



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Chester



St Mary's in the Marketplace

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Rector:

Rev Roger Scoones

St Mary's Rectory

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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 July 2015



50p

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

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

Thursday, 2 nd July	Bible Study at St Andrews	07.00pm
Sunday, 5 th July	Holy Communion	10.30am
Tuesday, 7 th July	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00am 12.15pm
Thursday, 9 th July	Bible Study at St Andrews	07.00pm
Sunday, 12 th July	Morning Prayer Sea Sunday	10.30am
Tuesday, 14 th July	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00am 12.15pm
Thursday, 16 th July	Bible Study at St Andrews	07.00pm
Sunday, 19 th July	Holy Communion & Baptism	10.30am
Tuesday, 21 st July	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00am 12.15pm
Thursday, 23 rd July	Bible Study at St Andrews	07.00pm
Sunday, 26 th July	Morning Prayer	10.30am

We are taking a break from events during July and hope to make the most of some warm summer weather to take a little time out. For those going on holiday (either at home or away) have a lovely time!

Our thanks to Rita Waters, Andy Williams, David Brewster, Myles Owen and Ken Kenrick for covering services whilst Roger is on leave.

Cover design from Cliparts.co

Going, going and gone (reduced to a pile of wood chips)...



Following on from our tree emergency on Whit Sunday the guys from Solutions SK have returned and cleared up the mess.

We are delighted to have been informed by Senior Arboriculture and Habitat Officer, Anthony Crook, that all is well with the rest of tree so no further work is necessary at this time. Our tree will continue to be checked on a regular basis to ensure it remains healthy and safe.

We have recently been informed that the Diocesan Chancellor has authorised (subject to some conditions) Stockport Council to replace the temporary fencing backing on to the car park (to prevent access to the overgrown/unsafe grave stone area) with a more permanent fixture. No timetable received yet as to when this work will take place.

15th July St Swithun (or Swithin) - saint for a rainy day

St Swithun is apparently the saint you can blame for rainy summers. It is said that if it rains on his special day, 15 July, it will then rain for forty days after that. It all began when he was made Bishop of Winchester in 852 by King Ethelwulf of Wessex. It was an important posting: Winchester was the capital of Wessex, and during the 10 years Swithun was there, Wessex became the most important kingdom of England.

During his life, instead of washing out people's summer holidays, and damping down their spirits, Swithun seems to have done a lot of good. He was famous for his charitable gifts and for his energy in getting churches built. When he was dying in 862, he asked that he be buried in the cemetery of the Old Minster, just outside the west door. If he had been left there in peace, who knows how many rainy summers the English may have been spared over the last 1000 years. But, no, it was decided to move Swithun. By now, the 960s, Winchester had become the first monastic cathedral chapter in England, and the newly installed monks wanted Swithun in the cathedral with them. So finally, on 15 July 971, his bones were dug up and Swithun was translated into the cathedral.

That same day many people claimed to have had miraculous cures. Certainly everyone got wet, for the heavens opened. The unusually heavy rain that day, and on the days following, was attributed to the power of St Swithun. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation, and restored in 1962. There are 58 ancient dedications to Swithun in England.

**'St. Swithin's day if thou dost rain
For forty days it will remain
St. Swithin's day if thou be fair
For forty days 'twill rain nae mair.'**

Rector's "i-pad"

Dear Reader



This month is going to be a month of celebrations in more than one family in the Parish.

On the 19th, Gaby , a former Churchwarden, and Martin bring their infant son Viktor, to be Christened at St. Mary's . On the 27th Edna Bradshaw, who with her son David have been coming to St.Mary's for many years, celebrates her 80th Birthday. On the 1st August, having made all their preparations in July, Sam will marry Grace and Peter will marry Suzanne, on the same day, both brides having had long family ties with St. Mary's. Oh happy days!

The church in the Marketplace, St. Mary's, the old Parish Church of Stockport, has seen countless baptisms, weddings and funerals over many generations. This generation has sadly seen a steep decline in baptisms, church weddings and church funerals. As a result the parish priest has seen a dwindling of natural contact with the community, which justifies smooth speaking undertakers in saying "do you know the Vicar; if not we will find one for you!" And plush hotels saying " we can cater for your every need. From the wedding to the reception!"

The Press doesn't help by spinning the words of retired Archbishops, who are quoted as saying that if the decline continues at the present rate the Church of England will be extinct in a few years time! He probably didn't say that, but the papers are prone to misquote people in order to make a good story or an outrageous headline, as in that case. But there is some truth in what he had said, of course.

No one can deny that numerically, in some places, indeed in some parts of a town or borough or county, the Church of England looks very weak. St. Mary's is a good example of that on a Sunday morning, with 25 worshippers rattling around in a building designed to seat hundreds. And before anyone says "well, it's because no one lives in the town centre anymore" let me remind you, dear Reader, of two facts of life. Firstly, that the number of people living within half a mile, within walking distance of the church, has risen dramatically in the past couple of years, with new flats and houses having been built on brownfield sites. And secondly, to scotch that feeble explanation, which has been offered to me so many times over the past 18 years, I invite you to come and observe the number of cars that literally fill up the car park on Sundays nowadays, sometimes making it impossible even for me, the Rector, to park, if I'm down to church late! It's full, because people DRIVE into town on a Sunday! And so they do, to attend most churches in the country, in towns and in the country!

At the beginning of this happy and hopefully sunny month of July, I would simply like to say THANK YOU to those good people who chose to come to St. Mary's on a Sunday and those who chose to come to church on a Tuesday; and thank you to those who chose to have their children baptised at St. Mary's and those who chose to get married at St. Mary's; and thank you to those folk who chose to hold a funeral for a friend or family member in church, before proceeding to the Crematorium.

Over the past 18 years I have witnessed a dramatic decline in all of these services(which are traditionally known as Occasional Offices) and consequently in the role which I, as a Parish Priest, am required to play in the community.

It has saddened me to see the changes in attitude and response to the church and to the Christian Faith in general. It has saddened me to lose touch with so many members of the community, of which

In case you were wondering why the heating was turned off during a cold spell....

Although it was June, when you do not normally intend running the central heating system, St Mary's has been plunged into the cold due to pipework problems under the floor.

It's an expensive business heating St Mary's at the best of times, but having paid £5,853.73 for servicing, two replacement parts and the repair of two leaks to underfloor pipework and the inspection of others, we are out of cash and have been forced to stop any further work(s) to repair other identified underfloor leakages. The problem is serious, it would mean a specialist company taking up parts of the floor in order to gain access to what are approximately 130 year old cast iron pipes – and we don't know at this stage how many leaks remain – we know of two serious ones, both out of reach from the inspection grills and we suspect there are others. There is no alternative now but to switch everything off and seek expert help. We are therefore in the process of engaging the services of a heating advisor familiar with systems and situation such as ours.

We may have temporarily stopped the gushing of water flowing into our foundations but our "cash flow" is just as worrying, with the balance at the bank decreasing seriously. We now have a severe cash crisis with other essential maintenance and running expenses etc. put on hold.

So if you were wondering why it is getting darker by the week – even replacement light bulbs are a "no go" at the moment – as we anxiously await news as the amount we owe for electricity this quarter – a high meter reading as it includes power used for the building works to the vestries - our present commitments without doubt exceed the cash we have available to pay for them.


These are worrying times financially!



Our 2015 Plant Sale has raised £70 towards Church Funds. Many thanks to organiser Rita Waters and for all those who donated and/or bought plants from our well stocked tables. The remaining plants will remain at St Mary's – planted out in the flower beds around the church, so we look forward to them growing and flowering for us all to enjoy.

Sunday, 2nd August 2015 St Mary's Rectory



Annual Afternoon Tea	3pm onwards	Ticket	£6.50
Outdoor Service	5pm		
BBQ	6pm	Ticket	£7.50
		Buy both tickets are save £1	£13.00

I have loved being a part, and seeing the church diminishing by degrees, year by year.

HOWEVER, I will NOT be deterred , NOR will I be distracted from my calling as your Rector and Parish Priest to preach the Word of God and to celebrate the Sacraments here in the centre of Stockport, and to pastor the flock, to which I was clearly called by God in 1996! I would covet your prayers for the church,

St. Mary's , for it's congregations, and for its witness and ministry to the community, to Stockport and to visitors from near and far away! We will not allow ourselves to become extinct, will we??!!

We have a Gospel to proclaim !

"NOTHING will separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:39) so let's CELEBRATE, friends, let's BE GLAD in our faith and in our church's life, let's be HAPPY this July and in the years ahead !

Yours optimistically and enthusiastically in Christ.

Roger Scoones

Café notice: Saturday, 1st August

Due to two wedding services taking place at St Mary's, please note that the Nave Café will be open 9.00am – 11.00am only for tea/coffee and light refreshments (no hot food). Apologies for any inconvenience.

A Word Teaser

Listed below are seven words.

The challenge is to work out the link between them.

The words are:

Banana

Dresser

Grammar

Potato

Revive

Uneven

Assess

The link isn't that they all have at least two double letters. So what is it?

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Poynton MVC

It may have been a cold June evening but a warm St Mary's welcome to Poynton Male Voice Choir.

It was a most enjoyable programme of music performed by the Choir with Musical Director Eileen Rigg (who also give us a Contralto Solo), Accompanist Joyce Deighton (who entertained us with a Piano Solo) and Compere Graham Jones.

Baritone Sole - Nigel Burin; Clarinet Solo - Valerie Jones; Tenor Solo - David Williams, and Baritone Solo- Jim Cullen.

memory, and its Members duly marked their own 150th Anniversary in the church on 24th June 2007.

This month ,therefore ,sees the 150th Anniversary of the events of that fateful climb, which will be fittingly marked by week-long celebrations in Zermatt , including the lighting up , on July 14th,of the exact route taken by those intrepid climbers. On Sunday 11th July the whole community will observe a Day of Contemplation and in the morning there will be a great eceumenical service held high up on the mountain slopes . On the same evening , at 6.30pm, there will be a special service in St.Peter's Church to mark the Whympers expedition, followed by light refreshments.

Roger Scoones, who has himself served as an I.C.S.chaplain in Zermatt, together with Mrs. Maggie Gerber, church warden of St.Barnard's, the English Church in Wengen, will be attending the service , while he is on holiday. They will undoubtedly help the Chaplain, Rev. Alan Purser, in his duties. Roger has recalled previously that " the presence of the seasonal chaplain and his Christian friends at Zermatt led him to find a new life in Christ".

(Taken from I.C.S. magazine articles and publicity about the 140 th Anniversary of the church)

Rev. Roger Scoones

Crossword answers:

ACROSS: 1, Sabbatical. 7, Opinion. 8, Laing. 10, Olga. 11, Galilean. 13, Sardis. 15, Severe. 17, Adultery. 18, Flea. 21, Swazi. 22, Acetate. 23, Revelation. DOWN: 1, Sling. 2, Brim. 3, Annual. 4, Ill-timed. 5, Abilene. 6, Colossians. 9, Gennesaret. 12, Diatribe. 14, Roulade. 16, Errata. 19, Learn. 20, Levi.

A Word Teaser - The link is this:

If you take the first letter, place it at the end of the word and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word. Simple as that!)



"Climbing the Matterhorn"- 150th Anniversary of the Matterhorn Ascent.

Just after midday on 14th July 1865, a British party of climbers consisting of Edward Whymper, Lord Francis Douglas, the Revd Charles Hudson, Douglas Hadow, two Swiss guides and one French guide, reached the summit of the Matterhorn.

They were the first climbers to do so, narrowly eating an Italian group. Sadly, disaster struck during the afternoon descent. A slip occurred on the most dangerous section of the mountain, the rope broke, and Lord Douglas, Hadow, Hudson and the French guide fell to their deaths on the North Face. News of the tragedy spread far and wide, and it has been said that 'the whole of Europe talked about it'. Queen Victoria, however, was not amused! Earlier that year an appeal had been launched for the building of an English Church at Zermatt. Services had been held in Zermatt's Monte Rosa and Mont Cervin hotels since 1858, but increasing numbers meant that a church building was needed. Prompted by this tragedy, the Colonial and Continental Church Society (now known as the Intercontinental Church Society - I.C.S) purchased a site, and planning for a church continued. On 29th June 1869 (St. Peter's Day) the foundation stone was laid, and on 29th June 1870 the church opened for services.

This historic chapel contains many plaques commemorating those who have died in Zermatt or who have made a significant contribution to the work of St. Peter's, that of Charles Hudson, eg the Anglican Minister who died in the 1865 Matterhorn disaster. His remains now lie beneath the communion table. The church possess the Bible and Prayer Book used by Hudson whilst a military chaplain in the Crimean War. A new memorial to those who died in the first successful (though tragic) ascent of the Matterhorn was dedicated on the 125th Anniversary in 1990. Since it was first opened the Alpine Club of Great Britain has held St. Peter's church high in its affections and

Poverty Sunday

Many thanks to those of you who supported our Frugal Lunch in aid of the Church Urban Fund.

All "on the day" contributions gratefully received with the collection box left open for anyone else wishing to contribute to this vital work of tackling poverty. For those able to "gift aid" their contribution this will of course increase the amount collected by the Church Urban Fund by another 25p per £ donated.

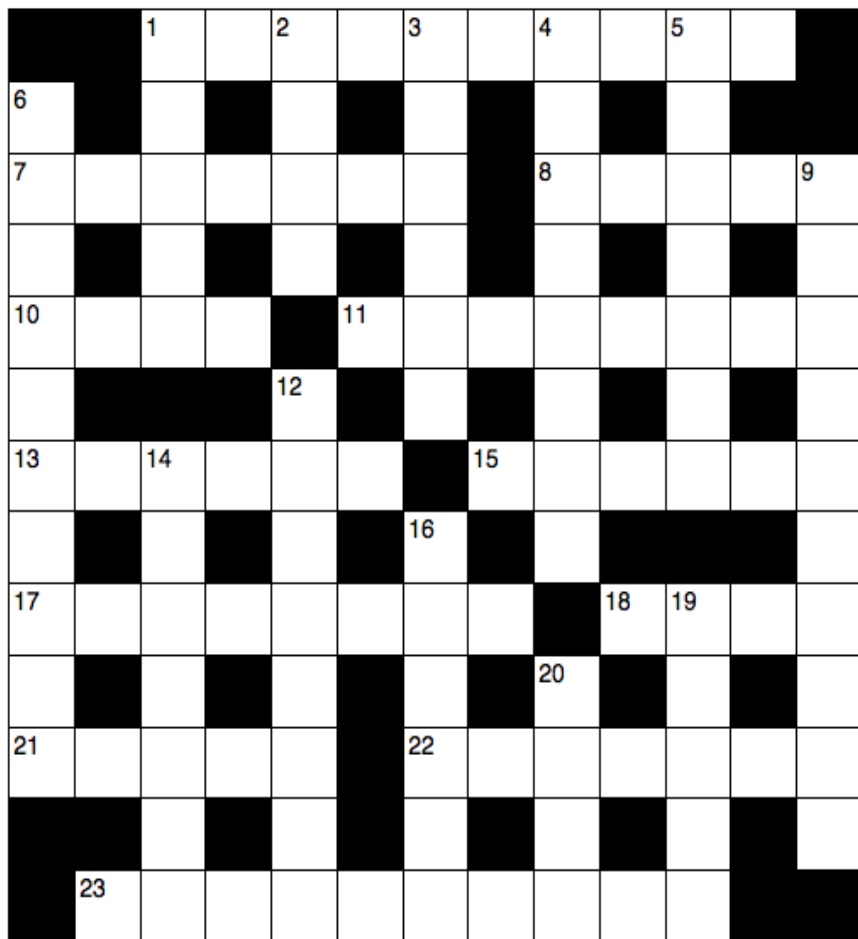
Poverty is Real...

Millions of adults and children in this county are living in poverty. Poverty is about working

long hours yet being paid such a low wage that you still can't feed your family and are forced to turn to food banks. Poverty can also be about feeling isolated and lacking the people around you who will support you through the difficult times. Issues of low income, debt, lack of skills, poor mental health and isolation are complex and closely interlinked, trapping individuals and whole communities in a web of poverty...



Crossword



Across

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
- 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
- 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John — (5)
- 10 Girl's name (4)

- 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)
- 13 The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1–6) (6)
- 15 'Now the famine was — in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
- 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)
- 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
- 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
- 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)
- 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

Down

- 1 The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
- 2 'Your vats will — over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
- 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
- 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
- 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
- 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
- 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1–11) (10)
- 12 Abusive outburst (8)
- 14 Are loud (anag.) (7)
- 16 Printing errors (6)
- 19 'Take my yoke upon you and — from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
- 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)

The Nave Café Our café is run to the highest possible standard and we take very seriously the “food hygiene” regulations and guidelines set by the Food Standards Agency.

TWO St Mary’s Volunteers presently hold the required Food Hygiene Qualification needed to run the café and have since “Day 1” attempted to ensure that one or other of us was around at all times. Since then, our Pure Innovations “Duty Managers” have been allowed to set time aside in their busy work schedules to ensure that they also hold the relevant qualifications and certificates to manage café projects. They are, of course, fully responsible for the supervision/training of their clients and to ensure that all requirements are complied with at all times. Pure Innovations are therefore able to run the café with minimal assistance from Church volunteers (except in a supporting role as needed) during the week.

Saturday Café is run solely by Church Volunteers – which means that one or the other of us has to be in attendance all the time when the café is open. We could do with a little help, to split up the duties, and ask if anyone would be interested in taking the Food Hygiene Certificate Level 2 course – which can easily be done on-line in a few sessions.

Added to this is the general catering assistance that is needed in the kitchen – we urgently need Saturday help - washing up, taking money, serving customers, clearing and sanitising tables, clearing up when the café closes - washing down surfaces, sweeping and mopping of floors, clearing the fridges, emptying the bins etc. Extra help with the laundry (required on a daily basis) also appreciated. No formal qualifications are required to support us, just the ability to commit some time on a regular basis and be part of the Saturday “Café Rota”.

Saturday Café Volunteers Needed. Can YOU (or do you know anyone else who could) give us a hand...

Undoubtedly Don's greatest "tour de force" each year was the Christmas Programme, the details of which he skilfully crammed on to two huge sheets, with seasonal decorations and greetings to add to their impressive display of information .

And it was all done in his garden shed! Other posters were asked for by the Rector throughout the year, which Don duly supplied, even when the answer to the question When do you want them by? was a sheepish Tomorrow?! He never let the Rector down! It was a marvellous working relationship!

Sadly Don's health declined in recent years, although with the help of regular exercise regimes Don was able to keep active beyond a heart attack. His final work for St. Mary's is still present in the notice boards outside the church, an eloquent, silent testimony to the man who gave so much to the church, out of the goodness of his heart.

Don Taylor was a fine and talented artist and a generous and thoughtful friend of St. Mary's , of whom the church and the wider community, both in the Town Centre and further afield in South Reddish, should be rightly proud and grateful.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his widow Beryl and her family in their loss.

Roger Scoones
Rector

St Marys in the Marketplace

SUNDAY 23 AUGUST 2015 10.30am



'Goodbye Stockport'

A service to mark the 70th anniversary

of the return home of the Channel Island evacuees
in August 1945



One of St.Mary's most generous and creative Patrons has died. Probably unknown to all but a handful of those who have any link with the Parish Church, Don Taylor has contributed more in time and creative effort towards the life of the church than many do in a lifetime. And yet Don never once attended a church service at St.Mary's, which may surprise some.

Don was keen and active in his garden, which lay alongside his garden shed ,a haven of work and a hive of industry ,which was more like the studio of a Great Master, with art and craft facilities and creations filling every nook and cranny and surface. Don rejoiced in creating special effects in his art, using multi coloured screen print processes, and his distinctive style of art was influenced by Modernists such the Swiss painter Klimt, whom he greatly admired.

As a result of this extra ordinary gift, the church benefitted from this man's painstaking skill and ingenuity in providing St.Mary's with posters of the highest professional, artistic quality for many years, at no cost to the Church.

[subject to amendment as required] For updated information check our web-site on www.stmarysinthemarketplace.com

Saturday, 8th August – a social evening with holidays in mind – come fly and dine with us. Book Early.....

As Summer draws to a close and we turn back the clocks this will be an evening of “Autumn Thoughts”. Think of Autumn colours and bring with you something that reminds you of this season of the year. A photograph maybe or a painting – perhaps one you have painted yourself! Some special needlework or other craft item. Our evening menu will incorporate seasonal items too!

Our Christmas Programme is already quite full – an evening of festive cheer and relaxation before the season really gets into full swing...

All evening events start at 7.30pm

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Sunday, 27th September Harvest Lunch 1.00pm
Tickets: £12.00