



Diocese of Chester

## STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH

### St Mary's in the Marketplace

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St Mary's with St Andrew's Parish Office  
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 Stockport Parish Church - St Mary's

### Service times at St Mary's

**Sunday: 10:30 Holy Communion /Morning Prayer**

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

**15.30 Zeal Church**

**Tuesday: 10.00 Holy Communion**

**12.15 Lunchtime Service**

**Friday: 10.45 Café Worship**

**Wedding, Baptism, Funeral and other services by arrangement.**

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

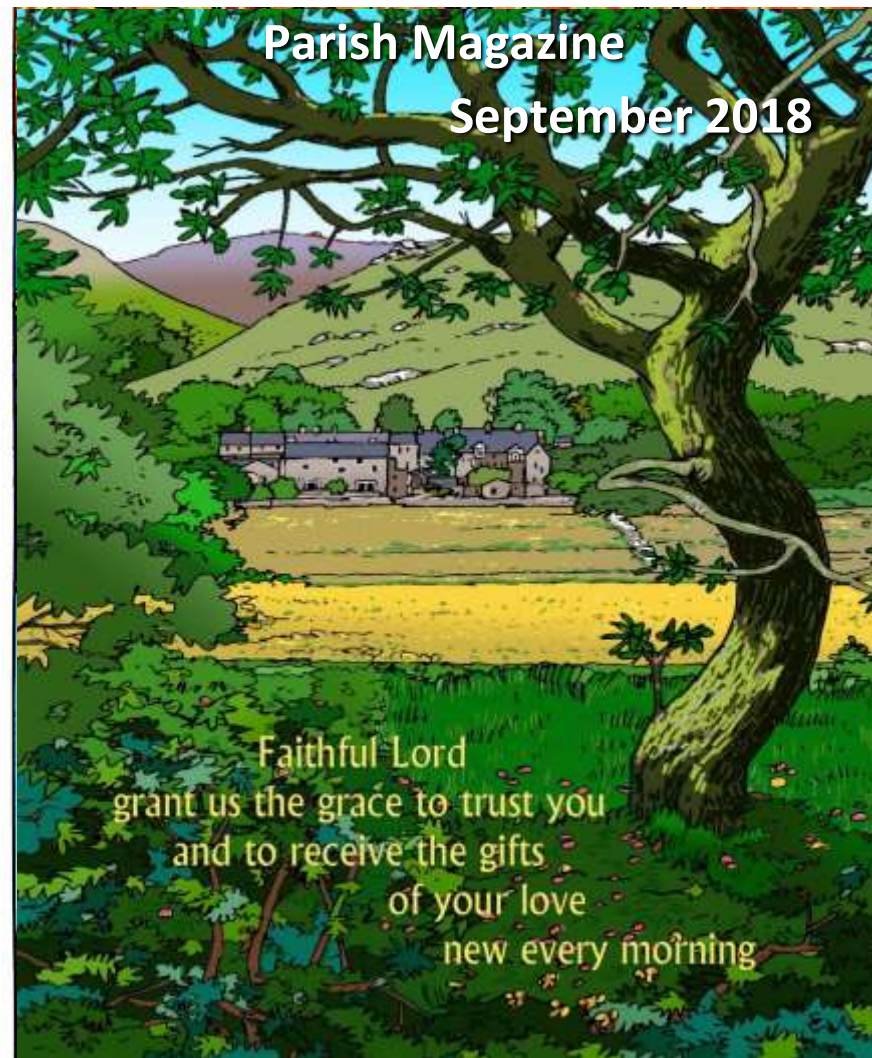
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## STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH

[St Mary's in the Marketplace]

with St Andrew's , Hall Street.



## Diary

## September 2018

Sunday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	Holy Communion Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Friday, 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Café Worship	10.45
<b>Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Heritage Open Day</b> <b>Discover the Underbanks – Edwardian Days</b>	
Sunday, 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Morning Prayer Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept Holy Cross Day	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Holy Communion Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Friday, 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Morning Prayer Zeal Church	10.30 15.30
Tuesday, 25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Holy Communion Lunchtime Service	10.00 12.15
Friday, 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Café Worship	10.45
Sunday, 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept HARVEST SUNDAY	Morning Prayer Harvest Soup Lunch (in aid of Christian Aid) Zeal Church	10.30 13.00 15.30

### Collection for The Wellspring Harvest:

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September**

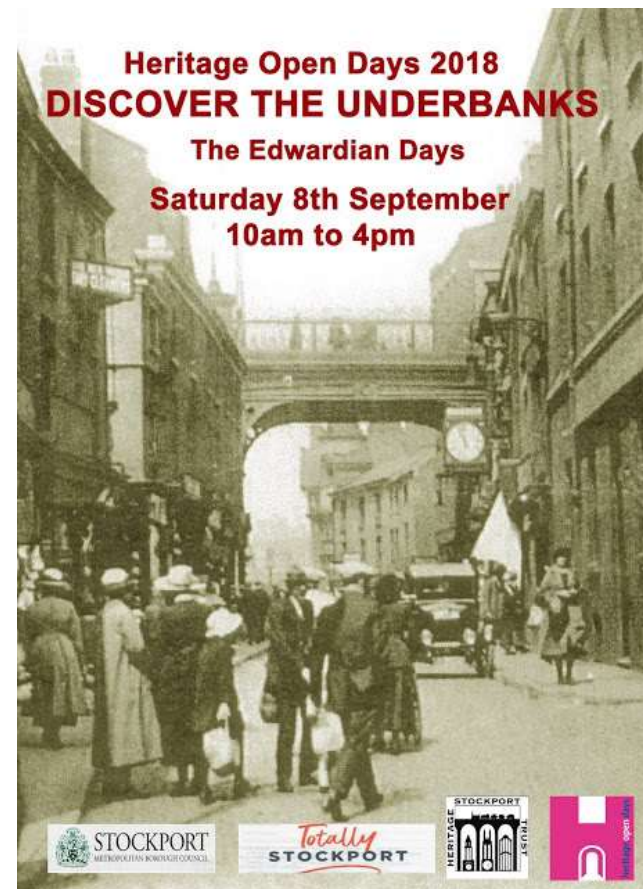
*A contribution towards the cost of producing this magazine would be appreciated please – in the donations box.*

*Thank You*

### Crossword answers:

**ACROSS:** 1, Labour. 4, Autumn. 7, Stay. 8, Darkness. 9, Reasoned. 13, Act. 16, Presbyterians. 17, Sat. 19, Ridicule. 24, Reproach. 25, Abib. 26, Celtic. 27, Intend.

**DOWN:** 1, Lose. 2, Blamerest. 3, Radio. 4, Agree. 5, Tend. 6, Music. 10, Sober. 11, Noted. 12, Doric. 13, Available. 14, Test. 15, Apes. 18, As Eve. 20, Isaac. 21, Ishvi. 22, Fret. 23, Ebed.





Supporting the Wellspring...

In a recent newspaper article Jonathan Billings (Chief Executive of the Wellspring) asked that people refrained from giving money to those begging in the streets – advice that we follow ourselves when at St Mary's and asked by "rough sleepers" for cash.

Jonathan states that "Giving people money in the street does nothing to help that person. It just keeps them trapped in a cycle of addiction and ultimately the money that is given to them often ends up in the hands of drug dealers". He suggests a friendly word of motivation and telling people about the Wellspring, something he does himself on a regular basis as he walks round the town centre.

So what can we do to help – we'll be putting together our HARVEST GIFTS church collection during September - so please bring your contributions in time for our service on the 30<sup>th</sup> September. **In-dated tinned and package food greatly appreciated together with toiletries** (in particular roll-on deodorants – please note that aerosols are not handed out to clients at the Wellspring).

Donations can of course be made at any time of the year (cash or goods) and ideally taken directly to the centre on Harvey Street any day of the week. The centre is open Monday – Thursday 9am to 8pm and Friday to Sunday 9am to 3pm.

The Wellspring will welcome items of clothing (any material) and what they can't use they will sell on to raise funds. Freshly baked food is also welcome – the centre providing around 100-150 meals per day. No clothing or fresh food to be deposited at St Mary's please but delivered direct to the Wellspring reception.

*September 2018*

There is something about September, and if for you Harvest is a special time of year, then we will be holding our "Harvest Service of Morning Prayer" on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am - when we have planned for you a lovely little service (different from our normal Morning Prayer) with a few new "twists and turns". We hope you can come along and share our harvest thanksgivings with us. Once again this year we will be collecting our harvest gifts to the Wellspring (in the form of in-dated tinned/packet food and appropriate toiletries) and donating to Christian Aid the proceeds from special menu items served at the Nave Café on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September and the "Soup" lunch on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup>. St Mary's will see a second Harvest celebration on the 19<sup>th</sup> October when we are pleased to welcome back Vernon Park School.

If you have not already seen it, September will be the last chance to view "The Henge in the Church" as that will be moving out to make way for our next exciting exhibition.

For those readers with children or grand-children (especially those starting at new schools or having left school to attend college or university) we wish them all the very best for the new academic year and for a new chapter in their lives.

As for St Mary's – we anxiously await news from the Diocese that the post of "Rector" for the new parish can be advertised and that we will be in a position to make an appointment in the not too distant future. Exciting times ahead

In the meantime, enjoy what is left of summer – we have a busy Autumn ahead.

SMH

## **Psalm 8 – and the wonders of Creation**

Revd Paul Hardingham

In this harvest season, the created universe can inspire our worship, as it did for David: *‘Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!’* (Psalm 8:1).

*What did David see? ‘When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place’* (3). David was moved to worship as he meditated on the night sky and saw the moon and stars pointing to their Maker. His words point to the work of a great artist, whose art reflects the character of the artist Himself. How vast is the universe in which we live! It speaks of a creation shot through with meaning and purpose, demonstrating the tremendous wisdom and power of God. As creation speaks of the greatness of God, it demands our allegiance and loyalty to Him in all aspects of our lives.

*What did David feel? ‘what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?’* (4). In the light of creation’s vastness, we can feel a little insignificant! Why do human beings exist on this tiny planet in such a vast universe? However, David goes on to answer his own question: *‘You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honour.’* (5). Human beings have a unique relationship to God, because we are created in His image. We are the means by which the invisible God is made visible to His creation. We are called to be partners with God in doing His work in the world, to care for the earth rather than exploiting it. It is a precious resource, along with the creatures it contains!

*‘The glory of God is the human person fully alive’* (Irenaeus of Lyons).

Canon David Winter considers what it is to be healthy.

## **THE WAY I SEE IT: What is ‘health’?**

This summer we’ve been celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Health Service. I can recall, years ago, my GP pointing out that it was the National *Health* Service, not the National *Illness* Service. This was when our local practice changed its name from ‘Medical Centre’ to ‘Health Centre’. It seems a pedantic point, but in fact it touches on a huge issue. What is ‘health’?

In the Gospels the healing miracles of Jesus are sometimes called ‘cures’ and sometimes ‘making well or whole’. These are attempts by the translators to convey a difference in the nature of what had happened. People who had ‘conditions’ (blind, lame, infirm) were ‘cured’. Those with serious illness were often said to be ‘made whole’. When Jesus was faced with ten people with leprosy, nine were described as ‘cured’ and one – the Samaritan who came back in gratitude, was ‘made whole’ (Luke 17:19). So was the woman with a long-term haemorrhage, who touched the hem of the Lord’s garment: ‘your faith has made you whole (well)’ (Luke 8:45).

This suggests that ‘health’ is more than being free of sickness. Indeed, it seems to imply that health relates to *our whole life experience* – to be truly healthy, we are ‘well’ mentally, physically and spiritually. I think I would go further: I have ministered to people who were desperately ill but in the deepest sense of the word radiantly ‘healthy’. That may sound odd, but just as ‘peace’ is not simply the absence of war, so ‘health’ is not just the absence of illness. I suspect many of those working in the NHS know the truth of that.



# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Matthew Chapter 20 verses 1-15

Jesus told a story to describe God's kingdom. A vineyard owner went to the marketplace at dawn to hire workers to pick his grapes.



## Debt collections from government and councils 'aggressive and frightening'

A new report from Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is highlighting the powerlessness of those facing multiple debt collections from local councils and the state. While the practices of private companies have become more customer-focused, a study shows the depths of suffering from people chased for debts like council tax and benefit overpayments. Now the charity wants to see the long-promised Breathing Space scheme give people relief from local and central government debt collection, as well as the private sector. 'While we're happy to have seen improvement in some of the private sector's debt collecting practices, it is totally unacceptable that some of the most aggressive debt collecting behaviour in our nation comes from the hands of both local and national governments.' said CAP's Chief Executive Matt Barlow. 'The reality is, people on the receiving end can feel completely overwhelmed and unable to cope and our findings show they are not given sufficient avenues of understanding or support. Many have no idea why they owe what they owe and that's both confusing and frightening. 'We've seen so much improvement in the private sector, the utilities companies too are making great strides in the way they treat people in debt. Local and national governments are put in place to serve the nation, and whilst they do a very good job in so many areas, their practices in debt collection fall a long way short.' Main findings from the report Powerless People show:

- Almost half of all debt clients helped by CAP have a debt with the DWP, HMRC or their local authority.
- Debt clients were 41% more likely to have considered suicide than those with only private sector debts.
- 42% of respondents said they were 'a lot more' stressed about these debts than others.

- 69% had skipped meals, 77% had been made ill with stress, 93% had suffered sleepless nights

- Further levels of stress were experienced by those with several debts deducted at source from their benefits, leaving them with little to live on.

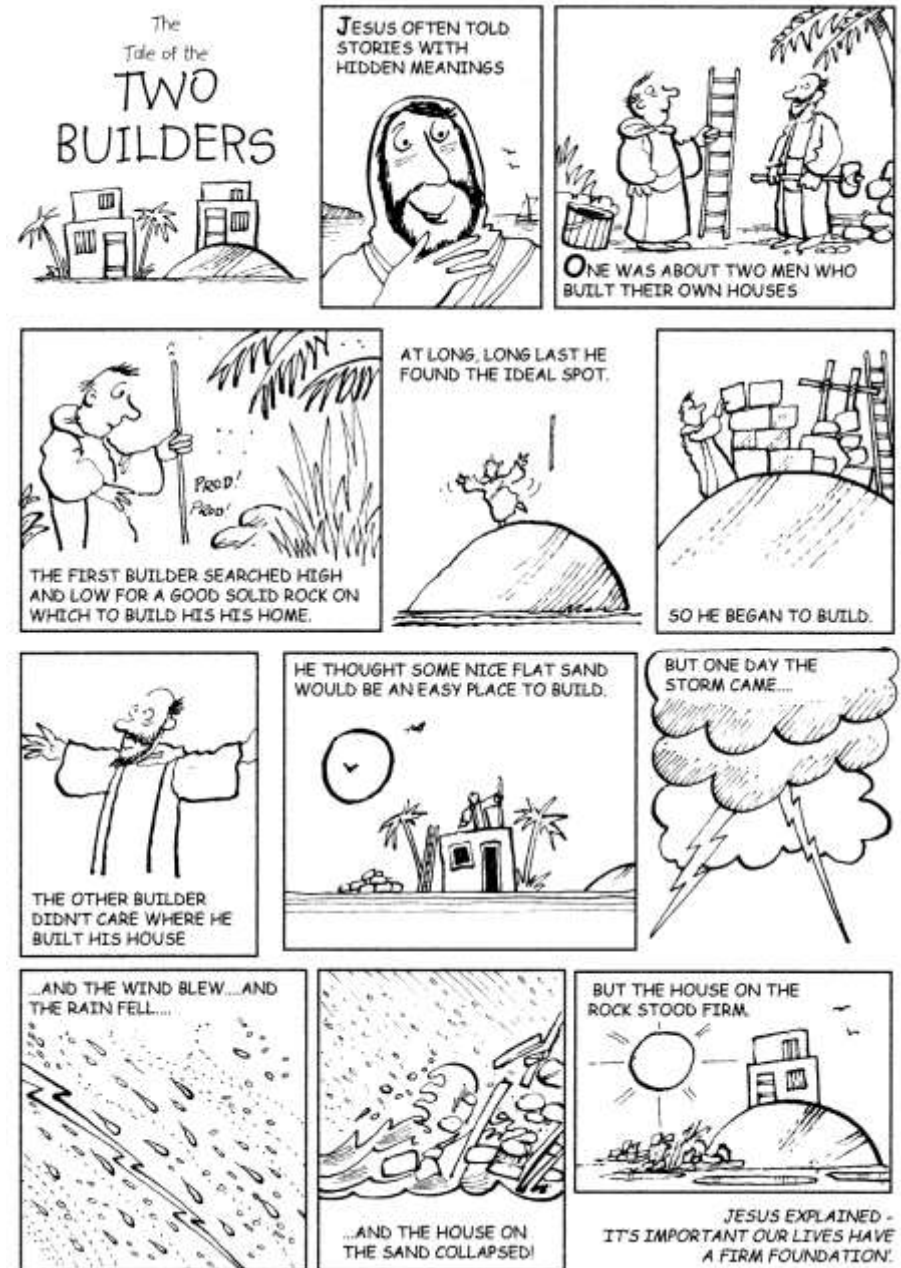
One client, A, started to suffer with debt problems after a job loss. “With the council tax, it was letter after letter. Utilities always gave me a phone call after it started with letters. The council never called – maybe the result would have been different if they did.”

The council sent enforcement agents to his home. “It was very difficult – it got to a point where for me, personally, you end up looking out of your window every day, waiting to see if they were coming. It affected everything. I was hiding all the time. Not because I wanted to. I just didn’t have what they wanted. I felt powerless. I didn’t have the money.”

The report showed that when one monthly council tax payment was missed, this would regularly result in a person becoming liable for the whole year’s payment up-front. Advisors at the charity described their experience in making contact with government creditors as ‘challenging’ and cited one local council only contactable online. Meanwhile, HMRC was criticised for long queue times on expensive helplines. Enforcement fees and administrative penalties (some up to 50% of the original sum) were noted as causing debts to unfairly escalate.

- Anyone needing help with debt problems should call Christians Against Poverty on 0800 328 0006 or contact one of the other free debt counselling agencies.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP) has been helping people tackle debt problems through church-based centres for 22 years, winning multiple national awards.



**Start with what you have, and don't worry about what you don't have.**

When Jesus fed the 5,000, He did not produce the food from thin air. Instead, He asked the disciples how many loaves of bread they *already had* (Mark 6:38). When they produced the five loaves and two fish, it seemed laughable. Everyone knew that wasn't enough. No one thought that what they had was, in the hands of God, more than sufficient. Moses had the same problem. He was told to go to Pharaoh and ask him to release the Israelites out of Egypt. He asked a very natural question, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me?" God asked him, "What is that in your hand?" It was his staff which, to his utter amazement, became a snake in front of him. That staff in the hand of Moses became the staff of God. It parted the Red Sea, it made the waters close over again, when it was used to strike a rock out came water and when in time Aaron took it, it sprouted, budded, blossomed and produced almonds. In the hands of God, more than sufficient. A desperate widow appealed to Elisha the prophet. Her two children were about to be taken as slaves to make good a debt. 'What do you have?' asked Elisha. 'Nothing, but a flask of oil,' she replied. 'Go and borrow jars and containers from all your neighbours, as many as you can,' he ordered, 'then fill them from your flask.' She went inside her house with her two sons and filled every jar. 'Then the oil stopped flowing' (2 Kings 4:6). 'Sell the oil, pay off your creditor, and live on the remainder,' said Elisha. In the hands of God, a flask of oil was more than sufficient. What do *you have now*? A couple of spare hours a week? Some clothes that you no longer need? A willingness to visit someone who is lonely? An opportunity to help a neighbour or colleague? A talent for DIY? For sewing? For sharing your faith? What actually do you have? In the Bible, people who used what they had in the service of God found that, however seemingly insignificant, it was more than sufficient with God's blessing on it. What is the key that opens the divine grace? Obedience. It was *obedience* in using what they already had that engendered the miracle. May it be so for you also.

**Sandra & Hans**



**It is always sad to say goodbye, as we wish Sandra and Hans all the very best for the future, as they leave Stockport (after many years in the UK) to return to live in Switzerland to be nearer to family members.**

**We'll be keeping in touch and looking forward to receiving news when they settle into their new home**

***Shown above : with Canon John Briggs at the Tuesday lunch-time service.***

***Our thanks to Sanda and Hans for providing lunch after the service – and of course for asking the "Nave Café" to do the catering.***







## Sea Sunday



Once again we were joined this year by local Sea Scouts for our “Sea Sunday” service of Morning Prayer. Thanks for all “officers and crew” and to Rita

for organising and leading the service. We look forward to inviting some of these young people back to St Mary’s to our special service on the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> November “Stockport Remembers” and delighted to hear that the Sea Scouts are starting to feel very much “at home” with us at St Mary’s. Lovely to have you “on board”...

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## Christmas Shoebox Gifts



I know – we don’t want to mention the “Christmas” word just yet, BUT!

Although many of you have been knitting or shopping throughout the year with Christmas shoe-box gifts in mind, the rest of us may just need a reminder to start thinking about what we are going to buy or make for our shoe box appeal this year.

As local children return to school this month there are lots of “return to school” bargains in the shops – an ideal time to start collecting items together.

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Further information will be made available shortly – any questions or queries please have a word with Margaret Forster.

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## Henge in the Church

We hope that you have enjoyed viewing the art installation, located in the south aisle, created by Phil Alexander as part of his degree at Manchester Art School.

You certainly can't miss it at approximately 8' square, and rather on the tall side. The timbers and fixings were impressive when they were being brought into the building but once installed "the henge in the church" is certainly something to look at and to think about. Yes, "think about" - it's a art work made from history, and to Phil has a deep presence on multiple levels. He hopes that we will have taken the time to SEE what we are looking at.

So whilst it remains with us – take a closer look as you walk past to the Tuesday morning service, or wander round the church. Sit in the café and wonder..... or ponder even! Those timbers tell a story of their own - found under the foundation of the last Manorial Corn Mill of Norbury when contractors were building the Airport Relief Road – and once upon a time were part of a much older building. What an imagative way to bring these "back to life" – a display of individual pieces brought together as a whole (who would have thought of a henge).

Congratulations Phil on what is a stunning piece of work, and on obtaining your degree.



## Book Exchange

The St Mary's Book Exchange has been in place for a year this month. Our thanks to the Rotary Club of Stockport for starting this initiative and for supplying many of the books.

Anyone is welcome to take a book, return it later or to bring in another book for others to enjoy. If you just want to take one and don't have one to exchange or just wish to keep it – that's fine too but we would appreciate a "cash gift" in the church donations box, then everyone benefits from the scheme.



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## When the sun goes edgewise – and daytime equals night

23<sup>rd</sup> September is the autumnal equinox (if you live in the northern hemisphere) or the vernal (Spring) equinox (if you live in the southern hemisphere)

The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the Sun is 'edgewise' to the Earth's axis of rotation, so that everywhere on earth has twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of darkness.

## Congratulations to the happy couple ...



*Ada & Roy Mostyn cut the cake at their wedding reception with no idea that they would be celebrating their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with us at St Mary's so many years later.*

*Very many congratulations to you both from our Sunday and Tuesday congregations – your church family!*

The icing on the cake (as it were) daughter Jan making a surprise visit to the Tuesday lunch-time service. It is also thanks to Jan that we have the opportunity to look at this lovely wedding photograph. **Best Wishes Ada and Roy for many more years together.**



*Shown left following the Sunday service – Ada & Roy with Adam and Mike*



## Harvest at St Mary's 2018 – in support of Christian Aid

### Aster's story



Aster was overburdened because she is a woman. Farming, cooking, carrying firewood – life was a constant struggle. But Aster refused to give up. She's come together with women in her village, in Ethiopia, to open a shop powered by the sun. With training supported by Christian Aid and partner organisations Aster and her 'sisters' have turned their shop into a thriving business. The women are so much stronger together. They sell fresh water and soap, and provide mobile phone charging at the shop. This brings in vital money for their families, and renewable energy for their community – reducing their reliance on firewood. Aster now has freedom and power over her own life. She's able to pay for her children's healthcare, send them to school and save for her young family's future.

### ***Will you stand together with women like Aster?***

Women in poor rural communities, like Aster, work hard. But they often struggle to earn a living because of climate change and drought, while prevalent beliefs can make it hard for them to get loans or start businesses.

***25<sup>th</sup> September: Tuesday "Harvest lunch" at the Nave Café***  
***all profits to be donated to Christian Aid Harvest Appeal***  
***erving from 12.45– 13.30***

***30<sup>th</sup> September: Harvest Sunday "Soup Lunch" at the Nave Café***  
***13.00***

***NO CHARGE EVENT***

***[Donations to Christian Aid]***

## Tuesday Lunchtime Services:

Date:	Readings/Title:	Speakers:
Sept 4	* "Are Christians just optimists?"	John Briggs
11	Acts: 19: 23-41 [Ephesus: when the Gospel leads to conflict]	Mike Newman
18	Acts: 20: 17- 24 [Ephesus: Paul's ministry summarised]	Jo Rodman
25	Acts: 20: 25-38 [Ephesus: Paul takes his farewell]	Mike Lowe
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Oct 2	* "Can you be sure you are a Christian?"	John Knowles
9	Acts: 22: 1-29 [Arrest and rejection in Jerusalem]	Richard Lawry
16	Acts: 26: 1-18 [Paul's defence before Agrippa I]	John Briggs
23	Acts: 26: 19-32[Paul's defence before Agrippa II]	TBC
30	Acts: 27: 1-44 [Caught in a storm]	TBC
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Nov 6	* "Can war ever be right?"	Mike Newman
13	Acts 28: 11-30 [Finally in Rome]	John Knowles
20	Parables of the end: be ready! Matthew 24.32-50	TBC
27	Parables of the end: ten bridesmaids Matthew 25.1-13	TBC
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Dec 4	* Christmas Invitation Service	
11	Parables of the end: bags of gold Matthew 25.14-30	John Briggs
18	Parables of the end: sheep & goats Matthew 25.31-46	Mike Newman

**TBC – NAME OF SPEAKER TO BE CONFIRMED**

## Holy Cross Day

On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, and seek out the places of special significance to Christians. Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. That church, built in honor of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335. The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the cross.

What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them. The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are 'sealed' or 'marked' on their foreheads as a sign that they are His. A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: "Draw an I." That is you standing before the Lord, saying, 'here I am'. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke – as if to say: "Lord, I abandon my self-will and make you the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to your love and service." On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus' wonderful promise: "And when I am lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)





## **Diary of a Momentous Year: Surviving - and singing - in the trenches**

Canon David Winter

Modern people, distraught if deprived of ‘all mod con’, must be baffled how men survived year after year of living much of the time in the trenches of the Western Front. For month after month everything was ankle deep in mud. These were their living quarters, complete with primitive toilet arrangements, permanent damp, rats and trench foot – and that’s before one mentions the enemy’s constant shelling. There were, of course, moments of respite at rest centres behind the lines – and there was always the coveted hope of a ‘blighty’, a wound that was not too serious but would mean treatment back in the UK. ‘Blighty’ was an Urdu word passed on by soldiers who had served in India – it means ‘European’, or in this case ‘home’. Some men, it’s true, succumbed to what was called ‘shell shock - traumatic stress syndrome. But the amazing fact is that most not only survived the trench conditions and the ever-present danger, but even looked back on it as a significant experience to be proud of. How on earth did they do it? My answer, largely based on things I heard from my father and his war-time colleagues, centred on two experiences: songs, and camaraderie. When they marched and sang ‘Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag’ and called on each other to ‘smile, boys, smile’, they were celebrating being part of a strange and exhilarating brotherhood. Humour was rife in the trenches, much of it about the sheer awfulness of their situation. The ‘Wiper’s Times’, a newspaper produced by soldiers in Ypres, can still make us laugh, as its recent revival on stage has proved. It was the camaraderie - the sense of belonging to an exclusive ‘club’ - which made the humour possible and authenticated the songs. It was a profound feeling of belonging which made the impossible bearable. There was, one must add, a third element in trench survival: the chaplains and the Salvation Army. I never heard a single veteran discount their value, right there in the heart of things, offering a prayer, yes, but also tea and cakes and understanding. Of course the soldiers hated the war, the loss of comrades, the relentless months of deadly danger. But their songs and memories also told another story, which we should not forget.

## **Do you reply on GOOGLE for all sorts of information?**

Google, the internet search company, was founded 20 years ago this month, on 4th September 1998, by Larry Page and Sergey Brin, both students at Stanford University in California. The company was initially based in a friend’s garage. The friend – Susan Wojcicki – is now CEO of YouTube.

The company developed from an idea for an innovative search engine originally called Backrub, which outshone early competitors. Eventually its use became so ubiquitous that the word “google” is now often used to mean search on a computer.

From the outset Google has included “Don’t be evil” in its code of conduct, and this has been reiterated as recently as this year. The company says: ‘We believe strongly that in the long term, we will be better served – as shareholders and in all other ways – by a company that does good things for the world even if we forgo some short-term gains.’

The name Google is a play on the mathematical expression for the number 1 followed by 100 zeros. It reflects the founders’ mission ‘to organise the world’s information and make it universally accessible and useful.’

The company’s huge campus, Googleplex is a tourist destination in the San Francisco Bay Area. It is regarded as an ideal employee-friendly workplace. The company employs over 60,000 people.

**Mouse Makes**  
Can you find the mouse?

**A HARVEST PUZZLE**  
Change each letter to the letter **before** it in the alphabet to see how QSPWFSCT 3:9 says we can give thanks to God.

**IPOPVS**

**UIF MPSE**

**XJUI**

**ZPVS**

**XFBMUI**

**BOE UIF**

**GJSTU**

**QBSU PG**

**ZPVS**

**IBSWFTU**

Which two boxes have the same harvest food?

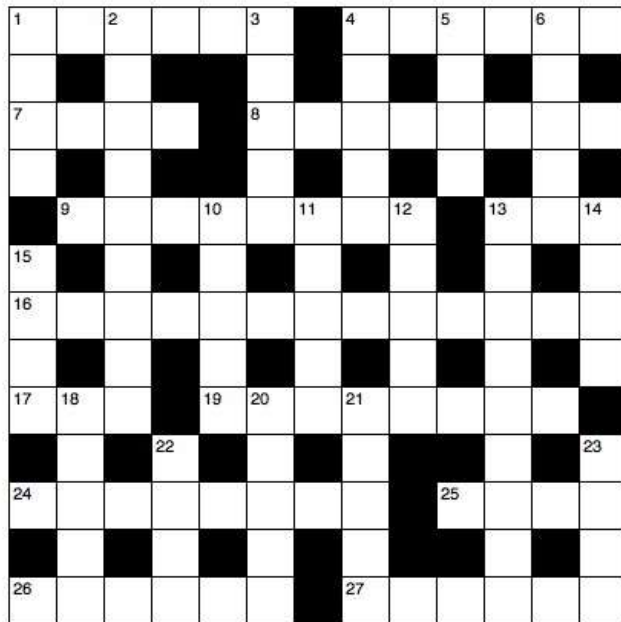
**Vincent de Paul – patron of all charitable societies.** Very few people stand out as being incredibly good, but Vincent de Paul was one of them. His life touched thousands of people, who were helped and inspired by his love and kindness.

Vincent de Paul was born in 1581 to a Gascon peasant family at Ranquine. Educated by the Franciscans and then at Toulouse University, he was ordained a priest very young, at only 19. He became a court chaplain, and then tutor to the children of the Gondi family. In 1617 he was made parish priest of Chatillon-les-Dombes. From here, Vincent de Paul ministered both to the rich and fashionable, and also to the poor and oppressed. He helped prisoners in the galleys, and even convicts at Bordeaux.

In 1625 Vincent de Paul founded a congregation of priests who renounced all church preferment and instead devoted themselves to the faithful in smaller towns and villages. In 1633 they were given the Paris priory church of Saint-Lazare, and that same year Vincent founded the Sisters of Charity, the first congregation of ‘unenclosed’ women, whose lives were entirely devoted to the poor and sick, and even providing some hospital care. Rich women helped by raising funds for various projects, which were an immense success.

Even in his lifetime, Vincent became a legend. Clergy and laity, rich and poor, outcasts and convicts all were warmed and enriched by his charisma and selfless devotion. Vincent was simply consumed by the love of God and of his neighbour. His good works seemed innumerable – ranging from helping war-victims in Lorraine, and sending missionaries to Poland, Ireland and Scotland, to advising Anne of Austria at Court during the regency. No wonder that after his death at nearly 80, the Pope named him as patron of all charitable societies. Even today, the Vincent de Paul Society is working with the poor and oppressed.

## Crossword for September 2018



### Across

- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)
- 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)
- 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)
- 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)

- 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
- 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)
- 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
- 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
- 19 Mock(Luke14:29)(8)
- 24 Disgrace(Psalm44:13)(8)
- 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus13:4)(4)
- 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome(6)
- 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23)(6)

### Down

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
- 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
- 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
- 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
- 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
- 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
- 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
- 11 Do ten(anag.)(5)
- 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
- 13 Capable of being used(1Kings7:36)(9)
- 14 'Each one should — his own actions'(Galatians6:4)(4)
- 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
- 18 'But I am afraid that just — — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
- 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts(5)
- 21 One of the four sons of Asher(Genesis46:17)(5)
- 22 Be distressed (Proverbs24:19)(4)
- 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)