



### 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

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#### 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 Lunchtime 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](http://www.stmarysinthemarketplace.com)



STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH  
St Mary's in the Marketplace

## Parish Magazine – March 2016

# 50p



**MARCH AT ST MARY'S**  **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Holy Communion</b> Mothering Sunday	10.30am
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Tuesday	8 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Lunchtime Service</b>	10.00am 12.15pm
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Sunday	13 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	10.30am
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Monday	14 <sup>th</sup> March	PCC Meeting (Receipt of Accounts) St Mary's Rectory	7.00pm
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Tuesday	15 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Lunchtime Service</b>	10.00am 12.15pm
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<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Holy Communion</b>	10.30am
		<b>Special Service to mark the restoration, conservation and reordering of St Mary's 2006-2016. With the Bishop of Stockport Rt Rev Libby Lane – Stockport Youth Orchestra and Offerton Methodist Choir</b>	4.00pm



**NICHOLAS HENSHALL  
CELEBRATION CONCERT**

**SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2016 7.30pm**

**ST MARY'S IN THE MARKETPLACE  
STOCKPORT SK1 1YG**

featuring

James Bowman (counter tenor)

Margaret McDonald (mezzo soprano)

Alex Jones (double bass)

Harvey Davies (harpsichord)

John Turner (recorder)

Peter Lawson (piano)

Simon Fraser (oboe)

Heather Bills (cello)

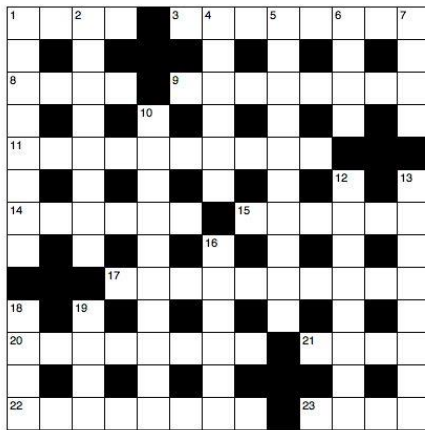
music includes

Bach/ Purcell / Handel / Douglas Steele / Peter Hope / Luke Whitlock

**ADMISSION FREE**

**RETIRING COLLECTION**

**FOR ST ANN'S HOSPICE & ST. MARY'S CHURCH**



## CROSSWORD

### Across

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)  
 3 'You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on — — ' (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)  
 8 Seep (4)  
 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)  
 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)  
 14 'A city on a hill — be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (6)

- 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:12–13) (6)  
 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)  
 20 'Only in his home town and in his — — is a prophet without honour' (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)  
 21 Sail (anag.) (4) 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)  
 23 Eye sore (4)

### Down

- 1 Can't grow (anag.) (5,3)  
 2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that — , Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8) | 4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)  
 5 Pentecostal denomination, — of God (10)  
 6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)  
 7 'I preached that they should repent and — to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)  
 10 ' — — , the world will not see me any more, but you will see me' (John 14:19) (6,4)  
 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)  
 13 Jesus to Peter: ' — — of my sheep' (John 21:16) (4,4)  
 16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was — — of God' (Mark 15:39) (3,3)  
 18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)  
 19 'Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him' (Handel's Messiah) (4)



**There is no doubt that Easter isn't all about chocolate eggs and sweet little bunnies...**

**Easter Sunday** is a festival and holiday celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day of his burial after his crucifixion by Romans at Calvary c. 30 AD. The week before Easter is known as Holy Week and includes Maundy Thursday (commemorating the Last Supper) and Good Friday (commemorating the Crucifixion and Death of Jesus).

Easter and the holidays that are related to it are "*moveable feasts*" in that they do not fall on a fixed date. Easter Day the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or soonest after 21 March (give or take) - calculations seem to vary and to be most complex. Perhaps a fixed date would make life so much easier!

**Join us for our Services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day** – details at the front of the magazine.

**Most of you will now be aware that Easter Sunday will be the last service Roger takes at St Mary's before retiring to the Cotswolds. We all wish him a long and happy retirement, but you are invited to do this in person, after the service, over a buffet lunch. For catering purposes it would be helpful if you would put your name down on the list – to be found in church (just ask the duty steward).** As it states on our litter poster "Retirement only means that it is Time for a New Adventure" not a time to be sad (although many of us will be) but a time to start a new chapter in our lives, and that of St Mary's.

**Retirement  
 Only Means  
 That It Is  
 Time  
 For a New  
 Adventure**

## **Meeting of Parishioners & Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016**

**1.30pm**

**St Mary's in the Marketplace**

**Before the meeting we are seeking nominations for the election of TWO Churchwardens, membership of the Parochial Church Council by election** (three vacancies exist) **and additional Sides-persons** (unlimited). *[Membership of St Mary's via the electoral roll is required / there are also other "qualifications" that may need to be considered depending on the role you wish to undertake.]*

***There are no Deanery Synod elections this year.***

***If you wish to be included on the Electoral Register please obtain a form from Church (they are on the desk in the plastic display stand) and/or talk to our Electoral Roll Officer Margaret Forster.***

Do attend (if you possibly can) the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and/or pick up a copy of our Annual Report. A copy will be available on our web-site in due course.

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This walk with the Cross has always been a very challenging and moving one, speaking personally. As we have walked solemnly and silently through the town centre I have been touched by people's positive and respectful response to the Cross. Having said that, it is also sad to observe some people's apathy towards this powerful emblem of our faith, the Cross of Christ, as we pass slowly by.

It has been ten long years since we began Phase 1 of the Conservation, Restoration and Refurbishment of St. Mary's in 2006, under the guidance of our architect John Prichard. It's fair to say that those of us who have been most closely involved in this great work have often said that we have had "the Dream Team" working for us. And had it not been for the unfortunate hiatus last summer, caused by our Contractors going out of business, we would have finished the work some months ago, with the same team in place throughout. Personally speaking, it has been a huge privilege to have worked alongside the men and women who have made up our splendid "dream team" at St. Mary's and our professional advisors, together with the numerous skilled craftsmen who have worked so hard in all the phases of the work. The work is a lasting testimony to the craftsmen of today. Their names may not be recorded, but their handiwork will last for countless generations to come. It is therefore fitting that this month of March sees a special Service of Thanksgiving for all that has been achieved. The presence of the Bishop of Stockport, Libby Lane, will certainly be a very special occasion for us all. I hope that you, Dear Reader, will join us on that day of celebration. The involvement not only of the wonderful Stockport Youth Orchestra, of which I have been glad to be a Patron, but also of the most delightful Offer-ton Methodist Choir, of whom I am very fond, will make it a day to remember.

During this month I shall also be attending a number of events connected with organisations whom I have espoused over the years, or with whom I have been asked to be more closely associated; namely, the Mayor of

## Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations

On the 12<sup>th</sup> June we will be opening the doors of St Mary's to host a special afternoon tea, not only in celebration of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, but to welcome our own special guests from "Contact The Elderly". The Queen will unfortunately be unable to join us as she is will be attending a Patron's Lunch, a celebration of Her Majesty's patronage of over 600 organisations in the UK and around the Commonwealth since 1952. However we are sure that we can enjoy ourselves with sandwiches, tea and cakes in our beautiful historic church. Details to follow nearer the time. Contact the Elderly is the only national charity solely dedicated to tackling loneliness and social isolation amongst older people, through regular face-to-face contact.



Once a month, normally on a Sunday afternoon, each older guest is collected from their home by a volunteer driver, and taken to a volunteer

host's home (or other venue), where they join a small group for tea, talk and companionship.

The group is warmly welcomed by a different host each month, but the charity's drivers and older guests remain the same. This means that over the months and years, acquaintances turn into friends and loneliness is replaced by companionship. Stockport has three individual groups and we are delighted to be able to invite all to our afternoon tea to be supported by the Rotary Club of Stockport, who initially became involved with the charity when co-hosting a Christmas lunch last year at the Davenport Hotel.



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<b>Tuesday in Holy Week</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> March	<b>Holy Communion Lunchtime Service Annual Parochial Church Council</b>	10.00am 12.15pm <b>1.30pm</b>
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<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> March	Vernon Park Primary School Easter Assembly <b>Holy Communion with Tiviot Dale Methodist Church</b>	11.15am  <b>7.00pm</b>
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<b>Good Friday</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Family Service</b> <i>Tiviot Dale Service</i> <b>Walk of Witness from Tiviot Dale (after service)</b> <b>St Mary's Mid-Day Service Hour at the Cross</b>	10.00am <i>11.00am</i>  12.00 noon 2.00pm
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<b>Easter Day</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Holy Communion</b> This will be the last service Roger will conduct as Rector of St Mary's in the Marketplace. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us for the service and stay for a retirement buffet lunch which will be served in church after the service	<b>10.30am</b>   1.00pm approx
<b>Remember that the clocks change to British Summer time 1am</b>			



### Dear Reader

It is almost exactly 20 years since I received a phone call summoning me to the Bishop of Stockport. Not knowing the reason for the invitation I rather assumed the worst. Someone had complained about me, again! How wrong I was! Bishop Geoff

home, before dropping the bombshell. " We'd like you to consider going to Stockport, St.Mary's ; they've been without a Rector for two years". I knew instantly that this was "the call" I had been waiting for.

Nineteen years later I received another telephone call, this time from a Christian friend of long standing, who lives in Gloucestershire." When you retire will you please come down and live in our parish? The Vicar needs help!" And once again I knew "the call" had come to move on.

And so it is that on Easter Day I shall say farewell to St.Mary's in the Marketplace, and move to serve the Lord in a corner of England known as "the Cotswolds". By coincidence I shall be living on a road called St. Mary's Drive, having lived alongside St. Mary's Way in Stockport for all these years. This is because the village church where I shall be living, Fairford, is another "St. Mary's"! That's all happening in April.

March is already a very busy one in my diary, as it is in most church diaries I should imagine . Lent and Holy Week make it so! I always look forward in Holy Week and to meeting up with Christians from other churches in the town for our various shared services culminating in a Walk of Witness with the Cross , carried aloft from Tiviot Dale Methodist Church through the Town Centre, along Merseyway Shopping precinct and up through the Marketplace arriving at St.Mary's for a short service together .

### Pancake Party at St Mary's Rectory

Not quite the last supper, but the last pancake party we will hold at St Mary's Rectory with Rector Roger.

A slight panic in the kitchen with the pancake batter behaving in a most odd way, the discovery of having no cooking oil and the unfortunate scratching of the new non-stick frying pan with a metal fish slice... Initially there were more pancakes in the bin than on the plates, but in the end everyone was fed and watered with Roger showing off his "pancake tossing" skills.

Many thanks to all those who supported the evening.



Left to right – David, Campbell, Isobel, Edna, David, Anne, Jane, Grant, Bernard & Sheila

## A Day to Remember.



The Bishop of Chester apparently always expects there to be "something unique" about a service he attends at St. Mary's , so he said in his opening remarks at a special service last month. For the first time ever, the Bishop presided at a Tuesday Lunchtime Service which incorporated the Baptism and Confirmation of one candidate, David Birch. A fine congregation , made up of many members of the Tuesday and Sunday congregations , to whom David is known by both, joined David and his wife Pat , together with David's aged father and his younger brother on this very special occasion in their family's life. Despite the complexity of the liturgy for such a service, with the candidate and Bishop having to proceed to the font and back to the Bishop's chair following the baptism, the service was all over before one o'clock, to

everyone's surprise. The Bishop gave a learned but thought provoking and encouraging address to the congregation about "being an adopted son of God, and about the importance of belonging to the family of God". After the service, for which Ken Dean kindly played the organ, as usual on a Tuesday, the Bishop enjoyed soup and sandwiches at the Nave Café, and met many members of the congregation, as they left church and over lunch, before signing lots of books and cards for David in the newly refurbished Rector's Vestry, which the Bishop much admired. However the highlight of the visit for Bishop Peter, and something he had obviously relished the thought of doing again, was to have a little play on the antique cash register in the Heritage Centre, which he had spotted on a previous visit! Much amusement was had at this point in the afternoon! And the Bishop's abiding memory of the day? Undoubtedly watching Marion's little dog Holly's tail wagging all the way through the service! Certainly, for David , and for the Bishop of Chester, and for all of us present, A Day to Remember!





## ARC Exhibition at St Mary's

Most of you will recall that Arc held workshops at St Mary's last year for the "Unpicked-Restitched" project with lead artists Sarah Butler and Julie Mosley, so it was lovely to see the finished art works displayed in church as for us to host the opening of the

exhibition (with the Mayor and Mayoress) as well keep the exhibition available for public viewing for a couple of days, the display moving to the Art Gallery for a further month – we hope everyone will have the chance to see it and to support Arc.



Seen here with Roger and our Arc project representatives are the Mayor and Mayoress of Stockport and Eamonn Boylan (CE Stockport Council)

Photo provided by Arc



## Easter Flower Fund

Last year we raised £71.50 following our appeal for donations towards flowers in Church at Easter.

Once again we are asking for a generous donation to put aside towards the flowers this Easter. Look out for the collection "vase" in Church. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated. Thank You



## Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations -

There is a long and unbroken tradition in this country of celebrating Royal jubilees, weddings, coronations and special birthdays etc. with the lighting of beacons – last time around was for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on 4th June 2012.

The opportunity has arisen to once again celebrate on **Thursday 21st April 2016**, when beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories in celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday that day. Stockport Council will be lighting the Stockport Old Town beacon from the grounds of St Mary's. Beacon lighting time to be confirmed along with details of associated events in the area.



Stockport and the Town Hall, the Rotary Club of Stockport, the Swiss Club of Manchester, the Manchester Coldstream Guards Association, BBC Radio Manchester and Stockport's own Pure Radio ; as well as my links with Vernon Park School , Banks Lane Junior School, and Lisburn School, not forgetting Stockport Grammar Senior School. I will be exercising my responsibilities as Patron of All Saints Marple, by presenting to the Bishop the new Vicar, Rev. Daniel Currie at his Institution , as well as witnessing the Installation of another of my Patronage appointments, Rev. Janet Parker of St. Thomas' High Lane, as a Canon in Chester Cathedral; also, last but not least, I shall saying farewell to my fellow clergy in the Deanery, with whom it has been the greatest privilege and pleasure to share in ministry over these past 19 years. And more besides!



In conclusion, this is my last letter to you as Rector, and I want to end on a theological note. I have only been able to write to you like this each month because God has called me to be the Rector. To Him be the glory! Taking words straight from St. Paul to the Corinthians, "when I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him Crucified". I hope I have not let Him down, and that you have found me faithful to my calling. I will take with me on my journey many happy memories, especially of people whom I have come to know, as well as having



## **A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER**

I very much hope that you will all be able to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to say that our finances have been much improved, that we were able to “pay our way” and were satisfactorily working our way through the list of outstanding work(s) that need to be undertaken. One day maybe! For 2016 has been another year of “holding our own” with a certain amount of juggling funds to keep the business account in the black. In reality we have made an operational loss of £1,449.

Good news however in relation to Phase 6 with monies safely “gathered in”. The accounts for this will run well into 2016 as will discussions with the Receivers of our former main contractors Lambert Walker Conservation & Restoration Ltd who as many will know went into Administration just weeks before our project was due for completion.

Full details will be given at the meeting and a copy of our Annual Report (including the Treasurer’s Report) issued to all those attending. Copies will be available later on for those unable to attend but interested in reading our year-end reports.

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### CROSSWORD ANSWERS:

ACROSS: 1, Wine. 3, The alert. 8, Ooze. 9, Passover. 11, Garden Tomb. 14, Cannot. 15, Elisha. 17, Gethsemane. 20, Own house. 21, Lisa. 22, Flogging. 23, Styx.

DOWN: 1, Wrong act. 2, Nazarene. 4, Health. 5, Assemblies. 6, Envy. 7, Turn. 10, Before long. 12, Scariot. 13, Take care. 16, The Son. 18, Loaf. 19, Unto.

## Nave Cafe

Congratulations to Barbara Ashton for successfully completing her Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate. Many thanks Barbara and welcome aboard!

We still need some additional general kitchen support on a Saturday – applications welcome!!!



lasting gratitude for the welcome I have received into the community of Stockport.

I have been living in Cheshire since 1990, and these have been richly rewarding years of ministry and friendship. I will miss so much about life in this historic town and its historic Parish Church. I'm sure that God has great plans for the future of St. Mary's, and one day perhaps I will be spared to come back and see you all again, and the church thriving and even more fully restored. I'm leaving Stockport with many great works being undertaken, which are literally changing the face of the town. St. Mary's has also changed enormously over the past 19 years, but God has not! He is the same, yesterday, today and forever!

God bless you, dear Reader, and inspire you and give you a faith and trust in Him, for this life and for the life to come. Yours very sincerely and in the certainty of the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Day!

Very Happy Easter to you!

*Roger Scoones*



Photos by Jim Birch / Sue Heap