

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

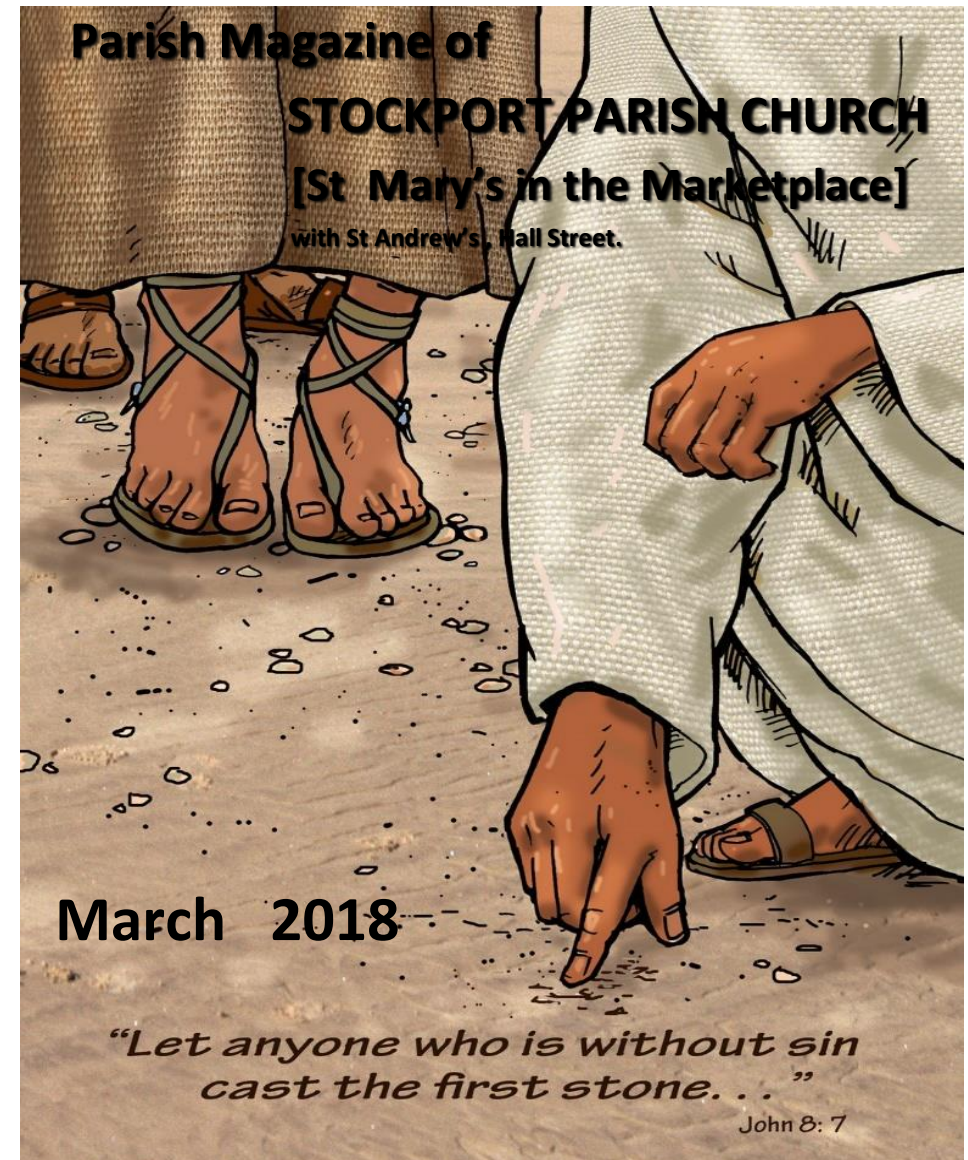
Normally the first and third Sunday is Holy Communion with Morning on the second and fourth.

**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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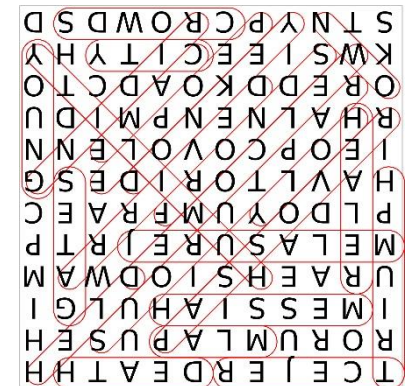
Diary

March 2018

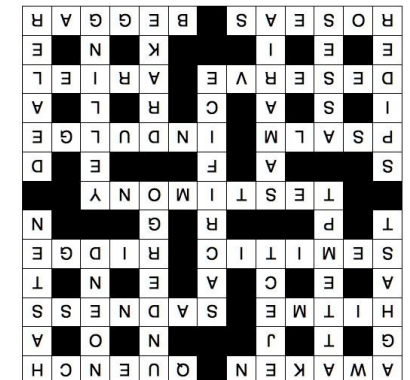
Friday, 2 nd March		World Women's Day of Prayer to be held at St Peter's at 2pm
Sunday, 4 th March		Holy Communion 10.30am
Tuesday, 6 th March		Holy Communion 10.00am Lunchtime Service 12.15pm
Sunday, 11 th March		Morning Prayer 10.30am
Tuesday, 13 th March		Holy Communion 10.00am Lunchtime Service 12.15pm
Sunday, 18 th March		Holy Communion 10.30am
Tuesday, 20 th March		Holy Communion 10.00am Lunchtime Service 12.15pm
Sunday, 25 th March		Morning Prayer 10.30am
Tuesday, 27 th March		Holy Communion 10.00am Lunchtime Service 12.15pm
Thursday, 29 th March Maundy Thursday		Holy Communion 7.00pm
Friday, 30 th March Good Friday		Service at Tiviot Dale Methodist Church 11.00am Town Centre Walk of Witness 12.30pm approx. Service at St Mary's Lunch (Nave Café) 2.00pm Dedication Service

Our second Sunday congregation with the Zeal Church will continue to meet at 3.30pm . Everyone welcome.

- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2 'In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea' (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 'But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!' (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 'Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ' (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 'For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings' (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob's well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul's first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)



6	2	3	9	5	8	4	7	1
1	9	8	4	7	6	3	2	5
5	7	4	1	2	3	8	9	6
2	4	1	3	6	9	7	5	8
7	3	9	8	4	5	1	6	2
8	5	6	7	1	2	9	4	3
4	8	5	6	3	7	2	1	9
9	1	2	5	8	4	6	3	7
3	6	7	2	9	1	5	8	4



Easter Faith

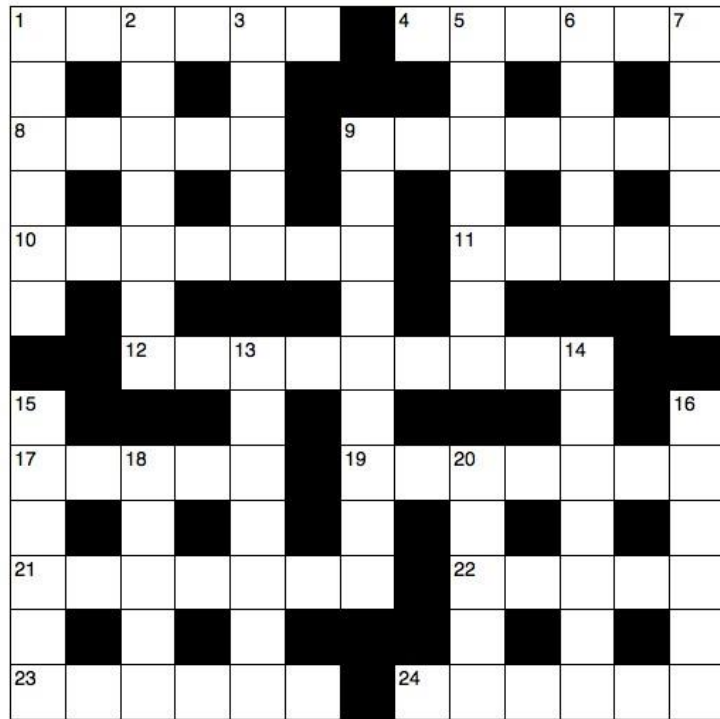
During **Lent** every **Tuesday** at **Stockport St Marys Church**
12:15 - 12:45 a local Christian will speak about the
 difference **Jesus Christ** makes to their **life and work**.

- **Louise Parrott-Bates**
CEO Pure Innovations Ltd
20th February
- **Dr. Natasha Fraser**
General Practitioner
27th February
- **Councillor Adrian Nottingham**
Group Leader, Independent Ratepayers
6th March
- **George Perrin**
Director of Town Centre Programmes, SMBC
13th March
- **Simon Leigh**
Managing Director, Allens Chartered Accountants
20th March
- **Geraldine Sullivan**
Stockport Christian Counselling,
Olive ROC Centre
27th March

st.marysstockport@gmail.com

A lunch (main + hot drink) will be available at a cost of £3. Pre-book if possible by the previous Friday.

Crossword



Across

(anag.) (5)

12 'A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies' (Proverbs 12:17) (9)

17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)

19 'Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature' (Galatians 5:13) (7)

21 'As you can see, he has done nothing to — death' (Luke 23:15) (7)

22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)

23 'All the people — — one man, saying, "None of us will go home"' (Judges 20:8) (4,2)

24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham's side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

1 Arouse
(Song of Songs 2:7) (6)

4 Extinguish
(Isaiah 1:31) (6)

8 "They — —
," you will say,
"but I'm not
hurt!" (Proverbs 23:35)
(3,2)

9 Unhappiness
(Nehemiah 2:2) (7)

10 Jewish (7)

11 Dirge

'For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16) *The Revd. Paul Hardingham, Rector of Bolton*

This verse has been described as 'the greatest verse in the Bible', as it enables us to understand the events of Good Friday and Easter Day.

God's love is unconditional: God demonstrated the extent of His love by sending His Son into this world, to show us what it looks like: 'God with skin on!' God graciously loves us, as none of us deserves it. 'There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less.' (Philip Yancey). God's love is sacrificial: The cross is the supreme demonstration of God's love, as Jesus identifies with a fallen, suffering world. He died for our sins, removing the barrier between us and God, giving access into God's presence and release from the power of sin and death. God's love is accessible: Jesus' resurrection makes His eternal life available to all who put their trust in Him. It's an offer of life with purpose, in which we can know God personally, both now and for eternity.

Bobby Moore described receiving the World Cup from the Queen in 1966 as terrifying: 'I noticed that the Queen was wearing some beautiful white gloves. I looked down at my hands and they were completely covered with mud!' Although we approach God with dirty and spoilt lives, by the cross and resurrection, we can shake hands with a holy God.

Please note that the Church Electoral Roll for this parish will be revised by the Parochial Church Council beginning on Tuesday the 20th day of March 2018, and ending on Wednesday the 28th day of March 2018. After such Revision, a copy of the Roll will be exhibited (1st – 16th April) on, or near to, the principal door of the Parish Church for inspection. NB: The only people who need to fill in an application form are those who have recently moved into the parish, joined the church, or reached the age of 16. Forms are available from church and should be left for the attention of our Electoral Roll Officer in the box provided.

1 St David's Day – time for daffodils

1st March is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' - but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery!

We do know that David - or Dafydd - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.

That daffodil time of year

By Nigel Beeton

O how I love, as poets do
That time when skies turn deeper blue,
And all can know the vernal thrills
Of landscapes filled with daffodils.
I love to spend a pleasing hour
Admiring nature's golden flower;
That trumpet shape, enhanced by dew
That vibrant, cheering yellow hue!
No better herald of the spring
No flower can more pleasure bring;
And spirits crushed by winter's ills
Are lifted by the daffodils!



The Revd Paul Hardingham finds assurance that we can be rid of our sins...

God is able to forgive

'Jesus said to the man, 'Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.' (Matthew 9:2).

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, 'Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?' One small boy spoke up, 'Sin'!

If sin is our greatest problem, then forgiveness is our greatest need. This story of the healing of the paralyzed man reminds us that God is able to forgive our sins. Jesus' first words to the paralytic focus on forgiveness, even though his friends lowered him through the roof to be healed by Jesus. Matthew is making the point that forgiveness precedes healing, as Jesus came first to restore our relationship with God as Father. Like the man, we too can be paralysed by past actions, hurtful words and unforgiveness, that leave us guilty and ashamed. Jesus offers us forgiveness and acceptance to enable a fresh start in our lives.

Jesus was aware of the criticism of the teachers of the law, who believed that only God could forgive sins. As Jesus says, 'Which is easier: to say, "Your sins are forgiven," or to say, "Get up and walk"?' Jesus secured forgiveness on the cross, which secures transformation from the inside. It gives us power to forgive others and ourselves from past hurts and actions.

Finally, Jesus says to the paralysed man, 'Get up, take your mat and go home.' The man's trusting obedience enables him to be completely healed and go home. Where do we need to know forgiveness in our lives and relationships? Are we ready to receive what God promises in our lives? 'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.' (1 John 1:9).

30 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.

30 John Climacus and his ladder to Paradise

Is there something down at, say, B&Q, which reminds your friends of you? John Climacus (d 649) had a thing about ladders. He was a monk in Palestine who was only seen out at the weekends (at church, not B&Q); during the week he prayed and wrote in solitude. He wrote *The Ladder to Paradise*, a treatise of spiritual encouragement to other monks. This gave him his name 'Climacus' (= ladder), and also led to him being chosen as abbot of Sinai when he was 70. John Climacus had a helpful picture of the spiritual life: he saw it as a ladder up which the believer slowly climbed to heaven, with God's help.

Palms - *It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, young James stayed home from church with his grannie. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Johnny asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," his father told him. "Wouldn't you know it," James fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up."*

2 Chad (d 672) – the recycled bishop

Chad should be the patron saint of any modern bishop whose consecration is questioned by another bishop. Chad was consecrated a bishop, then deposed - and then re-consecrated! It all began when Oswiu, king of Northumbria, made him bishop of the Northumbrian see. But due to a scarcity of appropriate bishops, two dubious bishops did the job of consecrating him. This led to Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, deciding to depose him about three years later. Chad took his dismissal with good heart, and peacefully retired. But then Theodore had second thoughts: Chad was of excellent character: humble, devout, and zealous. So, Theodore re-consecrated him – to be the first bishop of the Mercians. Second time around, Chad was a great success - again. When Chad died he was quickly venerated as a saint. People took a great fancy to his bones, believing that they would bring healing. Even today, four large bones, dating from the 7th century, and believed to be Chad's, are in the R.C. cathedral in Birmingham. Bishops today may still argue about consecration, but they are unlikely to have their bones disturbed.

Is 'religious karaoke' growing in popularity?

It seems that churches across the country are increasingly ditching their hymn books, in favour of using big screens to project the words. Some churches have spent up to £50,000 on audio-visual systems including projector screens and LCD TVs for their flock. Many churches reckon that it is cheaper to subscribe to a licensing service which allows them to project the words to hymns and worship songs, rather than buying books.

Christian Copyright Licensing International currently sells churches licenses, which allows them to reproduce hymns and worship songs. It currently covers about 24,500 sites in the UK. The most recent figures suggest that in 2013, there were 50,660 churches in the UK.

Women's World Day of Prayer Friday, 2nd March 2018

To be held at St Peter's Church, St Peter's Square, Stockport on Friday 2nd March at 2 pm, the service has been written by the Christian women of Suriname, South America.

It's open to all, and all are welcome.



4 Casimir - godly king of Poland

Casimir is a good patron saint for anyone whose father drives them crazy. For he did not let an unhappy background stop him from becoming the person he wanted to be. Yet Casimir's father, the King of Poland back in 1458, was no picnic as a dad. For if you think your teens were difficult, consider this: when Casimir was only 13, in 1471, his father decided to send him to war. He put him in charge of a large army, aimed at fighting on the Hungarian border. At 13, this was hardly easy, but worse was to come. Casimir's father had not bothered to pay the troops. Very soon young Casimir faced a crisis: his soldiers, quite reasonably, were reluctant to fight Hungarians when they were not even being fed. The troops deserted, and Casimir had a difficult time surviving the journey home. Then his father, far from welcoming his son's safe return, put all the blame of the lost army on Casimir. He banished his son to the castle of Dobzki. Instead of being crushed by this, Casimir used the time to think, and he grew up fast. Next time his father summoned him, he found a determined young man who had seized control of his own life. Casimir flatly refused to fight again against any Christian country, and he refused to marry a daughter of Emperor Frederick III. Casimir had decided he would prefer a life of celibacy, devotion to God, and austerity, and he stuck to his decision. When Casimir became king in 1481, he ruled over much of Poland for three years. In stark contrast to his father, he was loved for his justice, prudence and firmness. He died in 1484 of tuberculosis at the age of only 26, and was buried at Vilna. But his good deeds lived after him, and he was canonised by Leo X in 1521.

29 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.



We will continue to be holding a "Lent Lunch" at the Nave Café following the lunch-time service (12.45pm) on the 6th, 14th, 20th & 27th March. Profits to be paid to Christian Aid – book early – 1 course lunch (with tea/coffee) £3.00



25 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.

27 Rupert the salty

Rupert is the saint for you if you like The Sound of Music – or salt with your food! Rupert (d c 710) was bishop of Worms and Salzburg, and it was he who founded the great monastery of St Peter in Salzburg in the eighth century, thus firmly establishing Christianity in that city. True, it would be another 11 centuries before a certain young wanna-be-nun wandered about singing of her 'Favourite Things' and 'Something Good', but you have to start somewhere. In the meantime, Rupert also helped the people of Salzburg by developing the salt-mines nearby. This was 'something good' as well, because it brought in an income. Though if salt became a too 'favourite thing', it would also have raised the locals' blood pressure. Rupert's iconographical emblem is a barrel of salt, which makes sense, but is not as romantic as raindrops on roses, or whiskers on kittens.

Dear God... A little boy's prayer: "Dear God, please take care of my daddy and my mummy and my sister and my brother and my doggy and me. Oh, and please take care of yourself, God. If anything happens to You, we're gonna be in a big mess."

5 Eusebius - friend of St. Jerome

Eusebius is the saint for you if you believe in the Bible, and also in providing hospitality. He was born of a good family in Cremona, Italy, in the fourth century, and felt called to become a monk. As Eusebius was ascetic by nature, he sought out St Jerome in Rome, who advocated an austere lifestyle for monks. They became life-long friends. At that time, Jerome was secretary to Pope Damasus, who commissioned him to produce for the Western church a translation of the Bible in Latin. It was a time when Christian theologians were defending the faith from various heresies which had arisen concerning the nature of God. Eusebius was a loyal friend of Jerome, and became involved in Jerome's theological disputes against various heresies. When the Pope died in 384, Jerome decided to leave for the Holy Land. Eusebius and Jerome, with two female friends of Jerome's and together they made a pilgrimage to all the places connected with the earthly life of Jesus. Later, they decided to make their home in Bethlehem, where Jerome continued with writing, studying, and overseeing a monastery. Jerome noticed that the vast number of pilgrims to Bethlehem were extremely poor, so he decided to build a hostel for them. Eusebius was sent to Croatia and Italy to raise money for the building project. He even sold his own property at Cremona to help with finances. Meanwhile, the theological disputes continued, and it seems that Jerome next sent Eusebius to Rome, to support Pope Anastasius I. In 400 AD, Eusebius may have returned to his native Cremona, or else to Bethlehem to become the abbot of the church there. One (unproven) tradition credits him with founding the abbey of Guadalupe in Spain. Another late tradition credits him with raising three men from the dead - an event painted twice by Italian Renaissance painter Raphael Sanzio. Wherever Eusebius spent his last years, he continued to support Jerome's interests, and they regularly corresponded on theology. Eusebius died in 423 and it is thought he is buried alongside Jerome in Bethlehem.

7 Perpetua and Felicitas – joyful martyrs of Africa

This story could come straight out of modern Africa. Perpetua was a young married woman of 22 who had recently become a Christian. But the authorities had forbidden any new conversions, and soon she and some other catechumens were arrested and sentenced to death. This was not under

Islamic State, nor Boko Haram, but under the emperor Septimius Severus in Carthage, in the year 203. Imprisoned with Perpetua was a pregnant slave, Felicitas, and seven men. Perpetua's family were frantic with worry for her, so she sent a message to reassure them: "My prison became a palace for me, and I would rather have been there than anywhere else." As the days passed Perpetua devoted herself to prayer, and experienced various visions depicting the spiritual battle storming around her. Soon Felicitas gave birth to a girl in the prison, and she and Perpetua enjoyed a last agape meal together. On the day of the Games they left the prison for the amphitheatre 'joyfully as though they were on their way to heaven'. Perpetua sang a hymn of praise as animals were prepared for killing the prisoners: leopards and bears for the men, and a maddened heifer for the women. The heifer did not succeed in killing them, and after the young women exchanged one final kiss of peace, Perpetua herself guided the gladiator's knife to her throat: "It was as though so great a woman...could not be despatched unless she herself were willing." Perpetua and Felicitas's joyful witness and unflinching courage went on to inspire many other early Christian martyrs. Down the centuries, the feast day of Perpetua and Felicitas became widely observed. In 1907 an inscription in their honour was discovered at Carthage in the Basilica Majorum, where they had been buried centuries before. Their memory still lives on: eight episodes of Perpetua's life are represented on a 14th century altar frontal at Barcelona.

24 Catherine of Sweden – the good-natured carer

Families are divided in two kinds of people: givers and takers. Blessed is the family with at least one 'giver', that someone of a cheerful, generous nature who does not panic when you ask them for help. These kindly saints are on hand when you need them, not fleeing with the cry "But I have to think of myself in all this!" Catherine of Sweden (1331-81) should be the patron saint of all good-natured, compassionate family members. Givers usually start early in life, as did Catherine. She was the fourth of eight children of Ulf of Godmarrson and Bridget of Sweden, and grew up caring for the needs of younger siblings. One thing about giving – once you start, you are generally looked to for more help, and Catherine was no exception. Her parents married her to one Eggard Lydersson, an invalid, whom she proceeded to nurse devotedly. Catherine felt compassion for his helplessness, and found her life in giving it for him. In return, Eggard encouraged her to have a 14th century version of 'respite' fun at 'Spring Harvest' – for Catherine joined her mother to journey to Rome and Jerusalem for a time. Refreshed and spiritually fortified, Catherine returned and nursed Eggard until his death. She then joined her mother's religious order, and ended as abbess of the convent of Vadstena. Her cell still survives to this day, with a window on to the church's sanctuary. Catherine was important in the history of the Brigittine Order, as she won papal approval for it in 1376.

Not too late for a Lent Course! Start today. Lent is already well underway but as it stretches ahead throughout most of March, you may well be interested in visiting #LiveLent – Let your light shine. LiveLent is the Church of England's 2018 Lent campaign and resources for churches. It follows the Gospel of John, offering a short daily reading, a pause for reflection and prayer and a challenge to act. The Archbishops describe the course as "giving you an opportunity to explore what the gift of Jesus and the challenge of Jesus mean for you, in the context of your daily life."

21 Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury Reformation Martyr

If you have ever been caught up in a great event at work, which has gone on to change your own life, then Thomas Cranmer is the saint for you. He was the first ever Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury, following King Henry VIII's decision to pull away from Rome, and set up the Church of England. Born in Nottingham in 1489, Thomas Cranmer became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1533. He was adviser to both Henry VIII and Edward VI. He helped Henry with the annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, and along with Thomas Cromwell, supported the principle of Royal Supremacy (where the king is sovereign over the Church in his realm). Under Edward VI, Thomas Cranmer made major reforms to the C of E. He put the English Bible into parish churches, compiled the first two versions of the Book of Common Prayer, and worked with continental reformers to change doctrine on everything from the Eucharist and veneration of saints. But kings and queens, like American presidents, change, and the Catholic queen Mary I was determined to wipe out Protestantism. Thomas Cranmer was imprisoned for two years, found guilty of heresy, and burned at the stake on 21st March 1556.

So you think English is easy?

Read on:

1) The bandage was wound around the wound; 2) The farm was used to produce produce; 3) We must polish the Polish furniture; 4) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert; 5) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present; 6) A sea bass was painted on the head of the bass drum 7) The insurance was invalid for the invalid; 8) They were too close to the door to close it; 9) After going out after having done some sewing, a sewer fell into a sewer; 10) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.

8 Woodbine Willie - bringing love with cigarettes and the Bible

Here's a 'saint' that the Church of England remembers from the 1st World War - the Revd. Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy MC, or 'Woodbine Willie', as everyone knew this popular, much-loved army chaplain on the Western Front. Studdert Kennedy (27th June 1883 – 8th March 1929) had been born in Leeds as the seventh of nine children. After reading divinity and classics at Trinity College Dublin, he'd studied for ordination at Ripon Clergy College, and served his curacy at Rugby. By the time war broke out in 1914, Studdert Kennedy was vicar of St Paul's Worcester. He soon volunteered to go to the Western Front as a chaplain to the army. Life on the front line in the trenches was a desperate affair, but soon Studdert Kennedy had hit on a way of bringing a few moments of relief to the stressed out soldiers: as well as good cheer he gave out copious amounts of 'Woodbines', the most popular cheap cigarette of the time. One colleague remembered Kennedy: "he'd come down into the trenches and say prayers with the men, have a cuppa out of a dirty tin mug and tell a joke as good as any of us. He was a chain smoker and always carried a packet of Woodbine cigarettes that he would give out in handfuls to us lads. That's how he got his nickname. He came down the trench one day to cheer us up. Had his Bible with him as usual. Well, I'd been there for weeks, unable to write home, of course, we were going over the top later that day. I asked him if he would write to my sweetheart at home, tell her I was still alive and, so far, in one piece... years later, after the war, she showed me the letter he'd sent, very nice it was. A lovely letter. My wife kept it until she died." Kennedy was devoted to his men, so much so that in 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross at Messines Ridge, after running into no man's land in order to help the wounded during an attack on the German frontline. During the war, Kennedy supported the British military effort with enthusiasm, but soon after the war, he turned to Christian socialism and pacifism. He was given charge of St Edmunds in Lombard St, London, and took to writing a number of poems about his war experiences: *Rough Rhymes of a Padre* (1918) and *More Rough Rhymes* (1919). He went on to work for the Industrial Christian

Fellowship, for whom he did speaking tours. It was on one of these tours that he was taken ill, and died in Liverpool in 1929. He was only 46. His compassion and generosity in the face of the horrors of the Western Front was immortalised in the song 'Absent Friends': "Woodbine Willie couldn't rest until he'd/given every bloke a final smoke/before the killing." He himself had once described his chaplain's ministry as taking "a box of fags in your haversack, and a great deal of love in your heart."

How often do you read the Bible? How often do you pray?

A recent poll of members of the Church of England has found that 60 per cent of people who say they are Christians also say that they never read the Bible. 36 per cent say they never attend church. 33 per cent say they never pray.

The figures, from ComRes, which was asked to do the poll, reveal that many people who claim to be Christians do not actually do the most basic activities associated with being a Christian. Of all the self-confessed Christians whom ComRes polled, those who said they were followers of the Church of England were the least observant.

Rachel Jordan, the Church's national mission and evangelism adviser, said the survey had given it 'a real sense of the scale of the task ahead... we, as a group of leaders across denominations committed to evangelism, wanted to devise a measure which shows us who the most committed people are – those who themselves might be willing to take on the task of spreading the good news of Jesus.'



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Peter is located in Marple Bridge (Business Cards available from church)

20 Cuthbert - beloved monk and bishop of Lindisfarne

Cuthbert of Lindisfarne (c 634-87) has long been northern England's favourite saint. It is easy to see why: Cuthbert was holy, humble, peaceable, prayerful, faithful in friendship, winsome, and really kind. Cuthbert was born into a fairly well-off Anglo-Saxon family, and became a monk at Melrose in 651. He and another monk, Eata, were sent to start a monastery at Ripon, but Alcfrith, who owned the land, insisted that they adopt the Roman customs, which Cuthbert's Celtic church did not allow. So Cuthbert and Eata quietly returned to Melrose, where Cuthbert became prior in about 661. Then came the Synod of Whitby in 663/4, and the Celtic Church formally decided to adopt the Roman Customs. After this, Cuthbert was sent on to Lindisfarne as prior, where he sensitively introduced the new ways, and won over the monks there. Cuthbert was very much loved at Lindisfarne. His zeal was evident in his constant preaching, teaching, and visiting of the people. He was also said to have gifts of prophecy and healing. Occasionally, Cuthbert reached 'people overload'. Then he would retreat to a tiny islet called Inner Farne, where he could pray in total seclusion. When, to his horror, he was told he had been made Bishop of Hexham, he immediately 'swapped' sees with Eata, and stayed on at Lindisfarne as Bishop. Sadly, Cuthbert died on little Inner Farne, only two years later, on 20 March, 687. Cuthbert was buried at Lindisfarne, but that is not the end of his story. For it was only now that his travels began. After the Vikings destroyed Lindisfarne in 875, several monks dug him up and set out to find Cuthbert a final, and safe, resting place. For the next 120 years Cuthbert was deposited in various monasteries around the north of England and southwest Scotland. Finally, in 999, Cuthbert was allowed to rest in Durham, where a Saxon church was built over his shrine. All that travel must have done him good; when his body was exhumed to be put into the 'new' Norman Cathedral in Durham in 1104, it was said to be still in perfect tact, and 'incorrupt'.

20 St Joseph – patron saint of fathers and holy death

Why should St Joseph’s day be in March? Surely he belongs to Advent and Christmas, at Mary’s side in millions of nativity scenes around the world. In any case, as foster-father of Christ and husband of Mary, Joseph played a major part in the story of the coming of Jesus Christ. All that we know about him for sure is in the gospels. Read especially Matthew 1 – 2. He was of Davidic descent, but his trade as a carpenter shows that he was not at all wealthy. Joseph’s gentleness and decency towards Mary, and his willingness to do God’s will when it was revealed to him, portray him as a kind and godly person. Joseph is the patron saint of fathers of families, and he makes an excellent example. He comes across as a protecting, loyal, thoughtful, self-controlled person, full of integrity, and willing to work hard. Who wouldn’t want a father like that? Joseph is also the patron saint of all who desire a holy death. Thus, countless churches, hospitals and religious congregations are dedicated to Joseph.

Sudoku

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	1	2	8	6	
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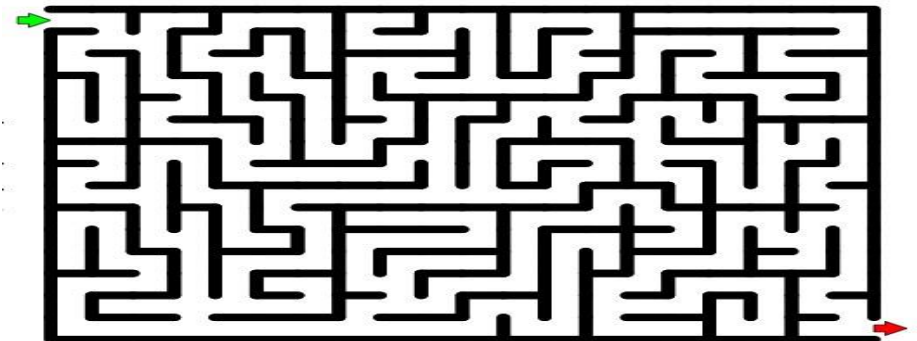
Wordsearch

T	C	E	J	E	R	D	E	A	T	H	H
R	O	R	U	M	L	A	P	U	S	E	H
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M	E	L	A	S	U	R	E	J	R	T	P
P	L	D	O	Y	U	M	F	R	A	E	C
H	A	V	L	T	O	R	I	D	E	S	G
I	E	O	P	C	O	V	O	L	E	N	N
R	H	A	L	N	E	N	P	M	I	D	U
O	R	E	D	D	K	O	A	D	C	T	O
K	W	S	I	E	E	C	I	T	Y	H	Y
S	T	N	Y	P	C	R	O	W	D	S	D

9 Savio - the youngster who found God

Several years ago the hit film Slumdog Millionaire touched millions of people with its story of a youngster triumphing against all the odds. Dominic Savio did the same thing. In fact, he is a good patron ‘child saint’ for children today who struggle to get anywhere in life. Savio (1842 – 57) was born into a poor family in Riva, near Turin. There were 10 children. The father was a blacksmith, the mother a seamstress. Somehow, they managed school fees, and when Dominic was 12, he was sent to the famous school of John Bosco at Turin. A strict Roman Catholic school wasn’t exactly the set for ‘Who wants to be a Millionaire’, but Savio loved it. He responded with enthusiasm to the wise and moderate spiritual guidance of Bosco, and began to grow. He was soon widely loved for his cheerfulness and friendliness to all. He was respected by fellow students for his mature, sound advice. Behind it all lay the key: Savio had discovered God for himself, and had responded with all his heart: – one story of him tells how he was rapt in prayer for six hours continuously. Sadly, Dominic Savio contracted tuberculosis. Like AIDS today, it was incurable. He accepted his disease with dignity and composure. He did not fear death – his deep and radiant faith assured him that something far better lay beyond. Savio died aged only 15. He had never been a millionaire; his riches lay in his faith in Jesus Christ. The memory of this lovable lad lived on, so deeply had he touched the hearts of the people who knew him. Over 100 years later he was still remembered – and made a saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

Maze



11 Mothering Sunday – 4th Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying: God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mothers' Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day. of saints for the 'ordinary' person, a straight-forward craftsman who never expected or chose to be in the spotlight of history. He did what he could, and he was obedient to everything that he believed God required of him. To do the 'ordinary' thing well, to be kind, caring and open to guidance: these are great gifts, and Joseph seems to have had them in abundance.

17 St Patrick – beloved apostle to Ireland

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz. It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds. Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God". Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland. After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted. But by 435, well educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh, and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys. Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ. Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

Diary of a Momentous Year: March 1918: Getting Nowhere

March 1918 brought more confusion than comfort to the British public. If they read the papers closely, they would learn of many peace treaties signed – between the new Bolshevik Russian government and some of its neighbours, including Bulgaria and Turkey and even with Germany – but with many hitches and hesitations. The Allies refused to recognise the Russian-German treaty, for instance, and fighting continued in some places. Yet while there was talk of peace on every hand, the War simply went on and on. The Germans launched a major offensive in France, code-named ‘Michael’, which pushed the Allied forces back from their lines on the western front. This German success so worried the generals that they called a crisis meeting at which General Foch was appointed ‘generalissimo’ to coordinate the tactics of the Allied armies. Four years into the war, that would seem somewhat overdue. It was followed, as it happened, by the defeat of a similar German attack in the Arras area. So, no wonder the ordinary citizen was baffled. It was up and down, but going nowhere – and the casualties continued, of course. In fact most people didn’t follow the news that closely, and much of the reporting they did read was unjustifiably optimistic. The face to face interviews of today’s radio and television news programmes make it harder for those in power to avoid unpleasant truths. But at this stage of a brutal war such an approach would have been regarded by many people, including my parents, as disloyalty bordering on treachery. Nevertheless, people could see for themselves the shortages of food, and they knew that even on a recent moonless night, when navigation was difficult, the Germans were able to launch a bombing raid by aircraft, not Zeppelins, over England. For all the talk of victory, or peace, the mood at home was resigned but realistic. For 15 months a new prime minister had been in office, David Lloyd-George, who had spoken of his hopes for bringing the war to an end. But to carry that right through, he probably needed the mandate of an election win, and that was not to happen while the conflict still took place. At home or abroad, something unexpected was needed to release the log-jam.

Want to be creative? Have a cup of tea

Tea-drinkers have always known that almost anything is possible, with a cup of tea in your hand, and now it seems that the scientists are catching up with them. For there seems to be proof that a simple cup of tea can spark an instant burst of your brainpower and creativity, enhancing your mood and cognitive ability. Yet, although tea contains both caffeine and theanine, both of which increase attentiveness and alertness, these do not usually take effect as quickly as the simple act of drinking tea seems to do. Thus, researchers suspect that simply drinking the tea works to enhance your mood. Tests found that drinking tea helped people in both divergent thinking (the process of coming up with a number of new ideas around a central theme), and also with creativity. This must make tea the go-to drink for writers, artists and musicians, and indeed anyone looking for inspiration. So - go put the kettle on!

The study appeared in the journal Food Quality and Preference.

Christians Against Poverty helps even more people

Last year, 2017, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) was able to help more people than in any other year of CAP’s history.

Altogether, ‘a breath-taking’ 2,828 families and individuals ‘stepped into 2018 free from the heavy millstone of debt.’ CAP is also celebrating the fact that ‘We’ve seen more than 1,100 people choose to start a relationship with Jesus as they’ve discovered the true depth of God’s love for them. And 130 new communities now have a CAP service on their doorstep, shining the light of hope into the darkness of poverty.’

Read some stories of those who have come out of debt: <https://capuk.org/connect/more/video/252569935>



Many of us have TOO MUCH STUFF in our homes. But where do you begin to scale down? Jane Brocklehurst has worked as a professional 'declutterer' for many years, helping people to get their homes back under control.

The theology of de-cluttering: Clutter and Happiness - Advertisers want us to aspire to own the things they are marketing: a house full of beautiful furniture, fast cars, the latest technology. The more we own, they tell us, the happier we will be. Up to a point, this is true. Certainly, people with nothing at all are far from happy! Appeals are made to provide water, food, clothes, and medical supplies, for those who have lost everything in a disaster. Babies cry because their needs are not met. Adults cry too. Owning things that provide warmth and comfort makes us happy. It is easy to assume that if things make us happy, then even more things will make us happier still, and the people who own the most things will be happiest of all. This seems to be the basis of capitalist culture. Happiness, however, does not follow a mathematical equation. Owning more and more eventually creates problems rather than solving them. Wanting is not the same as needing. Precious time and energy goes into maintaining a wealth of possessions, it can become oppressive. Yet if "God ... richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment" (I Timothy 6:17) surely an abundance of possessions is a sign of God's blessing? Would that mean the ones with the most clutter are the most blessed by God? But having something to enjoy is not necessarily the same as owning it, or keeping it long term. I Timothy chapter 6 tells us why God blesses people with material goods: As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to . . . set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches . . . They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous and ready to share (From 1 Tim 6:17,18 NRSV). So, don't be afraid to give away the things that you really don't need! God's blessings enable us to be hospitable and generous. Once our physical and emotional needs are met, the rest of our possessions are clutter. Creative imagination can come into clearing away too. There are many outlets for selling things,

it can be fun taking part in a car boot sale for example. There are even more opportunities to give things away, such as charity shops, and Freegle (aka Freecycle) online. Look around your locality. How could you bless other people from the rich abundance that you have enjoyed? Generosity towards other people is a great way to express thankfulness to our generous God.

Coming in April:

Easter Sunday, 1st April – join us for Holy Communion at St Mary's at 10.30am.

Starting on Friday, 13th April.

Final arrangements have yet to be made but we very much hope to start a new initiative at St Mary's (in partnership with Tiviot Dale Methodist Church) by running each Friday morning "Café Church" – look out for more information next month.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting & Meeting of Parishioners 2018

Please note that these meetings will take place after the lunch-time service on Tuesday, 17th April 1pm.

Maritime Christian Ministries – thank you to everyone who has kindly supported Ann West and her project to provide knitted hats for distribution to seafarers by the MCM. The number of hats given to Ann has been amazing, please keep knitting into 2018. We start a new "knitting" season requesting more hats as well as neck and chest warmers, so that we can continue to send these to the charity throughout the year. The patterns for both have been published in the Parish Magazine, but copies are once again available in church and on our website: stmarysinthemarketplace.com on our craft n chat page. Thank you to Ann for starting off this initiative – the MCM appreciative of all the support given to them.