

STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH

St Mary's in the Marketplace

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 Stockport Parish Church - St Mary's

Service times at St Mary's

Sunday: 10:30 Holy Communion /Morning Prayer

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

15.30 Zeal Church

Tuesday: 10.00 Holy Communion

12.15 Lunchtime Service

Friday: 10.45 Café Worship

Wedding, Baptism, Funeral and other services by arrangement.

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

This magazine is written (and other submissions edited as deemed necessary) by S M Heap with additional material used by permission from www.parishpump.co.uk. Electronic copy available on pdf format via the church website.

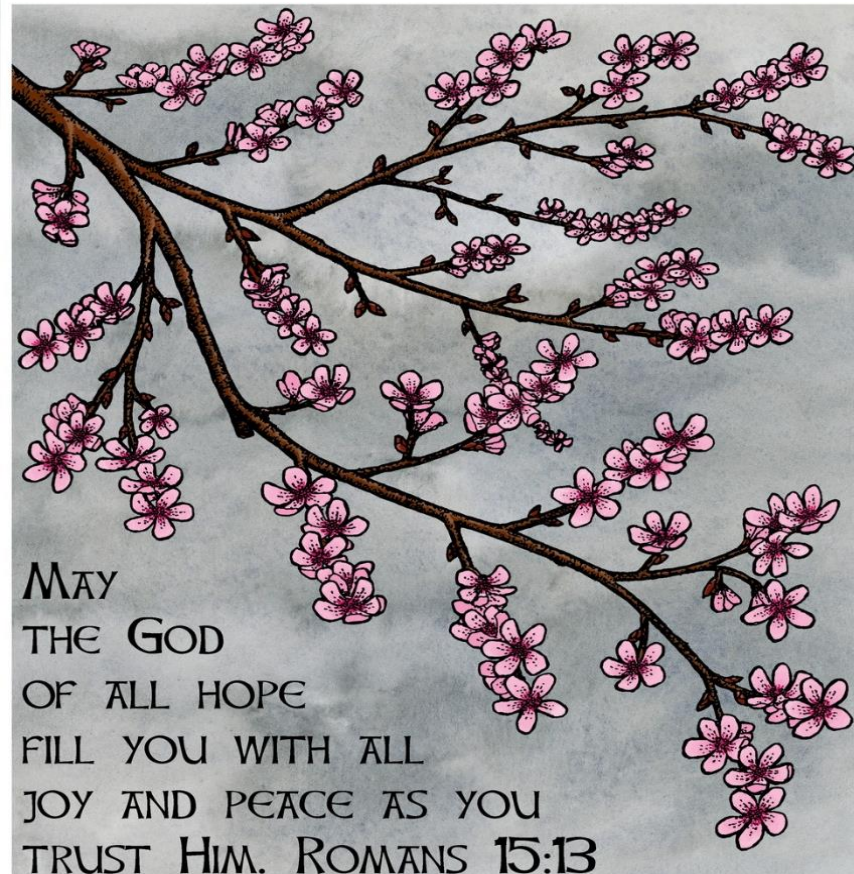
February
2019

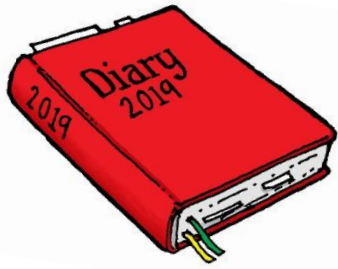


STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH

[St Mary's in the Marketplace]

in the parish of Stockport and Brinnington





February

Friday, 1 st February	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 3 rd February	Holy Communion Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 5 th February	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Friday, 8 th February	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 10 th February	Morning Prayer Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 12 th February	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Friday, 15 th February	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 17 th February	Holy Communion Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 19 th February	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Friday, 22 nd February	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 24 th February	Morning Prayer Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 26 th February	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15



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

New Price Increases at St Andrews

Hire of our premises – January 2019 new users
February 2019 existing users

Private Hire including:

Registered Charity
Non-profit making organisations
Community Use - church / social groups
choir rehearsals / private meetings etc.

Business/ Commercial rate

HOURLY RATE	£15.00 (unchanged)	£20.00 (new rate)
Session rate (Max 3 hrs)	£37.50	£50.00

Additional time (including and set-up and set-down) to be charged at the standard hourly rate (nearest full hour)

NEW RATES:	1 hr	£15.00	£20.00
	2 hrs	£30.00	£40.00
Session fee	3 hrs	£37.50	£50.00
	4 hrs	£52.50	£70.00
	5 hrs	£67.50	£90.00
Double session fee	6 hrs	£75.00	£100.00

For bookings between 6 to 9 hours
£75.00

*£100.00

Meetings/training
Seminars etc.

* discounts available for
weekday block/regular
bookings

Full Day & Evening Rate £100.00
(including party type events)

£150.00

February 2019

Most of you will no doubt be aware that the post of Rector for our new parish of Stockport and Brinnington has been advertised for the second time – closing date 11th February. Now that we are officially a new parish the wording has been amended and the structure of the appointment updated - thanks to Ian Bishop, Archdeacon of Macclesfield, who is now making all necessary arrangements on behalf of the Diocese.

The key aims of the new post are to lead the parish through change, in mission and growth and in shaping values and influence. All details remain available to view on-line - via the Diocesan web-site - at least until the closing date - but the Diocese is looking for a leader to build capacity across a diverse new parish to inspire transformation in the Church and community. This will be a position of considerable strategic significance and will require someone with the gifts to develop a ministry that encourages collaboration and creative partnership.

The Diocese is making a number of important appointments to urban hubs, to be resourcing centres of ministry and mission. The Rector of Stockport and Brinnington is one such key appointment. There is funding to appoint a full-time clergy colleague resident in Brinnington, and aspiration to source other funding for additional lay and ordained team members, to accelerate impact for communities in this town centre and outer estate where the Church faces significant challenges.

Our hope is now that the right person for the job is prepared to put their name forward – called to continue their ministry here in Stockport and Brinnington.

How about a nice cup of tea... as you sit and read your magazine. Over 165,000,000 cups of tea are drunk every day of the year in the UK.

You may be a “Tetley” person, a “PG Tips” or a “Yorkshire Gold” maybe – but whatever your choice at the supermarket shelves tea is a relative latecomer to British shores. Although the custom of drinking tea dates back to the third millennium BC in China, it was not until the mid 17th century that the beverage first appeared in England.

It was the London coffee houses that were responsible for introducing tea to England. One of the first to offer tea was Thomas Garway, who owned an establishment in Exchange Alley. He sold both liquid and dry tea to the public as early as 1657. Three years later he issued a broadsheet advertising tea at six and ten pounds per pound, touting its virtues at "making the body active and lusty", and "preserving perfect health until extreme old age". Tea gained popularity quickly in the coffee houses, and by 1700 over 500 coffee houses sold it. This distressed the tavern owners, as tea cut their sales of ale and gin, and it was bad news for the government, who depended upon a steady stream of revenue from taxes on liquor sales.

TAX: King Charles II did his bit to counter the growth of tea, with several acts forbidding its sale in private houses. This measure was designed to counter sedition, but it was so unpopular that it was impossible to enforce. A 1676 Act taxed tea and required coffee house operators to apply for a licence. By the mid 18th century the duty on tea had reached an absurd 119%. This heavy taxation had the effect of creating a whole new industry - tea smuggling.

NEW PLANNED/REGULAR GIVING ENVELOPES



Our new planned giving envelopes are available for 2019 (slightly late due to a delivery problem- thank you Frank for making up some temporary envelopes for January) along with a new Charity Gift Aid Declaration form to be completed by those who wish us to claim gift aid from the donations they make.

Whatever your circumstances please remember that when allowing us to claim gift aid if you pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed (on all donations made in that tax year) you are responsible to pay any difference.

If you don't pay tax or wish us to claim gift aid then please do not fill in a form. IF YOU WISH TO START USING THE REGULAR GIVING WEEKLY ENVELOPE SCHEME please just ask and we will make a set of envelopes available for you. These envelopes (the brown ones) are intended to be used only when you are agreeing to pay an amount each week (cash or cheque). New Gift Aid envelopes (the white ones) are also on order – the existing ones can of course still be used for those wishing to make a one-off donation (however frequently). [Here again the gift aid requirements stand](#) – please don't use an envelope if you don't want us to claim gift aid. Cash/cheques can both be placed on the collection plate during our services or placed directly into the donations box near the font. Our preference (that of the Treasurer mainly) remains that regular giving is done so directly to the bank – our existing bank accounts will remain open for a few months yet – we'll let people know if/when we need new bank mandate instructions. In the meantime if you wish to give directly to our Nat West business account we will be pleased to let you have the bank details or the appropriate mandate form. **BUT: whatever and however you give THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**



Historic England

a public body that helps people care for and celebrate England's specular environment

There are nearly 400,000 of the most important historic places in England that are listed – and that listing includes Stockport St Mary's and Stockport St Thomas (both Grade 1). It's not just buildings of course, the list also includes battlefields, monuments, parks, gardens, shipwrecks and more.

Part of the work of Historic England is to provide grants for a variety of purposes (including repairs) designed to ensure the protection of the historic environment. Work supported by those grants to be sympathetic to the character and importance of the building or landscape. There is (as you would expect) a very high demand for Historic England grants, so it isn't always possible to be offered one even if the project fits the criteria and an application has been accepted BUT we are giving it a try and after three years of "rest" following Phases 5 & 6 are now ready to re-think the way forward.

We're starting to talk to our Architect and looking at potential work that could be included in an Historic England grant application. There is certainly much to be done and a revised Quinquennial Inspection report due soon. We hope to have "Good News" in due course – and will keep you informed of any developments.

Ships from Holland and Scandinavia brought tea to the British coast, then stood offshore while smugglers met them and unloaded the precious cargo in small vessels. The smugglers, often local fishermen, snuck the tea inland through underground passages and hidden paths to special hiding places. One of the best hiding places was in the local parish church!

Even smuggled tea was expensive, however, and therefore extremely profitable, so many smugglers began to adulterate the tea with other substances, such as willow, liquorice, and sloe leaves. Used tea leaves were also re-dried and added to fresh leaves.

Finally, in 1784 William Pitt the Younger introduced the Commutation Act, which dropped the tax on tea from 119% to 12.5%, effectively ending smuggling. Adulteration remained a problem, though, until the Food and Drug Act of 1875 brought in stiff penalties for the practice.

So who put our tea in a "bag"....



The arrival of tea in Britain in the seventeenth century altered the drinking habits of this nation forever.

The late eighteenth century saw black tea overtake green tea in popularity for the first time, which also accelerated the addition of India began, leading to the imports of Indian tea into Britain overtaking the imports of Chinese tea. And in the twentieth century there was a further development that would radically change our tea-drinking habits - the invention of the tea bag.

The purpose of the tea bag is rooted in the belief that for tea to taste its best, the leaves ought to be removed from the hot water at the end of a specific brewing period.

Then there is the added benefit of convenience - a removable device means that tea can be made as easily in a mug as in a pot, without the need for a tea strainer, and that tea pots can be kept clean more easily. But the earliest examples of removable infusing devices for holding tea were not bags. Popular infusers included tea eggs and tea balls - perforated metal containers which were filled with loose leaves and immersed in boiling water, and then removed using an attached chain.

Needless to say, it was in America, with its love of labour-saving devices, that tea bags were first developed. In around 1908, Thomas Sullivan, a New York tea merchant, started to send samples of tea to his customers in small silken bags. Some assumed that these were supposed to be used in the same way as the metal infusers, by putting the entire bag into the pot, rather than emptying out the contents. It was thus by accident that the tea bag was born! Responding to the comments from his customers that the mesh on the silk was too fine, Sullivan developed sachets made of gauze - the first purpose-made tea bags. During the 1920s these were developed for commercial production, and the bags grew in popularity in the USA. Made first of all from gauze and later from paper, they came in two sizes, a larger bag for the pot, a smaller one for the cup. The features that we still recognise today were already in place - a string that hung over the side so the bag could be removed easily, with a decorated tag on the end. While the American population took to tea bags with enthusiasm, the British were naturally wary of such a radical change in their tea-making methods.

Nave Café Update

We are delighted to say that we have managed another year of running the Nave Café with thanks to Pure Innovations (during the week) and with the Rotary Club of Stockport (first Saturday of the month). Thanks also to those members of “Team St Mary’s” who do their bit in the kitchen, take orders, payments etc. and generally look after our customers.

Our annual accounts are not yet available but generally speaking it can be said that we are only making in the region of £145 per week but the value the café gives to Pure Innovations clients goes beyond money – it gives them the opportunity to get out and about and experience “work” and although we miss those who have moved on it is rewarding to know that valuable skills have been learnt whilst with us at St Mary’s.

There will be plenty of opportunity for us to review the running of the café in the months ahead and to look at new opportunities open to us, but it would be helpful if we could recruit a little more help now, particularly on a Saturday. During the week our Pure Innovations Supervisors do a wonderful job looking after up to five trainees as well as manage our café service – but there again help to take the money (cash and food together in the kitchen is really not a good idea), keep an eye on stock levels etc. would be appreciated. If you can help out please let us know or pop your name on the Saturday café rota (which is on the desk in church).

A shoe box journey for Christmas

Where did they get to?

Last November at St Mary's it was great to see all the shoe box gifts ready to start their journey to Eastern Europe. A lovely surprise when counted to find we have 48 boxes. They were taken to the collection point in Stockport where the van was loaded with 377 boxes and fillers from churches in our area.

At the Teams4U warehouse in Wrexham they were delighted to receive boxes from Stockport for the first time. There the boxes were packed and sent to Romania where they were distributed in four different areas to vulnerable children and families.

In 2017 Teams4U sent over 38,000 boxes to Eastern Europe but were thrilled that in 2018 they have received 51,315 boxes. Besides the loads sent to Romania and distributed for Christmas, 16,000 boxes have been distributed to orphanages in Belarus and some also sent to Bosnia. A partner in Romania at a distribution said they were amazed at the quality of the boxes given to 6 to 11 year old children and what joy they brought to the children.

Thank you to everyone at St Mary's who knitted and made items, brought things for the boxes or made up their own boxes and donated to the transport costs.

In the sales I picked up a few items for this year's boxes so please watch out for suitable bargains or keep knitting.

Thank you for supporting the Teams4U shoe box project
Margaret Forster

This was not helped by horror stories told by Britons who had visited the USA, who reported being served cups of tepid water with a tea bag on the side waiting to be dunked into it.

The material shortages of World War II also stalled the mass adoption of tea bags in Britain, and it was not until the 1950s that they really took off. Tea bags gained popularity on the grounds that they removed the need to empty out the used tea leaves from the tea pot. The convenience factor was more important to the British tea-drinker than the desire to control the length of infusion time, hence the appearance of tea bags that did not have strings attached.



It was Tetley in 1953 that drove the introduction of tea bags in Britain, but other companies soon caught up.

BUT... Who thought of putting tea leaves into boiling water in the first place?

Well, according to "legend" (that is the Tetley website) in 2737 BC - the Chinese Emperor Shen Nung was sitting under a large tea plant (*Camellia sinensis*) whilst his servant was boiling drinking water. A few of the leaves fell into the water - an accidental infusion took place - and so the cup of tea was born. Whatever - but there is an interesting account of the story of tea to be found on www.tetley.co.uk/tetley_story - although this was not the source of material for this article. Most of us enjoy a cuppa and time once again to put the kettle on and make a nice cup of tea!



World Day of Prayer 2019

Come - Everything is Ready!

[A women led, global, ecumenical movement]

This year's service comes from the Christian women of Slovenia, one of the youngest (1991) and smallest countries in Europe. They encourage us to reflect on the barriers they have faced since the end of WW2 when their country was part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic. They share the challenges they have met and their hopes for the future. The service is based on the story Jesus told in Luke 14, 12-24 - about a man who made preparations for a great feast and invited guests to come. They made various excuses not to attend and the host was angry so he sent his servants to the streets and said "Bring in the poor, the lame and blind to enjoy this feast!" The point of the story is that if we invite our relatives or friends to a party we can reasonably expect to be repaid in kind, but if we invite the people who don't have anything at all we will be even more blessed when we get to heaven.

This year our service in Stockport will be held at:
Trinity Methodist Church, Bramhall Lane, Davenport
on 1st March 2019 at 2pm.
All are welcome!!

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries, beginning in Samoa and forming a wave of Prayer across time zones worldwide, finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later. **Do join us on 1st March at Trinity Methodist, in praying for the service and for the WDP movement. Thank you!** Catriona Smith

Love Despite Brexit?

Rev Paul Hardingham *considers the tensions that Brexit has caused.*

As we celebrate St Valentine's Day this month, how can we conduct this debate in a loving way? The Apostle Peter reminds us: '*Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the emperor.*' (1 Peter 2:17).

Respect everyone: However much we may disagree with another people's perspective, we should respect them. This applies even if they don't respect our views!

Love the church: Among the family of believers there should be an even greater respect for each other! The way we treat each other not only reveals the depth of our love; it will also cause people to glorify God and want to be part of the family.

Fear God: We must demonstrate our allegiance to God by putting Him first and following His leading. Of course, this doesn't stop Christians from having different opinions to each other.

Honour those in authority: We are called to honour those who are in authority over us '*for the Lord's sake*' (13). Even when we disagree with their decisions and actions, we should keep our respect and not speak ill of them.

Peter is calling us to live with the freedom to make up our own mind on Europe, while listening to what others say (16). '*A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.*' (Martin Luther).

Organised rain?

Canon David Winter

considers the weather.



Recently the weather men and women have taken to talking about 'organised' rain to be expected following drizzle on western parts. It's nonsense, of course. Rain isn't 'organised', it isn't 'tame'. Like all our weather it happens because of vast natural laws of nature, and there's precious little we can do about it. Pleasant summer sun can set fire to forests. The rain that nourishes our crops can turn to storms and floods. It's the disorganisation, or unpredictability, of weather that catches our attention.

The Psalms in the Bible are full of descriptions about the weather – the lightning and thunder, the gentle spring rain, the baking heat of midday and 'the barren and dry land where there is no water'. The weather is part of the mystery and unpredictability of life; the constantly moving background of life on earth.

In truth, it is the price we pay for living in our beautiful world, with its lakes and marshlands, deserts and rivers. It is the world we have from our Creator – green and pleasant sometimes, and wild and scary at others. The world is not a 'tame' place.

The Bible seems to think we should take the good with the bad – even the weather of February. As Psalm 148 says: 'Praise the Lord from the earth...fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!'

Or, as our grandmothers used to say: 'Whether the weather be cold or whether the weather be hot, we'll weather the weather whatever the weather, whether we like it – or not!'

The QWERTY keyboard



The inventor of the QWERTY keyboard – now almost universally adopted in English-speaking countries – was born 200 years ago, on 14th February 1819, in Pennsylvania. Christopher Latham Scholes was an Episcopalian who could

trace his ancestry back to two of the original Mayflower pilgrims, John and Priscilla Alden.

Although he did not invent the typewriter from scratch, Scholes was instrumental in developing a successful working model. Vital to this was his changing the keyboard, which was originally in alphabetical order but had a tendency to jam. Scholes rearranged the levers so that frequently used keys would not interfere with each other.

Scholes started out as a printer and then, after moving to Wisconsin, became a newspaper publisher. He served two terms as a Senator for Wisconsin, one as a Democrat and one as a Republican.

His typewriter was not a commercial success until he joined forces with the Remington company, selling them half his rights for \$12,000. In 1878 he added a shift key so that the writer could switch easily between capitals and lower-case letters. He died in 1890, probably of tuberculosis.

Saturday 9th February is National Pizza Day.



Seriously. No surprises for guessing that it has come over to us from the USA, and started here just last year, in 2018. Hundreds of pizza restaurants around the country cooked up special pizzas to celebrate the day.

Join us for a Pizza on Saturday, 9th February at the Nave Café 12.00 – 13.30

Sudoku

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

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National Nest Box Week: 14th – 21st February



If you like birds, now is the time to help the next generation get started. And so this month will see thousands of us shakily climbing ladders against the sides of our houses, garages and trees, to install cosy nest boxes. And soon our tenants will arrive: blue tits, robins, nuthatches, pied wag-tails, sparrows, to starlings, tawny owls and even great spotted wood-peckers.

National Nest Box Week was started by the British Trust for Ornithology in order to encourage the conservation of our breeding birds. Nest boxes are desperately needed, as natural nest sites for birds such as holes in trees or old buildings are disappearing fast, as gardens are 'tidied' and old houses are repaired.

It really is worth the trouble to put up a nest box. If you hang one within sight of your kitchen window, you will have hours of fun in observing the young feathered families.

You may find these links helpful: How to choose a nest box www.bto.org/about-birds/nnbw/buy-a-box. Where to put it: www.bto.org/about-birds/nnbw/putting-up-a-nest-box

Be my Valentine? *Tony Horsfall considers love and the fear of rejection.*

St Valentine's Day falls on 14th February and since the 18th Century has been associated with the declaration of love, albeit anonymously. Originally this might be through the offering of sweets or flowers, and now more commonly by the sending of an unsigned card.

One suggestion is that St Valentinus was a Roman Christian who performed weddings for soldiers in the Roman army, even though they were not permitted to marry. According to this story, Valentinus was sentenced to death for his offence, but during his imprisonment prayed for the blind daughter of his judge, who miraculously recovered. Before his execution he left her a note, which he signed 'Your Valentine.'

All of us long to know that we are loved by someone, but declaring our love to another is always a risky business since we may be rejected. They may consider us not attractive enough, or unsuitable in any number of other ways. The pain of unrequited love is indeed great, and so many of us hold back because of the fear of rejection.

One thing we can be sure of, however, is that we are loved by God. He loves us because He made us, and likes us as we are. He loves us because He gave His Son to die for us, and thought we were worthy of such a sacrifice. Here is One who knows everything about us and loves us just the same. His love is unchanging and unending and we need never fear His rejection.

Here is the best declaration of love ever made. God says to you, "I have loved you with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3)."



George Herbert

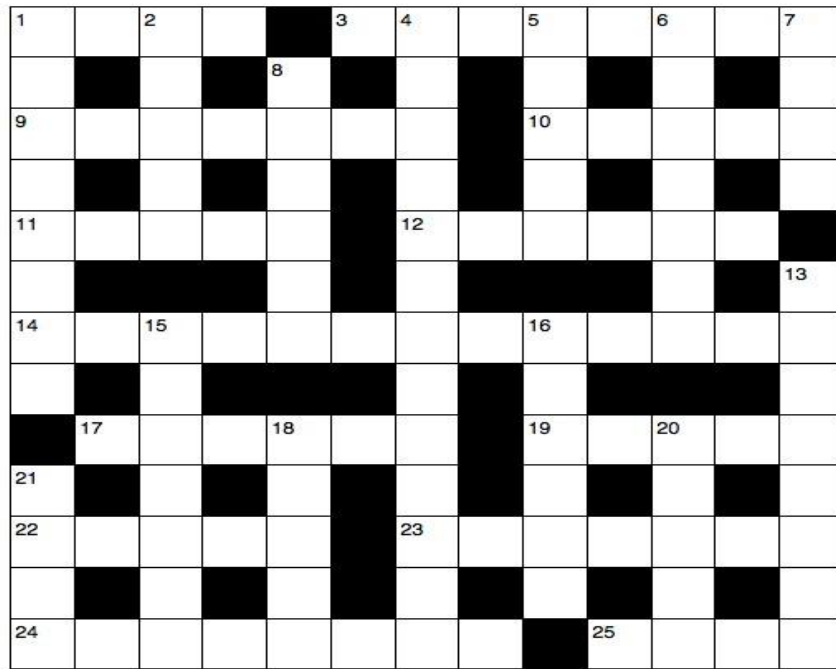
For those who are muttering 'never heard of him', just think of the hymn 'Let all the world/ In every corner sing', which he wrote, along with several other hymns which are still popular, even if they are well over 300 years old.



In the course of his short life he was a graduate of Cambridge University, a favoured politician of King James, a distinguished poet of the so-called 'metaphysical' school, and a much-loved parish priest at Bemerton, in Wiltshire. He was born in Wales but grew up in a wealthy family in England. As a student he felt called to ordination, but when he graduated he was drawn instead into the government of the time. As a protégé of King James (yes, the one of the 'King James Bible') he could have pursued a career in government, but that youthful call persisted and after a while he turned instead to the ministry of the Church of England. It was an era when many clergy were absentee incumbents, paying someone else to do the parish work while they lived elsewhere, but Herbert set himself to be a true parish priest, noted for his pastoral care and practical support of his parishioners. The whole of his ministry was fulfilled in that one parish, until he died at 39 from what we would now call tuberculosis.

It is of course his hymns for which he is chiefly remembered today, though his Collected Poems are also regarded as jewels of English poetry.

Crossword



Across

- 1 Salary (Isaiah 19:10) (4)
- 3 Question Jesus asked of those healed of leprosy, 'Were not all ten — ?' (Luke 17:17) (8)
- 9 Wide, elevated level area of land (Joshua 13:9) (7)
- 10 'So you also must be — , because the Son of Man will come... when you do not expect him' (Matthew 24:44) (5)
- 11 '[He] said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He — — , and his hand was completely restored' (Luke 6:10) (3,2)
- 12 'Who has gathered up the wind in the — of his hand?' (Proverbs 30:4) (6)
- 14 Not born again (13)
- 17 'Again and again he — the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins' (Hebrews 10:11) (6)

- 19 Mails (anag.) (5)
- 22 'He — — here; he has risen' (Matthew 28:6) (2,3)
- 23 Defeated (Judges 20:43) (7)
- 24 Soldiers' quarters (Acts 21:34) (8)
- 25 'Pillars of marble' were how the Beloved described those of her Lover (Song of Songs 5:15) (4)

Down

- 1 Totally destroyed (Genesis 7:23) (5,3)
- 2 What the Philippian jailer was told to do with his prisoners Paul and Silas (Acts 16:23) (5)
- 4 Object of ridicule (Job 12:4) (8-5)
- 5 In most years, the month in which Easter falls (5)
- 6 For example, Caesarea, Joppa, Tyre, Sidon (7)
- 7 '[Jesus] was in the desert for forty — , being tempted by Satan' (Mark 1:13) (4)
- 8 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power — to our God' (Revelation 19:1) (6)
- 13 Mend dots (anag.) (8)
- 15 Purifier (Malachi 3:3) (7)
- 16 Attacked (1 Samuel 27:8) (6)
- 18 The good Samaritan to the innkeeper: 'When I return, I will reimburse you for any — expense you may have' (Luke 10:35) (5)
- 20 How Matthew described the crowds who followed Jesus (Matthew 4:25) (5)
- 21 For example, one of 25 Across (Judges 19:29) (4)