



Diocese of Chester

## STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH

### St Mary's in the Marketplace

Churchgate, Stockport, SK1 1YG .

Tel: 0161 480 1815

St Mary's with St Andrew's Parish Office

St Andrew's Community Church, Hall Street, Stockport, SK1 4DA.

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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

**Please note that from June 2019 our opening hours will change :  
10.00am – 3.00pm Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday**

*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](http://www.parishpump.co.uk). Electronic copy available on pdf format via the church website.*



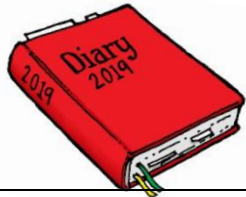
STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH

*[St Mary's in the Marketplace]*

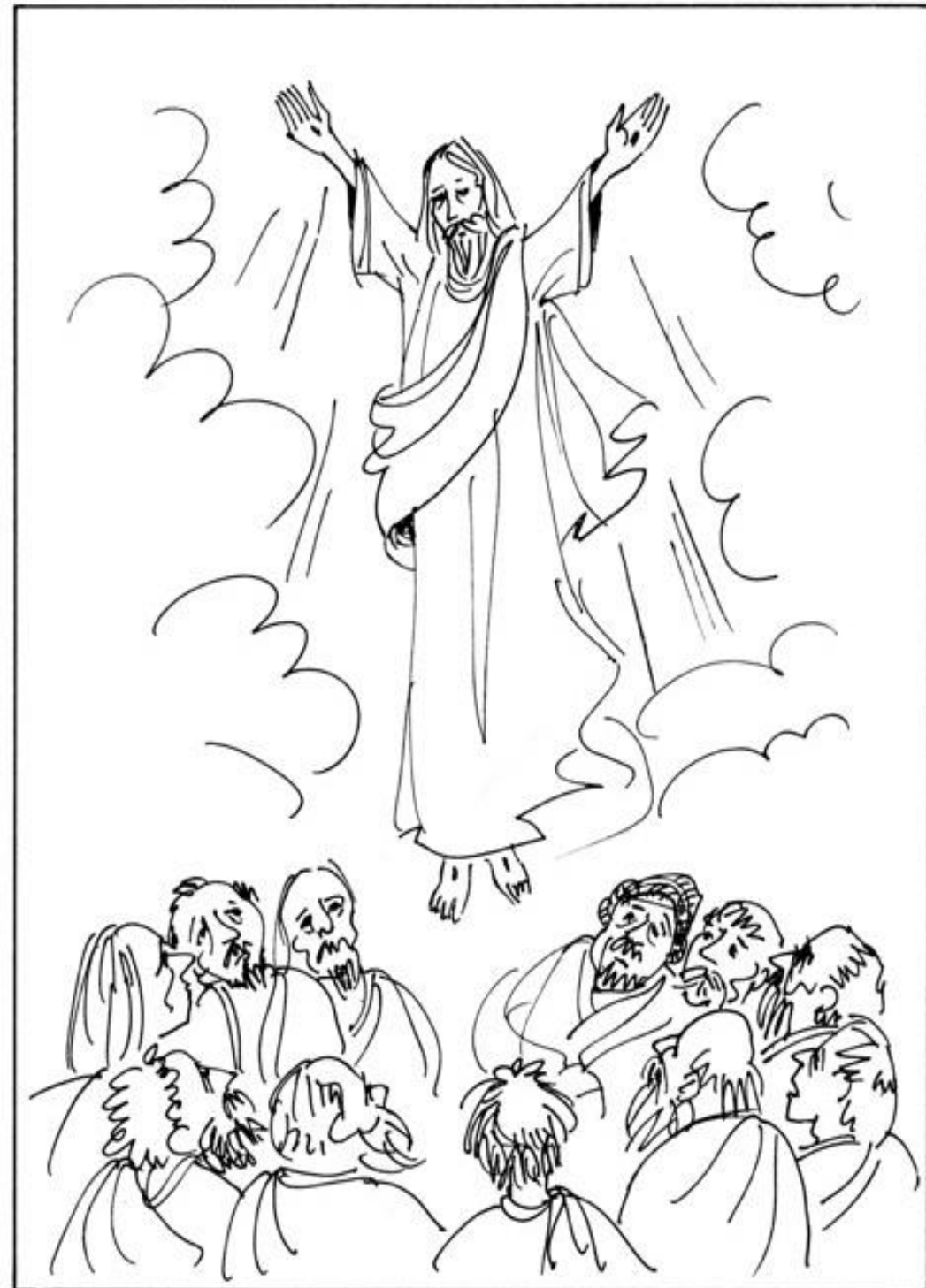


Parish Magazine

May 2019



<b>Wardens &amp; Sidespersons please note:</b>		
Wednesday 1st May	<b>Archdeacons Visitation St Paul's Compstall</b>	19.30
Friday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Holy Communion Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Friday, 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Morning Prayer Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Wednesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Prayer Breakfast	7.30-9.30
Friday, 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Holy Communion Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Friday, 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Morning Prayer Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Thursday, 30 <sup>th</sup> May <b>To mark the start of "Thy Kingdom Come" 2019</b>	<b>ASCENSION DAY An invitation of the Rural Dean to attend St George's</b>	19.30
Friday, 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Café Worship	10.45



**Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019**  
**Day of Pentecost – Whit Sunday**

**Civic Service**  
**for the Worshipful the Mayor of Stockport**

**With Ven Ian Bishop**  
**Archdeacon of Macclesfield**

**Stockport Parish Church (St Mary)**  
**10.30am**

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Parish of Stockport and Brinnington**  
**Induction of the Rev Lynne Cullens**

**Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 19.30**  
**Stockport Parish Church (St Mary's in the Marketplace)**

with The Rt Rev Dr Peter Forster – Bishop of Chester

## *Thank You Mike*

It's always a little sad to say farewell, but we were able to send the Rev Mike Newman off on his travels with a case of wine to enjoy - either before, during, or after his well earned sabbatical.

Mike has spent around two years supporting us at St Mary's (Stockport) as well as continuing his work at St Mary's (Cheadle), St Cuthbert's (Cheadle) and keeping up with his Army Chaplaincy responsibilities. It is with a very BIG thank you that we say goodbye – although I am sure there will be continued support from the Cheadle Deanery as they watch the new parish of Stockport and Brinnington (with Lynne) move forward into a new era.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed towards the gift. – a mixed case (12 bottles) of wine from Laithwaite's Wine.

There are of course many others to thank for supporting us during the past three years, but some are not “off the hook” yet and will be with us on Tuesday and Sunday for a little longer. Joining us for Sunday morning services in May/June will be Ian Bishop, David Brewster, Les Hutchinson, John Briggs, Lawie Adam and Tony Roblen. We welcome Rita back to work. Our Tuesday team will include Ken Kenrick, Julie Johnson, Stan Tomalin, Mike Lowe, Andy Livingstone & John Knowles. Canon John Briggs has prepared another set of Tuesday lunchtime services taking us through to mid July – we hope that many of you will be able to join us at St Mary's for those services.

Coming up in June we have the Civic Service for the new Mayor/Deputy Mayor. We also have a date for the Induction of the Rev Lynne Cullens as Rector of Stockport and Brinnington in July.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

With Pure Innovations leaving us at the end of the month, **we need to put in some more “front of house” and general support volunteers to ensure that we have a minimum of TWO (THREE preferred) on the premises at all times the doors are open to the public – it’s a question of not having anyone in the building “lone working” and potentially being in a vulnerable position.**

Not only did Pure Innovations “staff” the café for three days during the week but their presence allowed us to have just one or two church volunteers on the premises whilst the doors were unlocked. This along with the support of Stockport Heritage Trust and we were happy and safe, even when a problem arose. Pure Innovations would more often than not arrive at church first, meeting one of us at 9am to open to the public, but allowing a little flexibility as to the time others arrived BUT this ceases at the end of May and we are on our own.

We MUST have TWO responsible people (one being a key holder) on the premises from 10.00am – 3.00pm (please note that we are reducing our opening times – at least for now – to help the situation). Stockport Heritage Trust will match the new hours (give or take) providing that extra re-assurance that help is at hand if required.

**If you can help (even if just half a day a week or a month) please let us know.**

**The Diocese of Chester is taking part in Thy Kingdom Come 2019. All deaneries, parishes and churches of the Diocese of Chester are invited to participate between the 30<sup>th</sup> May and 9<sup>th</sup> June.**



Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ.

Look out for more details as to what is happening in Stockport.

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## **Mayor/Deputy Mayor of Stockport 2019/2020**

All set to take up the reigns of office on the 21<sup>st</sup> May are Cllr Laura Booth – Labour Councillor for the Offerton Ward (Mayor) and Cllr John Wright – Conservative Councillor for the Stepping Hall Ward (Deputy Mayor).

We look forward to meeting them both at the Civic Service to be held at Stockport Parish Church on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> June.



## THERE BUT NOT THERE

— COMMEMORATE. EDUCATE. HEAL —

Our Tommy remains on view sat on the table next to the copier at St Mary's looking on at what we are doing. Sometimes (you may have noticed) when the light is just right it is as if he is illuminated, other times just blending into the background.

His chair remains with a remembrance wreath – a constant reminder for us all. He is there deliberately, not because we have forgotten to move him – although he may change location from time to time.

There are still opportunities to purchase a Tommy – for anyone who wishes to do so - and the work of the charity continues with their involvement with various projects.

**Coming up next a new campaign commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy in the summer of 1944.**

## MAY

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to 'all sorts'! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli. For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence and unbridled merriment. Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and evening bonfires. The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day – and in 1644 May Day was abolished altogether. Many May poles came down – only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was 'the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England', according to Pepys. May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire. May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and – since 1833 – Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism. There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well-known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

## Sweet dreams

Do you, or don't you? Many of us feel reluctant to admit that we would like to do it, even if usually we do not. Have a snooze after lunch, that is.

A 20-minute nap seems to work wonders – many studies find that people awake feeling refreshed, with their energy levels renewed and with a much-improved mental focus.

But getting the chance to have your kip is rarely easy, as most workplaces in the UK frown on workers falling asleep on their desks. How different from the Far East, where in Vietnam workers drape themselves over their scooters to sleep, or where in Tokyo and Hong Kong businessmen often sleep in public places.

The Japanese even have a polite term for it: *inemuri* – 'being present while asleep'. Dropping off to casual sleep has been recorded in Japan since the 10<sup>th</sup> century.

Some UK companies are sympathetic. One CEO of a major advertising company agrees that "a powernap mid-morning or mid-afternoon sets you up for the rest of the day. You are much more alert, and it also promotes creativity."



## Dry and keep your own flowers

Love the flowers in your garden just now? Why not preserve them? The art of preserving flowers was very popular in Victorian times, and it is still good fun. It is an inexpensive hobby, for all you really need are some small flowers, some paper and a weight.

Start with something simple like buttercups, daisies, pansies, forget-me-nots or little roses. Even grasses and leaves work well. The best time to gather them is from lunchtime onwards, after the dew has evaporated. They mustn't be too wet, or they will go mouldy. Put the flowers into a plastic bag until you get home.

Then lay them, one by one, onto blotting paper and place a sheet of blotting paper on top. Put all this between two layers of newspaper, like a 'sandwich'. You don't need an expensive flower press – a piece of wood and a couple of heavy books will be fine.

Leave the flowers under the press for six to eight weeks. Resist the temptation to see how they are doing! Then near the end of summer, spend an evening opening your flower 'press' and using tweezers to carefully lift out the brittle dried flowers. Arrange them on a card and use a gum solution to glue them into place. You could then cut some sticky clear plastic film to size, and carefully seal it over the flowers. They can decorate little birthday cards, bookmarks or pictures.



## 125 years ago on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1894 the Manchester Ship Canal was officially opened.

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When the Manchester Ship Canal was opened by HM Queen Victoria in 1894, it immediately became the largest river navigation canal in the world. It was a shining example of Victorian engineering and spearheaded deep sea shipping to the heart of Manchester and made the city's port the third busiest in Britain. Despite being some 40 miles from the sea, the Manchester Ship Canal allowed the newly-founded Port of Manchester to establish itself as the third busiest port in Britain. At its peak in 1958, the amount of freight carried by the canal was almost 20,000,000 tons.

Traffic on the canal slowly decreased year on year, the size of modern ocean-going ships increased, there were restrictions with the height of fixed bridges locks widths were problematic as too the depth of the canal. Decline was inevitable BUT plans were put in place to "turn the tide" as it were and revive the fortunes of both the canal and the port.

Today under the stewardship of Peel Ports Group, the Canal is thriving again providing a vibrant trading hub. The canal also forms part of an innovative carbon efficient waterway with continued plans for the future.



If you have not done so for some time (or at all), why not take a Manchester Ship Canal cruise – well it may not be as exciting as sailing round the world – but worth a day out!  
[www.merseyferries.co.uk](http://www.merseyferries.co.uk)



## International Dawn Chorus Day 2019 5th May

**International Dawn Chorus Day** is held on the first Sunday in May each year.

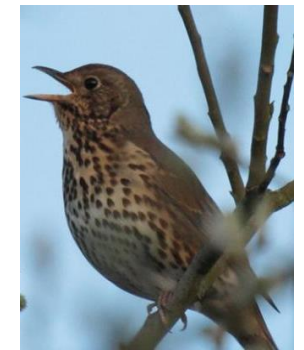
The event is promoted by the Wildlife Trust and this is the perfect opportunity for nature lovers to gather at dawn in one of

the scenic spots in the United Kingdom to listen to the sounds of birds as they sing to greet the rising sun.

The first Dawn Chorus Day was organised by environmentalist and broadcaster Chris Baines in the 1980s when he held his birthday party 4am so that all of his guests



could listen to the dawn chorus together. What began as a small annual event in



the city of Birmingham has now spread right across the UK and is even celebrated in parts of Antarctica and the Caribbean.

In a British garden during spring, the song thrush may strike up well before dawn. Soon he will be followed by the robin, blackbird, wren, garden warbler, chiffchaff, hedge sparrow and chaffinch. There is no fixed order in which each species takes its cue from the eastern sky, but there is a genuine tendency for some to start earlier than others. Indeed wren, robin, song thrush and blackbird often burst into song well before daybreak, this natural phenomenon has given rise to such phrases as "up with the lark" and "rise before cockcrow".

## VIRAL MENINGITIS AWARENESS WEEK 6<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**Viral Meningitis Awareness Week 2019** is an annual awareness event, usually held during the first week in May. The event is run by Meningitis Now, a charity which aims to stop lives from being lost through meningitis and to make sure that sufferers and survivors get appropriate support. The event raises awareness of viral meningitis, its symptoms and how it affects sufferers, as it is a less commonly understood disease than bacterial meningitis. Viral meningitis is an inflammation of the brain, spread by numerous other viruses which may enter the body, usually known as enteroviruses.

## Christian Aid Week (12 – 18 May): 'All mums should live'



Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth. In Sawula district, the community struggle with a clinic which has no electricity and only two delivery beds. Jebbeh is heavily pregnant but as her baby grows, it's not joy that fills her heart, but fear. When Jebbeh's sister Fatmata went in to labour, there were so few ambulances

that Fatmata had no choice but to walk for three hours under the baking sun, to the nearest hospital. The journey was long and with every step Fatmata struggled to keep walking. Jebbeh told us: 'My sister was crying out with hunger. She died on the side of the road. She never gave birth.' This Christian Aid Week, together, we can make childbirth safe for mums and babies. Through our gifts and prayers, we can help give the world's poorest mums a chance to live.

## Election of PCC Members

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		years elected
David Birch	St Mary	2
Heather Chant	St Thomas	1
Marilyn Donohoe	St Luke	3
Margaret Forster	St Mary	1
Jennifer Goulden	St Luke	3
Patricia Hamilton	St Luke	2
Janet Langton	St Thomas	1
Harry Long	St Thomas	3
Peter Nelson	St Thomas	2
Herbert Quick	St Luke	2
Catriona Smith	St Mary	3
Ann Stewardson	St Thomas	1

## Sidespersons (St Marys)

David Andrews	Sheila Andrews	Barbara Ashton
David Birch	Pat Birch	Isobel Clarkson
Margaret Forster	Frank Hamnett	Sue Heap
Adam Pinder	Margaret Shutleworth	Catriona Smith
Carol Taylor	Ann West	

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## Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Many thanks to those who attended the Meeting of Parishioners & first Annual Parochial Church Meeting for the new parish. 65 attended the meeting (including 2 children) – no attendance list was taken.

The meeting was chaired by the Ven Ian Bishop – Archdeacon of Macclesfield. A full list of those elected/appointments of the PCC and full list of PCC membership etc. will be made available in church and on our web-site as details are finalised.

### Election of Churchwardens

Jayne Brindley – St Thomas

Susan Heap – St Mary

Paul Heard – St Luke

Anne Jepson – St Thomas

James Kitchen – St Luke

Adam Pinder – St Mary

## Foster Care Fortnight

13th to 26th May

This fortnight is the Fostering network's annual big push to raise the profile of fostering, and to show how foster care can transform children's lives. It also serves as the UK's biggest foster carer recruitment campaign.

The need is huge: thousands of new foster families are needed every year to care for children in need. These children range from being older children, sibling groups, disabled children and even unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Do you have what it takes to be a foster carer? As one experienced fosterer says: "It's not about age, marital status, sexuality, experience, cultural or religious beliefs and practices; it's about wanting and being able to respond to a child and help them develop and thrive."

Time and energy are the greatest commitments, from the moment you first make your application. One foster carer says that what makes it all worthwhile for her is "the quiet moments when a child has been out and tells you they are glad to be home again, or in watching a child who has never bathed before play in a bath of bubbles. Their giggles and happiness are a gift that's priceless."

For more details <https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/fcf19>

## Rogation Sunday (Sunday before Ascension)

Rogation means an asking of God – for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead. It is appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather. The practice began with the Romans, who invoked the help of the gods Terminus and Ambarvalia. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away Winter with sticks. They wanted to rid the cornfields of evil. About 465 the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, ‘beating the bounds’ became a Christian ceremonial. Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century, and became a fixed and perennial asking for help of the Christian God. On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At the head marched the bishop or the priest, with a minor official bearing a Cross, and after them the people of the parish, with schoolboys and their master trailing along. Most of them held slender wands of willow. At certain points along the route – at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation is said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest. At one point beer and cheese would be waiting. In the days when maps were neither common nor accurate, there was much to be said for ‘beating the bounds’ – still very common as late as the reign of Queen Victoria. Certainly parish boundaries rarely came into dispute, for everyone knew them. (Do you know yours today?)

## 31st May – Mary, the Blessed Virgin, visits Elizabeth

Mary – the virgin mother of Jesus. For centuries the eastern and western churches have considered her pre-eminent among all the saints. In the gospels, Mary makes her first appearance as a teenager. Nothing is known of her childhood, and what we do know of her is found mostly in Matthew 1 – 2 and in Luke 1 – 2. If you read both accounts, you’ll notice that Luke’s account seems to give the story from Mary’s standpoint, whereas Matthew concentrates more on Joseph’s side of things. In both accounts the virginal conception of Christ is clearly stated. Mary’s quiet devotion to God and her total acceptance of His will shine forth. Her visit to Elizabeth, when both were pregnant, is a moving and poignant account of two humble, ordinary women, suddenly caught up in a great event that would shape world history. Their trusting faith in God and acceptance of His will, shine through. After Jesus is born, Mary fades into the background, and makes few appearances: when the family visits Jerusalem and she loses her son on the way home; when she urges Him to help the wedding party in Cana with its wine problem; and when Jesus gives her into the keeping of the beloved disciple when He is dying on the cross. Mary’s last appearance is in Acts chapter one, just before Pentecost. Mary obviously joined the early Church, but her role was never one of teaching and preaching, and indeed she remained so much in the background that nothing more about her is known for certain. Both Ephesus and Jerusalem have claimed to be the place of her death. Mary, chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ, one who is both God and Man, holds a unique place in the history of mankind. Down the centuries that have followed, the Church has paid special honour to Mary – and well deserved it is. “All generations shall call me blessed...”

**Lunch Time Services**  
**RISEN WITH CHRIST**

- May** 7 **Set free** (Redeemed) Rom. 5: 6-11
- 14 **Restored** (Reconciliation) 2 Corinthians 5: 16-21
- 21 **Adopted** (Relatedness) Rom 8:12-17
- 28 **Prayed for** (Jesus now ascended) Hebrews 4:14-16
- June** 4 **The Church expectant and dependant** Acts 1:1-11
- 11 **The Church enabled by the Spirit** (Pentecost)
- 18 **Jesus people : bearing fruit** Galatians 5:22-26
- 25 **Jesus people : abiding in the Vine** John 15: 1-11
- July** 2 **Jesus people : working together** 1 Corinthians 12: 12- 13, 27-31
- 9 **Jesus people : a living temple in the Lord** 1 Peter 2: 4-10
- 16 **The One who is able** Ephesians 3:14-2

**Ascension Day: 40 Days with the Risen Christ**

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (*Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.*) The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them – to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses. Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands – and blessed them." As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17) The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him – and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed

continually at the temple, praising God.’ (Luke 24:52,53) No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! ‘I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.’ (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

### Ascension

(Luke 24:44-53)

Scriptures fulfilled,  
Minds opened,  
We followed him to Bethany.  
And there was joy in the blessing  
Of our risen Lord,  
Jesus, God on earth.

And in the blessing  
Was the leaving,  
And in the leaving  
Was the blessing –  
His Spirit of life and power  
To witness to the world  
Of our ascended Lord,  
Jesus, man in heaven.

*By Daphne Kitching*

### The legacy of D’Oyley Carte

Richard D’Oyly Carte, the theatrical impresario, was born 175 years ago, on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1844, in Soho. He built two theatres in London, managed some of the most important theatrical stars of the era, and founded a touring opera company.

He is of course most famous for bringing together dramatist W S Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan in 1875 to create a hugely popular series of comic operas suitable for family entertainment at a time when much comic opera tended to be bawdy.

They also celebrated Great Britain while at the same time wittily satirising the activities of politicians, but also – frequently – eccentric clergymen.

Carte himself was the grandson of a clergyman. His mother, Eliza Jones, had eloped, much to her father’s disapproval. The name D’Oyly, used as a Christian name, was a reminder of his grandmother’s Norman ancestry. His father played the flute and worked for a musical instrument maker.

Although himself a musician, Carte’s success came through setting up a talent agency. The hard-earned triumph of Gilbert and Sullivan eventually enabled him to build the Savoy Theatre in the Strand, London, and the luxury Savoy Hotel next door. He died in 1901 and is buried in Fairlight, East Sussex.

## Bishop and MP welcome marriage registration changes by Parliament

Recent changes made by Parliament to allow for mothers' names to be included on marriage certificates have been welcomed by the Bishop of St Albans together with Dame Caroline Spelman MP.

Royal Assent was recently received to the Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc) Act following a Private Member's Bill.

Dr Alan Smith, together with Dame Caroline, who is the Second Church Estates Commissioner, said: "The passing of this Bill into law is to be welcomed and marks a significant step forward. After years of tireless work by politicians, faith-leaders and campaigners, we have finally achieved tangible progress towards the equal treatment of both parents."

Prior to this Act, only fathers' names were formerly recorded when marriages were registered, a custom unchanged since 1837. Bishop Smith said: "This clear and historic injustice reflected the time when children and wives were considered property of men and it is high time for this to be corrected."

## The Truth of the Ascension

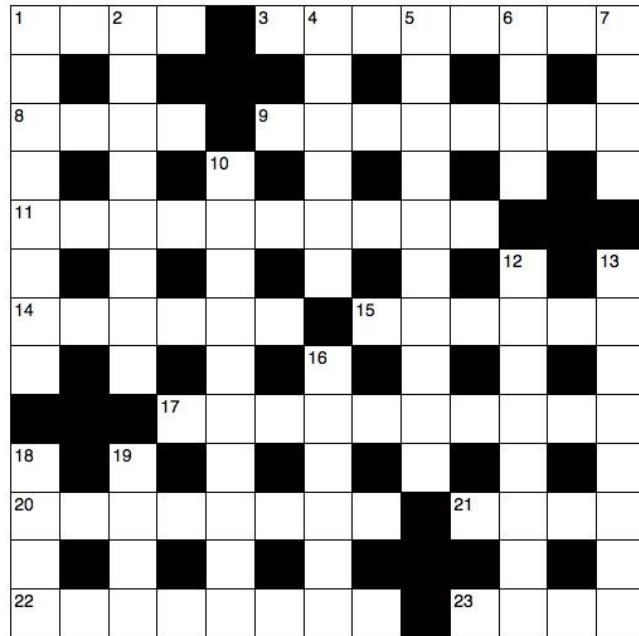
*While He was blessing them, Jesus left them and was taken up into heaven.'* (Luke 24:51).

The Ascension is a hugely neglected festival, which deserves to have a bigger place in our church life. How do we understand it?

***The Ascension tells us that Jesus is in control: 'Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand' (1 Peter 3:22).*** Jesus occupies the top spot in the universe; the control of our world is in the safe, scarred hands of Jesus. We can offer Him our worship and allegiance, knowing that His plans are better than those of any Prime Minister or President. ***The Ascension tells us that God is committed to His world: 'And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus' (Ephesians 2:6).*** Jesus did not leave His humanity behind when He ascended, for we are raised with Christ to heaven. Therefore, God is bound to His world and we can trust Him to fulfil His purpose for our lives and world. ***The Ascension gives us a job to do: 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations' (Matthew 28:18,19).*** God's primary means of working in the world is now through us. He commissions for this task at Ascension and equips us at Pentecost. We are called to make disciples, starting in our workplace, family and community.

***'Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world.'*** (Teresa of Avila).

## CROSSWORD



### Across

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
- 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)
- 8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)
- 9 'My God, my God, why have you — me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)
- 11 Anglican form of church government (10)
- 14 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like — ' (Isaiah 40:31) (6)
- 15 Ministers of religion (6)
- 17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)

- 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)
- 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)
- 22 Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)
- 23 '[Jesus] said to them, " — here and keep watch"' (Mark 14:34) (4)

### Down

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)
- 2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)
- 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)
- 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)
- 6 'I am God, and there is none — me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
- 7 'And how can they preach unless they are — ?' (Romans 10:15) (4)
- 10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)
- 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)
- 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)
- 16 'About midnight the sailors — they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)
- 18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30–31) (4)
- 19 'According to your great compassion — out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1) (4)

