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

Service times at St Mary's Sunday: 10:30am or

Holy Communion Morning Prayer

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

Tuesday: 10.00am Holy 12.15pm Lune

.00am Holy Communion .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. Hard copy (hand written if easier) to the Rectory address or by email: to: st.marysstockport@gmail.com

Editorial discretion with regard to content and space available will apply.



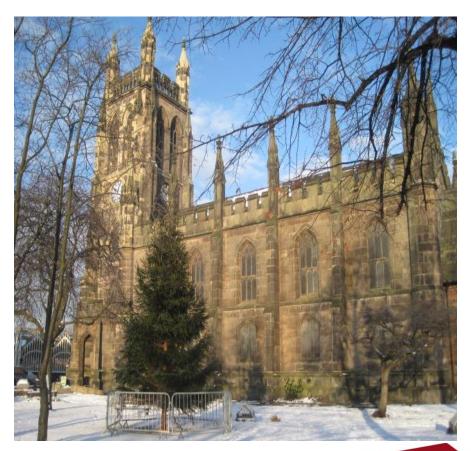
St Mary's in the Marketplace St Mary's Rectory, 24 Gorsey Mount Street, Stockport, SK1 4DU. 0161 429 6564

www.stmarysinthemarketplace.com.



St Mary's in the Marketplace

Parish Magazine December 2014











Dear Reader

Welcome to a very busy church! I have been very touched in recent days by comments people have made to me about how busy and welcoming and alive St. Mary's is nowadays. I honestly have to stand there and accept the plaudits of many visitors who are quite swept away by the new look of the building and all the activities that can be going on at any one time during the week. Thank you, if you are one of those kind and appreciative people. I'm touched and grateful to you for your encouragement!

This month of December has become increasingly busy over recent years, and no more so than this year, with FIVE new events programmed into an already crowded diary. At last, choirs and orchestras are coming to St. Mary's because they have heard how welcoming and user friendly we are! I'm sure they will not be disappointed! I hope that you, dear Reader, will amongst those who will come to support some of these exciting new events, as well as the well-established services and concerts, which I know for a fact are looked forward to with eager anticipation year by year, by many people in the Borough.

Someone said the other day, in my hearing, that "Christmas is about giving, and especially to children." I would say, that is nonsense, or at least only half the truth! Christmas starts with Christ. After all, what is left of the word if you leave out Christ? ...mas! It looks a bit odd doesn't it? Every year I wonder over and over, why people write Xmas! Why can't they write Christmas, after all, Christmas starts with Christ, if you think about it! It's His birthday we are celebrating, NO ONE else's !

I know there are some who are actually dreading the prospect of Christmas. So this year I have decided that I will hold my Christmas Day Celebration Lunch in church and not in my home! It makes sense. I live alone, and others card, on which he thanked me for over Sixty years of friendship. A month later Wilf was suddenly ill and died. He had through the years, brought me endless car loads of men's clothing for many of his pals at Chapel-en-le-Frith Golf Club. Although some of my 'visitors' were not easy to deal with, there were occasions when some 'lads' burst into tears with gratitude, which brought tears to my own eyes. Since those days and years past, I became more and more conscious of the small plaque I had put on my Study wall, which has been a constant reminder to me that –

"THE MAN WHO COMES TO ME – I WILL NEVER TURN AWAY"

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8	4	7	2			6		
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7	3			2	6	4	5	
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	9 97 99	5		6		1		2

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A letter from Emily

Emily works in the Nave Café on a Friday. She handed this letter to us expressing her thoughts as to working here at St Mary's – we wish to share this with you.

"To Dear St Mary's Church and Café

Thank you having me for working it is the best feeling ever. It is good big opportunity for me and Thank You. It means a lot to me.

You are such good friends that I ever have

Thank You"

Lots of Love

From Emily XXX

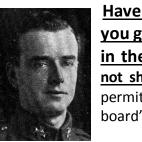
Thank you Emily for taking the time to write this letter to us, a very kind thought.



Supporting people with a disability and disadvantaged groups to lead better lives

<u>WW1</u>

WAR STORIES



1914

you got a story to tell of someone who was involved in the Great War – a family member may be. Why not share it with us - your story will be printed as space permits over the coming months and put on our WW1 "story board"

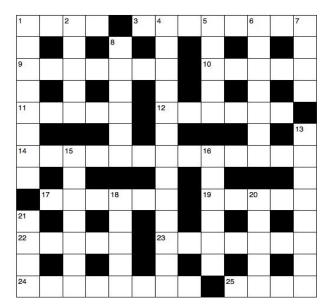
I remember as a young child being taken by my Mum and Dad to visit All Saints, Glossop. Dad was born in Glossop (Castle Hill) and attended for a long time Glossop Parish Church. I remember being shown a special ceiling of stars – but very little else if honest. I returned not that long ago to look for it (still as beautiful as I remembered).



On the communion table in that little side chapel there is a 1914-18 WW1 Memorial and one of the names shown is that of Thomas Heap.

Thomas was born in 1890 (Glossop, Derbyshire). At the time of the 1901 Census, Thomas (aged 21) was a "Pinner on a Stenter Frame". I have no idea of the circumstances that took Tom and his brother Edwin to New Zealand. Thomas left cotton spinning behind and became a ploughman. Both brothers were living and working around St Andrews and Moven near Canterbury, NZ. But war changes everything and they enlisted in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. Records show that the brothers left Wellington NZ on the 7th December 1916 (on the vessel "Port Lyttelton"). Unfortunately I don't know exactly what happened to Edwin, but Thomas is known to have be killed in action on the 14th August, 1918 in Bapaume, France. War Grave records show him to be registered at Queens Cemetery, Bucquoy. Ref II.E.4.

Crossword



Across:

1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)

7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during

a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14–15) (7)

8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)

10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)

11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)

13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)

15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse

Edith — (6)

17 Stormy (8)

18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread,

was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)

21 Arson (anag.) (5)

22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn

(7)

"GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS..."

These are the words of Jesus Christ

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **Greater** *love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.* You *are my friends if you do what I command.*" The Bible: John's Gospel chapter 15 verse 13

On Christmas Day 1914, fighting ceased in the trenches of World War I and soldiers from both sides sang the well-known carol, 'Silent Night', across No Man's Land. Some soldiers from the British and German armies even joined together to play football. 100 years on we are inviting you to attend a new and special service at St Mary's

Silent Night Carol Service	_
	with the Sapphire Blue Choir
Sunday, 19 th December	<u>7.30pm</u>

British soldier, Albert Moren, who was in the front-line trenches near the village of La Chapelled'Armentieres recalled: 'It was a beautiful moonlit night, frost on the ground, white almost everywhere ... there was a lot of commotion in the German trenches and then there were those lights - I don't know what they were. And then they sang "Stille Nacht" - "Silent Night". I shall never forget it. It was one of the highlights of my life.'

This Christmas, Tearfund, HOPE and Sports Chaplaincy UK are partnering together to bring you Silent Night Carols. Commemorating the 100 year anniversary of World War I and remembering the thousands of families across the world, devastated by conflict and disasters today. A collection will be taken during the service to include a donation for this vital work





What is your favourite bible passage and why? Revd. Bernard R Elsdon

<u>"The Man who comes to me, I will never turn away"</u> <u>St John, Chapter 6, Verse 37</u>

When I was in my first Curacy at St. Hilary's in Wallasey, I soon began to realise just how important this short verse was, and when I moved to take the reigns of Our Lady & St Nicholas, Liverpool Parish Church at Pier Head, it become more important to me still. Finally I was asked by Bishop Blanch, who has previously been the Principal of my Theological College in Rochester, Kent, to move to St Margaret's in Anfield, it then became a greater challenge to me than ever! There was no way that I could dodge this challenge. How was this you may wonder?

In Wallasey at the time we had many problems, but mainly that of Drugs, which brought with it the new experience of finding "Druggies" in the Church porch, or amongst the graves at the foot of the ancient grave yard.

At Liverpool Parish, there were no greater problems through the consumption of Alcohol on top of Drugs, but in Anfield there was to be hardly a day without growing numbers of a range of lads to older retired men, in great need of somewhere to sleep, somewhere to receive food, and because of their rough life, somewhere to get replacement clothing. There was hardly a day that went by without men and youths calling for help, often in tears because, as they soon explained to me, they had often lost their families.

Some days seemed difficult to me, because I felt so weary, but others were full of hope, as friends sent or brought me clothing from their own friends, and their own homes. One of those friends recently sent me a birthday do too. Since St. Mary's is now well equipped to serve full meals, and with the help of my colleague Sue I hope that rather than be alone on Christmas Day there will be those of you who will accept my warm invitation, to be my guest! It will certainly be Christmas with a difference this year!

Christmas Day at St. Mary's will begin at 10am with a Festival of Carols and a short service to celebrate the Birthday of Jesus, followed by a time of friendship over a cuppa, as we usually do at St. Mary's.

After that a festive lunch , with all the trimmings, will be served, for those who care to attend! I hope it will prove to be a very Happy Christmas.

You see, for me, dear Reader, Christmas starts with Christ, who makes sense of our upside down world. Christ makes sense of all the shopping, all the cooking, all the decorating, all the present giving, all the trees and the baubles, all the lights and the carol services, too. Don't get me wrong ! I love the present giving, and the emphasis on children. It is a wonderful time of year! But its only half the truth!

I hope that you will find a time to join us during this busy month of December, and see what a difference it can make when you see the truth for yourself, that CHRISTmas starts with CHRIST!

God bless you and give you a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

Warmest best wishes

Rev. Roger Scoones Rector, St.Mary's Stockport

St Mary's Christmas Programme 2014

(subject to amendment)

Day	Date	Event	Time
Saturday	29 th November	Gorton Community Voice Choir with Elyse and St John's Primary Steel Band	7.30PM
Sunday Christmas starts with Christ	30 th November Christmas Starts with Christmas Starts Sunday	First Sunday in Advent: "A Choral Celebration" in words and music by candlelight with the Maia Singers in preparation for Advent and Christmas	6.30PM
Monday	1 st December	CLOSED	
Tuesday	2 nd December	HOLY COMMUNION LUNCHTIME SERVICE	10.00AM 12.15PM
Wednesday	3 rd December	CLOSED	7.00 PM
Thursday	4 th December	Stockport Secondary Schools Carol Festival	7.00PM
Friday	5 th December	OPEN AS USUAL	
Saturday	6 th December	St Mary's Christmas Fayre Ladybrook Singers Christmas Concert	10.30AM 7.30PM
Sunday	7 th December	Ex-Services Associations Carol Service	3PM
Monday	8 th December	Stockport MENCAP Christmas Celebration with Stockport Special Schools	1PM
Tuesday	9 th December	HOLY COMMUNION	10.00AM
		LUNCHTIME SERVICE	12.15PM
Wednesday	10 th December	The Light Orchestra GB Christmas Concert	7.30PM
Thursday	11 th December	"Marketing Stockport" Carol Service	6.00PM
Friday	12 th December	AGE UK Stockport Carol Service with Warren Wood Primary School & Cheadle Hulme Singing Group	1.30PM
Saturday	13 th December	Affinity Show Choir Christmas Concert	7.30PM
Sunday	14 th December	Advent Morning Prayer "Toy Service"	10.30AM
Monday	15 th December	Beechwood Cancer Care "Tree of Light" Service/Dedication	7.00PM

Tuesday	16 th December	HOLY COMMUNION	10.00AM
		LUNCHTIME CAROL SERVICE	12.15PM
Tuesday	16 th December	Banks Lane Junior School Carol	7.00PM
		Service	
Wednesday	17 th December	Mayor's Carol Service with	12.30PM
		Warren Wood Primary School	
Thursday	18 th December	Vernon Park Primary School	2.00PM
		Carol Service	
Friday	19 th December	Shopmobility Stockport	1.00PM
		Christmas Celebration with	
		Offerton Methodist Choir	
Friday	19 th December	Silent Night Carol Service with	7.30PM
		the Sapphire Blue Choir	
Saturday	20 th December	"Sing Christmas" Concert with	7.30PM
		the Maia Singers	
Sunday	21 st December	"Remembering Christmas in the	3.00PM
	a and a state	absence of a loved one"	
Monday	22 nd December	Wellspring Christmas	1.30PM
Tuesday	23 rd December	HOLY COMMUNION	10.00AM
		LUNCHTIME CAROL SERVICE AT	12.15PM
	24 th December	ST MARYS	12.00
Wednesday		CAROLS FOR ALL	12.00
	CHRISTMAS EVE	FAMILY CAROL SERVICE HOLY COMMUNION WITH	noon 6.00PM
		CAROLS	11.00PM
Thursday	25 th December	FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS	10.00AM
mulsuay	CHRISTMAS DAY	FESTIVAL OF CHRISTIMAS	10.00AW
Friday	26 th December	Closed	
Saturday	27 th December	Closed	
Sunday	28 th December	HOLY COMMUNION	10.30AM
Monday	29 th December	Closed	10.30AW
Tuesday	30 th December	Closed (No services)	
Wednesday	31 st December	Watch Night Service	11.30PM
weathesday	NEW YEARS EVE	watch Night Service	11.50PW
Thursday	1 st January 2015	Closed	
Thursday Friday	2 nd January 2015	Closed	
Saturday	3 rd January 2015	Closed	
Saturday	4 th January 2015	HOLY COMMUNION	10.30AM
Monday	5 th January 2015	Closed	10.30AW
	6 th January 2015		10.00484
Tuesday	o ^m January 2015	HOLY COMMUNION	10.00AM 12.15PM
			12.125101

Book NOW for events in January 2015



"Oh yes it is" – a great afternoon out!

Friday, 2nd January 2015 (2.30pm). St Mary's Panto visit to see Cinderella at The Plaza.

afternoon tea afterwards at St Mary's Seasonal Rectory. [Ticketed event]

& Saturday, 24th January 2015

Burns Night at The Nave Café

Ticket Event:

£15.00 per person

6th December **St Mary's Christmas Fayre**



10.30am

Our collection box is open for items to sell at the Christmas Fayre. Volunteers also required to help on the day.

All donations most welcome and if you can join us

on a Thursday at the "knit and natter", even better! As well as "home made" craft items we will of course accept unused and unopened "gifts" etc. providing they are of good quality and sellable. No books please or "second hand" items. Cakes, preserves, pickles etc. gratefully received just before the event.

Tables available (as appropriate and as space allows) for a fixed table fee or percentage of takings.

The Vikings came to St Mary's

The Viking Weekend seems a long time ago now, but a weekend that will be remembered with a smile. It was fantastic to have live music in St





Mary's from Serpentyne and Leaf Blade and to welcome the "Viking village" on to the grounds of St Mary's.



(Taloned The birds Feathers) arrived early on Friday evening and spent a chilly weekend outside, but we were at least able to



offer a cooked breakfast to the villagers in

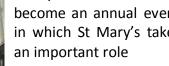
Church and to keep them supplied with hot drinks from the Nave Cafe.



The "Old Town" that funding can be

secured to hold the event again next year - it would be simply great if it could

become an annual event in which St Mary's takes







Christmas starts with Christ C

ing story of his birth the focus of the nation's favourite time of year

Just 12 per cent of adults know the nativity story, and more than one-third of children don't know whose birthday it is. Meanwhile, 51 per cent of people now say the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas.

Together we can reverse the trend

Volunteers needed to help us with the Christmas Programme

When you take a glance at our Christmas Programme you will see that there are a lot of services, concerts and other events that need to run smoothly, many if not most are expected to have a high attendance.

Please look at your diary and let us know (there is a list on the desk at St Mary's) if/when you can assist us (dates and times please).

Help will be needed welcoming visitors, taking collection(s), sorting out queries and with the serving of refreshments, to complement the "Nave Café". There is always a degree of "scene changing" between different events, the chairs to move round, staging to be set-up or set-down etc. as well as housekeeping issues, such as some general cleaning between events (sweeping and mopping), and simple tasks like ensuring we have sufficient loo rolls in the toilets and that the hand-wash is topped-up. Always plenty to do!

New works at St. Mary's.

Two historic rooms, a Medieval 14th century Chapel, converted into a vestry for the Rector long ago, and a Victorian vestry created for the choir in the 1884 Restoration of the church, are about to receive a dramatic transformation! What we are doing? New roofs, an essential part of any building, are to be constructed over the vestries, securing these historic and valuable spaces for future use. Before the work begins a comprehensive above-ground expert archaeological survey will be undertaken, to gain maximum knowledge of this heritage building in the centre of Stockport. Why we are doing it? This part of the building was in danger of collapse. The roofs were leaking and the walls, too, were letting in water, rendering the rooms unsuitable for use, and causing rot to the ancient roof timbers, dating recently identified as from the 16th century. Remedial work to the walls and floors as well as the roofs was essential and urgently required.

Further restoration of the doors leading to and from the Vestries, and from the South entrance of the Chancel, together with enhanced electrical facilities and heating, have received faculty permission, for work to be undertaken, in conjunction with the current restoration and conservation work.

Launching the Appeal We are looking for a further sum of £10,000 to allow us to fund this work, which will enhance and improve the use of these historic spaces, so long hidden from public view, and now to be revealed in all their glory, full of medieval and Victorian craftsmanship. We are making this Appeal now, as the work begins, because we believe that this is the very best opportunity we have to achieve our aim of passing on this great Parish Church to future generations in good working order and for the greater good of the community.

Please support this Appeal and give what you can to make this dramatic transformation happen!

Help the homeless to survive winter cold

Have you seen the notices left in Church?



Our neighbours at The Wellspring have engaged on a project to help homeless people in Stockport this winter. They need help from the people of Stockport to donate "rucksack survival packs". Wellspring manager Jonathan Billings is looking for people to fill a rucksack with a fleece or jumper, one hat, scarf or gloves, two pairs of socks and underwear, a toothbrush, a sleeping bag, a flask, tins of beans or soup (with ring-pull openings) and a spoon plus crossword puzzles, word searches and pens.

The packs can either be assembled from people's wardrobes or by purchasing charity shop products.

We have so far this season knitted hats for Smoothie bottles to help "Age Concern Stockport", filled our shoe box presents (or given gifts to go in one) for Operation Christmas Child, so now is our opportunity to help fill a rucksack (or two)!

We haven't got much time left now to hit the distribution date of the 7th December – but <u>donations of competed packs or</u> <u>individual items can be dropped into the Wellspring centre on</u> <u>Harvey Street.</u> where they will be received with enormous thanks.

Donations can also be given by text (text RSPS14 to 70070 followed by an amount between £1 and £10).

23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

1 ' — and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8) (5)

2 'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous

are as — as a lion' (Proverbs 28:1) (4)

- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19–20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 'Offer your bodies as living , holy and pleasing to God' (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)

12 One who accepts government by God (8)

14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1)

(7)

16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)

19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)

20 'You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will — his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21) (4)

We'll Meet Again - another wonderful event held at St Mary's



during November with all the fun of having with us a crew from BBC North West Tonight. The cameras rolled as former evacuees and volunteers were interviewed, as well as event organiser, Gillian Mawson. There was lots to look at, stories to be heard and "The George Formby Experience".

We look forward to welcoming Gillian back to St Mary's

next year for a special church service in August 2015 to mark the 70th anniversary of the Guernsey evacuees return home from Stockport.



Sunday, 14th December

TOY SERVICE And now for something a little different......

We most probably all have a favourite toy that we have had for years and will treasure all our lives.

This year we want to give a toy away – but it will need to be a new one and comply with required safety standards*

Bring a toy with you to our service of Morning Prayer

Your gifts will be sent to a good home...

*The CE marking is the manufacturer's declaration that the product meets the requirements of the applicable EC directives

All Alone on Christmas Day...

Then unless you want to cook just for yourself why not join us for Christmas Dinner at St Mary's "Nave Café".

At the invitation of the Rector, an invitation is extended to anyone wishing to join him for Christmas Dinner on the 25th December.

Our church day will begin with our "Festival of Carols" at 10.00am (everyone welcome) which will be followed by coffee in our hospitality area.

For those attending lunch we will start with a small drinks reception at around 12.30pm. Lunch will be served at 1.00pm. **Numbers will be restricted so you are advised to book early.** There is no fixed ticket price (the cost of the festivities will be a gift from Roger)– donations will be most welcome on the day towards the work of "The Wellspring".

The Wellspring provides services to Homeless and disadvantaged people 365 days a year. The charity aim is to support people out of Homelessness and to become independent of their services. The Wellspring provides educational courses, giving people with low skill levels the skills and confidence to become independent. The Wellspring provides many health services to homeless and disadvantaged people. Their aim being to improve the health of homeless people. The Wellspring actively engages with people who are at risk of becoming homeless in the future with the desire to considerably reduce future homelessness in Stockport by engaging and providing services to the at risk group".

