

St Mary's Christmas Programme 2015

(subject to amendment)

Day	Date	Event	Time
Saturday	28 th November		
Sunday	29 th November	First Sunday in Advent: Advent Carol Service with the Maia Singers	6.30PM
Monday	30 th November	CLOSED	
Tuesday	1st December	HOLY COMMUNION LUNCHTIME SERVICE	10.00AM 12.15PM
Wednesday	2nd December		
Thursday	3rd December		
Friday	4th December		
Saturday	5th December	St Mary's Christmas Fayre	10.30AM
Sunday	6 th December	Second Sunday in Advent Ex-Services Associations Carol Service	3PM
Monday	7th December	Stockport MENCAP Christmas Celebration with Stockport Special Schools	1PM
Tuesday	8 th December	HOLY COMMUNION LUNCHTIME SERVICE	10.00AM 12.15PM
Wednesday	9 th December		
Thursday	10 th December		
Friday	11 th December	AGE UK Stockport Carol Service with Warren Wood Primary School & Cheadle Hulme Singing Group	1.30PM
Saturday	12 th December		
Sunday	13 th December	Third Sunday in Advent	
Monday	14 th December	Beechwood Cancer Care "Tree of Light" Service/Dedication	7.00PM
Tuesday	15 ^h December	HOLY COMMUNION LUNCHTIME CAROL SERVICE	10.00AM 12.15PM
Tuesday	15 th December	Banks Lane Junior School Carol Service	7.00PM

Wednesday	16 th December	Mayor's Carol Service with Romiley Primary School Seasonal Address: Rt Rev Libby Lane	12.30PM
Thursday	17 th December	Vernon Park Primary School Carol Service	2.00PM
Friday	18 th December	Shopmobility Stockport Christmas Celebration with Offerton Methodist Choir	1.00PM
Saturday	19th December	"Sing Christmas" Concert with the Maia Singers & Laurel Lane Singers	7.30PM
Sunday	20th December	Fourth Sunday in Advent "Remembering Christmas in the absence of a loved one"	3.00PM
Monday	21 st December	Wellspring Christmas	1.00PM
Tuesday	22nd December	HOLY COMMUNION LUNCHTIME CAROL SERVICE AT ST MARYS	10.00AM 12.15PM
Wednesday	23 rd December		
Thursday	24 th December CHRISTMAS EVE	CAROLS FOR ALL FAMILY CAROL SERVICE HOLY COMMUNION WITH CAROLS	12.00 noon 6.00PM 11.00PM
Friday	25 th December CHRISTMAS DAY	Festival of Carols	10.00AM
Saturday	26 th December	Closed	
Sunday	27 th December	First Sunday of Christmas	10.30AM
Tuesday	29 th December	(No services)	
Thursday	31 st December NEW YEARS EVE	Watch Night Service	11.30pm
Sunday	3rd January	Second Sunday of Christmas	10.30AM
Saturday	9 th January 2015	Re-open	



St Mary's in the Marketplace

Churchgate Stockport SK1 1YG
Tel: 0161 480 1815

Rector:

Rev Roger Scoones

St Mary's Rectory
24 Gorsey Mount Street
Stockport
SK1 4DU
Tel: 0161 429 6564
e-mail: st.marysstockport@gmail.com.

Service times at St Mary's

Sunday:

10:30am Holy Communion or Morning Prayer

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

Tuesday:

10.00am Holy Communion

12.15pm Lunch-time Service

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

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

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

web site: www.stmarysinthemarketplace.com



STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH
St Mary's in the Marketplace



50p your contribution towards the cost of producing this magazine to be placed in the donations box please



We're Knitting "hats" for AGE UK Stockport

Deadline for delivery to AGE UK Stockport is the 12th November so completed hats should be delivered to St Mary's by Tuesday 10th November please.

Last year we knitted a record number of little hats to fit Innocent Smoothie bottles – we have been asked to help again.

If you have a few minutes to spare please give us a hand.

There are various patterns available for you to follow or just follow the basics and make your own design. Patterns and a collection box for completed hats can be found near the craft table in the south aisle.

The basics: Using double knitting yarn and some small needles cast on 28 stitches.

To ensure you are on the right track when laid out flat the hat dimensions should be about 5-7cm along the bottom and at least 3cm high.

Thank You

From the Rector's "i-pad"



Dear Reader

The other day I had the temerity to ask someone, who had dropped into St. Mary's on a Tuesday and found themselves invited to stay for the service, what they thought of it. The answer was rather surprising. Not a comment on the splendid singing of the hymns, nor a comment about seeing such a splendid congregation in the middle of the week! No, rather the view was expressed that "people there wouldn't know who Jonah was"! You see, I had slipped Jonah in to the sermon, as someone in the Bible who had run away from the call of God ! I would have assumed that the story of Jonah and the whale was quite a well known one wouldn't you? Mind you, I didn't mention the whale!

The call of God is a wonderful thing to receive , in what ever way it comes. It's 19 years ago now, since I received the call of God (via the Bishop of Stockport!) to come to live and serve you in Stockport. It was a massive change in lifestyle and ministry, and it took quite sometime to get used to. It wasn't an easy transition at all. But I have to say that I have been very happy living in Stockport all these years. It has been very fulfilling and I really believe that much has been achieved.

I believe that St. Mary's can look forward to playing a strong and leading role in the life of the community in the years ahead, now that much of the vital construction work on the building has been completed and the reordering of the interior has been moved on. There is still much to do, of course, both to conserve the outside of this fine old building and to continually improve the look and use of the interior. The heating and lighting and sound systems desperately need a complete overhaul and renewal , and many parts of the interior are crying out for decoration, still to be done! The call to come to Stockport, I have to say, did not come with a long list of what needed to be done!! But that's how it has worked out!

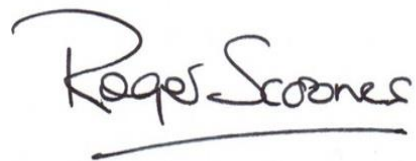
The call of God can be a disturbing experience , especially if you are happy with the way life is taking you, and suddenly , or over a period of time, you hear Him saying to you "Come along, I want you to do this for Me. Will you be obedient to My call?" In that same sermon, I quoted the Prophet Isaiah, who wrote this account of his life. "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ""Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"" And I said ""Here I am. Send me!" "It wasn't going to be easy for Isaiah , but it would be fulfilling for him and a blessing to the people he was called to serve, because of his faithfulness to the call of God .

The call of God doesn't mean that one has got to be ordained or licensed or given any title at all. It means being an obedient, willing, active follower of Jesus in this life. It stuck me forcibly the other day, when someone was talking about holidays, and how many times people go on holiday nowadays. That if it hadn't been for a number of things , set in motion by my daring to commit my life to Christ in an upper room in London one night, I would never have seen Switzerland in the way I have, visiting the beautiful Alps every year, often as a chaplain of the English Churches in Wengen and Zermatt. An extraordinary turnaround in ones life.

The call of God to become His disciple can , and invariably does lead the believer into many wonderful new , exciting and surprising avenues in life. The psalmist, David, write the words " The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside still waters, he restores my soul". The call of God !

As we move towards the great Christian celebration of Christmas , I invite you to consider the call of God upon your own life dear Reader, and to ask you, once again, what are you doing, on Earth, for Heaven's sake? Listen out for the call of God !

Yours in His service

Roger Scoones



St Mary's Christmas Fayre – **Saturday, 5th December** **10:30am onwards**

Please make a note in your diary to pop along to our annual Christmas Fayre.

All contributions to the stalls are most welcome (in advance of the event please) in particular craft items, good quality gifts, home-made preserves, cakes etc.

Volunteers on the day also appreciated.

If you are able to assist or have any queries please talk to Catriona or Ann.

Look out for the Nave Café

Christmas Special Menu



ST MARY'S IN THE MARKETPLACE, STOCKPORT

NOVEMBER 2015

SUNDAY, 1ST NOV	SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION 10.30AM
TUESDAY, 3RD NOV	SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION 10.00AM LUNCH-TIME SERVICE 12.15PM
SATURDAY, 7TH NOV	NAVE CAFÉ SWISS EVENING
SUNDAY, 8TH NOV	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER 10.30AM
TUESDAY, 10TH NOV	SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION 10.00AM LUNCH-TIME SERVICE 12.15PM
SATURDAY, 14TH NOV	MART RODGER MANCHESTER JAZZ 7.30PM Event to be re-scheduled at a later date
SUNDAY, 15TH NOV	SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION 10.30AM with Rev Ian Rumsey (Parish Development Officer for the Macclesfield Archdeaconry)
TUESDAY, 17TH NOV	SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION 10.00AM LUNCH-TIME SERVICE 12.15PM
SATURDAY, 21ST NOV	
SUNDAY, 22ND NOV	SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER 10.30AM BLESSING OF SHOE BOX GIFTS
TUESDAY, 24TH NOV	SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION 10.00AM LUNCH-TIME SERVICE 12.15PM
SATURDAY, 28TH NOV	
SUNDAY, 29TH NOV	SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION 10.30AM ADVENT CAROL SERVICE 6.30PM WITH THE MAIA SINGERS



If you are around St Mary's when Marion takes to the piano you are in for a treat as the building echos to some much loved music, enjoyed by all. Thank you Marion for sharing your gift with us – truly wonderful.

Not a sheet of music in sight, and the only hint that anything is going to happen is if you glance across the church and see the cover coming off the grand piano or when you hear those first few notes.

No singing yet from Holly II (thankfully)... She is a good little girl and sits quietly next to Mum.



If you have a special anniversary or occasion you wish to mark with flowers in church, then please see Sue who will be happy to get them for you or to arrange in our glass bowls any you care to bring in. We don't have a specific flower fund, all our money is kept in one account – but it is nice to see fresh flowers now and again, not just for special occasions.



Harvest at St Mary's **Thank You for your gifts to the Wellspring.**

Our contribution to The Wellspring may in some way be a drop in the ocean, but every little helps, and it is at this time of the year that we give a special thought to the work of our "near neighbours".

In the annual letter received from the charity (at which time we are given the "wish list" of items needed) we were informed that the number of clients (the number of people in need) has increased significantly this year and as a result the food stocks have been drastically reduced.

If you were present at the service of Holy Communion on Harvest Sunday you will have heard Roger relate the story of when recently walking past the Wellspring, he called in and went into the food store shocked to see for himself rows of empty boxes where normally it would have been packed from floor to ceiling with tins, packets and bags. "We have never been so short of food" they told him. "Look all we've got there is baked beans..."

We expect that there will be a steady flow of gifts of food or cash donations to keep the Wellspring going throughout the year, but there are various organisations out in the community and a growing need for "Food Banks". The end result being that donations to the Wellspring are becoming less and less.

Our harvest gifts have been received, the items delivered to the Wellspring BUT there is nothing preventing us from buying extra items from time to time when at the supermarket and dropping them off at the Wellspring ourselves OR bringing them into church and placing them in the orange basket and one of us will take them over for you.



Harvest Lunch. There was no shortage of food at the "Harvest Lunch". This year the Nave Café served a three-course meal with a "Vegetarian" theme – a totally meatless menu!

Serving the welcome drinks – thanks Jane – is that a Pear

Cider or Apple & Blackberry Punch!

Once again thank you to those who supported the event either by attending or making a donation. The Harvest Lunch raised £110 towards church funds and the produce stall the previous day £26.



Our Harvest flowers were a gift to St Mary's in memory of the "chef's" Mum and Dad. Not for any particular reason other than having flowers in church is always lovely. Thanks to Chris Knight for calling into Church (although not well at the time still suffering from an annoying virus) to bring in the "wheat" we used for decoration – grown initially from a single seed!

Arc



Unpicked – Re-stitched

The October textile workshops are of course now over, the display material taken away, but we look forward to seeing some of the finished work on display in the south aisle in the near future.



We look forward to welcoming another “branch” of Arc when they start to hold art workshops later in November.

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Nave Café “Curry & Quiz Night”

Many thanks to those who supported the event either by attending or giving a donation.

With a traditional starter of Indian “Puppodums” with all the extras, and Chicken Korma / Vegetable & Prawn Balti as the main course the evening continued with a 50 question quiz. With all the questions answered it was time for tea/coffee and Chocolate and Orange Cake before the quiz sheets were marked. It was only for fun so everyone received a prize – a few chocolates! We raised slightly in excess of £100 towards church funds.

In preparation for Advent & Christmas

Sunday, 29th November

6.30pm

Advent Carol Service



worship led by
The Maia Singers

followed by seasonal refreshments

A very special service of Advent
carols, hymns and readings

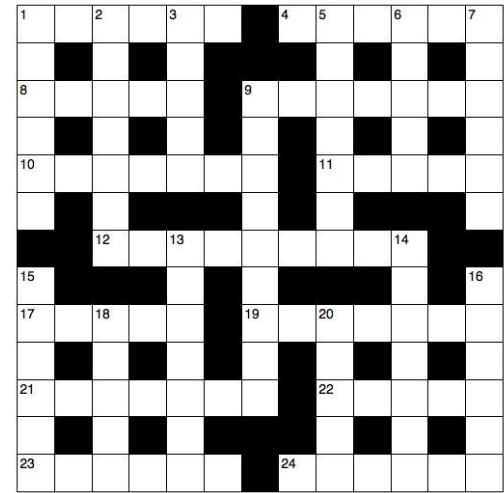


Stockport Viking and Medieval Festival and we were in the thick of it! An absolutely wonderful weekend.

Back at St Mary's on Saturday were Serpentyne, with Livia & The Elemental Dancers. Gaynor Wilson & Paul McGladdery, James J Turner and Isemband's Wheel.

Following our service on Sunday, Gaynor Wilson & Paul McGladdery and The Harry Fransisco Band. The highlight of the day of course being the closing concert with Leafblade who many will remember from last year.

Our sincere thanks to Mark and Derek for arranging such a special weekend, in partnership with the event Sponsors, and for including St Mary's in the various activities.



Crossword

Across

- 1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when he had given — , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)
- 4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)
- 8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)
- 9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)
- 10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)
- 11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)
- 12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull

was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)

17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)

19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)

21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)

22 'And feeble as — , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)

23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John 10:3) (6)

24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

Down

1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)

2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)

3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)

5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)

6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)

7 A three (anag.) (6)

9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)

13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)

14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)

15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)

16 See 6 Down (6)

18 Paste (anag.) (5)

20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)



Thank You to our box holders who have collected:
£237.00

It is a painful fact that many children and young people in Britain today are still suffering extreme hardship, abuse and neglect. Too often their problems are ignored and their voices unheard. Now it is time to listen and to act. The Children's Society is a national charity that runs local projects, helping children and young people when they are at their most vulnerable, and have nowhere left to turn. **For over 100 years, an army of over 100,000 amazing people generate almost £2m to help change children's lives – all by collecting their loose change.** House Boxes are one of the charity's most impressive heritages, millions of pounds have been faithfully collected, counted and donated to help transform thousands of young lives. It is a truly incredible scheme BUT the House Box collection is sadly experiencing decline which has now become rather serious. We are informed that income from the scheme has been falling by an average of 8% each year for six years.

Many of you hold one these boxes and regularly hand them in to our very own "St Mary's Box Co-ordinator", Frank Hamnett. Frank counts the cash and we pay your donations into the bank raising a cheque to the charity.

Frank received a letter recently from the charity saying *"thank you so much for being one of our most valued supporters – without incredible people like you, we couldn't reach so many children who desperately need your help..."* **THANK YOU** Frank and of course all those of you who have a box or who donate in some other way to The Children's Society.

Giving to charity is a very personal thing – most of us will already support a wide range of organisations either by giving cash, giving by direct debit, on-line giving, by holding fund raising events or acting as a volunteer. However, if you do not already do so, maybe you could find it in your heart to give something towards the work of the very worthy cause. There are a number of ways to give, either directly to the Charity or via us. **If you do not have a box and would like to support The Children's Society by having one please speak to Frank who will be pleased to assist.**



The advantage to St Mary's is the large number of people who enter the church for whatever reason, many who are visiting for the first time.

It is always interesting to see the encampment appear and to know that many are spending the night under our flood lights camping in the grounds.

For that reason we opened the doors early Saturday and Sunday and served breakfast from 7.30am.



In the churchyard you could see Knights in combat, birds of prey (see separate article) coin making as well as a guy with some nasty looking swords! Other activities could be found round every corner including an outdoor BBQ.

Plans are already in hand for the Vikings to return in October 2016



A man and his birds – for those of you visiting the Viking encampment you will have noticed various birds of prey and a very special Raven.

For those of you at our morning service you will have heard Rob talking of his legacy to the next generation – through his birds.

Whatever time of day on Saturday or Sunday you walked round the church there was a queue of people waiting to see Rob's birds and for the lucky ones the opportunity to have one perch on their hand and maybe ruffle their feathers.



Operation Christmas Child

Please ensure that your shoe-box gift is delivered to St Mary's in time for our morning service on the 22nd November.



Answers

ACROSS: 1, Thanks. 4, Banner. 8, Esher. 9, Azariah. 10, Compare. 11, Ishma. 12, Doorposts. 17, Oaths. 19, Galatia. 21, Papyrus. 22, Frail. 23, Listen. 24, Hyssop.

DOWN: 1, Trench. 2, Ashamed. 3, Karma. 5, Ananias. 6, Neigh. 7, Reheat. 9, Areopagus. 13, Observe. 14, Satraps. 15, Compel. 16, Gallop. 18, Tapes. 20, Lofty.

Raclette Evening

at the Nave Café

Saturday 7th November

This "Swiss Evening" is one not to miss with plenty of cheese as part of a three-course meal.



The more the merrier so please try and come along and support the last Nave Café Social Evening of the year before the Christmas Programme begins.

Tickets £15.00
