



St Mary's in the Marketplace

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Rector:

Rev Roger Scoones

St Mary's Rectory
24 Gorsey Mount Street
Stockport
SK1 4DU
Tel: 0161 429 6564
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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 Lunch-time Service

Wedding, Baptism, Funeral and other services by arrangement with the Rector.

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

Readers contributions to the magazine are always welcome. Editorial discretion with regard to content and space available will apply.

web site: www.stmarysinthemarketplace.com

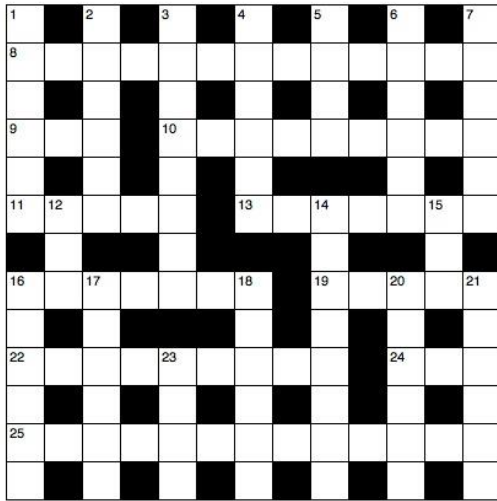


Stockport Parish Church St Mary's in the Marketplace

Parish Magazine September 2015

50p

your contribution towards the cost of producing this magazine
to be placed in the donations box please



Crossword

Across:

- 8 Where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)
 9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)
 10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ' (Malachi 1:3) (5)
 13 Where Paul said farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)

- 16 'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)
 19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)
 22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)
 24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)
 25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

Down:

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)
 2 See 24 Across
 3 Underground literature (including Christian books) circulated in the Soviet Union (8)
 4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)
 5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)
 6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)
 7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)
 12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)
 14 Second city of Cyprus (8)
 15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)
 16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)
 17 Braved (anag.) (6)
 18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)
 20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)
 21 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)
 23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

From the Rector's "i-pad"



Dear Reader

If you have been fortunate, as I have in recent months of travelling at home and abroad, you may have seen the harvest being brought in. The size of combined harvesters nowadays is a sight to behold. They are gigantic. However, when you consider the size of the fields in which they operate, it's not surprising really, especially on the Continent, where there is an almost total absence of hedgerows. Whether or not the field of wheat and barley have been harvested, the sight of hectares of "golden corn" standing upright in the blazing sun, and the miles of straight lines where the harvester has neatly and skilfully gathered up the crops is a most wonderful and moving aspect of rural life, at home and abroad. Harvest time is here again!

In the town centre it's perhaps harder to know how to celebrate Harvest Festival, since we are, relatively speaking, far away from those rolling acres of crops. It has been my observation over many years that a town centre church actually finds this "festival" in the church's calendar the most difficult to know how to handle. We put out tables and we fill them with tins, and we join with all the other churches in the area by swamping the Wellspring Centre with a much needed and much appreciated annual bonus. This year will be no different, and their needs are surely growing year by year. But that's about it. We leave it there.

The question is really whether Harvest Festival is about food or faith. Is it simply about collecting a few dozen tins and packets and passing them on to the Wellspring, or is it about faith? Anything that the church does should begin with faith. Faith in God to provide. In a simple form of words you will sometimes hear it said, at the Offering, "All things come from you, Lord, and of your own do we give you".

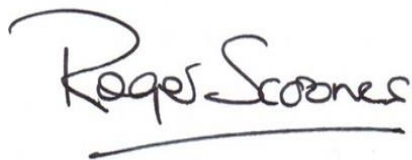
For the Christian this applies to our money as well as to the tins in our kitchen cupboards. It's about faith , and about a faith that actually brings results, and brings about changes in the way we live our lives towards God. Many years ago now, some one said to me " Roger, remember the Darmstadt Sisters!" And so I did, and the next day I found to my surprise that God had released public funds for me to enrol as a theological college student, a grant that would one day enable me to be ordained. God in action. They lived by faith in God , to provide for all their needs. He wanted to teach me that lesson too!

Harvest in the Church's life is also about people , a harvest of lives. Jesus said, The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore , to send out workers into the harvest field." Very few people find their own way into the life of church of their own accord. Most are invited by someone else, a Christian. Hence the harvest . A town centre church like ours actually has a lot going for it , on weekdays at least, because there are many people in town. By contrast on Sundays people seem to come to town for seeking something specific, like a shop, which doesn't necessarily include church! So the harvest of lives in a town centre church may look rather different than , say, a suburban or country parish church.

This month we celebrate Harvest Festival in the traditional way, with traditional hymns and the annual collection of "harvest gifts" for the Wellspring Centre, just across the road. The weekend before , we plan to celebrated Back to Church Sunday, and to bring in "a harvest of lives". We hope to see the Lord provide in a very special way!

My hope is that you will be part of our Harvest Festivals this month, and that you will join wholeheartedly in our celebrations. For as the Harvest hymn says... "All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above; then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love!"

Yours hopefully,





Operation Christmas Child

Once again we at St Mary's will be supporting the Operation Christmas Child project which collects gifts in shoe boxes for distributing to needy children around the world. The children who receive the gifts are identified by local Christian churches. In 2014 the boxes brought to St Mary's went to children in Zambia, and boxes processed from the Manchester area were also sent to Belarus, Romania, Swaziland and Central Asia.

The children who receive the boxes will never before have had any gifts, often never having had their own toys to play with. In many of the countries they can only go to school if they have their own paper, pens and other educational supplies.

Please will you help by packing a "shoe box" and bring it to St Mary's in November. It is now time to collect items. Leaflets giving details of how to prepare a box and some empty boxes will be available in the hospitality area near the Nave Café.

If you are unable to make up your own box, will you help by bringing suitable items, as listed in the leaflet, and leave these in the hospitality area for extra boxes to be made up. Alternatively a donation towards transportation of the boxes may be given to Margaret Forster or Irene Hamnett.

Thank You

Margaret Forster
Registered Volunteer for OCC

St Mary's in the Marketplace, Stockport – September 2015

Tuesday, 1 st Sept	Service of Holy Communion Lunch-time Service	10.00am 12.15pm
Sunday, 6 th Sept	Service of Morning Prayer	10.30am
Tuesday, 8 th Sept	Service of Holy Communion Lunch-time Service	10.00am 12.15pm
Thursday, 10 th Sept	Heritage Open Day	
Friday, 11 th Sept	Heritage Open Day	
Saturday, 12 th Sept	Heritage Open Day Nave Café Social Event	
Sunday, 13 th Sept	Heritage Open Day (church open 10am-4pm) Service of Holy Communion	10.30am
Tuesday, 15 th Sept	Service of Holy Communion Lunch-time Service	10.00am 12.15pm
Sunday, 20 th Sept	Back to Church Sunday An open invitation to our special service of Morning Prayer. An opportunity to invite someone you feel would like the opportunity to return to Church.	10.30am
Tuesday, 22 nd Sept	Service of Holy Communion Lunch-time Service [collection point for Wellspring Harvest]	10.00am 12.15pm
Saturday, 26 th Sept	Harvest Weekend [collection point for Wellspring Harvest]	
Sunday, 27 th Sept	Service of Holy Communion Harvest Sunday Nave Café Harvest Lunch	10.30am 1.00pm

Look out for:

A “young refugee mural” to be exhibited in the South Aisle [Arc]

“Unpicked & Re-stitched” - Display of writing and photography [Arc]

Introducing Holly Tina...



We were all sorry to hear that Marion's little Yorkshire Terrier “Holly” was no longer with us, but “young paws” are now running around in the form of “Tina” - in the process of changing her name to avoid confusion! Holly Tina is new companion for Marion and a new friend to the youngsters at St Mary's. Shown here (left) with Kenneth and (below) with Kenneth & Emily, we are certain this little dog will be a regular visitor!



Returned to “mum” -
Marion with Tina in the Nave Café

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 8, Kiriath Jearim. 9, Toe. 10, Ill at ease. 11, Hated. 13, Miletus. 16, Started. 19, Micah. 22, Leviticus. 24, Eli. 25, Mary and Joseph.

DOWN: 1, Sketch. 2, Priest. 3, Samizdat. 4, Shalom. 5, Wept. 6, Breast. 7, Embers. 12, Art. 14, Limassol. 15, UNA. 16, Salome. 17, Adverb. 18, Decade. 20, Clever. 21, Height. 23, Tear.

10th - 13th September
Heritage Open Days

Normal Opening Thursday & Friday

Saturday:

- > "Early Bird Breakfast" 08.30am-10.30am in the quiet of St Mary's.
- > As the day continues we'll be serving coffee and cakes (as well as our normal morning snacks) - time to wander round the Church and visit Stockport Heritage Trust. If you are participating in "Ride and Stride" time to take a break and enjoy a well earned rest.
- > Look out for our Heritage Lunch Special served from 12.00 noon-2.00pm.
- > We will continue our day serving tea/coffee and cake from 2pm to 4pm closing later than normal.

BUFFET BANQUET ST MARY'S STYLE

7.30pm Ticket Entry: £12.50 [Book early]

Sunday

Service of Holy Communion 10.30am after which St Mary's will remain open until 3.30pm with the cafe serving light refreshments 12.00 noon - 3.00pm

We've re-stocked.....

Only this time we have changed our selection and excluded the not too popular sweets and chocolates.



Clotted Cream Shortbread is back along with Clotted Cream Fudge. Red Onion Chutney returns with Caramelised Onion Chutney. We have Lemon Cheese, Marmalade, Honey and a special Strawberry and Champaign Preserve. Our biscuit selection includes Orange Crunch, Choc Chip and Stem Ginger.

All available in the Stockport Heritage Centre Shop.

A treat for yourself or a gift for a friend...

.... we really need your support

Orange Crunch Biscuits	£3.40
Chocolate Chip Biscuits	£3.40
Stem Ginger Biscuits	£3.40
Clotted Cream Shortbread	£3.40
Summer Blossom Honey	£3.50
Strawberry & Champagne Preserve	£2.95
English Marmalade	£2.95
Caramelised Onion Chutney	£2.95
Sweet Red Onion Chutney	£2.95
Clotted Cream Handmade Fudge	£2.30

Our goods are supplied from Farrah's of Harrogate [established in 1840]

It's that time of year, for harvesting the fruit in the garden.

In this case the Rectory garden, where green fingered Margaret Forster uses her horticultural skills and enthusiasm by picking and pruning the Red and Black currant bushes for Roger (and with him when he's free!) Margaret then converts the fruit into delicious jam. She looks happy enough. Another seasonal job well done!



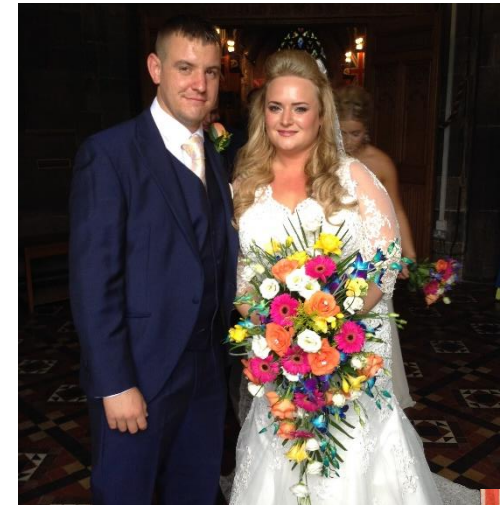
Harvest Weekend – 26th & 27th September

Don't forget our Harvest Produce Stall on Saturday and Harvest Sunday Service / Harvest Sunday Lunch.

Collection point for Harvest Gifts to The Wellspring
(Tuesday 22nd – Sunday 27th)

August Weddings at St Mary's

– and both on the same day!



Grace Emily Beedles
to
Samual Ian Hewitt

Peter Edric Cox
to
Suzanne Louise Grant

Congratulations and Best
Wishes to Mr & Mrs Hewitt
and Mr & Mrs Cox



Afternoon Tea at St Mary's Rectory



The menu this year consisted of coronation chicken wraps, ham triangles, tuna and sweetcorn half baps, fairy cakes, flapjacks and Cornish cream scones with raspberry seedless jam, whipped cream and fresh strawberries!

The weather was perfect and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent in the Rectory garden.

Our outdoor service gave "thanks" and indeed we had much to be thankful for.



The day concluded with our annual BBQ, with thanks to Ray for taking charge of the outdoor cooking.



"A Season of Invitation" the new initiative from Back To Church Sunday



Back to Church Sunday is not a new initiative, but one which began in 2004 within the Diocese of Manchester, adopted by many church groups over the years, allowing for an annual opportunity for churches across the UK and abroad to invite people to church. Ten years later and a new approach has emerged – why just one single invitation a year - why not "A SEASON OF INVITATION"! The reason for this change being that research has shown that people are much more likely to come to church and keep coming if they're invited several times.



Before we get ahead of ourselves and think too far ahead, **time to concentrate on "Back to Church Sunday 2015"**.

Did you invite a friend to "Back to Church Sunday" last year? – probably not, but this year the St Mary's GAP Team are taking a positive approach and will not allow Stockport Parish Church to miss out on a great opportunity. We will be **INVITING PEOPLE TO JOIN US FOR OUR SPECIAL SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER** to be held at 10.30am on the 20TH SEPTEMBER.

Where to start? – Well there are those who may have been to church before (maybe for a wedding, baptism or funeral), or people that we know attended church when they were younger but haven't been back since, or those who have simply got out of the habit of going to church, and those who have thought it is something they should look into, but so far haven't and need to find an entry point.

We can all do our bit... The Rector, Wardens and Parochial Church Council will be sending out personal invitations but YOU can do that too. Why not invite someone to attend church with you on the 20th September.



St Mary's in the Marketplace Sunday, 20th September 2015

**Back to Church Sunday
Special Sunday Service of
Morning Prayer
10.30am**

EVERYONE WELCOME



Coming in October

"Unpicked:Restitched" Textile Workshop(s)

Thursday, 1st, 8th & 15th October

Writer, Sarah Butler, and textile artist, Julie Mosley, have been commissioned by arts and wellbeing organisation Arc to create a series of large scale textile banners to be exhibited at Arc@CastleYard, Arc's new arts centre in central Stockport.

[please note that our normal craft group will not be inconvenienced]

Extracts from the Treasurers Report (Half-Year ending June 2015)

Our half-year financial review doesn't make easy reading, quite the opposite, it is most depressing and of great concern to all of us. We simply have to raise considerably more regular income if we are to pay our way and aim for financial security.

For anyone who read the Year End 2014 Treasurers Report and/or Annual Report you would note that we were to a degree holding our own on the business account, but being fully aware of a range of expenditure items identified by our Insurers or listed within the last quinquennial report as essential, that we had simply been unable to undertake. Unfortunately this position remains the same another six-months down the line, the situation made worse with a failed heating system and increased maintenance bills.

The figures speak for themselves.....

Position Statement 30th June 2015

Opening Balance		£13,552.47
add Income Received		<u>£35,797.13</u>
Total amount held in Business Account		£49,349.60
less - Actual Expenditure	£43,594.37	
Commitments to half-year end	<u>£4,174.20</u>	<u>£47,768.57</u>
Funds remaining		<u>£1,581.03</u>

Analysis of Income:

Planned Giving	£7,543.00
Plate collection(s) - Collections in church	£1,182.30
Donations	£4,467.04
Refreshments	£9,306.00
Candles	£908.36
Commercial Sales (except candles)	£328.00
Assigned Fees (incl. Organist/service sheets/expenses)	£2,467.00
Stockport Heritage Trust - Rent for use of St Mary's	£1,040.00
Events and Special collections	£2,117.70
St Andrews Hire (Qtr 1)	£3,680.00
Treasury Stock	£2,750.00

Interest payments £7.73

£35,797.13

Analysis of Expenditure:

Receipts for immediate transfer (non Business ACCOUNT)	£6,723.42
Maintenance St Andrews	£848.52
Maintenance St Marys	£8,147.85
Operating Expenses including office exp, printing, telecoms etc	£2,943.96
Commercial Expenses including candles, cards etc	£675.26
Organist Fees	£310.00
Assigned Fees payable to CDBF	£1,695.00
Insurance	£3,432.49
Electric- St Andrews	£240.00
Electric - St Marys	£1,730.11
Gas - St Andrews	£1,868.23
Gas - St Marys	£3,900.00
Parish Share	£9,000.00
Water Services	£302.98
Council Tax	£494.24
Nave Café	£5,456.51

£47,768.57

Summary of Income / Expenditure

INCOME	£35,797.13
less EXPENDITURE & COMMITMENTS	<u>-£47,768.57</u>
SHORTFALL	<u>-£11,971.44</u>

We have three main areas of concern – maintenance costs at St Mary's having already paid in excess of £6K on replacement parts for the heating system, repairs to underfloor pipework and consultancy fees for the professional service of a specialist heating engineer. We now find ourselves with a major leak on pipework out of reach of any inspection hatch or grill. We face an immediate charge of around £3K to isolate that area of pipework with no guarantee that will cure the immediate problem even on a temporary basis, and face the reality of having to find in the region of £50K plus VAT and professional fees

Many of you have asked what is happening regarding the restoration and conservation project (Phase 6).

We hope that Phase 6 will continue to a swift conclusion as soon as new contractors are engaged and on site. Work continues in the background as our Architect explores the best way forward. We can but hope to hear the sound of banging and clanging very soon!

As far as our external funding is concerned the original deadline for completion of the project was September 2015 but it is highly unlikely that all the work will be completed by then, making it necessary for us to apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for an extension to the contract period. There will be additional costs to be incurred, which is of course regrettable, and we are at this stage unsure if the funding we have will be sufficient to cover all the costs which will now be incurred. We just have to wait for revised figures to be produced by our Quantity Surveyor and adjust our calculations accordingly.

We'll keep you informed as to developments!

Bible Study Group(s)

St Mary's

Tuesday 1.30pm

St Andrews

Thursday, 7.00pm



Both sessions start again in September after the summer break – if you are interested in joining either group just turn up! (although both occasionally take a vacation so you may wish to check first that the session you would like to attend is running). No pressure – just the opportunity to share the experience of exploring the Bible in a group setting.

If you need any further information please speak to Rita Waters (Tuesday Group) and Adam Pinder/Catriona Smith (Thursday Group).

It never rains but it pours.... but in our case it rained and then it poured.

It all started with a drip and ended up with water cascading down the wall, under the Gallery floor, down the pillar near the kitchen door AND through the kitchen light fittings into various pots and pans. Every bucket, bowl and storage box was out collecting the water as it travelled down the church at an alarming rate!

Caused, it would seem, from a problem with a down spout, cleared by roofing contractors later in the day. The waterfall ceased, then came the task of damage limitation and clearing up the mess.

We apologise for those who may have visited St Mary's, Stockport Heritage Trust and the Nave Café to find us closed for a couple of days, or those who attended Tuesday services after the "flood" to find a reduced service in the café whilst electric installations could be checked before our Pure Innovations team returned.



Good can come from bad of course, giving us the opportunity to clear the decks and start again. The store room for the café had to be emptied as the water poured through, but now it is reorganised and all our banqueting supplies neatly stacked away. The kitchen and everything in it "deep cleaned". We were very fortunate, and thankful that damage was minimal, it could have been a whole lot worse! Shown in the photo Ann and Isobel viewing the store room.

to replace all underfloor pipework. Let's face it they are around 130 years old, made of cast iron and there remains a load of lead piping down there. It's a specialist job! On the up side, once completed we could expect to make a considerable saving on running costs in the future.

Secondly, and still concerning the heating, we have an outstanding gas bill of £6324.70 which means that our supplier is increasing our monthly direct debit. We are looking at a massive increase per month for energy (gas and electric) alone at St Mary's. We already know that water services are "under-collected" and direct debit charges will increase later in the year.

Third on the list of underpayments and increasing arrears is of course the "Parish Share". We continue to pay well under the amount due increasing our debt to the Diocese on a monthly basis.

We still have the list of items outstanding from last year (many of which are now well overdue for action and likely to cause us future difficulties). We have a failing electrical system (in need of re-wiring) and insufficient cash-flow to even re-bulb the lights in the Nave and Memorial Chapel – let alone the lighting in the Chancel.

These are worrying times financially and every penny we can raise is important to us.

We can ask our congregation to increase their planned giving, but hope that (if they can) they will automatically do so. We can ask for donations at every opportunity, we can consider fund raising and to increase our events schedule. The Rector, Warden and other Parochial Church Council members are thinking and pondering and praying for a solution to this problem. Every penny really does count! Can YOU help us find a solution to our financial difficulties?