ACROSS: 8, Bottomless pit. 9, Ice. 10, Decalogue. 11, Limbo. 13, Seconds. 16, Crimson. 19, Eager. 22, Abhorrent. 24, Lap. 25, Alpha and Omega. DOWN: 1, Abdiel. 2, Stream. 3, Wondrous. 4, Flocks. 5, USCL. 6, A pagan. 7, Athens. 12, IOR. 14, Creation. 15, Dye. 16, Cravat. 17, In hope. 18, Need no. 20, Galley. 21, Repeat. 23, Read

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**
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 St Mary’s in the Marketplace 50p

**Parish Magazine**  “SECURING THE FUTURE FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS”

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****From the Rector’s Desk

Dear Reader .
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**The role of the volunteer in Society** . .
 . .
In her Christmas message Her Majesty the Queen spoke affirmingly of the role of volunteers in our society as well as assuredly of the place of the Christian faith in society and most evidently in her own life. Her Christian testimony should be an inspiration to us all. A few days later the retiring Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, gave his parting messages to the nation which included a positive word of appreciation to all volunteers. He spoke of “volunteers who worked away, without complaint, all hours of the day and night” during the Olympics and Paralympics. Of social projects run by churches he added that “religion isn’t a social problem or an old fashioned embarrassment: it is a wellspring of energy and a source of life-giving vision for how people should be rewarded and treated”. He is also reported to have said, in his last speech in the House of Lords, before stepping down as Archbishop, that ”we are becoming dangerously used to speaking and thinking of an ageing population as being a problem”. Considering old people to be “essentially passive” was, he said, “a damaging stereotype”. He added that “more than half the over-60 population are involved in some sort of formal and structured voluntary work and that over half of the population believed that this is part of what they should aspire to in later life, and a third are willing to take part in informal volunteering. It means, he concluded, quite simply, “that a majority of the older population are ready to do what they can, unpaid, to support the fabric of society” [Church Times report of 4 Jan 2013]

**The role of the volunteer in St Mary’s**

St Mary’s is now recognised as being fully functional and an integrated part of our town’s life and fabric. It is applauded for its pro-active stance towards the Market, the business community, the schools of the Borough, and to visitors from home and abroad. It’s musical life is burgeoning forth

Sunday, 6th January – The Epiphany

The Feast of Epiphany is the climax of Christmas. It marks the end of the 12 days of Christmas and celebrates the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. These men, often called Kings or Magi, taking with them valuable gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to honour the baby.



The gift of gold was the gift people usually gave to their King. By giving gold they were recognising Jesus as their King. The second gift, frankincense, is a white gum from a tree called 'Arbor Thurisfrom'. After hardening the gum forms a hard resin which when burnt gives off a fragrant smell. It was burnt as an offering to God during worship, used a medicine and also a perfume. The third gift was myrrh which was also a gum from thorny tree. Myrrh is a wound healer because it has antiseptic, anti-inflammatory and pain relieving qualities. It was also used as an embalming material when someone had died.

Epiphany is the day when all Christmas decorations need to be taken down otherwise it is said to bring bad luck. The day before Epiphany is the twelfth day of Christmas and is sometimes called 'Twelfth Night'.

In the Church calendar the Epiphany season lasts until the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday this year falls on the 13th February, and it is around this time that we expect present work on St Mary’s to be completed.

Planned Giving

With only a small number of people remaining on the Planned Giving envelope scheme we have not bought new envelopes this year but Frank has kindly made-up sets of envelopes (either weekly - or for those who do not contribute on a regular weekly basis - monthly envelopes).

For those who wish to give “as and when” they attend church the white envelopes on the pews will remain the most appropriate way of giving, where “gift aid” is appropriate. Otherwise cash can be put on the collect plate at services or placed within the donations box in Church.

**Our preferred method of planned giving is however by bank mandate**. You can give whatever amount suits your budget, arrange for payment to be made monthly, quarterly or annually. Once set-up, it’s easier for you and easier for me (as Treasurer). We (the PCC) know what funding we can expect to receive and when we are going to receive it. **So, please, if you have not already done so, consider transferring to bank mandate (forms available on request – with or without “gift aid”)**. There are a number of us now who do not put either cash or a planned giving envelope on to the collection plate when it comes round. We know that we give what we can to the church – and we know that others are doing to same. We are simply making life easier and going cashless! **Why not do the same!**

Where you do give cash - we appreciate that every penny counts, but not literally! It would be very much appreciated if copper coins (1p and 2p) could be avoided please (especially in planned giving envelopes) – it takes an age to collect an amount worth banking and adds to the weight of coinage to be transported to the bank**. Thank You.**

way or another. We will welcome others to join the team and support our efforts – we will look at “partnership working” with other organisations and church groups; at opportunities open to us within the community – either voluntary or business sectors. We will re-visit our “Business Plan” reviewing our aims and objectives for the short, medium and long term. Exciting and challenging times are ahead as we move forward **“securing the future for the next 100 years”.**

With more restoration and conservation to follow:

The work on continued restoration will not end in February 2013, we will be seeking grant funding for the vestry areas to be properly re-roofed and repaired during 2013/14. We will be reviewing the historic interest of this medieval part of the Church. We will be working with English Heritage, Stockport Council and other interested parties and towards restoration of the archway at the west end of the church yard and paying special attention to the various war memorials within St Mary’s as we join in the programme beginning in 2014 for “Remembering the First World War” by supporting the work of the Imperial War Museum for cultural commemorative programmes – funding for which is likely to be available from early 2013.

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Hilda Butterworth

Hilda Butterworth who died on 16th November 2012 and whose funeral took place at St Mary’s on 30th November – an appreciation.

““Oh don’t make a fuss – they don’t want to hear all that” – I can hear her saying it, not standing still, but while she was getting on with some job or other around the church. Because that was Hilda, she got on quietly doing things and she didn’t want a fuss””. These were the opening words of the address given at Hilda’s funeral, at which many of her friends attended.

Hilda was born in Grassbach in Austria in 1933. Her mother left her children to come and live in England, where Hilda joined her aged 16. She worked in Shearings, and later, for 20 years or more, up to retirement at W H Smith where she made many friends. Hilda has two children, Mark her son, and Karen a daughter who died tragically young leaving a son, Simon, who married Heidi and who in turn gave Hilda great-grandchildren Mya and Hayden.

One day Hilda stepped out of the Market Hall and into St Mary’s where she found faith renewed and friendships made, deep and meaningful friends with whom she shared her joys and sorrows in life. Hilda’s constant companions in life were her cats and loosing them affected her dreadfully. Hilda gave her time, her energy and her money generously and unstintingly to St Mary’s. Brian, her constant companion for many years gave her lifts to the church council meetings, which she served for a number of years, besides cleaning the church brasses, arranging flowers and latterly helping as a volunteer on Fridays in the church café.

Hilda suffered from serious ill health towards the end of her life but bore her affliction with courage and dignity and a lovely sense of humour, a clear sense of right and wrong, and a Christian faith which brought her regularly to church on Tuesdays and Sundays, come wind or shine. Hilda and her dear friend Audrey would often set off home from church together into the sometimes wet and wild weather with the words “Don’t make a fuss – we’ve got our bus passes”!

And that is how may of us will remember Hilda, with affection, thanksgiving and a smile. Safe in the arms of Jesus. Roger Scoones

of Finance rely on “Parish Share” payments being made on time and in full.

The CDBF will agree to a lower sum being paid when a parishes find itself unable to pay the full amount, due to cash flow difficulties - but there is the expectation that parishes in this position will catch-up with their payments. There is an option for nearby parishes and/or deanery to agree jointly to vary the amounts paid by individual parishes – but there remains the need for the total payment to be met in full.

**There is only one satisfactory conclusion - we simply have to pay our way – or suffer the consequences…..**

**So – what are we going to do to rectify this situation? What can you do to help….**

Well, individual increases in Planned Giving contributions, or one-off payments to the business account will of course help and be most appreciated.

Fund raising activities even, but we need to review our ways of working, expand usage of St Mary’s within the community (without moving away from the primary purpose of it’s very being) but to complement that and make best use of what is a magnificent Grade 1 listed building – with charm and character. We have the opportunity to expand the services we offer, the opportunity to work alongside others to allow St Mary’s to pay its way and grow from strength to strength. However painful it may seem to some, we need to grasp the nettle and plan for a future of change. We cannot stand still – we cannot remain as we are – if we are to secure our future.



Across

8 How the Abyss (NIV) is described in the Authorized Version (Revelation 9:1) (10,3)

9 Frozen water (Ezekiel 1:22) (3)

10 The Ten Commandments (9)
11 In Roman Catholic theology, neither heaven nor hell (5)
13 Des cons (anag.) (7)

16 ‘Though [your sins] are red as — , they shall be like wool’ (Isaiah 1:18) (7)

9 Keen (Romans 1:15) (5)

22 Repugnant, loathsome (Jeremiah 24:9) (9)

24 Drink like an animal (Judges 7:5) (3)

25 First and last (Revelation 22:13) (5,3,5)

Down

1 Father of Ahi, a Gadite (1 Chronicles 5:15) (6)

2 Where David found the stone with which he killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (6)

3 ‘Hour by hour fresh lips are making thy — doings heard on high’ (8)

4 ‘And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their — at night’ (Luke 2:8) (6)

5 United Society for Christian Literature (1,1,1,1)

6 ‘If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would — — or a tax collector’ (Matthew 18:17) (1,5)

7 Where Paul was taken when things became difficult for him in Berea (Acts 17:15) (6)

12 Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Vatican Bank) (1,1,1)

14 ‘Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new — ; the old has gone, the new has come!’ (2 Corinthians 5:17) (8)

15 Used to colour ram skins red for use in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:5) (3)

16 Vat car (anag.) (6)

17 ‘Be joyful — — , patient in affliction, faithful in prayer’ (Romans 12:12) (6)

18 ‘The parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts — — special treatment’ (1 Corinthians 12:23) (4,2)

20 Ancient rowing boat (Isaiah 33:21) (6)

21 Say again (2 Corinthians 11:16) (6)

23 What Jesus did in the synagogue in Nazareth after he stood up (Luke 4:16) (4)





 **Childrens Society
 & Leprosy Mission Collection Boxes**

Please bring these in for emptying to Frank Hamnett as soon as you can.

Thank You





 *Thank you to everyone who brought gift filled shoe
 boxes or gave donations. All the show boxes
 received by the 19th November were sent by lorry
 to Belarus, other loads having gone to Zimbabwe,
 Serbia and Romania. These gifts will make a huge*

 *difference to the children who receive them to
 know they are loved and give them hope. It was wonderful to be able to be able to send over 39,500 shoe boxes from the Manchester Area warehouse. Thank you again to you all for supporting the 2012 shoe boxes. Margaret Forster*

#### Many thanks to Irene Hamnett and Margaret Forster for organising our efforts to this well established and worthwhile cause. The collections for 2013 have begun – so if you (or your family and friends) have any unwanted gifts that can be used in our boxes then please put them to one side or let Irene or Margaret have them for safe-keeping and inclusion later on.

and its heritage potential is being recorded and revitalised with the almost completed refurbishment and re-ordering of the church’s interior. It is a vibrant place, full of life during the week, surprising many by its peace and beauty and by the warmth of welcome offered. St Mary’s will have received without doubt, one of the greatest Heritage Lottery Fund grants in total, for the conservation of the Tower and the interior arch, of any public building in the North West of England in the last 10 years. St Mary’s is not only outstanding in the life of the market and the town centre, but also standing out, on the skyline of Stockport, with the flag soon to be flying once again from a new flag pole, and the bells of St Mary’s ringing out across the Town once more for all the hear and enjoy. All this – and all because of volunteers, many of them in the Archbishop’s words ‘older people’. Volunteers, members and friends of St Mary’s. giving their time and energy to make this happen, to make St Mary’s what it is called to be – an open, friendly, welcoming, peaceful, faith proclaiming church, for all ages from all ages.

Dear reader, don’t let age be a problem, make it a positive attribute – become a volunteer!

God bless you with a very Happy and Fulfilling New Year.

Yours enthusiastic Rector and Friend

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PARISH SHARE

Full details will be incorporated into the annual report/treasurers report later in the year, but the Parochial Church Council will shortly be considering the Church’s financial position for 2013 and once again it will be clear that we will be unable to meet our financial obligations to the Diocese.

The 2013 parish share for Stockport St Mary is £44,564.45 payable as £3,713.70 per month. We are informed that this amount will automatically collected on the last working day of each month from January 2013 unless we instruct the Chester Diocesan Board of Finance to collect a different amount. We presently pay just £1,500.00 per month, well short of our payment requirement for 2012 (£42,130pa / £3510.83pm) and increase the amount of our arrears substantially every month that passes. This unfortunate situation looks as if it is set to continue, unless we can increase our income stream substantially.

We struggle to pay our way on a month to month basis, with our insurance costs for St Mary’s being £ 642.48 a month and the standing order for gas alone being £515.00. Then there are the rest of our running expenses to consider – which are many and varied. There is always the unexpected (once again this winter urgent boiler repairs) as well as regular commitments for electricity, telephone, essential maintenance contracts etc. and normal everyday running costs.

The need to change our ways is obvious – to secure our future! We are all in the same boat as it were – we all have a responsibility to do something positive in support of the ministry and mission of St Mary’s.

The problem is made worse when you consider that the 2013 budget for the diocese anticipates a deficit of £158,000. The Chester Diocesan Board

### **Don’t sell the Church Silver - which is on permanent display with the civic collection - but…**Dickinson’s Real Deal visits Stockport Town Hall on Saturday, 12th January 2013

*Why let your antiques collect dust in the attic when you can sell them for cash? Take money on the spot from a dealer OR if you think your item is worth more….take it to auction! Dickinson’s Real Deal is currently the most popular daytime show on ITV and is regularly watched by over a million people and it is recording here in Stockport*

*Back for a ninth series, David Dickinson and the dealers are travelling around the country looking for some more bobby dazzlers brought in by members of the public. As usual David Dickinson will be keeping an eye on the deals and giving advice about whether to take the dealers’ cash OR take your valuables to auction.*

*But the final decision lies with the contributors and it’s up to them to decide which option is the REAL DEAL!* ***Could this be you?***

*If you are interested – between 9.00am and 05.00pm members of the public are invited to take their antiques along to the Town Hall. People can call beforehand by telephoning DRD hotline: 0117 970 7618 or just turn up on the day. Admission is Free. www.itv.com/lifestyle/realdeal/ TWITTER: @ITVRealDeal FACEBOOK: search for ITVRealDeal.*

Speaking of things civic – congratulations to the mayor-elect of Stockport - Councillor Chris Murphy

Cllr Murphy will take the chain of office as the Worshipful the Mayor of Stockport on the 21st May. Chris is a Labour Councillor for Brinnington and Central and was Deputy Mayor in 2010/11. The new Deputy Mayor in May will be Cllr Mike Wilson.

Thank you to all our volunteers

We wish to extend our thanks to everyone who supported our “Christmas Programme” of events and to give a very “BIG” thank you to the “St Mary’s team” of volunteers – everyone who has assisted us, from serving tea/coffee and mince pies to acting as “loo” attendant in the pouring rain – from making the Advent candle-ring and putting up the decorations, to cleaning and mopping – your help is most valuable to us – and will continue to be, as we move into 2013, with new facilities, new opportunities and new “ways of working”.

New ways of working…

We still have a lot of work to do before “hand-over” day, we would still like to generate more funds to the Interior Appeal Account, we still have applications for funding pending and we still have faculty paperwork to complete. We have deadlines of our own to observe for having storage premises cleared, furniture moved and orders put in place for delivery of our new chairs, cushions, etc.

New “ways of working” will need to be planned and implemented – we will have three toilets to keep spotlessly clean, a semi-professional kitchen to keep to the highest of standards, food hygiene regulations to observe and registration with Stockport Council to operate the “Nave Café”. We will need to continue to ensure that the church is cleaned, brasses are polished, and most of all, to make sure that everyone entering St Mary’s is made welcome.

We will arrange a meeting of our “volunteers” shortly and hope that everyone will continue to contribute towards the work of St Mary’s in one

Coming home…

Talks will start shortly as we work with Stockport Heritage Trust before they return to St Mary’s (at least in part) around March. We need to ensure the best joint use of the space available to them (and us) in the north aisle – the best use of the shop area and for us both to develop team working and joint opening hours. To support and complement the work of St Mary’s with the work of Stockport Heritage Trust. To look at areas that we can work on together – activities, exhibitions, talks and presentations, visits and tours.

 Sharing resources

We will be working with the Diocese and Stockport Deanery, to look towards future requirements and sharing of resources. Our individual and group support to Roger will be essential as he undertakes additional cover within the Stockport Deanery and we ask others (including our two on-loan/shared Readers – Rita an Val - to take on additional tasks). These are changing and challenging times, when your prayers and support will be gratefully appreciated. The Rector’s announcement that he will not be retiring on his 65th Birthday a great relief not only to the immediate future of St Mary’s (to have a full-time Rector being a luxury we can’t actually afford to pay for – see notes on Parish Share) but within the Deanery generally (St George’s in particular) as plans develop, appointments made and changes start to take place.

**Congratulations to Andrew Lythall** as he accepts the post of incumbent designate of St Alban, Offerton with St Thomas, Stockport. A date for his induction will be announced in due course. His move from St George’s anticipated to be around Easter.