



HARVEST WEEKEND at ST MARY'S 23RD & 24TH September 2017

Our Harvest Festival weekend will start on Saturday, 23rd September when we will hold a three-course "Harvest Supper" and Quiz at the Nave Café. Early bird start of 6pm.

Places will need to be booked in advance for catering purposes but we aim for an evening of good food, and good company but with a thought to those not so fortunate as ourselves in Malawi – the Christian Aid theme we are supporting over the weekend. Tickets £15.00

On Sunday morning we will hold a special Harvest Festival Service at 10.30am, to be led this year by Alan Brown followed by a "Pea Soup" lunch – where we ask that anyone attending donates the cost of their normal Sunday lunch (or thereabouts) in return for a simple bowl of soup and bread roll – again in aid of Christian Aid.

You can read the story of Frank Zulu (August magazine) to understand the significance of "peas" – although all will be revealed in the lead-up to Harvest weekend.

Although all money received will be donated to Christian Aid this year, we will continue to collect items for local charity "The Wellspring" with a collection point in church.

We hope you will join us at St Mary's at this harvest-time.

ST ANDREW'S COMMUNITY CHURCH

40TH Anniversary

OPEN DAY AND RE-LAUNCH

Saturday, 16th September 2017

12.00 noon to 4pm

Come and look round our newly refurbished premises, have a cuppa and enjoy the activities taking place.

St Andrew's facilities are available to hire for various uses (some restrictions apply) – training events, meetings, conferences, sports, entertainment, group rehearsals, church groups, charity fundraising and private parties etc.

Other viewings can be arranged by appointment

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25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist'
(Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)

2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1
Corinthians 15:51) (5)

4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is'
(Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)

5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)

6 Of the Muslim faith (7)

7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)

8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)

13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)

15 CIA char (anag.) (7)

16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in
Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)

18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34)
(5)

20 Episcopal headwear (5)

21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)



Operation Christmas Child

I know – we don't want to mention the "Christmas" word just yet, and I know that many of you have been knitting or shopping throughout the year, but for those of us who haven't given it a thought yet, we do need to be thinking about what we are going to buy or make for the shoe box appeal this year.

Shoebox Collection Week is November 13-20, 2017

Operation Christmas Child's Shoebox Collection Week takes place the third week in November when nearly 5,000 drop-off locations are open across the nation. It may seem a long time off, but it really isn't! You are invited to bring your box (boxes) to St Mary's where our co-ordinator Margaret Forster will collect and take them to be included with the others which will be leaving from the North West of England.

If you need a quick reminder of the categories of goods that can be included : - How about a WOW item maybe that will capture the persons attention when they open the box – e.g. Soccer ball with pump, stuffed animal, toy, doll, musical instrument, outfit or shoes. **You can include Toys, School Supplies, Non-Liquid Hygiene items, Crafts, Accessories (socks, hats, scarves, hair clips, jewellery, watches etc.). Why not include a personal note or photo, even your name and address as the child may be able to write back!** **Do Not Include: Candy or toothpaste (neither of which are allowed starting from 2017 even if you have put these in before – but a tooth brush is fine); used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.**



Working in over 200 countries, Bible Society is a charity on a global mission - to bring the Bible to life for every man, woman and child - with the belief that when people engage with the Bible, lives can change for good

China opens its arms to the Bible – with 30 years help from Bible Society

Just over 40 years ago, the Bible was a banned book in China. But today, in this largely atheist country, the Bible is a best seller. In China today, you will find churches so full that their congregants spill out on the pavement. Those in rural areas often walk for hours just to attend a service, while more and more city-dwellers can be found in churches – both underground and state-run – on a Sunday morning. What's more, copies of the Bible – once a banned book in China – are now within reach through local churches and specially-licensed bookshops. And those Bibles are desperately needed. As one Chinese Christian explains: 'The fire of revival has been burning in China for 30 years. But if we want it to keep burning, we need to feed it with God's word.' It's a remarkable story. And over the last 30 years, the Bible Society has been at the heart of it. Over decades, through working with the registered Church, they have carved out a unique ministry in China. For it was back in 1987, in response to requests from Chinese church leaders, that Bible Society helped to establish the Amity Printing Company. In 2008, it moved to a larger, upgraded facility, the size of 12 football pitches and with the capacity to print 20 million Bibles a year. It's now the world's biggest Bible printing factory! Bible Society is still hard at work, printing and distributing Bibles across the country, helping to strengthen the roots of the Chinese Church, and to help new believers grow into mature followers of Jesus. Here's just some of the numbers that describe the Bible Society's work in China: 68 million Chinese Bibles printed from its press since 1987; 55,000 local churches with whom it is connected; 77 distribution centres from which it bases itself & 48 Bible vans taking Bibles wherever they need to go.

Thursday 7th, Friday 8th, Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th September
St Mary's will be open on all days.

Saturday, 9th September.

It is always interesting to find out what Stockport Heritage Trust are planning for Heritage Open Day (Saturday) and there will be no disappointment this year if you wander down to "Little Underbank".

'DISCOVER LITTLE UNDERBANK'

The road will be closed. Each shop will have a description and illustration of a trade that took place there on different dates in the Victorian period. There will be stalls and gazebos, re-enactment of wife selling and a model cow to represent Jonathan Thatcher's ride to market on one. SHT Town Crier (Derek) will be out there and the dungeon will be open. There will be walks and talks during the day.



RIDE + STRIDES is a sponsored bike ride or walk in which people all over England walk or cycle between churches, exploring and enjoying the countryside from Cornwall to Northumberland. The money they raise helps to save historic churches, chapels and meeting houses for future generations by helping to fund urgent repairs and the installation of modern facilities.

Congratulations to Roy Kirkpatrick -
[Kirkpatrick Sound Engineering]

Our new sound and induction loop installation was featured in the professional journal of the Institute of Sound and Communications Engineers recently. Roy is an expert in his field but nevertheless it is always nice to have ones work appreciated and recognised by your professional body. It is equally wonderful for us to see ourselves featured in such journals.

St Mary's with St Andrew's - A gentleman asked if he could help out at church. – "handy-person" duties and gardening. Neither of which we have much scope for (or certainly a free hand to do what we would wish) at St Mary's, with a Grade 1 listed building (where regulations are strict) and grounds which are maintained for us largely by the Council. We had to refuse the offer of making adjustments here and there or putting weed killer on the paths. Would he help out at St Andrew's ? (where we needed loads of adjustments and gallons of weed killer) – and at the time we were (and to a degree still are) struggling – "that isn't my church" was basically the reply and that was the end of that conversation unfortunately . BUT it is ... **St Andrews is part of St Mary's and a valuable asset to the parish that we need to give some "TLC" to on a regular basis. Newly refurbished we need to keep it at its best.** Help would greatly be appreciated with the general upkeep of St Andrews, emptying of bins, cleaning and generally keeping the premises tidy. Also to act as "key-holder" for some one-off bookings in liaison with the Parish Administrator. Tidying and litter-picking of the grounds – some gardening helpful but not essential. This would suit a team of supporters able to prepare the premises during the day for mainly evening/weekend lets, although we are looking to fill our daytime slots.