ACROSS: 1, Womb. 3, Agnostic. 9, Long ago. 10, Fleet. 11, Horeb. 12, Yellow. 14, Deceitfulness. 17, Banish. 19, Towel. 22, Boils. 23, Inferno. 24, Eternity. 25, Defy.

DOWN: 1, Will hide. 2, Minor. 4, Glory of Christ. 5, Offal. 6, The Robe. 7, City. 8, Zabbai. 13, Psalmody. 15, Chalice. 16, Let off. 18, If son. 20, Worse. 21, Able

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Readers contributions to the magazine are always welcome. Hard copy (hand written if easier) to the Rectory address or by email: to : [**st.marysstockport@gmail.com**](mailto:st.marysstockport@gmail.com)

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

**St Mary’s in the Marketplace**  
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St Mary’s in the Marketplace   
“SECURING THE FUTURE FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS” 50p

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Diary dates

**Tuesday, 23rd April – St Georges Day  
St Mary’s in the Marketplace**

*In acknowledgement of St George’s Day members of The Coldstream Guards Association, along with family and friends, will be attending the Sunday morning service on the 21st April.*

**Super Soup Lunch**  **Tuesday, 14th May  
St Mary’s in the Marketplace**

**In aid of: Christian Aid Week, 12-18 May 2013**

**Today around 870 million people are desperate for food. One in eight people will go to bed hungry tonight. This is a scandal.** But IF we **bite back at hunger** this Christian Aid Week we can help communities find ways to not only survive but to thrive, with enough food to eat not just today but tomorrow. We will be serving soup and a roll – **all profits to be donated to Christian Aid.**  .  
.

**The Big Lunch - Sunday, 2nd June 2013  
St Mary’s in the Marketplace**

Advanced notice is given for the 2013 “big lunch” – details to follow.

**** From the Rector’s Desk

Dear Reader .  
 .  
New Life

Easter has fallen quite early this year, and has perhaps caught us rather by surprise, coming so soon after Christmas! Or at least it seemed like that to me! Lent has come and gone, Easter has been celebrated here, and of course around the world, and if the weather changes it will soon be summer. I’m not sure about Spring. I think we may have missed that this year! New life, though, will surely appear in our gardens soon!

New Season

This is why the Christian calendar is so important to Christians. Despite the fact of time flying by, the Birth of Christ, His Death and Resurrection, and His Ascension into Heaven, not forgetting the Coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, are all constant reminders of what God has done in history, and of what he is doing today in our world. So may I wish you a very Happy Easter, this “joyful Eastertide” as we sing sometimes in Church. It is because of Easter – the day Jesus rose from the dead, that we as a Christian community meet and celebrated and worship and serve the Lord every Sunday week by week.

New Ways

I am constantly encouraged by those who come to Church on Tuesday as well as going to their own church, or to St Mary’s, on a Sunday – besides making Tuesday a day of “prayer and worship”. Easter Day is of course a Sunday, but Jesus is alive every day! In today’s changing world the church in continuingly seeking to find new ways – fresh expressions of “doing” church. If it were not for our Tuesday worship services St Mary’s would be a very quiet place indeed! In fact one wonders what the future would have held for St Mary’s had it not been for the opening up of the Church to new people, new ideas, and now to a totally reordered interior, so that

**What are your goals?**

“I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” Philippians 3:14

Scripture tells us that if we want the higher calling of God in Christ Jesus, then we should press on toward the ‘goal’, which in turn means we will receive the prize. This inspired scripture shows an understanding of our nature, which has the capacity to achieve far more then we thought possible, as long as we have set it as a goal.

Think of the times in your life when you have set your mind on achieving something. It may have started as a child, when you saw something you wanted, and you did not rest until you got it. Perhaps it was the pursuit of some academic qualification. Or it could have been in your relationships, where you set your heart upon someone and pursued them until you had fulfilled the goal of engagement and marriage. Perhaps, like many ‘driven’, ambitious people, you set your sights on the career you wanted, and the progression you craved within it. In some cases this may even have overtaken you and become an overwhelming focus of your life.

Whichever example rings true with you, one thing is certain: all achievements begin with setting a goal or challenge for yourself. The joy when you achieve something is deep and satisfying. Having a specific goal helps you to sort the essentials from the non-essentials in your life. No one wants to look back on their lives and realise they have wasted the years achieving nothing much at all.

**What would you like to look back on your life and be proud you had achieved?** Write it down now (they never seem to happen until you have committed them to paper), and set it as a goal to achieve. You will be so glad you did.

Gift Aid – major changes in 2013

As if on-line completion of all our Parish returns, changes relating to Real Time Information and just the general production of necessary documentation – e.g. Health & Safety Risk Assessments etc. wasn’t enough this year sees two major changes to Gift Aid:

1. **A new Gift Aid claims process**
2. **The introduction of the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme** - This will allow churches to claim a Gift Aid style payment on up to £5,000 of small cash donations (e.g. collections and wall-safes) without the need for Gift Aid declarations.

We are however still awaiting detailed guidance on both changes from HMRC.

Our newly worded declaration forms/envelopes will be available shortly.

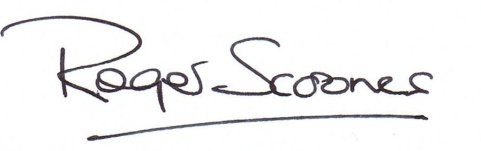
the church is used nearly every day of the week, and not just on Sundays.

New Work

The new work of refurbishment of the interior has taken rather longer than planned because of the unexpected fragile state of the tiled floor, much more of which has had to be re-laid and renewed that was originally planned. In the fact the work has been four or five times greater than planned for! The craftsmanship displayed in the restoration of the spectacular tiled floor area and of the 130 year old wooden floor by three men – Dominic, Grant and Jim – is worthy of the highest praise. Their sheer hard work, skill and working patience over many weeks and thousands of tiles has left me speechless. Please admire their work as it is finally revealed and never forget what they have done for us.

Nor should we forget our splendid team from Lambert Walker and other contractors. You may never have met them - but they have been here, on and off for seven months – Michael, Paul, Mark, Richard, Chris, Anthony, Danny, Michael, Arran, Grant, Dominic, Jim, Sam, Chris, Simon, Nathan, Carl, Gary, Matthew, Danny and many others. I thank God for all of them and wish them a Happy Easter too, as they leave us to continue their good work elsewhere. I know how much they have enjoyed working on St Mary’s tower and interior – because they have told me - so it’s true!

St John said of Jesus – that he “did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his Name”. It’s TRUE! Jesus came to life to give us new life. St Mary’s is experiencing new life too, in a dramatic and historic way.

A Happy Easter to you! Yours very sincerely, in the joy of the Resurrection.

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Across

1 ‘The baby in my — leaped for joy’ (Luke 1:44) (4) 3 A ‘don’t know’ in matters of faith (8)

9 In the distant past (Jeremiah 2:20) (4,3)

10 Armada (1 Kings 10:22) (5)

11 Where Moses was confronted with the burning bush (Exodus 3:1) (5)

12 Hair colour indicative of skin infection (Leviticus 13:30) (6)

14 ‘The worries of this life and the — of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful’ (Matthew 13:22) (13)

17 Expel (2 Kings 13:23) (6)

19 What Jesus wrapped round his waist when he washed his disciples’ feet (John 13:4) (5)

22 The sixth plague to afflict the Egyptians (Exodus 9:9) (5)

23 For nine (anag.) (7)

24 Where there is no time (Psalm 93:2) (8)

25 Goliath’s challenge to the Israelite army in the Valley of Elah: ‘This day I — the ranks of Israel!’ (1 Samuel 17:10) (4)

Down

1 ‘I will become angry with them and forsake them; I — — my face from them’ (Deuteronomy 31:17) (4,4)

2 Usual description of prophets such as Amos, Hosea, Micah, and so on (5)

4 ‘They cannot see the light of the gospel of the — — — , who is the image of God’ (2 Corinthians 4:4) (5,2,6)

5 An animal’s internal edible parts (Leviticus 4:11) (5)

6 Popular 20th-century religious novel by Lloyd C. Douglas, which became a 1953 film starring Richard Burton (3,4)

7 ‘A — on a hill cannot be hidden’ (Matthew 5:14) (4)

8 One of the exiles, a descendant of Bebai, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:28) (6)

13 Old Testament hymn-singing (8)

15 ‘And O what transport of delight from thy pure — floweth’ (7)

16 Of felt (anag.) (3,3)

18 ‘So — the — sets you free, you will be free indeed’ (John 8:36) (2,3)

20 Comes between ‘bad’ and ‘worst’ (John 5:14) (5)

21 ‘Neither height nor depth... will be — to separate us from the love of God’ (Romans 8:39) (4)

Easter Monday – 1st April 2013

Did you know that the tradition of having a holiday on the Monday after Easter stems from the medieval festival of Hocktide. This was a two day festival on the Monday and Tuesday after Easter, originating in the eleventh century. Some stories say that on the Monday the men of a town tied up the women and demanded a kiss from them before they were freed. Others say that a man had to carry a women for a certain distance or lift her up a given number of times in return for a kiss. Fortunately, Hocktide is only celebrated in the town of Hungerford in Berkshire and the main events are on the Tuesday after Easter. The festival was somewhat modified to celebrate the patronage of the [Duchy of Lancaster](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duchy_of_Lancaster). [John of Gaunt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_of_Gaunt,_1st_Duke_of_Lancaster), the 1st [Duke of Lancaster](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duke_of_Lancaster), granted grazing rights and permission to fish in the [River Kennet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Kennet) to the commoners of Hungerford. Despite a legal battle during the reign of Elizabeth I when the Duchy attempted to regain the lucrative fishing rights, the case was eventually settled in the townspeople's favour after the Queen herself interceded. Hocktide in Hungerford now combines the ceremonial collecting of the rents with something of the previous tradition of demanding kisses or money. Although the Hocktide celebrations take place over several days, the main festivities occur on the Tuesday, which is known as Tutti Day. The Hocktide Council, which is elected on the previous Friday, appoints two Tutti Men whose job it is to visit the properties attracting Commoner's Rights. Formerly they collected rents, and it was their job to accompany the Bellman (or [Town crier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Town_crier)) to summon commoners to attend the Hocktide Court in the Town Hall, and to fine those who were unable to attend one penny, in lieu of the loss of their rights. The Tutti Men carry Tutti Poles: wooden staffs topped with bunches of flowers and a [cloved](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clove" \o "Clove) orange. These are thought to have derived from [nosegays](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nosegay) which would have mitigated the smell of some of the less salubrious parts of the town in times past. The Tutti Men are accompanied by the Orange Man (or Orange Scrambler), who wears a hat decorated with feathers and carries a white sack filled with oranges, and Tutti Wenches who give out oranges and sweets to the

**Notice of Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**The APCM will be held in St Mary’s in the Marketplace on the 14th April 2013 at 12.00 noon following** **morning service and Meeting of Parishioners.**

**Café Church**

## incorporating a presentation to existing and prospective volunteers and our plan for the management of the “Nave Café” Sunday, (7th April 10.30am) and Tuesday, 9th April (12.15pm)

**Archdeacons’ Visitation 2013**

**Will be held at St George, Poynton on Wednesday, 29th May 2013 commencing at 7.30 pm. Wardens and Sidespersons are requested to attend this important service and meeting.**

**Stockport Deanery Confirmation 2013**

**Will be held at St Thomas, Norbury on Tuesday, 11th June 2013 commencing at 7.30pm**

**If anyone is interested to know more about the Christian faith, or being confirmed, please speak to Roger Scoones as soon as possible.**

Enthronement service of the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury

The Most Revd Justin Welby (pictured) has been formally enthroned as the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury and leader of the world's 77 million Anglicans in a service at Canterbury Cathedral. The enthronement service was attended by about 2,000 guests, including Prince Charles, the Duchess of Cornwall, the Prime Minister and archbishops and bishops from around the world, including the bishops of Chester, Stockport and Birkenhead.

The Bishop of Chester, the Rt Revd Dr Peter Forster, who was a senior tutor at St John’s College, Durham, when Justin Welby was a theology student there, is quoted on the Diocesan web-site as saying: “I recall the new Archbishop of Canterbury as an excellent student. I have kept in touch with him now and again over the years, and I have every confidence that he will be an outstanding Archbishop of Canterbury.”

New Vicar for St Alban’s and St Thomas’

On the 23rd April, Rev Andrew Lythall, formerly curate of St George’s, Stockport will be instituted and collated into the newly formed living of St Alban’s Offerton with St Thomas’, Stockport. We wish Andrew and his wife Rev Jenny and their infant son Edward, God’s richest blessing on their life and ministry in the Parish.

crowds in return for pennies or kisses. The proceedings start at 8 am with the sounding of the horn from the

Town Hall steps which summons all the commoners to the attend the Court at 9 am, after which the Tutti Men visit each of the 102 houses in turn. They no longer collect rents, but demand a penny or a kiss from the lady of the house when they visit. In return the Orange Man gives the owner an orange. After the parade of the Tutti Men through the streets the Hocktide Lunch is held for the Hocktide Council, commoners and guests, at which the traditional "Plantagenet Punch" is served. After the meal, an initiation ceremony, known as *Shoeing the Colts* is held, in which all first time attendees are shod by the blacksmith. Their legs are held and a nail is driven into their shoe. They are not released until they shout "Punch". Oranges and heated coins are then thrown from the Town Hall steps to the children gathered outside.

**And it happens to be: All Fools’ Day**

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1 April, everyone is ‘fair game’ to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a ‘fool’s errand’.

And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove’s milk, or to the bookseller for The Life of Eve’s Mother. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: ‘Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.’ Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula : ‘April-Fool-Day’s-past-and-gone-you’re-the-fool-and-I-am-none!’





Wednesday, 24th April

If we were in the United States we could very well be celebrating Administrative Professionals Day® which highlights the important role of administrative professionals in all sectors of the modern economy worldwide – or so they say! It is on the Wednesday of Administrative Professionals Week®, which is on the last full week of April. This unfortunately doesn’t appear to be recognised in the United Kingdom, well certainly not by this Secretary Birds professional body – The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. Shame about that!

For those who do recognise the event, Administrative Professionals Day and Administrative Professionals Week are widely observed in many workplaces in the United States and other countries around the world - although I am not too sure which - but this “Secretary Bird” feels it should be recognised here! So what is this particular Secretary bird going to do – take the day off – take the week off – now that is a good idea! Perhaps something between the two…

**Happy 40th Birthday, mobile phones!**

Forty years ago this month an American inventor, Martin Cooper, made the world’s first call on a mobile phone. They took a little while to catch on in Britain, but when they did it was like a pandemic. Nowadays you can’t get on a train or a bus or walk down the street without seeing them in use - people apparently talking to themselves, but actually conversing with an invisible friend or colleague. Virtually everybody’s got one, and of course Cooper’s invention has sprouted many new varieties: iPhones, Tablets, Smartphones and so on.

Real Time Information

HM Revenues and Customs are introducing RTI to improve the operation of PAYE and support the introduction of Universal Credits. It will make the PAYE system easier for employers and HMRC to operate.

From the 6th April 2013, the operation of PAYE will remain but the reporting will change. RTI becomes mandatory for employers during the period April 13 to October 13.

**What does this mean to St Mary’s?** Well the same as it does for every other Church in the country. We need to ensure that we are following the rules and this could involve any payments we make to organists, bell ringers or even volunteers! If we had any it could also apply to choristers …

Where payments are made or a contractual agreement exists we will need to register on-line and comply with all requirements. We will need to change our way of working.

Volunteers

Our volunteers are vital to us, however we will have to comply with a few requirements to ensure that we do not stray into contractual difficulties, and that if a volunteer’s role will involve contact with children or vulnerable adults a check is undertaken with the Disclosure and Barring Service. If you are a volunteer or wish to become one (in any capacity) please come along to one of our “Café Church” sessions. We will explain in more detail the role(s) involved, training opportunities etc.