



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

 e-mail: st.marysstockport@gmail.com
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.

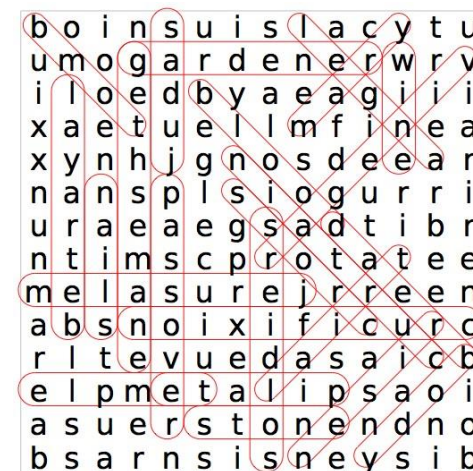
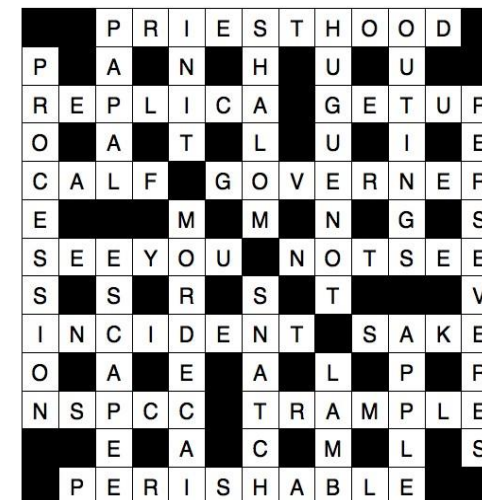
**St Mary's and the Nave Café is open – Tuesday, Thursday, Friday &
Saturday from 9.00am – 3.00pm**



STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH
St Mary's in the Marketplace



| DIARY FOR APRIL 2017 | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| Sunday | 2 nd April | Holy Communion Rev David Parker PCC Meeting (Receiving of A/cs) | 10.30am 12.00 |
| Tuesday | 4 th April | Holy Communion Lunch-time Service | 10.00am 12.15pm |
| Palm Sunday | 9 th April | Holy Communion Rev Brian Johnson | 10.30am |
| Tuesday | 11 th April | Holy Communion Lunch-time Service Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting | 10.00am 12.15pm 1.00pm |
| Maundy Thursday | 13 th April | Holy Communion with Tiviot Dale Methodist Rev Brian Johnson | 7.00pm |
| Good Friday | 14 th April | Family Service at St Mary's Cross carried to Tiviot Dale Service at Tiviot Dale Methodist Walk of Witness Refreshments at St Mary's Good Friday Service at St Mary's Soup Lunch at the Nave Café Devotional Hour at St Mary's | 10.00am 10.30am 11.00am 11.20am 12.30pm 12.50pm 2.00pm |
| Easter Sunday | 16 th April | Holy Communion Rev David Parker | 10.30am |
| Tuesday | 18 th April | CLOSED | |
| Sunday | 23 rd April | Morning Prayer for St George's Day Sunday Lunch at the Nave Cafe | 10.30am 1.00pm |
| Tuesday | 25 th April | Holy Communion Lunch-time Service | 10.00am 12.15pm |
| Weds | 26 th April | <i>Curating Spaces of Hope - Matthew Barber</i> | |
| Sunday | 30 th April | Sunday Morning Worship | 10.30am |



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Marion Gordon – an appreciation

Marion Gordon made a unique contribution to the life of St. Mary's in the last years of her long life. The abiding image of Marion is of a diminutive figure constantly moving about the church, looking for something to do.

Always accompanied by her pet dog, Marion sought high and low, literally, to make St. Mary's a tidier and more attractive place to visit. She created the most exquisite natural hangings out of dead leaves and berries, which she gave to the church and gave to friends. She nearly made herself ill, by undertaking to clean the tiled floor in the tower, single-handed. It was later cleaned professionally, and she never complained. She also polished the brass railings behind the back row of pews, and cleaned the stone font by some means, which no one dared to question. The railings too were removed in the re-ordering, and Marion never complained. None of her work had been time wasted.

Marion was a strong minded woman, with strong opinions on many things. Her inner strength seemed to propel her from her delightfully cosy home in Flowery Field to the town centre each week, not just to do some shopping, but also to be useful in church. Through all this activity she made many friends and admirers. And her little dog endeared itself to everyone as well.



Holy Week at St Mary's in the Marketplace

9th April 2017

Palm Sunday Service of Holy Communion 10.30

11th April 2017

Tuesday Service of Holy Communion 10.00

Lunch-time Service 12.15

A meeting for the election of Churchwardens

& Annual Parochial Church Meeting 13.00

13th April 2017

Maundy Thursday

Service of Holy Communion with Tiviot Dale Methodist Church
19.00

14th April 2017

Good Friday Family Service at St Mary's 10.00

[Cross to be taken to Tiviot Dale]

Service at Tiviot Dale Methodist Church 11.00 approx.

*Walk of Witness from Tiviot Dale to St Mary's 11.20 approx
with hymns sung at various stopping places*

Tea/coffee available on return (Nave Café)

Good Friday Service at St Mary's 12.30

Soup/Roll – lunch (Nave Café)

Devotional Hour at St Mary's 14.00

16th April 2017

Easter Sunday Service of Holy Communion 10.30

Year End Accounts 2016

As usual the finances of St Mary's (with St Andrew's) will be revealed at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting when the Treasurers/Annual Report is issued and made available to everyone.

What will be abundantly clear this year is the amount of money we "owe" especially taking into account the arrears of Parish Share – now shown clearly in the balance sheet on the instructions of the Diocese.

It doesn't end there of course, not shown in the accounts, is the amount of commitments already clocking up for this year (2017), the cost of heating is a staggering figure leading to our monthly direct debit for gas being increased dramatically from April. This, the electric, insurance and other essentials make alarming reading.

Financially unsustainable (and lets face it we have known this for years), St Mary's continues to struggle financially and has a hard climb ahead to start to break-even and be a truly viable parish once again. It is of no surprise therefore that things have to change, and that there has to be a "master plan" as to how the church operates within the rest of central Stockport.

This will not be an overnight task, but as this plan is being thought through and developed we thank all of you for continuing to support the ministry and mission of St Mary's .

Marion suffered the great loss not only of her husband, but also of her adult only daughter, not so many years ago. She bore her bereavement bravely , but life could never be the same again for Marion. Her network of friends, and the friendship she found in St. Mary's helped her constantly to face the lonely life she now led.

Marion made a delicious fruit cake. She also played the piano beautifully. She collected huge stones for her garden , on her travels; and she loved collecting brass, which decorated her attractive home. She read books copiously, and collected them for others to read! She did not like cut flowers, which she would give away if they were brought to her as a gift! Marion survived many health scares in recent years, besides a life threatening fall, when she was pulled over by her over excited dog, in the street. Somehow, Marion has managed to find inner strength and the will to live, which has perpetuated her long and active life for many more years than one might have expected.

Her gift to St. Mary's has been one of priceless service and spirited friendship. Those who knew her best will miss her most of all, but with her death there is surely the end of an era , and it's fair to say that the Parish Church can never be the same, without Marion.



Rev Roger Scoones

New PA/Loop System at St Mary's

Finally we have managed to do something about the state of the present PA system and replacement of the loop system that disappeared at the time of the re-ordering roughly four years ago.

Well, indeed YES – we have pressed the “GO” button for the new system to be installed. Necessary approvals have been given, funding put in place and a firm order issued.

This will make such a difference to all of us.

Our new control desk will sit at the back of Church (near to the “welcome desk”) allowing us to control the sound during services and concerts without having to “hide out” behind the choir stalls or walk in front of events to adjust levels and the like.

Introducing Matthew Barber Curating Spaces of Hope

Coming to join us and share our facilities is Matthew Barber, presently conducting a Doctoral Research into the way in which partnerships are being generated in the Borough, with a focus on the role of faith based organisations.

More about this exciting project later in the year.

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MAUNDY THURSDAY– time to wash feet

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



Thank You David

Nearly a year now in an interregnum situation, we say farewell to the Rev David Parker on Easter Sunday 2017 and thank him for coming over from Cheadle Hulme to take so many of our Sunday Holy Communion services as well as covering Christmas Eve/Christmas Day. His dedication to travelling over to Stockport on a Sunday morning – when as we know public transport isn't at its best – has been most valued. David kindly gave us plenty of notice of his departure from St Mary's which was much appreciated in our task to arrange clergy cover. David will of course continue to support the ministry and will be more than doing his share providing cover at St Michael's, Bramhall.

Easter faith

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three triumphant words: 'Christ is risen!'

At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, "He is risen indeed!" It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people who have already experienced God, that He does not exist?

GOOD FRIDAY – the day the Son of God died for you

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9am in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year, and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday. The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3 pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.



GOOD FRIDAY – Jesus and the thieves on the Cross

Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself' (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who were crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us. The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: 'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.' He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation. So - what kind of Messiah was Jesus? The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: 'this man has done nothing wrong.' He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom', the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.

In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; 'Today you will be with me in paradise.' Jesus used the picture of a walled garden to help the man understand his promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally. Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want him to 'remember' us when He comes into his kingdom, or not? If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus? 'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.' (1 Peter 3:18).

EASTER – the most joyful day of the year

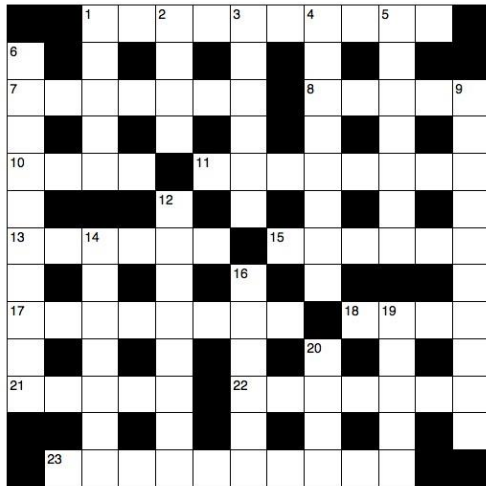
Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in his joy! Hallelujah! The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will be still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God. Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April. Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely. Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818 and won't fall again until 2285. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038. Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month', but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Help with the pancakes...

Making the pancakes on Shrove Tuesday whilst "chef" took a break, Mike makes himself at home in the Nave Café kitchen.

Many thanks to those who supported our "Pancake Party" by either attending or giving a donation.





Across

- 1 'You are a chosen people, a royal — ' (1 Peter 2:9) (10)
 7 Exact copy (Joshua 22:28) (7)
 8 Jesus' first words to Jairus's daughter, 'My child, — — ' (Luke 8:54) (3,2)
 10 Idol made by the Israelites while Moses was on Mount Sinai (Exodus 32:4) (4)
 11 Role allotted to Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 42:6) (8)
 13 'Lord, when did we — — hungry and feed you?' (Matthew 25:37) (3,3)

- 15 'Though seeing, they do — —; though hearing, they do not hear or understand' (Matthew 13:13) (3,3)
 17 Happening (1 Kings 21:1) (8)
 18 'Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the — of Christ' (Philippians 3:7) (4)
 21 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1,1,1,1,1)
 22 Stamp on (Amos 2:7) (7)
 23 Liable to rot (1 Corinthians 15:42) (10)

Down

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

PALM SUNDAY: Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to his own people in their capital city, and yet he came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war-horse.

As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into his path. They knew his reputation as a healer, and welcomed him. But sadly the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put him to death. On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.



Coming in May

Thursday, 4th May

Greater Manchester Mayoral Elections
St Andrews in use as a POLLING STATION

Friday, 5th May

Concert at St Mary's - details to follow
Roger Brown



14th – 20th May

Christian Aid Week - Look out for details of our "Big Brekkie" event in the Nave Café from which a donation will be made to Christian Aid – assisting refugees – standing with people in poverty

Thursday, 18th May

Prayer Breakfast at St Mary's (Kevin McKenna)

Notice to Churchwardens and Sidespersons:

Visitation Service **18th May** **7.30pm St Thomas'**

April begins with the Parochial Church Council (PCC) holding a special meeting to "receive the accounts" – a formality which needs to take place before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) can take place.

The APCM is held in church and is an occasion which should be taken more seriously. It is when the church hears about the year that has past, for which there is always much to be thankful and positive! It is also the occasion on which new Churchwardens are elected, and Sidespersons appointed and representatives for the Deanery Synod decided upon. When membership of the PCC itself changes with members completing their three years in office and new nominations sought. This is an incredible important aspect of church life, and this year especially, twelve months into an Interregnum, and as St Mary's looks to the future.

St Mary's is looking ahead and needs us all to lead the church into the next era, years which will continue to see great changes and challenges for this congregation. YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU! Please make it a priority to come to the meeting, which follows on from our Tuesday lunch-time service on the 11th April. You will be most welcome, and your presence will be much appreciated!

Then follows Holy Week and Easter, a Christian Festival, celebrated by Christians, in Christian churches, with the Christian Gospel at its heart. We have a full schedule of services from Palm Sunday through to Easter Day and are grateful to all those who have offered to assist us.

Whatever YOU are doing, we hope to see you at Church whenever you can and of course wish you a Very Happy Easter.