

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.

Tel: 0161 429 6564 Mobile: 07421 000123

 e-mail: st.marysstockport@gmail.com

www.stmarysinthemarketplace.com

 Stockport Parish Church - St Mary's

Service times at St Mary's

Sunday: 10:30 Holy Communion /Morning Prayer

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

15.30 Zeal Church

Tuesday: 10.00 Holy Communion

12.15 Lunchtime Service

Friday: 10.45 Café Worship

Wedding, Baptism, Funeral and other services by arrangement.

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

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



STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH
[St Mary's in the Marketplace]
with St Andrew's , Hall Street.

Parish Magazine - November 2018



Diary

November 2018

FRIDAY	2 ND November	Café Worship	10.45
SUNDAY	4 TH November	Holy Communion Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
TUESDAY	6 th November	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
FRIDAY	9 th November	Café Worship	10.45
SATURDAY	10 th November	Nave Café – Coffee Morning for the Royal British Legion	10.00- 12.00
SUNDAY	11 th November	Service of Morning Prayer for Re- membrance Sunday STOCKPORT REMEMBERS Commemorative Service WWI	10.30 17.00
TUESDAY	13 th November	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
THURSDAY	15 th November	FASHION SHOW – Fizz Fashion	19.00
FRIDAY	16 th November	Café Worship	10.45
SUNDAY	18 th November	Morning Prayer & Blessing of Show Box Gifts Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
TUESDAY	20 th November	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
FRIDAY	23 rd November	Café Worship	10.45
SUNDAY	25 th November	Morning Prayer (Christ the King) Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
TUESDAY	27 th November	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
FRIDAY	30 th November	Café Worship	10.45
SATURDAY	1 st December	St Mary's Christmas Fayre	



Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Hopefulness. 9, Hitting. 10, du Pre. 11, Ere. 13, Ozni. 16, Wait. 17, Climbs. 18, Obey. 20, Joni. 21, Cuckoo. 22, In it. 23, Yaws. 25, Elm. 28, Alarm. 29, Epistle. 30, Whitsuntide.

DOWN: 2, Often. 3, Exit. 4, Urge. 5, Node. 6, Soprano. 7, Theological. 8, Westminster. 12, Rebuke. 14, Icy. 15, Ritual. 19, Epitaph. 20, Joy. 24, Acted. 25, Emit. 26, Menu. 27, Gift.

Sudoku answers

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

Wordsearch answers

N	O	L	I	N	T	A	O	R	M	N	X	A	E
E	E	S	A	E	S	I	D	T	S	W	S	G	S
Y	S	I	V	S	U	O	V	S	A	J	T	S	U
S	C	C	E	E	G	A	I	R	O	T	C	I	V
S	R	N	R	I	U	X	M	I	L	L	I	O	N
X	L	W	A	R	A	Y	N	F	J	G	L	Y	O
W	M	O	G	T	G	N	I	H	G	I	F	O	N
R	T	R	E	N	C	H	E	S	A	O	N	U	K
E	E	L	R	U	R	E	B	M	E	V	O	N	I
C	O	D	A	O	S	C	P	W	E	R	C	G	L
T	B	T	R	C	R	G	I	X	E	D	G	E	L
U	N	G	V	O	L	U	N	T	E	E	R	S	E
S	E	M	S	T	S	F	L	I	F	E	K	T	D
N	O	S	T	S	P	R	L	R	E	I	F	S	Y

A contribution towards the cost of producing this magazine would be appreciated please – in the donations box. Thank You

Journey into Light



We very much hope that you enjoyed the artwork of prisoners from Styal and Thorn Cross prisons. It was a pleasure to be able to host the exhibition and we wish everyone well as it moves from church to church within the Diocese in the weeks to come.



This year Remembrance Sunday (11th November) marks the centenary of the end of World War One. Of the 65 million men who were mobilized, 8.5 million were killed and a further 21 million wounded.

How should we celebrate this anniversary? In remembering the armistice, our response should be to desire Micah's vision of universal peace in our world: *'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.'* (Micah 4:3).

However, why keep asking God for peace, when we continue to see such violence and unrest in our world? The Bible makes it clear that peace is not just the absence of war or being untroubled. It means being in a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ, with

Of course, Micah's words are looking to end of time when God will make all things new in His universal kingdom. However, these promises also speak to us now. The ministry of Jesus demonstrated the kingdom or reign of God breaking into the everyday, as He healed the sick and brought reconciliation and hope.

The end of the centenary of World War 1 is a time to consider peace. Although the war did not bring a lasting peace to the world, for the Christian there's a deeper lesson: peace begins with the healing of hearts, the restoring of relationships and with a deep, costly commitment to justice.



Join us for "Stockport Remembers"
Sunday, 11th November at 5pm

1st November - All Saints' Day – the feast day of all the redeemed

All Saints, or All Hallows, is the feast of all the redeemed, known and unknown, who are now in heaven. When the English Reformation took place, the number of saints in the calendar was drastically reduced, with the result that All Saints' Day stood out with a prominence that it had never had before. This feast day first began in the East, perhaps as early as the 5th century, as commemorating 'the martyrs of the whole world'. A Northern English 9th century calendar named All Hallows as a principal feast, and such it has remained. Down the centuries devotional writers have seen in it the fulfilment of Pentecost and indeed of Christ's redemptive sacrifice and resurrection. The saints do not belong to any religious tradition, and their lives and witness to Christ can be appreciated by all Christians.

Richard Baxter, writing in the 17th century, wrote the following:

He wants not friends that hath thy love, And made converse and walk with thee, And with thy saints here and above, With whom for ever I must be...

As for my friends, they are not lost; The several vessels of thy fleet, Though parted now, by tempests tost, Shall safely in thy haven meet....

The heavenly hosts, world without end, Shall be my company above; And thou, my best and surest Friend, Who shall divide me from thy love?*

1,255 ancient English churches were dedicated to All Saints - a number only surpassed by those dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

**(Maurice Frost (ed.), Historical Companion to Hymns Ancient and Modern (London: Clowes, 1962), no. 274, verses 1,3,6.*

Psalm 139 - God knows you better than you know yourself

Rev Paul Hardingham

Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space in 1961, reportedly said '*I looked and looked but I didn't see God.*' Psalm 139 sees things from a very different perspective, in which God can be found everywhere in the universe.

God is all Knowing: 'You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.' (v1). God knows my thoughts, habits, moods, words and choices, including the things done in secret. He knows me better than I know myself, and yet still loves me, despite my faults and failings! '*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me.*' (6).

God is all present: 'Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?' (v7). In whatever circumstances we face, God is present with us, especially in the dark and difficult times. If we know the path to God, we can find it in the dark!

God is all powerful: 'For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.' (v13,14). Both the vastness of the universe and the wonder of the growing embryo in the womb speak of the power of the creator God. We can trust Him because He knows our beginning and end and everything in-between: '*all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*' (16).

How do we respond to what this psalm says? Are we prepared to constantly expose our inner life to God and consistently yield our whole life to Him? '*Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*' (v23/4).

The Way I See It - the future in safe hands?

The Advent calendars, complete with chocolate, are already in the shops. The season actually begins at the end of this month, four weeks when Christians are meant to think seriously about the future. It's always been a human dilemma.

We know a lot about the past – ours and the history of our race. We know quite a lot about the present. But the fact is we know nothing about what might or will happen to us even five minutes ahead. In a few seconds our life can be turned upside down. We are introduced to a stranger who eventually becomes our life partner. The doctor tells us we are pregnant – or seriously ill. We get the sack or are offered a wonderful new job. Anything from a road traffic accident to a financial windfall to a leak in the kitchen ceiling can change everything in an instant.

So, it's not surprising that we are puzzled by the future. The past can be cherished – memories are precious. The present is to be lived to the best of our ability. But what can we do about the future? Our best laid plans are provisional, at best. No wonder soothsayers, fortune tellers and the rest have always done well. For people who believe in God there is, however, a bit of help in his Name. In Hebrew it is 'Yahweh' (often wrongly transcribed as 'Jehovah'). It means, more or less, I AM. God simply *exists*, a kind of permanent present tense. So, while we see past, present and future, He is just the Existing One. Yes, I know that sounds baffling, but it makes sense that the Creator of everything can't be part of the time, space and matter that He created. When I was a teenager we sang a gospel song that had a line I've never forgotten: 'We don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future'. It's a simple idea, but quite a profound thought for Advent! Canon David Winter

Weak yet strong

Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Natural thinking values strength and despises weakness. Normally we do everything we can to build up our strength and to hide our weakness. We want to be physically strong, to be strong-minded and strong-willed, strong enough to take care of ourselves and to stand on our own two feet. Often we pray with this in mind, 'Lord make me strong...' It may surprise you to know that God does not want to make you stronger, so that you can manage without Him, but to help you realise just how weak you are, in order that you will depend on Him. You see we were not created for self-sufficiency, but for God-dependency. This is the true, spiritual way to live. Much of God's working in our lives is to bring us to a realization of the truth that Jesus spoke of in John 15:5 - that 'apart from me you can do nothing.' God has many ways of bringing us to the place of dependency upon Himself, and some of His tools are mentioned here – weakness, insults, hardships, persecutions, and difficulties, to name but a few. Do you see them at work in your own life? If so, don't always expect God to remove them from you. Instead, come to Him in your weakness and ask that His overshadowing power – the power of Christ – might rest on you day by day. He may not take you *out of* your circumstances, but He will bring you *through* them.

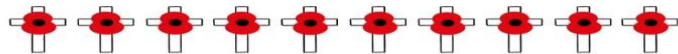
Here is one of the great lessons of the Christian life, a paradox that turns everything upside down: it is when we are weak that we are strong!

Article by: Rev Tony Horsfall, [a former missionary in East Malaysia and now retreat leader based in West Yorkshire], considering our need to lean on God.

The Soldier's Prayer

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health, that I might do greater things,
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
I asked for riches, that I might be happy,
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men,
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life,
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for –
But everything that I had hoped for,
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am among all men most richly blessed.

This prayer was written by an anonymous Confederate soldier in the American Civil War. What he says applies to all of us fighting our own private battles in life.



Saturday, 10th November 2018
Nave Café Coffee Morning
for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
10:00am – 12:00noon
£3.00



Where is your life journey taking you?

Can you imagine boarding a plane for your dream holiday and the pilot's voice says: 'Welcome on board. After take-off, we'll be serving you a meal and we'll do all we can to make your flight enjoyable. However, I need to tell you – we have no final destination. So we are just going to keep flying until we run out of fuel and drop into the ocean.'

No matter how wonderful the journey is, what's the point, if there's no destination? And yet many people live their lives like this. They concentrate only on having the best 'journey' that they can, on travelling first class all the way. But they never stop to consider where the journey is taking them – what their inevitable end will be.

Death is the end of our journey here on earth, but it need not be the end of YOUR journey. God does not want you to end your life in death. He wants it to be the threshold of an eternity of peace and love in his presence. Jesus is the way to this truth and life, and he holds out that 'ticket' to you. A journey with a destination in mind is better than a journey that will simply...end... one day.

St Paul knew where he was going. In fact, he couldn't wait to 'depart and be with Christ, which is better by far....' (Philippians 1:23)

Nave Café:



Following a recent food hygiene inspection we are delighted to have been awarded a rating of FIVE once again. Thank you to everyone concerned for keeping our standards "high".

They shall not grow old: *David Pickup, considers how to make the most meaning out of his local war memorial.*

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

About 20 years ago I had been to the local war memorial on Remembrance Sunday and had been thinking about the names which had been read out. Our memorial just lists names and initials. So, I set out to discover more information about these men. There are other memorials in the village including a roll of names in the church porch and these had more detail such as which unit the men served in. I published an appeal for information and people came forward with photographs, memories and letters. I also read local newspapers and found articles on the village and notices about the men. The Commonwealth Graves Commission has a lot of information on the casualties. I searched under the name of the local village. Sometimes it was difficult, as some surnames are commoner than others. In those days you had to pay a fee and send a request by letter but now the database is simple to use online. Some of the local men had emigrated to the Empire before the war and had enlisted there. The war records held in Canada, Australia and New Zealand are much better preserved and accessible than in this country. I enjoyed visiting people who proudly showed off their family treasures of medals, letters and memories. 20 years ago, there were people who remembered casualties from the Second World War and even someone who recalled a man who had been gassed in the First World War. A special shed was built for him, which rotated so he had access to fresh air. What was special for me was putting first names to men only known previously by an initial and then guessing they were known as Bill or Fred rather than William or Frederick.

In the time leading up to Remembrance Sunday why not visit your local memorial? Those named on memorials in St Mary's will be remembered at our service "Stockport Remembers" with individually named poppy petals falling from the gallery.



When your phone rings and rings

You've just sat down to supper and the phone rings. It is yet another cold-caller, trying to sell you something. A nuisance to most of us, but a potential danger to hundreds of thousands of elderly and vulnerable people who might respond to the offer of 'personal injury' claims or 'protection insurance'. ***BE SCAM AWARE! If in doubt seek help - Talk to friends and family - if something seems too good to be true it probably is - or call the Citizens Advice Stockport service on 03444 111 444***

It is reckoned that in the current epidemic of cold-calling that is sweeping Britain, nearly half of landline phone calls made to the elderly and vulnerable are from cold-callers. Furthermore, as many as a million people estimated to be on so-called 'suckers lists' are being bombarded with around 150 nuisance and scam calls a month.

Every One Remembered



The Royal British Legion, in partnership with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, is encouraging people to individually commemorate over one million Commonwealth Service men and women who were killed during the First World War.

The losses were felt in almost every town and village in the UK and throughout, what was then, the British Empire.

You can make your commemoration at **www.everyoneremembered.org**. Choose to commemorate someone you know – a relative or person on your local war memorial – or commemorate someone randomly selected for you.



Spider time of day

Are you afraid of the big spiders that come into your house each autumn? Then avoid wandering around your house at about 7.35pm each evening.

It seems that that is the peak time for creepy crawlies to scuttle around your house, looking for a mate. An entomologist at the University of Gloucestershire adds: 'We think that while people are more likely to be sat down and able to view spiders at 7.30pm, the pattern of sightings in rooms other than living rooms suggests that it is not just people driving the pattern - so we think it probably does reflect some spider ecology too.'

No one is sure why spiders feel frisky at 7.30pm, but the good news is that the vast majority of UK spiders are harmless to people, and excellent pest controllers. 'So we should really celebrate the spider season.' As long as the spider is NOT running around on the couch with you.



Stockport Remembers Sunday, 11th November Stockport Day of Remembrance

- 10.30 Act of Remembrance Stockport War Memorial/Art Gallery
- 17.00 Commemorative Service St Mary's
- 17.45 Stockport Parade of Light (starting at St Mary's)
- 18.00 "When We Were Young" theatre performance St Peters Sq
- 18.50 Beacon lighting, steps of Stockport War Memorial/Art Gallery
- 19.15 Evening Preview Stockport War Memorial/Art Gallery



A note from Hans and Sandra – received at the end of September but too late for the October magazine.

Dear All at St. Marys,

First of all, many thanks for the wonderful send off you gave us. Thanks to Sue for the delicious Buffet, to Mike for the interview, flowers and book about Stockport (one for the coffee table) .To John who kept us going when Roger left and to all of you who gave us such lovely cards all of which we have here with us.

Sorry we have not been in touch sooner but there has been so much to do. We stayed with Markus and family when we first arrived. Our household goods only arrived in Switzerland on the 3rd of Sept and when they were all put in the flat, they nearly filled it up. So we stayed on with Markus until we had sorted things out. We are still unpacking. As I write this we are having a dishwasher fitted, as the flat did not have one.

We are very happy here, the flat is lovely and light and the other senior citizens living here are very friendly and welcoming.

Our new Church, St. Agnes is not far away, just 4 stops on the bus. It is a big and busy Church. The Churches in Dietikon are very ecumenical and do a lot of things together. There is plenty to do here for Senior Citizens but we are too busy sorting out.

We shall wait till the New Year before we join in anything.

Roger is in Switzerland at the moment as Chaplin in Wengen. On the way home he will call in to see us. He will have to stay at Marks because our table, chairs, guest beds and cupboards all had to be ordered and take 6 to 8 weeks to arrive.

We do miss our Tuesday Lunchtime Services, in time we might find something similar here. We think of you all and talk about you often. We shall keep you in our prayers and we shall keep in touch.

God Bless you all.

With love and best wishes,

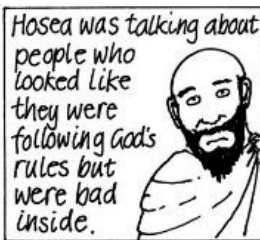
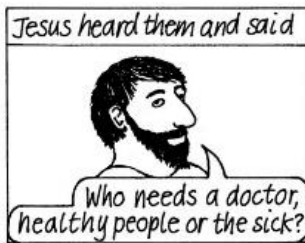
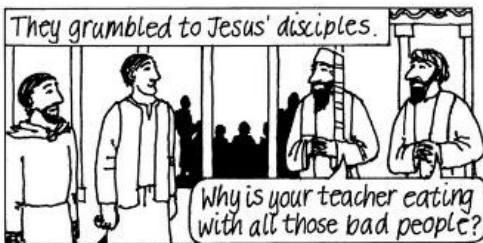
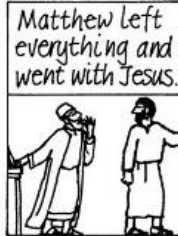
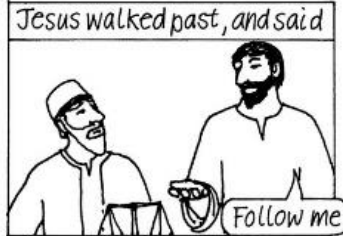
Hans and Sandra.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 9:9-13, Mk 2:13-15, Lk 5:27-32

The Roman invaders had given the job of collecting their taxes to local Jews who also overcharged, so they were doubly hated.



Having had the exhibition "Journey into Light" in church and seen ex-offenders sleeping rough outside - what support is there for prisoners?

Prison Fellowship Volunteers: restoring prisoners' lives

For nearly 40 years, Prison Fellowship's volunteers have been supporting prisoners across England and Wales. Here are some of the highlights from April 2017 to March 2018.

PF's 'Letter Link' scheme allows trained volunteers to write to prisoners. It's particularly valued by prisoners who have lost touch with their friends or family. It also enables volunteers who may be unable to visit prison to still play an active part in the PF ministry. As one prisoner wrote: 'I leave here at the end of August. So we've still got time to get another letter in before then. It will indeed be a sad day when I receive my last one from you. The gratitude I feel is immense.'

PF's Sycamore Tree scheme, a victim awareness programme which helps prisoners understand the effects of crime on the victims, is also flourishing. During 2017-18, 2,271 prisoners in 44 secure units completed 127 courses. Which meant that during this past year, PF has passed the milestone and delivered the Sycamore Tree programme to over 30,000 prisoners in all. That makes PF one of the biggest contributors to building transformed lives through restorative practices.

PF's Angel Tree programme enables prisoners to send a Christmas present to their children, because PF volunteers work with prison chaplains and local churches to choose, buy, wrap and deliver the presents. For Christmas 2017, PF made it possible for 2,346 parents in 87 prisons to send 4,571 gifts to their children. And a further 556 young people in 16 different establishments were able to send a gift to their mum or carer on Mother's Day.

PF volunteers also provide support to the many chaplains who work across 68 prisons. The volunteers visit prisoners, lead or assist with Sunday services, run music groups, Bible studies and parenting courses, and also offer bereavement counselling.

Modernise the church - or close down

We're lucky – we have already taken action to protect the future of St Mary's – having undertaken SIX major phases of work in recent years (two of them at the same time) – Phase 7 will follow in due course, with a structured plan for many more phases after that – from new heating systems – new lighting installations – further restoration of the fabric of the building and other actions making our Grade 1 listed Parish Church fit for purpose for generations to come. Our next Quinquennial inspection is due shortly, which will no doubt add new items to our already long list of things that need doing!

There was a lot of debate at the time (and no doubt will be again), as the decision was made to remove the pews, build a kitchen in the nave and add modern amenities - and we still get comments now and again (some good – some not so good) but having made those decisions it has certainly made a difference to the way we can operate and are able to prepare ourselves for our future, especially now as we form a new parish with St Thomas' & St Luke's. SO: Chancellor June Rogers gets my vote.....

Parish church buildings must modernise or risk being closed, according to a Church of England judge.

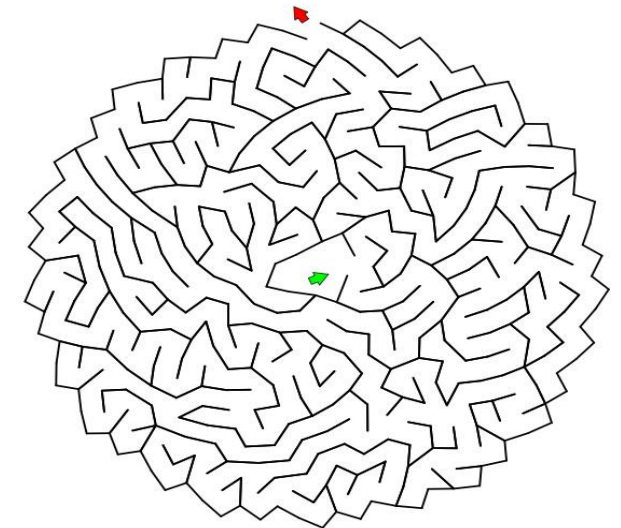
Chancellor June Rodgers was warning traditionalists and heritage groups that church buildings must stay relevant to the needs of their communities.

In a ruling published earlier this month, she said: "If people disagree with sensible and necessary re-ordering of an existing church building to keep it in use, then they should think what redundant churches have been turned into: a supermarket, climbing walls, dance studios, or even demolition."

Wilfred Owen – 1st World War Poet and Hero

British poet and soldier Wilfred Owen was killed 100 years ago this month, on 4th Nov 1918. He died leading his troops across a canal in Northern France exactly a week before the war ended. He was 25. Owen, who was noted for his shockingly realistic poetry about the horrors of trench warfare, was born in 1893 in Shropshire. On leaving school he became a teaching assistant, and in 1913 went to France for two years to work as a language tutor. But in 1915 he returned to England to join the army. After harrowing experiences in the trenches he suffered from shell shock and went for treatment at Craiglockhart War Hospital, near Edinburgh, where he met fellow poet Siegfried Sassoon. Owen went back to France despite Sassoon's pleas, and was awarded the Military Cross for bravery after capturing a machine-gun post almost single-handed. Brought up according to his mother's strong beliefs, Owen had thought of becoming a priest. For a while he was lay assistant to the vicar of the Oxfordshire parish of Dunsden. His only volume of poems, edited by Sassoon and published in 1920, contains some of the most poignant English war poetry, including *Dulce et Decorum Est* and *Anthem for Doomed Youth*.

Maze





THERE BUT NOT THERE

You may have noticed the transparencies on our glass doors at St Mary's, the silhouette sat on a chair next to the display table and the small "Tommy" standing on the table.



There But Not There is the 2018 Armistice project for the charity *Remembered*

Remembered aims to:

- > Inspire communities to purchase and install silhouettes of their local Fallen wherever they are listed for the Armistice Period, 2018, and/or to buy the 6' Tommy figure for use in a public space at any time through 2018

- > Educate all generations about why they made the ultimate sacrifice

- > Raise very substantial funds to help heal those suffering from the hidden wounds of war, through sale of commemorative 'Tommies'.

Thus, she has recently ruled that a Grade II listed Mariners' Church in Gloucester could install a kitchen (**done that**), new lighting system (**on the cards**), sound system (**yes got one of those**) and monitors (**okay not yet – but one day**), and remove pews (**definitely worn that t-shirt**), as part of an overhaul to help it accommodate a growing congregation (**we're working on that area too**). 'The church needs people (and money) to survive unless it is to become an empty un-used shell.'

Her comments came as the bishop in charge of cathedrals recently warned that parish churches were becoming "mausoleums" which were no longer at the centre of communities.

Dr John Inge, the Bishop of Worcester, told the national cathedrals conference in Manchester: 'Far too many churches remain locked, despite the advice of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company that they should remain open, and stand like mausoleums except when they open for worship, and have become increasingly marginal to the life of the communities they exist to serve.'

'Traditionally, churches have been at the heart of the communities in which they stand, in both a human and geographical sense. It is well known that in the medieval period much of what we would now term secular activity would have taken place within churches and cathedrals.'

'Over the years, particularly during Victorian periods, a piety crept in which tended to exclude everything but public worship from them, all other activities being transferred to other places, halls and community centres.'

Well an interesting read, I thought, and how well ahead of the game we are at St Mary's. We are OPEN at least three days during the week as well as Saturday (9am to 3.30pm) and for services on

Sunday (10.30am and 3.30pm). We hold two services on a Tuesday (10.00am and 12.15pm).

We are also OPEN to new ideas and working with other groups – take for example Zeal Church (our Sunday afternoon congregation) and our other “fresh expression” Café Worship on a Friday morning (10.45am).

We are encouraging more people to come into church – for worship, for social engagement, for crafting (our Craft & Chat group meeting on a Thursday), for help, for visiting the Heritage Centre, for visiting “us” – and having a cup of tea (although more footfall in the café would be helpful to our finances and keeping our partners “Pure Innovations” busy).

Slightly short of money maybe (very short of money actually) on a day to day basis but how wonderful to have been given grant funding for so much of the work already completed, for all the individual donations we have received over the years. The financial difficulties of the parish share will be addressed as the new parish is formed, we have opportunities ahead of us that many simple don't. How lucky and how blessed we are.

Harvest 2018

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the fantastic amount of food and toiletries we have delivered to the Wellspring

AND payments towards the Christian Aid Harvest Appeal where we will be forwarding a cheque to the value of £175.00.

Yummy Honey

Honey is far more likely to do you good than antibiotics if you have a cold and cough this autumn. That is the recent new guidance from the NHS. Research has found that honey significantly reduces the frequency and severity of coughs.



The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and Public Health England (PHE) are urging us to buy 'self-care' products such as honey, herbal remedies and cough medicines instead of asking our doctors for antibiotics. Only if coughs get very bad and prolonged, or if you feel really unwell and breathless should you consider antibiotics

Returning to St Mary's Fizz Fashion Show

Thursday, 15th November

7.00pm drinks and raffle

Fashion show: 7.15pm

Tickets £5.00



Diary of Momentous Year – November 2018 – when the boys came

Canon David Winter

By Autumn 1918 it was obvious that the war was coming to an end, Germany was clearly beaten, but no one had actually won. The front line was more or less as it had been for years, but after Amiens the Germans knew that this was a conflict they could never win. High level discussions took place, while in Britain the public mood was surprisingly optimistic. 'There's a silver lining', the songs said. 'Keep the home fires burning till the boys come home'. When an 'Armistice' was announced, there was euphoria. No more killing, the guns silenced. Peace at last! 'Armistice' was a new word for most people – not a peace treaty or settlement (that would follow a conference in Paris the following January), but simply a laying down of arms, but for many that was enough for now. 'No more killing', they declared. Most of the boys did come home, but tens of thousands didn't. We have tended to judge the first World War by the numbers involved – and they are appalling, but each casualty was also someone's personal loss, as I learnt in my first parish. It was a rural village near Oxford. Each month I took Communion to an elderly woman known to everyone as Kim. She was in her nineties and had been a teenager during the Great War. Her two brothers were serving on the Western Front. A few days before the Armistice the post office motor-cyclist delivered the telegram they had been dreading, one of the boys had been killed in action. A week or so later, after the fighting had stopped, the same messenger returned, with the same message about her other brother. As she told me of it, 70 years after the event, her eyes filled with tears. That was the true price of war, and when I share the silence on Remembrance Day it is her and those two young men I think of, not the million others from many nations who fell in that terrible conflict. My father enlisted to join in 'the war to end all wars'. It didn't, of course. Twenty-one years later it all started again. War doesn't end wars. True peace does.

Days of parish priests as 'kings' are over, says Dean

Modern clergy in the Church of England can no longer be "king" in their parish, the new Dean of Salisbury, the Very Rev Nicholas Papadopoulos, has said.

'Once upon a time the vicar was a 'king' - I say king advisedly because it would in those days have been a he - he was the king in his patch. Whatever anyone else in the surrounding patches was doing was of no consequence really. The vicar was supreme.

'These days, the vicar will probably be overseeing, in a rural diocese, six or seven of those patches, and he or she will be working with a whole range of different colleagues, retired priests, part-time priests, lay ministers, lay officers of the church.'

After all, Church of England figures reveal that between 1960 and 2011 the proportion of parishes which were in "multi-parish benefices" rose from 17 per cent to 71 per cent.

So what the vicar needs is 'a capacity to supervise those people and to get the very best out of them, and to nurture and oversee a cohesive team. That is quite a shift in culture,' he said.

'Clergy need to be people who above all else, can be open with God, open with one another, not defensive, but willing to collaborate in the building of the kingdom.'

Mr Papadopoulos worked with newly ordained priests for five years in his previous role as canon treasurer of Canterbury Cathedral. The new Dean was speaking to the Sunday Telegraph (16.09.18)

C of E warns: there is 'no Planet B'

The Church of England is continuing to voice its concern over climate change.

Following news that the summer of 2018 was the hottest on record in England, and the UK's joint warmest overall, The Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam, the Church of England's lead bishop for Environmental Affairs, said: 'It is becoming difficult for even the most resolute of deniers to ignore the devastating impact of climate change. While in the UK this has meant an uncomfortably warm summer, elsewhere people are already dying, crops are threatened, marine and land ecosystems are dying out and climate change is affecting everyone, no country is escaping unscathed.'

'We have a narrow window where it is not too late to do something about climate change, and to protect God's creation for generations to come. But we must act decisively, and act now, as individuals, communities, countries and as a global family. There is no Planet B.'



Stockport's Victoria Cross Heroes

As part of the national WW1 centenary commemorations engraved paving stones are being laid at the birth towns of soldiers who were awarded the Victoria Cross. Stockport has two recipients: William Wood (Hazel Grove) and James Kirk (Cheadle Hulme)

Wilfred Wood VC 1897-1982

James Kirk VC 1897-1918 [killed in action]

Christian fair-trade business Traidcraft may stop selling goods

Traidcraft plc is in trouble. With very poor recent trading figures and despite enormous efforts by the staff and management and Fair Traders, it warns that the present model for the company may be no longer viable. Traidcraft's charity branch, Traidcraft Exchange, will continue to support farmers and lobby government through its charitable arm, and the decision about closing the trading arm is still in a consultation period and not final.

Traidcraft plc first started in 1979, selling fair-trade coffee, sugar and chocolate as well as rugs and handmade baskets from Bangladesh. They went on to sell fair-trade clothes and wine.

Most of us remember them from church stalls and markets. Their aim was to keep a close link between producer and purchaser.

A spokesperson for Traidcraft said: 'Traidcraft plc's mission to put the principles of fair trade into commercial practice is not, in any sense, fulfilled but we appreciate that it is time to consider new approaches.'



Making a Lantern

Stockport Council are running free two-hour lantern workshops so that anyone interested can make their own poppy themed lantern in order to participate in the Stockport Parade of Light on Sunday, 11th November. All Materials and LED flame battery provided.

Sunday, 4th November Hat Works 13.30-15.30

Saturday, 10th November Stockport War Memorial Art Gallery 13.30-15.30

Sunday, 11th November Central Library Wellington Rd Sth 13.30-15.30
Children to be accompanied by an adult

New vision needed for Religious Education

A new vision for RE is 'vital' for properly equipping our children. So says the Church of England's Chief Education Officer, Nigel Genders.

He was responding to the recent publication of the Final Report by the Commission on Religious Education. He said: 'this report calls for a new vision for Religious Education (RE) which is vital if we are to equip children for life in the modern world where religion and belief play such important roles.'

The report stresses the need for RE teachers who are resourced and supported effectively. It also recommends structural change in how RE is determined.

Nigel Genders said: 'Today, most people's experience of religion and belief is national and global, so we support the move away from a local determination of the subject. We believe this will help pupils make sense of religion and belief as it is lived today and this proposed change is educationally valid and would bring RE into line with all other curriculum subjects. 'We fully support the policy of developing a Statement of Entitlement to RE and are pleased to see the Commission endorsing an approach which we already use in Church of England schools. 'However, the Commission's proposed Statement of Entitlement requires further work if it is to ensure that children and young people develop religious and theological literacy as part of their knowledge and understanding. 'We look forward to playing our part in working with the education community to achieve this.'

Parliament Week runs from 12th - 18th November. The Church of England is going to release resources for schools and youth groups so that they can engage with it.

Church parliamentarians call for next generation of women leaders

Women who represent the Church of England in Parliament have spoken out about what it means to be a female leader, as part of an initiative to inspire the next generation to follow in their footsteps. In the 100th anniversary year of women's votes, the three sitting women bishops in the House of Lords, together with the Chaplain to the Speaker and the Second Church Estates Commissioner have paid tribute to women from history who helped them on their vocational path, adding their own messages of encouragement. The five trailblazing leaders, each the first woman to hold their current role, were promoting specially-commissioned resources for Church of England Schools and youth groups to engage with UK Parliament Week 2018. Using the free resources, children and young people can this month have the chance to play the part of MPs by making a law and running a mock-election, while learning about the importance of the 1918 Representation of People Act which paved the way for women to vote. They can also participate in worship, saying the prayers used in the Houses of Commons and Lords every day at the start of business. The Second Church Estates Commissioner, Dame Caroline Spelman, the MP through whom the Church of England is accountable to Parliament, said that she remained 'both thankful for and inspired' by the women who had gone before her. 'When I speak with women I remind them that there are still many ongoing battles, such as achieving equal pay, tackling sexual exploitation and even something as basic as getting mothers' names onto marriage certificates,' she said. 'My faith, I hope, gives me a perspective on what really matters and the courage to pursue my vocation. We need a generation of young women to take up the baton

and I hope this will inspire people reading this to engage with Parliament Week and find out more!’ The Bishop of Gloucester, Rachel Treweek, the first woman bishop to enter the Lords, said that it was ‘never my intention to be bishop, let alone sit in the House of Lords.’ She continued, ‘I am acutely aware that I have only been able to take these steps because of the courage, prayer, voices and action of so many people over the years.’ The Bishop of Newcastle, Christine Hardman, paid tribute to two Northumbrian social reformers, Emily Davison and Josephine Butler, saying: ‘It was their commitment not to stay silent that enabled the voices of women to be heard and ultimately the law to be changed. ‘I was reminded of this when I took my seat in the House of Lords. Like the Christian faith of Josephine Butler and Emily Davison, my faith also compels me to work in whatever way I can for a better world in which everyone can flourish.’ The Bishop of London, Dame Sarah Mullally, reflected that her Christian calling was ‘not just to pray, but to act in the world.’ She added, ‘I am very aware that the seat I occupy in St Paul’s Cathedral is the one that suffragettes tried to blow up as part of their campaign for women’s rights. “The fact I sit in this seat 100 years after the vote was won for some women is an honour and a privilege I will try to use wisely.’ Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Chaplain to the Speaker of the Commons, said that one of the beautiful parts of her role was to officiate in the chapel adjacent to the broom cupboard in which Emily Davison had hid the night before the 1911 census, so as to declare Parliament as her place of residence. ‘Emily Davison has been a real inspiration to me, as I have sought to blaze a trail thus creating a new path for others to follow. My prayers for parliament and all those who seek to lead locally and nationally are heartfelt. ‘Politics is about decisions impacting on people’s lives and woven in the story of the Christian faith is the story about a God who is interested in the lives of all people.’

The worse you feel, the more likely you are to believe in God

At least that is a finding from the latest British Social Attitudes (BSA) survey, which has found that patients admitted to hospital are more likely to have religious faith than people in the general public.

It seems that more than half of us are happy to say that we have ‘no religion’, according to the latest BSA survey, which found that 52 per cent of us deny any religious affiliation. But this figure drops to only 15 per cent once you become a NHS patient.

Data from the Manchester University NHS Trust also shows that while 40 per cent of the population identify as Christian, this figure soars to 66 per cent once people are admitted to hospital.

Sudoku

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

Wordsearch

N O L I N T A O R M N X A E
E E S A E S I D T S W S G S
Y S I V S U O V S A J T S U
S C C E E G A I R O T C I V
S R N R I U X M I L L I O N
X L W A R A Y N F J G L Y O
W M O G T G N I H G I F O N
R T R E N C H E S A O N U K
E E L R U R E B M E V O N I
C O D A O S C P W E R C G L
T B T R C R G I X E D G E L
U N G V O L U N T E E R S E
S E M S T S F L I F E K T D
N O S T S P R L R E I F S Y

Shoe Box Gifts

Thank you to those preparing a box or just happy to buy or make us items to be included.

Completed boxes to be delivered to St Mary's at any time before Sunday, 18th November.

For those unable to complete a box but able to assist with items to be included – please place them in the crate provided near the Hospitality area in church – we will do the rest. If you need an item from the gift crate to complete your shoe box gift – then you are welcome to help yourself.

Remember – we can do a “home” box this year – which all the family can enjoy!

Cathedrals respond to zero-hour contracts revelations

Two English cathedrals have defended their commitment to staff welfare after it emerged they have been advertising vacancies which include zero-hour contracts. The practise of hiring workers on the basis they receive no guaranteed working hours was in the news recently when the Archbishop of Canterbury called the practise ‘evil’. Norwich Cathedral had advertised for a refectory assistant which was described as a “casual zero-hours post”. The Dean of Norwich, Very Revd Jane Hedges, said: ‘Zero-hour contracts are given to those of our staff who choose them because it suits their lifestyle, like, for example, students and people who are retired.’ Gloucester Cathedral had advertised for a porter to work evenings and weekends. A spokesperson said: ‘Gloucester Cathedral sometimes uses zero-hour contracts to employ people on an *ad hoc* basis, to carry out occasional tasks, for example setting up for events.’

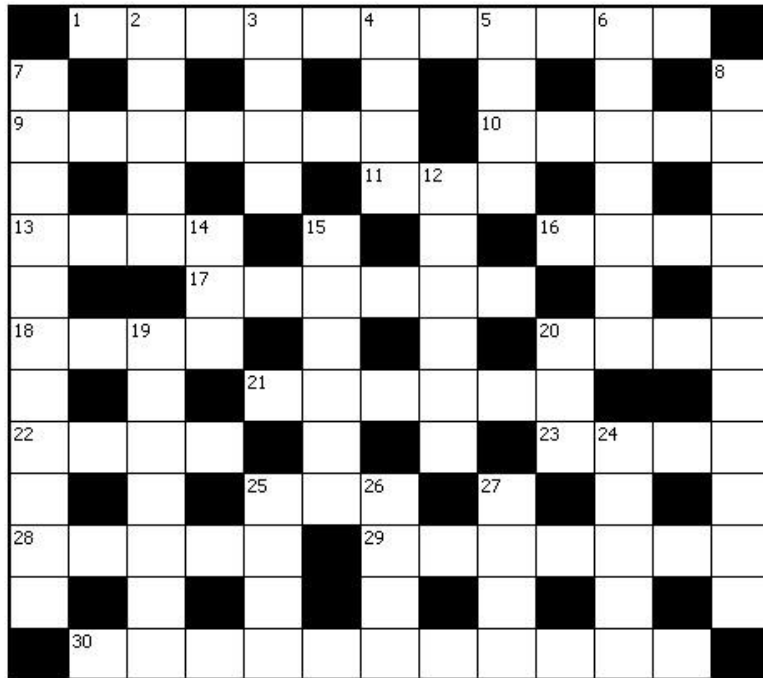


Write your own poppy petal in memory of someone known to you who served in WW1.

As part of our 5pm service on the 11th November we will scatter from the gallery paper poppy petals – each named with someone YOU wish to be remembered as well as all those listed on our WW1 War Memorials in Church. Simply fill in a petal (which can be found on the WW1 display table in church) and place in the glass container.

Whilst the wreath is being laid at our 10.30 service of Morning Prayer (which will be held at the Nave this year – near the font and memorial area - personal tributes may also made be those who served in WW1. – poppy petal dedications to be included in the evening “poppy fall”.

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 and 20 Down Lord of all ..., Lord of all..., whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy (11,3)
 9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: Why are you ... your fellow Hebrew? (Exodus 2:13) (7)
 10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline ... (2,3)
 11 At even ... the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay (3)
 13 A descendant of Gad (Numbers 26:16) (4)
 16 Do not leave Jerusalem, but ... for the gift my Father promised (Acts 1:4) (4)
 17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
 18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: We must ... God rather than men! (Acts 5:29) (4)

- 20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, ... Eareckson Tada (4)
 21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
 22 Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat ... (Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
 23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
 25 Tree (3)
 28 No fear of me should ... you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you (Job 33:7) (5)
 29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
 30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

- 2 O Jerusalem, how ... I have longed to gather your children together (Matthew 23:37) (5)
 3 Way out (4)
 4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
 5 Done (anag.) (4)
 6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
 7 Concerning the study of God (11)
 8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
 12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
 14 Frozen (3)
 15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
 19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
 20 See 1 Across
 24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
 25 Time (anag.) (4)
 26 Lists choice of meals (4)
 27 For the wages of sin is death, but the ... of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus (Romans 6:23) (4)