

Diocese of Chester



**STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH**  
**St Mary's in the Marketplace**  
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St Andrew's Community Church  
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[www.stmarysinthemarketplace.com](http://www.stmarysinthemarketplace.com)

 Stockport Parish Church – St Mary's

**Service times at St Mary's**

**Sunday: 10:30am Holy Communion or  
Morning Prayer**

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

**Tuesday: 10.00am Holy Communion  
12.15pm Lunchtime Service**

Wedding, Baptism, Funeral and other services by arrangement.

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

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**STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH**  
**St Mary's in the Marketplace**



The Parish Church of Stockport was  
consecrated July 4 1817 by the  
Rt Rev Geo Henry Law D.D.

Lord Bishop of Chester

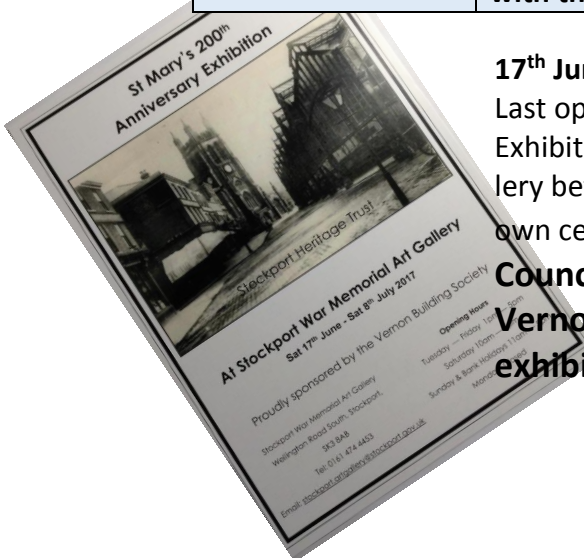
**1817 - 2017**

## Diary for July 2017

Sunday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Holy Communion	10.30am
Tuesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> July	200 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Holy Communion Lunch-time service	10.00am 12.15pm
Sunday, 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Sea Sunday Service of Morning Prayer	10.30am
Tuesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Holy Communion Lunch-time service	10.00am 12.15pm
Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Wellspring Sleepover	
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Wellspring Sleepover Breakfast	7.30am
Sunday, 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Holy Communion Baptism	10.30am 12.00
Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Holy Communion Lunch-time service	10.00am 12.15pm
Sunday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Service of Morning Prayer	10.30am
Tuesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Holy Communion Lunch-time service	10.00am 12.15pm
Sunday, 30 <sup>th</sup> July	200 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service with the Bishop of Stockport	10.30am

### 17<sup>th</sup> June – 8<sup>th</sup> July

Last opportunity to visit the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition whilst at the War Memorial Art Gallery before it moves down to St Mary's for our own celebrations. **Our thanks to Stockport Council, Stockport Heritage Trust & the Vernon Building Society for putting this exhibition together on our behalf.**



### Front cover:

The medal from which these photographs were taken – sent from Prestatyn to the then Rector of St Mary's on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 1936 – unfortunately we are unable to read the signature on the accompanying letter.



### Crossword Answers

**ACROSS:** 1, Riches. 4, Abner's. 7, Soul. 8, Damascus. 9, Statutes. 13, Add. 16, Craftsmanship. 17, Old. 19, Redeemer. 24, Walls are. 25, Wise. 26, Target. 27, Thieve.

**DOWN:** 1, Rest. 2, Courtyard. 3, Sadhu. 4, Arm he. 5, Nose. 6, Round. 10, Tutor. 11, Timid. 12, Sense. 13, Ashbelite. 14, Dips. 15, Echo. 18, Lhasa. 20, Exact. 21, Erect. 22, Flog. 23, Mede.

## Gracious God, on this Sea Sunday

We offer our prayers for those whose lives are affected by the sea.

We pray for people whose work takes them to sea;

For transport goods by ship;

For those who catch fish for their living.

Be with them as they work,

And keep them safe when the weather is bad and seas are rough.

We pray for those who give help when people get into difficulties at sea.

For the lifeboat service, and for air-sea rescue; for coast guards, and for

lifeguards. We thank You for their courage and ask that You will guard and guide them as they work for others in need.



## Help for the journey

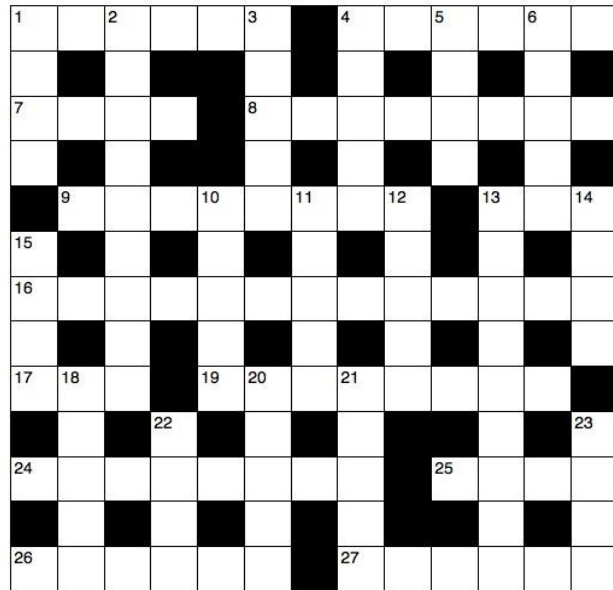
'Are we there yet?' This is a familiar cry from a child frustrated by a long journey, impatient to be at the destination. With the school holidays soon upon us, it's good to be reminded of Psalm 121. This is one of those psalms (Ps 120-134) used by the Jewish pilgrims journeying to Jerusalem for the great festivals.

There were real dangers for these Jewish pilgrims on their journey. They could slip on the road, there was the threat of wild animals and they had to suffer hot days and cold nights. On the Christian journey we are tempted by 'the world, the flesh and the devil', as well as dealing with those who mess up our lives and our questions about God's goodness or existence.

So where do we look for help? 'I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from?' (Psalm 121:1). Ironically, the Jews would look to the hills, where pagan worship was practiced. Even today, we can go to the wrong places for help eg horoscopes rather than the Scriptures; work colleagues or friends, rather than fellow Christians. We can also miss where to look for help: 'My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth' (2).

Like the Jewish pilgrims, we need to recognise that only God has the power to keep us on the road. Even when God seems silent in our suffering, He is 'watching over us' (5). On our journey He 'will keep us from harm' (7) and 'watch over our coming and going' (8).

## Crossword



### Across

- 1 'I pray that out of his glorious — he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being' (Ephesians 3:16) (6)  
 4 'Saul's father Kish and — father Ner were sons of Abiel' (1 Samuel 14:51) (6)  
 7 'Praise the Lord, O my — ' (Psalm

103:1) (4)

8 See 5 Down

9 Laws (1 Kings 11:33) (8)

13 'Who of you by worrying can — a single hour to his life?' (Luke 12:25) (3)

16 Artistry (Exodus 31:5) (13)

17 'Your young men will see visions, your — men will dream dreams' (Acts 2:17) (3)

19 How David described his Lord (Psalm 19:14) (8)

24 'If this city is built and its — — restored, you will be left with nothing in Trans-Euphrates' (Ezra 4:16) (5,3)

25 'The holy Scriptures, which are able to make you — for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 3:15) (4)

26 Intended destination of arrows (Lamentations 3:12) (6)

27 Eve hit (anag.) (6)

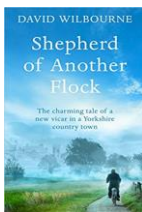
## News from St Andrews...

Staying with us for around twelve weeks are members of staff from A Connolly Ltd, presently using St Andrews (small hall) as a site office, whilst replacing bathrooms/kitchens at nearby properties.



We were delighted to be invited to join them for a community fundraising event raising funds for the Alzheimer's Society. Staff made or bought cakes which were simply delicious. Shown here behind her cake table is Linda, later joined by her many colleagues taking a well earned break.





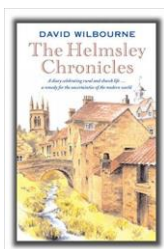
## **Book Review**

### **“Shepherd of Another Flock”**

**as enjoyed by two of our valued members of the congregation...**

As the newly appointed Vicar of Helmsley, David Wilbourne was looking forward to working in this picturesque market town, set in the beautiful Yorkshire countryside. Admittedly the vicarage, which dated back to the twelfth century, was extremely cold and damp and not all of his parishioners were impressed by his new-fangled ways, but with the help of Father Bert, a retired cleric, David set about winning over the townsfolk. There was Lord Ferversham (the local landowner), Ted (a retired chef), Frank (the singing shepherd) and Margaret, to name but a few. Who was Margaret – well you will have to read the book – but an invitation to her house for lunch would have been very nice!

**... thank you Ann and Jane – it is indeed a riveting read, one of those books you simply can't put down until you reach the last page.**



Readers may be interested to know that for twelve years David wrote a regular diary column in the Church Times, delighting readers with his quirky tales of ministry in Helmsley. Also Author of “The Helmsley Chronicles”- this book includes the best of David’s diaries.

David Wilbourne writer and broadcaster served as chaplain to both the Rt Rev Dr John Habgood and the Rt Rev Dr David Hope as Archbishops of York. He was vicar of Helmsley for twelve years before becoming Assistant Bishop of Llandaff in Wales.

## **Down**

- 1 'For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find — for your souls' (Matthew 11:29) (4)
- 2 Where Peter was when he denied Christ three times (Luke 22:55) (9)
- 3 Remarkable early 20th-century Indian evangelist, a convert from Hinduism, — Sundar Singh (5)
- 4 'Now the king had put the officer on whose — — leaned in charge of the gate' (2 Kings 7:17) (3,2)
- 5 and 8 Across The Lover describes this facial feature of the Beloved thus: 'Your — is like the tower of Lebanon looking towards — ' (Song of Songs 7:4) (4,8)
- 6 'Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled — your waist' (Ephesians 6:14) (5)
- 10 Trout (anag.) (5)
- 11 Easily frightened (1 Thessalonians 5:14) (5)
- 12 The ability to perceive (Ecclesiastes 10:3) (5)
- 13 One of the clans descended from Benjamin (Numbers 26:38) (9)
- 14 “It is one of the Twelve,” he replied, “one who — bread into the bowl with me” (Mark 14:20) (4)
- 15 Resound (Zephaniah 2:14- ) (4)
- 18 Traditional seat of the Dalai Lama (5)
- 20 Precise (John 4:53) (5)
- 21 Build (Ezekiel 4:2) (5)
- 22 Beat harshly (Acts 22:25) (4)
- 23 Darius, who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Babylonians, was one (Daniel 5:31) (4)

## Acts for Everyone *Rev Paul Hardingham*

With over 3000 people becoming Christians at Pentecost, the early Church was established in Jerusalem (Acts 2: 42-47). This new community is a yardstick for what church can be like in every age, including our own.

A learning community: 'They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching.' (42). The new Christians were eager to learn from the apostles about their new faith. They were a community that was always learning. Is this true for us: ourselves, in groups and as a church family?

A loving community: They had 'everything in common' (44) and gave 'to anyone as he had need' (45). This was an expression of the 'fellowship' (42) they enjoyed with one another. This doesn't mean that normal Christian community has no private ownership, but the church is to offer a radically different community to the world around. It reflects the loving relationship found in God himself. Is this true of our church life?

A worshipping community: 'Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God.' (46,47). They met both in the temple, and in homes to worship. It was a heartfelt response to all that Jesus had done in their lives. Is such worship the basis of the whole of their lives, not just what we do on Sunday?

A witnessing community: This community shone out with God's love, resulting in them 'enjoying the favour of all the people.' (47). The impact of this resulted in 'the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.' (47). Can we say this of our own church? 'we need to humble ourselves before His sovereign authority.. not to quench Him but to allow Him His freedom' (John Stott).



**Materials:** 2 x 50g balls of double knitting wool / 1 pair no 10 (3 1/4mm) knitting needles

**Method:**

Cast on 120 sts, and knit 2 purl 2 to the end of the row.

Repeat until work measures 9 inches.

Next row: Take the 2 purl stitches together right along the row.

Next row: Knit 2 purl 1 to the end of the row / Repeat for 5 rows (6 altogether)

Next row: Take the 2 knit stitches together along the row

Next row: Knit 1 purl 1 to end / Repeat for 5 more rows (6 rows altogether)

Next row: Knit 2 together all along the row

Next row: Purl back

Next row: Knit 2 together all along the row / Draw thread through remaining stitches and sew off ends.

Finishing: Press lightly and sew up hat.



## Civic Service

Is it me or do we all look a bit windswept – but there we are after our Civic Service: Rita, Adam, Cllr Linda Holt (Mayor of Stockport) Bishop Libby, Sue and Frank with Lucy Brewster who kindly joined us for the service to act as Bishop’s Chaplain.



Below, looking much more orderly, Madam Mayor with the Bishop and Standard Bearers.



Thanks to Stockport Council for allowing us use of their photographs.

**Maritime Christian Ministries** inaugurated 1998 to continue Christian Witness in the Port of Liverpool [www.mcmuk.com](http://www.mcmuk.com)

**Sea Sunday** - On the 9<sup>th</sup> July, the morning service will be led by Rita Waters and will be the annual Sea Sunday service also attended by the Sea Cadets.

This encouraged me to find out more about the Maritime Christian Ministries (MCM), an organisation who seek to minister to seamen of all nationalities, as they visit the Port of Liverpool, providing spiritual, moral and material help wherever possible. When necessary the MCM also minister to the needs of the families and dependents of seafarers.

It is stated that there are some 52-54,000 ships worldwide, and as an island we depend on shipping, to both import and export goods. There are estimated to be 1.2 million seafarers world wide. Not all come to any one port, but it does present the MCM with opportunities to reach men and women of the sea, with the message of salvation. A “mission field” on our doorstep, and who knows just where a copy of the scriptures (as made available by the MCM) may end up after leaving our shores. One seafarer could be an international ambassador for Christ.

When visiting ships the MCM often encounter Christians. For example: one of the crew on watch on a Chinese ship noticed Chinese literature in the Missioners bag. He said he was a Christian, as was the Bosun, so they were both given a Bible. During the week the Missioner visited the ship several times and was able to give them other resources in Chinese. On the Sunday the crew members contacted the Missioner to say they would like to attend church. He was able to go with them to the Chinese Church in Liverpool.

Contd.

Not only do the MCM give out literature and Bibles (in various languages) but also distribute knitted hats, greatly appreciated by the crews that receive them.

The Ministry of Christian Ministries always grateful to the individuals and church groups that continue to knit these hats. So if anyone out there would like to help in this way the pattern is printed on the next page for you to start knitting.

If you would like to hand in your completed hat(s) at Church I will see that they are received by the Maritime Christian Ministries.

Many thanks in anticipation!

Ann West



## St Mary's Bicentenary

THE CHURCHWARDENS AND PAROCHIAL CHURCH  
COUNCIL

WARMLY INVITE  
all our magazine readers

TO A SPECIAL SERVICE TO MARK  
ST. MARY'S 200<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
1817 - 2017

SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> July 2017 at 10.30am  
with the Bishop of Stockport - Rt Rev Libby Lane

A celebratory reception event will be held after the service

### **RSVP (for catering purposes)**

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Stockport, SK1 4DA

Telephone: 0161 429 6564

mail: [st.marysstockport@gmail.com](mailto:st.marysstockport@gmail.com)



**Not much of a doubter, really** *Canon David Winter recalls the dedication of Thomas...*

It's a strange nickname for a man whose burning faith in Jesus took him, so some accounts say, all the way to India to found a Christian Church there (Mar Thoma). But 'Doubting Thomas' he is, and in one way it's good to have someone in the early band of disciples who represents all those of us who tend to find unquestioning faith difficult.

His tendency to ask the searching, even perhaps sarcastic question, can be found in the Gospel (see John 14:6), but his reputation was set for ever on the first Easter night. Thomas was not in the Upper Room when the risen Jesus appeared for the first time to the apostles, and when they told him what had happened he was unimpressed. "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my fingers in his wounds I will not believe."

A week later Jesus appeared again, and this time not only was Thomas there, but Jesus singled him out for special attention. "Come on," he said, "here are the wounds. Do not doubt, but believe." That was the end of the Doubter, who fell to his knees to exclaim, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus observed that he had seen and believed. There would be many in the future, He said, who would not have such evidence set before them, but yet would believe. Among them, I like to think, are many Thomases, people for whom faith (in the sense of believing propositions) is seldom easy. I suspect Thomas's favourite saying of Jesus was "Seek and you will find." It's not a bad one to have in mind this year on St Thomas's Day, 3rd July.

**Sea Sunday** - Look around your home. How much of the contents in your cupboards, wardrobe, rooms, and even garage came to you over the seas, via the great merchant ships? What would your home be like without them?

Yet when did you last give a thought to the people who bring them to you? It is a curious fact that seafarers are one of the most important, and yet invisible people groups in our society. We all of us depend on them to fill our homes and businesses with an endless variety of goods, and yet we never see them, never speak to them, and rarely even remember their existence.

It suddenly makes Sea Sunday seem good sense: an annual opportunity to give thanks for the seafarers of the world, and to pray for their personal well-being. For going to sea is a lonely occupation. It separates families for months on end. It can sometimes be dangerous, and is always physically demanding work.

So this month, on Sea Sunday, let's pause and give thanks to God for the seafarers of the world. Let's remember how their work so enriches our lives. Let's pray for them, for their families, and let's support the organisations that offer them care and support through their chaplaincy work.

In doing so, we will join with thousands of other Christians, from London to Lagos, Manila to Melbourne and Durban to Dunkerque, who each year remember the seafarers who make our prosperity possible



Ann and John would like to express their sincere thanks to those who attended Mum's funeral and for all the lovely cards, flowers and donations received at this said time.

It is a great comfort knowing just how much everyone thought of her.

## St Mary's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition at Stockport War Memorial Art Gallery



Thank you to Jill, Jamie and Jade for their hard work putting together this exhibition for us, to others at Stockport Heritage Trust and at Stockport Council involved in the arrangements and to the Vernon Building Society for their valued sponsorship.

Shown above, Jill, Jamie, Mayor Cllr Linda Holt, Mayor's Consort Ken Holt and Jade

& viewing the exhibition (right)  
David and Bernard

Thank You to everyone who has supported this event

