

Diocese of Chester

Parish of Stockport and Brinnington



Contract us at:

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



Stockport Parish Church [St Mary's in the Marketplace]

Churchgate, Stockport, SK1 1YG



Tel: 0161 480 1815



www.stmarysinthemarketplace.com



st.marysstockport@gmail.com



Stockport Parish Church - St Marys



St Thomas' Church, Stockport, Holt Street, Stockport, SK1 3PY.



Telephone: 0161 480 2845



www.stthomasstockport.org.uk



info@stthomasstockport.org.uk



St Thomas' Church Stockport



St Luke's, Northumberland Road, Brinnington, SK5 8BS



www.stlukesbrinnington.co.uk



St Luke's Brinnington



RECTOR: Rev Lynne Cullens

St Mary's Rectory, 24 Gorse Mount Street, Stockport, SK1 4DU



Telephone: 0161 477 1938



lynne.cullens@gmail.com

Parish of Stockport and Brinnington

Stockport: St Mary

Stockport: St Thomas

Brinnington: St Luke

Parish Magazine

August 2019



Diary for Stockport Parish Church

St Mary's in the Marketplace

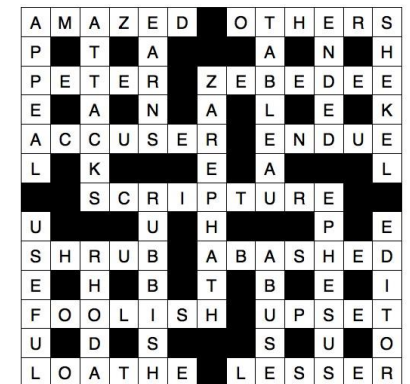
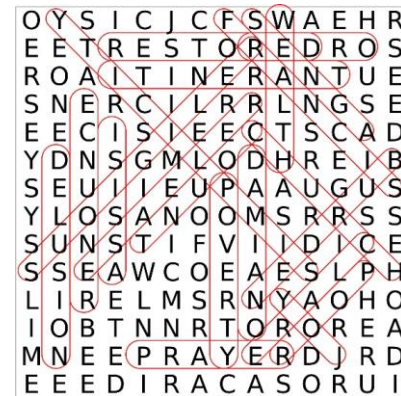
Sunday, 4 th August	Holy Communion (LC)	10.30
NB: Stockport Book and Record Fair in the Market Hall	Baptism	12.30
	Zeal Church	15.30
Tuesday, 6 th August	Holy Communion	10.00
	Lunchtime Service	12.15
Thursday, 8 th August	Bible Study Group	19.00
Friday, 9 th August	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 11 th August	Morning Prayer (RW)	10.30
NB: Stockport Classic Vehicle Fair in the Market Place to coincide with the Vintage Village in the indoor market	Zeal Church	15.30
Tuesday, 13 th August	Holy Communion	10.00
	Lunchtime Service	12.15
Thursday, 15 th August	Bible Study Group	19.00
Friday, 16 th August	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 18 th August	Holy Communion (LA)	10.30
	Zeal Church	15.30
Tuesday, 20 th August	Holy Communion	10.00
	Lunchtime Service	12.15
Thursday, 22 nd August	Bible Study Group	19.00
Friday, 23 rd August	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 25 th August	Morning Prayer (RW)	10.30
	Zeal Church	15.30
Tuesday, 27 th August	Holy Communion	10.00
	Lunchtime Service	12.15
Thursday, 29 th August	Bible Study Group	19.00
Friday, 30 th August	Café Worship	10.45

This magazine is at the present time written (and other submissions edited as deemed necessary) by S M Heap with additional material used by permission.

Electronic copy available on pdf format via Stockport Parish Church website: stmarysinthemarketplace.com

Copy submitted as required to: Legal Deposit Office (Serials), The British Library, Boston Spa, Wetherby, LS23 7BY.

Acknowledgement: additional material as made available from parishpump.co.uk



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Parish of Stockport and Brinnington

Service arrangements

Stockport Parish Church (St Mary's)

Sunday:	10.30	Holy Communion or Morning Prayer
	15.30	Zeal Church
Tuesday:	10.00	Holy Communion
	12.15	Lunch-time service
Friday	10.45	Café Church

For full details see [St Mary's Diary page](#).

St Thomas' Church, Stockport

Sunday: 10.00 Sung Eucharist

NB: There is no 16.00 Evensong at the present time.

**Tuesday (term time only): Praise and Play - stories, songs and fun
10.30 for 0-4 year olds and their carers.**

St Luke's Brinnington

Sunday: 10.00 Holy Communion

**Tuesday (term time only): St Luke's Toddler Group (under 4's)
9.00-11.00**

From Lynne, the Rector...

At the Service of Induction that was held at St Mary's on 18th July, we had two Bible readings that the Bishop of Chester mentioned I had chosen.

The first was from Isaiah 43, part of which reads 'Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?' What a great reading that is for us as we begin this next phase of ministry as a new parish together... God doing a new thing in the heart of Stockport and Brinnington. What will that look like? What will that be? I hope, like me, you are excited to see over the coming months and years, as we will prayerfully discern the way forward together for our parish.

And that reading gives encouragement too not to dwell on the past. There are so many rich traditions in our Church and so much that we can build on, but there will also be the need to do things differently; to do new things to embrace those currently outside the Church, those of different generations and backgrounds and those who are in need. And we are told that those new things will 'spring up'; as they do so here in our parish we must be ready to respond.

The second reading we had was from Colossians 3, with Paul's statement that 'Christ is all and is in all'. What might that mean for the way we welcome people here and for the way we serve them? Each one of them bearing something of Christ.

This month we embark on this new adventure in ministry together. Let us pray to be servant-hearted, Christ-focused and Christ-centred, as we extend a welcome and embrace all those in our community and in our new Parish of Stockport with Brinnington.

Revd Lynne Cullens
Rector of the Parish of Stockport & Brinnington



Thurs 31 st October 2019 - The Sluggard	Proverbs 6:6-8; 13:4; 15:19; 22:13; 24:30-34; 26:14-16
Thurs 7 th November 2019 – Prayer meeting	Praying for our new Parish life
Thurs 14 th November 2019 - Wealth & Poverty	Proverbs 10:4; 15; 22; 13:8; 18:11; 23; 19:4; 21:6; 30:8-9
Thurs 21 st November 2019 – Giving	Proverbs 14:21; 31; 9:6
Thurs 28 th November 2019 - Planning the Future	Proverbs 11:3; 14:12; 15:22; 16:9; 21:5; 31; 27:1

Everyone Welcome

There will be no Prayer Meeting or Bible Study Group during December due to our extensive Christmas Programme

FOR YOUR DIARY:

Advance notification that the “Harvest service” at St Mary’s will be on Sunday, 29th September 2019. We will open our collection point for goods to be donated to “The Wellspring” from Sunday 22nd September to Tuesday 1st October.

Even more advance notice: that St Mary’s Christmas Fayre will this year be on Saturday, 30th November. Please see Catriona and Ann if you are able to assist. St Mary’s “early bird” copy of the Christmas Programme will be available shortly.

Bible Study Group at Stockport Parish Church
St Mary's in the Marketplace

Thursday evening: 19.00 Autumn Programme

[Prayer meeting held on the first Thursday of the month]

Proverbs – Learning to Live Wisely

There are “how to” books on virtually every activity under the sun. We can pick up or polish any number to new skills that contribute to success in our careers, relationships or finance. But one book of the Bible – Proverbs – specialises in real wisdom for all. Understanding it will give us direction that is practical, godly and shrewd, and will bless us richly.

Thurs 5 th September 2019 – Prayer Meeting	Taizé Worship
Thurs 12 th September 2019 - The Choice	Proverbs 9
Thurs 19 th September 2019 - The Simple	Proverbs 7
Thurs 26 th September 2019 - Avoiding the Fool	Proverbs 13:9; 17:12; 18:2, 7; 20:3; 26:11
Thurs 3 rd October 2019 – Prayer Meeting	Praying for the worldwide persecuted church
Thurs 10 th October 2019 - Finding Wisdom	Proverbs 13:10, 20; 14:12; 15:12; 21:30; 25:12
Thurs 17 th October 2019 - Bad Words	Proverbs 6:12- 14; 16:30; 17:4; 18:8; 26:23; 29:5
Thurs 24 th October 2019 - Good Words	Proverbs 10:19; 5:23; 16:24; 17:10; 24:26; 25:11-12

Photographs taken at the Induction and Institution service
by Jim Birch (Stockport Heritage Trust)



Thank you Jim – a lovely record to look back on



STOCKPORT TO PETERLOO

The Road to Reform

Have you visited Stockport Heritage Centre recently?

A lot is happening in Stockport this year to commemorate the Peterloo massacre of 16th August 1819.

If you have not called in to view it – the exhibition ‘Stockport at Peterloo’ is presently on display at the Stockport Heritage Centre located in St Mary’s and at “the Dungeon” a permanent display about the shooting of Constable Birch.

Do come along and support the Heritage Trust and enjoy the various other events being held at Staircase House (SH), and Stockport Central Library (SCL)

“The ballads and songs of Peterloo” [SCL] 2nd August 19.00

Build a Peterloo Cap of Liberty [SCL] 7th August 11.00

Meet the Peterloo witness [SH – Stockport Museum] 11.00 & 14.00

The War Memorial Art Gallery will include images about Peterloo in it’s Open Exhibition [29 July – 7 Sept].

Sunday Service Cover for August (subject to amendment)

Combined Rota	St Mary	St Thomas	St Luke
SUNDAY	10.30am	10.00am	10.00am
Sunday 4th August	Holy Communion (Lynne) [followed by BAPTISM 12.30pm] (Lynne)	Sung Eucharist (Keith)	Holy Communion (Donald)
Sunday 11th August	Morning Prayer (Rita)	Sung Eucharist (Lynne)	Holy Communion (Donald)
Sunday 18th August	Holy Communion (Lawrie)	Sung Eucharist (Keith)	Holy Communion (Lynne)
Sunday 25th August	Morning Prayer (Rita)	Sung Eucharist (Lynne)	Holy Communion (Donald)

Too high a price?

Tony Horsfall

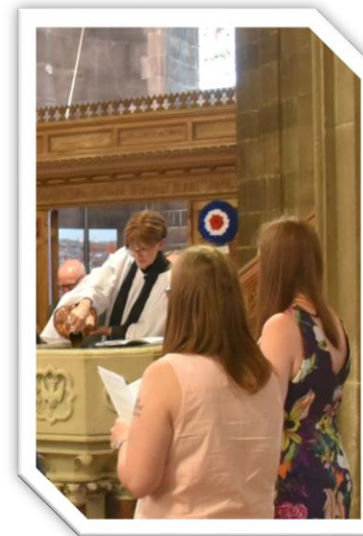
In June of this year we commemorated the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day landings in the knowledge that many of the veterans would not see another major celebration of that remarkable event. That brought an added poignancy to the proceedings.

I'm sure that, like me, you were touched by what many of the veterans had to say. 'We're not the heroes,' they said, 'the heroes are those who died or were terribly injured. We survived and have had another 70 years. We are not the heroes.'

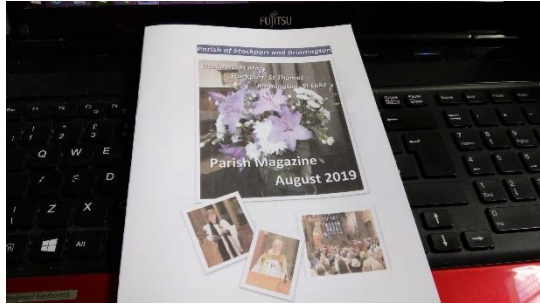
No one watching the TV coverage or reading the media could fail to be moved, however, by the stories of sacrifice and bravery they had to tell, a generation of men and women for whom sacrifice and duty were instinctive. I was asked recently, 'Do you think the present generation would respond in the same way, with such self-sacrifice?'

I guess no-one can answer that question, but it did make me think about the costly call to discipleship that is at the heart of Christianity. We follow one who freely laid down His life to save us from our sin. 'No-one takes my life from me,' Jesus said, 'but I lay it down of my own accord.' (John 10:18). The Saviour calls us to a similar costly obedience: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me.' (Mark 8:34)

Sacrifice is central to Christian devotion. We may not be asked to literally lay down our lives (although some are in other parts of the world) but we are asked to give God priority in our lives and to put His will before our own. This too can be very challenging and costly. Are we willing to pay the price?



Thank you to all who contributed towards the collection for the Chester Clergy Family Trust – a cheque for £372.25 is on it's way. [£130.00 of this is "gift aided"].



Parish Magazine

A new look magazine for the parish of Stockport and Brinnington is on it's way – but as Rome wasn't built in a day (or so they say) - so it will take a little

while to incorporate news and events from St Thomas & St Luke as well as St Mary/St Andrew.

We will keep some of the regular features St Mary's readers are familiar with so it won't be entirely new to those who receive a copy at the moment. There will continue to be no fixed charge for this publication (as communication is key to keeping us all informed and in touch) but as before we would appreciate a donation to any of the donation boxes/donation facilities at St Mary – St Thomas – St Luke.

Sudoku

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

Beer of biblical proportions

What kind of beer did people drink in biblical times, and what did it taste like?

Such questions will brew in the minds of real ale lovers, as they lovingly savour their favourite real ale each weekend. And now help is at last at hand.

For scientists in Israel have managed to brew beer using extracts of ancient yeast. Microbiologists in Israel, along with scholars from the Israel Antiquities Authority and Hebrew University, extracted microscopic specimens from several ancient beer jugs that dated as far back as 3000BC. They then cleaned and sequenced the full genome of every specimen. Finally, the result was handed to brewers as well as to a local beer export to produce the drink.

And the result? The Associated Press said the beer was “champagne bubbly and dry, with a hint of green apple.” Sort of a honey wine mixed with modern ale. Dr Ronen Hazan, from the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dental Medicine, added, ‘By the way, the beer isn't bad.’

Beer was an important part of people's daily lives in antiquity. The more things change...?

25 years of legal Sunday trading Tim Lenton

Sunday trading was legalised in England and Wales 25 years ago, on 28th August 1994.

Until then, under the Shops Act of 1950, the situation had been rather chaotic, and some of the rules laughable, but Sunday had been recognised as a 'special' day. The Shops Bill of 1984, which would have allowed widespread Sunday trading, had been defeated unexpectedly, largely because the unions resisted it on the grounds that it would take family time away from shopworkers.

The debate continued, and the 1994 legislation was something of a compromise, restricting opening times of larger stores to a maximum of six hours on Sunday. The shopworkers' trade union USDAW agreed to support this in return for a promise that Sunday working would be strictly voluntary.

In 2015 there was an attempt, in the Budget, to relax Sunday trading laws further, but this was defeated in the Commons. Shops in Scotland, where Sunday trading had been unregulated, retained the right to open at any time.

Many Christians have supported organisations such as Day One Christian Ministries – formerly the Lord's Day Observance Society – and groups such as Keep Sunday Special, who campaigned for Sunday closure to stop secularisation and protect the spiritual nature of Sundays.



STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH
St Mary's in the Marketplace
Nave Café

Open
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday
10.00am – 3.00pm

When you are stressed, so is your dog!



The old adage that dogs take after their owners may be more true than we realise. For a new study has found that when dog-owners suffer from on-going anxiety, so do their dogs. *Scientists measured the concentration of cortisol, a stress hormone, by taking a few centimetres of hair from

a number of dogs and their owners. A direct correlation between the level of stress in any dog and its owner was found. The dog's character was irrelevant, researchers said. Instead, "we found that the levels of long-term cortisol in dog and owner were synchronized. Owners with high cortisol levels have dogs with high cortisol levels." In other words, owners' personalities have a huge effect on their dogs. *The study was carried out at a university in Sweden and published in the journal *Scientific Reform*.



Does the study work the other way - what does Rog tell you about his Mum? A busy morning at the office helping with the paperwork then time for a rest or better still a snooze.... Well there is similarity – after a day at work frequently returning home feeling tired and falling asleep watching television!

The Clean Team



Many thanks to all those who assisted with the house cleaning and path clearing at St Mary's Rectory in preparation for Lynne arriving in Stockport.

Shown above the "house" team – Isobel on vac – with Sheila, Barbara, Carol and David. Margaret on garden duty - both at the Rectory and later at Church.



Thanks too to everyone who also washed, wiped, hoovered and polished to prepare St Mary's for the Induction and Institution service.

A job well done and your efforts "Team St Mary" much appreciated.

Wordsearch

O Y S I C J C F S W A E H R
E E T R E S T O R E D R O S
R O A I T I N E R A N T U E
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Bishop calls for churches to garden for mental health

The Church of England's lead bishop on healthcare issues, James Newcome, has backed experts' calls for churches to promote gardening for mental wellbeing.

A recent conference at Lambeth Palace to explore the links between mental health and gardening saw a fresh call for churches to use their green space to offer 'therapeutic gardening'.

Green Health Live 2, which brought together chaplains, public health experts and healthcare professionals, showcased innovative work being done by parishes to provide therapeutic gardening spaces – and encouraged more churches to work with local mental health charities and medical professionals to do the same. Last year a survey of clergy showed that mental health issues were at the top of the list of problems they were faced with in their parishes. Research makes clear that gardening can help to relieve the effects of depression, loneliness and a range of mental health issues, but many people, particularly in towns and cities, do not have gardens of their own. Churches often have space where a garden can be created to offer basic gardening experience, access to nature and companionship.

James Newcome, who is Bishop of Carlisle, said: "Churches are places where people can find healing and community, so it is no surprise – but it is absolutely wonderful – that growing numbers of parishes are providing spaces for therapeutic gardens. "We know that gardening is a powerful form of therapy, and when done with others it tackles loneliness and social isolation. It's my hope that churches will embrace this opportunity to make a valuable and vital contribution to supporting mental health in our communities."

SK1 Festival



There is always the element of the unknown when accepting bookings at St Mary's, although we do always check that music/material used is suitable for the venue.

The SK1 Festival was no exception to this with some very strange sounds vibrating round the building – very atmospheric - which just goes to prove once again what amazing acoustics we have.

The audience size varied (as it is a very much come and go event) and our dogs welcome policy brought in a couple of lovely little doggies – one fussy little chap refusing the dog bowl preferring a paper cup for his water.

The event ran over three main venues: SK Records / The Space & St Mary's Church. With us at St Mary's (over two days) – Denis Jones, Black Lodge, Magphi, Ancestral Voices, Beech Surgeons and Neotantik.

It is always good to welcome people into Stockport Parish Church and be part of the action within "Stockport Old Town".

Coming in September/October

HEARD presents

SEP 27TH - OCT 4TH

MERCURY CLIMBING

music and arts festival

8 DAYS OF MUSIC, FILM & COMEDY
IN THE HEART OF STOCKPORT
SEPT 27TH - OCT 4TH

TIM BURGESS DJ SET & VINYL
ADVENTURES RECORD FAIR BANDS FC
FUZZY SUN DIRTY LACES AVERAGE SEX
PRINT FAIR ARGH KID THE LATHUMS
A LAUGH IN STOCKPORT RADIO STATION
STOCKPORT INTRODUCING
PLUS MANY MORE ACTS AND EVENTS TO BE ANNOUNCED

mercuryclimbing.co.uk    #mercuryclimbing

heard PROUDLY SUPPORTING  wellspring
Charity No. 1137288

"Fuzzy Sun" at St Mary's in the Marketplace

Saturday - 28th September 2019

subject to booking confirmation





Sea Sunday

Local Cadets joined the congregation on the 14th July, for a service of Morning Prayer led by Rita Waters.

In recognition of “Sea Sunday” it was a pleasure to be able to invite our young friends to take part in this annual service. Thanks to Rita a close relationship has now been established between St Mary’s and the Cadets – who were able to join us again with Commanding Officer Philip Guest for the Induction and Institution service later in the week.

Sea Cadets Stockport are based at Pear Mill Industrial Estate (Stockport Road West, Lower Bredbury) where they offer skills and qualifications that could take a young person around the world. They create a safe, engaging and fun learning environment that will give members memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

If you know anyone who may be interested:

Sea Cadets (12-18): meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7.15pm - 9.30pm

Junior Cadets (10-12): meet Thursdays, 7.15pm - 9.30pm

Royal Marines Cadets (13-18): meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7.15pm - 9.30pm

Telephone: 0161 430 5527 / **Email:** co.stockport@outlook.com

www. sea-cadets.org/stockport/get-in-touch

Church of England announces up to £155m investment in mission and ministry

Up to £155 million of additional investment may be spent over the next three years by the Church of England. The funds will aim to increase the number of people coming forward to train for the priesthood, support cathedrals, and help disadvantaged areas. These spending plans for 2020 to 2022 will help build on the significant progress already made by the Renewal and Reform programme. The proposals include the Church of England’s drive to recruit 50% more candidates for ordination, the programme of Strategic Development Funding for major growth programmes in the dioceses, and the expansion of the Church’s programme of digital outreach. Over the past two years there has been a 23% increase in the number of people starting training for ordination to the priesthood and the Church of England has embarked on a major programme to spread the Christian message in the digital sphere. The proposals include:

Investment in recruiting and training new ministers – helping dioceses to meet the Church-wide goal of increasing the number of ordinands by 50%. Supporting dioceses in making strategic investment in change programmes designed to grow worshipping communities. The continuation of specific funding to help dioceses to support mission in communities where income levels are low, places of greatest financial need. The proposed plans include up to £155m to be made available for additional distributions in 2020-22 to support ministry growth including funds for: Up to £63m for Ministry growth to meet the full additional costs of training ordinands. Up to £45m of diocesan sustainability funding, mainly focused on providing funding for dioceses with financial difficulties. Up to £20m for a social impact investment programme. Up to £10m to help develop cathedrals’ financial sustainability. Cathedral attendance across the country continues to see an increase and this investment will help to protect these buildings for future generations.

Shall we not love thee, Mother dear?’

The Church responds with a resounding ‘Yes’ to that question, as we celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary on 15th August. An ancient name for this day is the transition of Mary – her crossing over to eternal life – or the assumption of Mary. But her story begins in the Gospels, in Nazareth and Bethlehem. At the Annunciation, Gabriel announces the good news to Mary. She becomes a mother and embarks on a journey that takes her to the temple in Jerusalem, a wedding feast at Cana, the Cross of Calvary, and the upper room of Pentecost. Through Christian history her story has spoken to people in every age and culture and land. As we look at her life now, there are two qualities that stand out. The first is thanksgiving. Mary came from a people that realised the importance of thanking God, and her response to the good news is to raise her heart in the words of the Magnificat. ‘My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour.’ The second quality is trust. Rowan Williams has written that despite the years of controversy about the place of our Lady, we still need to hold out our hands to her for guidance and succour. “For at the very least she is the first person to put her trust in God who is shown in Jesus.” Through all that happened to her – the amazing news of Gabriel, no room at the inn, the worry over wine at the wedding – Mary ponders and trusts. To the servants at Cana, she says, “Do whatever Jesus tells you. It will be all right. You will see.”

Thanksgiving and trust: easy enough to see in our Lady, but perhaps more difficult to own for ourselves. Yet Mary assures us that with God all things are possible. Holding on to that faith, we can journey with her Son through life and death to eternal life.

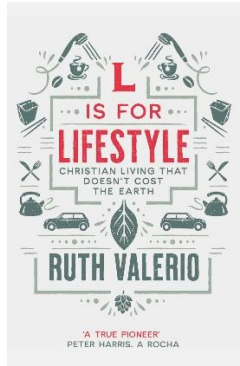
Michael Burgess. Revd

St Clare of Assisi

Assisi, a beautiful town in the Italian province of Umbria, was the birth-place in the twelfth century of two of that country’s greatest saints, Francis and Clare. Francis first, and then Clare, discovered the liberating effect of release from the burden of wealth.

For them simplicity, a godly poverty, was the way to blessing. Their followers – Francis’s monks, the Franciscans, and Clare’s nuns, the ‘Poor Clares’ as they were known, set themselves to live without any kind of luxury. This freed them, they believed, for a life of prayer and service, to care for the poor around them without distraction. They built no elaborate basilicas, though one was erected after the death of Francis, strictly against his wishes, to surround the simple chapel (his ‘hovel’) where he and his followers were based. The present-day house of the Poor Clares is a perfect example of the sheer beauty of simplicity.

Their life-style, their message, their simplicity of life and love of the Creation and its creatures, offered a striking alternative to the society around them, where wealth (which Francis had enjoyed but rejected at his conversion) and poverty and sickness lived side by side. It has to be said, too, that their message is on collision course with the values and goals of much of the western world today. Simplicity of life and affluence don’t sit easily together.



L is for Lifestyle

By Ruth Valerio

How can we live more responsibly? In this A-Z, Ruth Valerio highlights the main threats to people and our planet, God's beloved Creation. She shows us how, by making small but significant changes to our lifestyle, we can learn the secret of a life that is both fair and simple. Scenario: you wake up and jump in the shower. The water is hot and the house warm. You eat breakfast: coffee made with water boiled in the kettle, and cereal

with milk kept cool in the fridge. You throw out the foil trays from last night's takeaway before jumping in the car and setting off for work. You've done nothing unusual, but already your lifestyle choices have had an impact on people and the environment across the world. The author's passion is that we would all play our part in caring for the earth.

How much did you spend online last year?

It was probably about £1,000 on either Amazon or eBay, according to a new study. Although this Amazon customer spent £1241.85 in the last six months alone! Ofcom's Online National report, which surveys the UK's online habits and attitudes, estimates that online retailers made £1,094 per capita in 2018. The media regulator also revealed that, on average, we each spent about 50 whole days a year online in 2018, up from 46 in 2017. The news comes with a warning. One business psychologist says: "Convenience is fantastic for access to products, but it can sabotage our personal finances. You feel like 'I am doing the comparison thing, I am saving money', but you end up spending more than you would in a physical store." Search engines such as Google and Bing made around £101 per person in the UK from advertising in 2018. Social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter made an estimated £45 per UK customer.

News from our partners

Could you make a difference to a local family?

ROC Community Mentoring is launching in Stockport!

2 day mentoring training on Saturdays 21st and 28th September (9.30am – 4.30pm) at Stockport Baptist Church, Thompson Street, Stockport, SK3 9DR.

To book in or for further details contact
Programme Co-ordinator: Andy Bell
andybell@roc.uk.com 0161 393 3511
www.roc.uk.com/roc-mentors

'Stockport's Giant Leap Forward'

– showcasing Stockport

Have you found them all yet? The 19 giant frogs that are leaping onto giant lily pads strategically located throughout the town centre.

This creative, engaging and vibrant outdoor art trail is intended to attract people from all ages and backgrounds to discover the trail and explore the town to seek out all the frogs.

The project is designed to increase town centre footfall, as well as to promote Stockport, and the local youth community – tomorrow's giant leapers. Stockport's £1bn regeneration plan is set to pave the way for investment, development and growth. A giant leap forward for Stockport, creating exciting opportunities for business and a destination of choice for residents and visitors.

The Robin Sang

The robin sang, the flowers bloomed all nature played its part,
The only discord in this scene was man's reluctant heart.
The Creator's manual he ignored so a path of pain he trod,
Thinking that he knew the best man turned away from God.

The mess we're in has been self-made, all answers lie with Him,
A world of beauty now laid waste, infected with man's sin.
But knowing that these things would be God had another plan,
Though undeserved and full of grace in love He reached to man.

His Son His own Beloved One came down upon this earth,
He died, He rose, He ever lives to give to man rebirth
Heaven and earth will pass away, a new Creation formed,
Where birds will sing, the flowers bloom and all will be reborn.

By Megan Carter

National Lottery funding for churches

Churches and cathedrals will be able to bid for a share of a £100-million pot of National Lottery funding for large-scale heritage projects over the next three years. And the grants are not just aimed at restoration schemes, but also ideas that benefit communities. The bids will need to demonstrate 'real ambition to deliver positive change within the communities they serve and put diversity and inclusion at the centre of their plans.' More info at: www.heritage-fund.org.uk/funding/heritage-horizon-awards.

Pilgrim's Progress is an allegory, using the names of people and places from the Bible to teach spiritual lessons. The vivid and unforgettable imagery in the Pilgrim's Progress covers the whole Christian gospel from sin and condemnation all the way through faith, repentance, grace, justification, sanctification, and perseverance to heaven itself.

Bunyan died on 31st August 1688. His portrayal of the death of Mr Valiant For Truth is Bunyan at his allegorical best. This brave old soldier of Jesus Christ had received his summons to 'go home.' Calling his friends together he says, *'My sword I give to him who shall succeed me in my pilgrimage ... My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought His battles, Who will now be my rewarder.'* ... *So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side...*

Sudoku

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

John Bunyan – the man who wrote Pilgrim's Progress

After the Bible, John Bunyan's wonderful Christian allegory, the Pilgrim's Progress, is one of the most celebrated and widely-read books in the English language. It has been translated into more than one hundred languages around the world and keeps its place as a Christian classic.

Names of people and places from its pages have been commonplace wherever English is spoken. We need only recall Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, Giant Despair, Madame Bubble, the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the Delectable Mountains, the Hill Difficulty and the Celestial City.

Bunyan was born on 28 November 1628, at Elstow, near Bedford, England, of a poor family. He had little formal education and his father taught him to be a metal worker. His first wife died young. His second wife, Elizabeth, helped him considerably with his blossoming literary career. His conversion was the result of reading the Bible, and the witness of local Christians. From that time the Bible became the great inspiration of his life. He wrote more than fifty books on Christianity. A Baptist by conviction, he had little time for the Established Church.

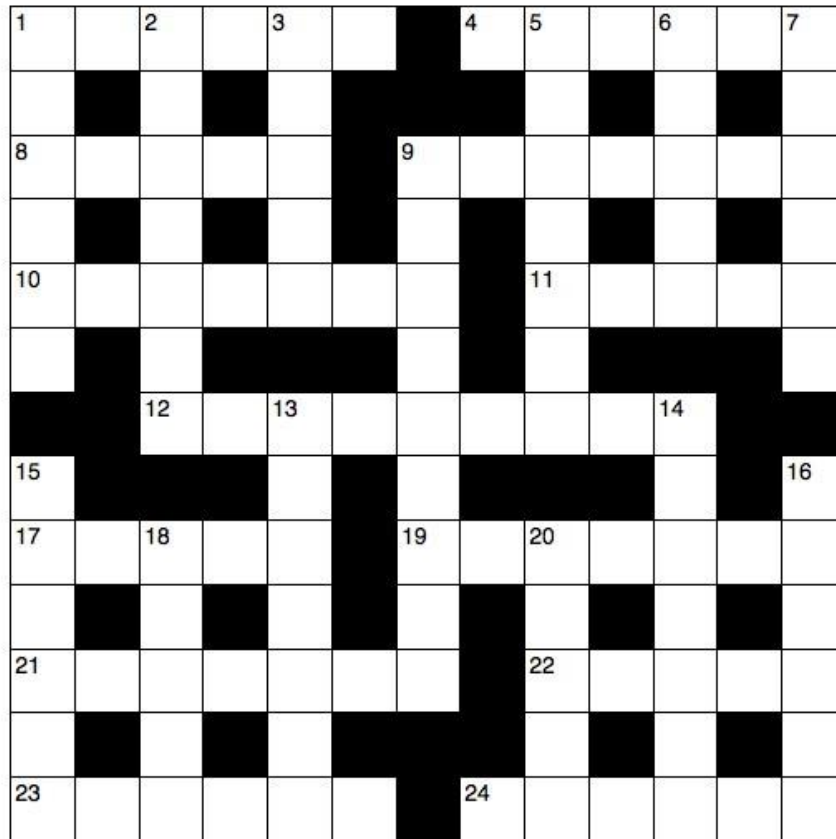
Bunyan became a popular preacher, but because of his opposition to the Established Church and because he did not have a Church of England preaching licence, he was imprisoned in 1661. It was in prison that he wrote Pilgrim's Progress. It was not only Bunyan's greatest book but was destined to become one of the most popular Christian books in the world.

Ecclesiastical Insurance launches Parish Pixels

– put your church in the picture and it could win £5,000!

Budding photographers could be in with a chance of winning £5,000 as part of a new competition launched by the UK's leading church insurer. Parish Pixels is a new national photography competition for Anglican Churches in England, Wales and Scotland, launched by Ecclesiastical Insurance. The insurer is calling on budding photographers to capture the essence of their church in a single snapshot. Churches will need to submit a single photograph and a one-sentence caption to accompany it. The image can be of people, places, features, artefacts or anything that highlights the uniqueness of the church or its importance to its local community. Ecclesiastical will showcase some of the best entries on its website and social media channels. A panel of judges, which will include representatives from the regions, will select eight winners from across the UK who will each receive a prize of £1,500 for their church. Following this, the public will be given the chance to vote for their favourite image before Ecclesiastical and church representatives select an overall winner. The overall winner will receive a £5,000 prize for the church. Michael Angell, Church Operations Director at Ecclesiastical explained the thinking behind this year's competition: "There are so many unique and fascinating items, stories and people at our churches and we really wanted to find a way to highlight these. "We are all aware of the extraordinary items that can be found in the UK's cathedrals, and places like St Paul's and Westminster Abbey naturally attract tourists. But, there are hidden treasures that are much closer to our own homes. We hope that Parish Pixels helps highlight some of these and encourages people to visit their local church." **The competition opened in June, and churches must submit their entries by 31st October 2019. More information at: www.ecclesiastical.com/parish-pixels**

Crossword



Across

- 1 'The people were — at his teaching' (Mark 1:22) (6)
 4 'He saved —; let him save himself' (Luke 23:35) (6)
 8 He addressed the crowd in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14) (5)
 9 Father of James and John (Matthew 4:21) (7)
 10 One who charges another with an offence (Job 31:35) (7)
 11 ' — thy ministers with righteousness' (Book of Common Prayer) (5)

- 12 and 15 Down 'All — is God-breathed and is — for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness' (2 Timothy 3:16) (9,6)
 17 'No — of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up' (Genesis 2:5) (5)
 19 Made to feel embarrassed (Isaiah 24:23) (7)
 21 This man built his house on sand (Matthew 7:26) (7)
 22 David's hypocritical message to Joab on the death in battle of Uriah: 'Don't let this — you' (2 Samuel 11:25) (5)
 23 Detest (Job 10:1) (6)
 24 'God made two great lights, the greater light to govern the day and the — light to govern the night' (Genesis 1:16) (6)

Down

- 1 To make a serious request (1 Corinthians 1:10) (6)
 2 Launches an assault against (Genesis 32:8) (7)
 3 'The wicked man — deceptive wages' (Proverbs 11:18) (5)
 5 Tuba ale (anag.) (7)
 6 'The day thou gavest, Lord, is — ' (5)
 7 Old Testament measure of weight, equivalent to about 12 grammes (Exodus 30:13) (6)
 9 Where Elijah restored life to the son of a widow with whom he lodged (1 Kings 17:10) (9)
 13 Paul said of whatever was to his profit, 'I consider them — , that I may gain Christ and be found in him' (Philippians 3:8) (7)
 14 City visited by Paul, described by the city clerk as 'the guardian of the temple of the great Artemis' (Acts 19:35) (7)
 15 See 12 Across
 16 Rioted (anag.) (6)
 18 She had a surprise when she answered the door and found 8 Across outside (Acts 12:13) (5)
 20 Maltreat (1 Chronicles 10:4) (5)