



"Thought for the Week on Pure Radio 107.8 fm "

Pure Radio 107.8 fm has been on air for nearly 10 years, and for much of that time Roger and other local clergy of different denominations have been taking turn and turn about to record a series of short talks, a Thought for the Week, to be broadcast each Sunday morning and Monday evening on the June Somekh programme "New Horizons", aimed at the upper age group. It's a chat show interspersed with light

music, easy listening as they say. Roger, along with his colleagues from the Methodist, Roman Catholic and United Reform Church have each had three slots, and they have been allowed to chose any topic they liked to talk about. Roger has had no problem finding things to talk about, from his memory of childhood gifts at Christmas to the colour of the post boxes in Stockport , and the sight and sound of aircraft flying over Stockport. In fact it would be a surprise if he didn't mention Stockport, a town and community dear to his heart. He always tries to include Stockport in his 3/4minute broadcast , to give it a local feel. After all , it is Stockport's local Radio Station, PURE RADIO 107.8fm As you would expect of clergy, each one aims to put a spiritual slant onto their talk in their own way, although Roger would be the first to admit that it's quite a skill to be able to bridge the gap between the sacred and the secular in such a short time,

without making the broadcast sound like a sermon . Roger has been told that it's " the voice" that's important , and over the years people have come up to him in Stockport and said to him " I heard your voice on the radio the other day...and I realised it was you!" Here he is, seen recording his latest Thought for the Week, with Pure Radio presenter Tim Fearnley , out of sight but in control of the mike! " Ok Roger, three, two, one, you're on"!

Roger's next appearance on Pure Radio 107.8fm will be on Sundays 17,24 January and 3 February at about 7.45 am and on each succeeding Monday evening at the same time 7.45pm. Roger has very much enjoyed his years broadcasting to listeners across the Borough. He would be very happy for you to listen in and tell him what you think. But it's only very short, so you need to keep tuned in... to PURE RADIO 107.8fm !

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BHS staff surprised Roger and The Wellspring by wheeling a huge Christmas hamper on a BHS trolley arriving at St Mary's in time to present it as a gift from the BHS staff to The Wellspring at their annual carol service.



St Mary's Christmas Fayre

Many thanks to all those who assisted with the organisation of the Christmas Fayre, those of you who knitted, stitched, boiled and baked. Those of you who join us on the day, those of you who were unable to make it but who donated "goodies". Those of you who spent the day on the stalls and those who cleared up afterwards! We raised £563.61 towards church funds. The breakdown of monies received on the day is as shown below less of course the "float" which has been deduced from the total not being absolutely sure how much of the £60 was in which cash box! A wonderful achievement.

Bran Tub	£32.85
Bric a Brac	£33.50
Jewellery	£91.60
Crafts	£85.00
Childrens	£8.00
Cakes	£115.19
Cards/Gifts	£103.97
Books/DVD/Knitted	<u>£153.50</u>
	£623.61
less float	<u>-£60.00</u>



Another year... Christmas 2015 – a community celebrates!

It's hard to believe that another year is upon us, but before we launch ourselves into 2016 – whatever the year will bring for each and every one of us – a thank you to all those who have shared Christmas 2015 with us and in particular those organisations who choose to hold services and concerts with us:-

Stockport Ex-Services Associations
 Stockport MENCAP
 AGE UK Stockport
 Beechwood Cancer Care Trust
 Vernon Park Primary School
 Banks Lane Junior School
 Shopmobility Stockport
 Wellspring Kitchen

Special thanks to those who helped to make each occasion special and memorable.

The Rt Revd Libby Lane, Bishop of Stockport
 The Mayor & Mayoress of Stockport, Cllr Andrew Verdeille & Mrs Cleo Cundall
 Peter Williamson – St Mary's Guest Organist
 The Maia Singers (Advent Carol Service & "Sing Christmas")
 Laurel Lane Singers ("Sing Christmas")
 Offerton Methodist Choir
 Warren Wood Primary School / Bramhall Singing Group
 Affinity Choir / Beechwood Choir
 Stockport without Abuse and everyone else who took part in our programme of services and other events, during Advent.

Christian Faith – Preparing for life



Tuesday 2pm – 3pm at St Mary's Church		
February 2	1	Who am I? We will explore how we came to be on this journey in life and where belief in God fits into the picture
February 9	2	Who is Jesus? We will look at the main aspects of Jesus's life and death and resurrection and search for answers to our questions about him.
February 16	3	What is the Bible? We will consider the role of the Bible in history, in the life of the Church, and in the life of Christians today.
February 23		Service of Baptism & Confirmation Bishop of Chester St Mary's in the Marketplace
March 1	4	Why the Church? We will look at different models of "doing church" from the traditional to the fresh expressions of church in the 21 st Century.
March 8	5	Where am I going? We will consider life and death and life after death and issues raised by modern science.
March 15	6	Preparing for Holy Communion This will be an opportunity to look at the faith basis of the service, and the practical application of Holy Communion, how it works.
March 22	7	Preparing for Confirmation We will look at the Confirmation Service and consider how it makes sense of infant baptism.

From the Rector Roger's i-pad



Dear Reader,

January 2016

By now you will almost undoubtedly have heard the news ! Maybe you heard it directly from me, or maybe someone told you, and then I confirmed that it was true. Maybe you read about the news somewhere , and you guessed it must be true. Or maybe, by chance, you haven't heard and you are wondering what all the fuss is about! And you are asking " will someone please tell me, what is this NEWS?!"

The news is that..... God loves you SO MUCH that He sent His ONLY SON into the world, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life! And yes, dear Reader, that is the Good News, the Gospel, the euangelion, of the Bible, and that's what all the fuss and excitement has been over Christmas, really! Christians have been celebrating this fact, about Jesus having been born , a baby in a manger , in a stable, in Bethlehem. They've been recalling the story, over and over again, in church , in schools and colleges and theatres. And even in the streets, and what's more they've been encouraging people to tell their friends.

And so the news has got out! In the actual story, as a result of all this banter and people having written about this extra ordinary "happening" in the future , this child has had visitors very early on, shepherds, who'd literally left their sheep out on the hillsides, rather foolishly one would have thought, and had gone to visit the parents,

and especially to see the child, pure and simply , because " they'd heard the news"! And then later on some Wise Men found their way to see Jesus too, because they too had read about Him and had " heard the news of his birth". Extraordinary, really when you think about it. Especially if it's true, which it is of course, even if you don't believe it! That doesn't stopping it being true! What do you think, about Jesus ?

For the last 19 years I have lived out my life among you here in Stockport for one reason and for one reason only. To bring you the Good News of Jesus Christ. I was called by the then Bishop of Stockport to come to St. Marys, for a purpose, and that purpose has now been fulfilled. People tell me that "St. Mary's is well and truly on the map"! And I'm glad about that, and very grateful to God for having made it happen. And now the news is that I am retiring , and leaving Stockport to go and serve God in another harvest field in the South of England. Yes, it is true; it's no longer a rumour! I have loved my 33 years living in the North of England, on Merseyside, in West Yorkshire and in Cheshire. I have been greatly blessed with new found friendship and with fellowship in Christ.

Moreover I have been blessed with work for the Lord which I could never in my wildest dreams have imagined He would call me to do. I have seen the hand of God upon people's lives , and I have seen miracles of God's provision for His church . My years in Stockport as Rector of St. Mary's have been the most challenging and the most fulfilling of my years as a clergyman . Now I must relinquish my Parish ministry and hand the leadership of this historic Parish Church over

Schools Ministry 1996 – 2016

For the past 19 years Roger has been busying himself on weekday mornings visiting local Primary and Secondary schools to speak at Year and full school Assemblies. He had always taken his sketchboard and has found it to be a most effective and memorable means of communicating the Christian message to the younger generation.

He has only been able to visit schools because of the goodwill and willingness of successive Head Teachers who have invited him in. The schools Roger has visited regularly over the years have been Vernon Park and Warren Wood Primary Schools and Banks Lane Junior school together with Stockport Grammar Junior school. He has also been invited regularly into the now closed Offerton High School and Stockport School ,as well as Stockport Grammar Senior school from time to time.

Of his Schools Ministry Roger says , " I can honestly say that it has been a most challenging but inspiring aspect of my time in Stockport. But I couldn't have done it without my sketchboard!"



Roger is seen here with his "Christmas assembly" for Banks Lane Junior School who now have an Annual Carol Service at St. Mary's.

What a clown. Can it be? It is!



Spotted at the Church Christmas Fayre the normally serious minded Rector took no persuading to enter into the Spirit of Christmas to raise awareness of the goings on in church. His face was skillfully made up as a clown by a delightful young lady who proved a great success with children and some fun loving grown ups too. Rev. Bob Read formerly Vicar of St Alban's Offerton was happy to observe his colleague making a clown of himself, all in a good cause!

to others. I shall exchange the bright lights of Stockport town centre and it's wonderful Market, for the tree lined country lanes and green fields of the Cotswolds, far away from traffic and aeroplanes and high rise blocks!

But I will always remember Stockport and hold it in great affection and speak well of it and it's very friendly community, in whose company I have been blessed for 19 years . I will always consider myself to have been the most fortunate of men , for having been called to be the Rector of St. Mary's and the Rector of Stockport .

I ask you to join with me in this New Year of Our Lord, in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with others, to make His Name known, and to bring this community together in faith in our great and loving God.

God has great plans for St. Mary's and He has a plan and a purpose for your life too, dear Reader. I now know that He has a plan for me, after Easter...but that is yet to be revealed!

God bless YOU with peace and hope and faith and may YOURS be a Very Happy New Year!



Roger shown here with representatives from The Wellspring

Yours very sincerely

Roger Scoones



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Rector: Rev Roger Scoones

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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 Lunch-time 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



STOCKPORT PARISH CHURCH
St Mary's in the Marketplace

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016

Parish Magazine January 2016



50p

The Mayor's Carol Service in St. Mary's Church

The Bishop of Stockport, the Rt. Revd Libby Lane & Rev Roger Scoones

16th December 2015



A Church in the mountains by Roger Scoones, ICS seasonal chaplain. The first time I went to Wengen was in 1973 as a young man, on my first ever skiing holiday. I remember very clearly being told by my friends that "the Vicar had come to tea, looking for me" while I was (fortunately, so it seemed to me

at the time) out of the Chalet! A close shave with the Vicar! Not something I had expected on holiday. I must have gone to church on the previous Sunday, or he wouldn't have known to come asking for me! Little could I have imagined then, that only 10 years later I myself would be "the Vicar" or rather the Chaplain, as he or she is rightly known.

Having been ordained in 1982, I was able to offer myself as Chaplain in Wengen the following winter. And so began a life long association with this "church in the mountains" set in a lovely Swiss mountain village called Wengen, in the magnificent Bernese Oberland which I think of as a second home. Whilst many of my contemporaries gave up skiing many years ago, owing to family commitments and the ever rising costs of a winter sports holiday in the mountains, as Chaplain to St. Bernard's over many years, I have been fortunate in being able to maintain my interest in the sport. The enjoyment I have gained has been immeasurable, and the friendships made, both on and off the slopes, have been irreplaceable. You see, as a Chaplain one's calling is not just to turn up at church and conduct services, but to commend Christ by one's speech and conduct around the village, which means in the shops and hotels and in the Tourist Office and along the street,



**NICHOLAS HENSHALL
MEMORIAL CONCERT
SATURDAY 23RD 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)
Altieri Singers (conductor David Jones)
John Turner (recorder)
Peter Lawson (piano)

music includes

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

**ADMISSION FREE
RETIRING COLLECTION
FOR ST ANN'S HOSPICE & ST. MARY'S CHURCH**

THANK YOU TO ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you to all the Volunteers, who gave their time and energy unstintingly during the weeks leading up to Christmas. Every time the Church doors opened, come wind or shine, we welcomed countless visitors from Stockport as well as people from all over the world. Someone at a carol service said to the Rector, "I haven't been in here for 50 years! Isn't it lovely!" When asked how long she'd lived in Stockport, she said "50 years"!

Every time there was a carol service or a concert, seats had to be cleaned, furniture had to be moved, doors had to be opened and closed, lights and sound system had to be turned on and off and programmes had to be given out, collections had to be taken; not forgetting the tidying up that had to be done after everyone had left the church. It all created a great deal of work, and the exercise of a lot of goodwill on the part of the team. And it was all done by volunteers. The unique Advent/ Christmas programme at St. Mary's only happens because of the volunteers. Without the team of volunteers St. Mary's could not function as a welcoming church in the way it does, not just at Christmas but throughout the year. So a VERY BIG THANK YOU is in order to all those of you, who read this magazine and who know that you have played such an active and valuable part in the Church's life these past few weeks, and year, AS A VOLUNTEER!

BREAKING NEWS - Bishop Peter Forster, The Bishop of Chester his coming to St Mary's on TUESDAY, 23RD February to baptise and confirm at the Lunchtime Service 12.15pm **ALL ARE WELCOME.**

where one meets countless people, Swiss nationals and British and other foreign visitors. Some chaplains may prefer to hold a Bible study one evening while others chose to network in the hotels dining rooms and in the cafes of the resort. People are on holiday, with time to talk, time to think about life.

My own experience of meeting a Chaplain in Zermatt in the mid 1970s was one such example. A young man, not sure where life was leading, seemingly surrounded by friends, but in reality rather lonely and lost. And the chaplain was there at the English Church, St. Peter's in Zermatt, on hand to listen and to talk to such a young adult as myself. That led on to an encounter with a Gospel preacher in London, who led me to Christ, which is how I came to be ordained just a few years later in 1982, and thence to me first of many Chaplaincies, in Wengen and in Zermatt. I am proof, if proof were needed, that a Chaplain's ministry is not in vain! I became a Christian because of that church and that Chaplain!

This month I have been asked by The Intercontinental Church Society (I.C.S) to be chaplain in Wengen for two weeks, during which time the world's media will be focused on this one mountain village, and its famous World Cup Lauberhorn Race, the longest Downhill Race in the world. And the village will be full to bursting with visitors, coming to watch the weekend of racing; as well as team of British Schoolboys who are also there for their annual competition. As chaplain I'm going to have my work cut out to get in touch with so many people, and to make the church available for people to visit and maybe to find out more about God in their lives. It's an exciting but challenging prospect. It's certainly not going to be a holiday!

The only reason that I am still skiing at the age of 67 , for which I am indeed grateful, having given up all other sporting activity , is because I have answered the call of God to be a chaplain, nearly every year since I was ordained in 1982. I am deeply grateful to I.C.S. for the privilege of ministering the Gospel in Word and Sacrament in such a beautiful part of God's World. But I know that I have been sent there for a reason, which is as a missionary , a gospel-bearing man, and certainly not just as a skier, out to enjoy a free holiday!!

The Ministry of the English Church, St. Bernard's in Wengen is supported entirely by prayer and voluntary contributions . I am very grateful to those who support me in this way, and for the time spent away from the Parish, so that this valuable ministry can continue to be provided to residents and visitors in Wengen , in " a Church in the mountains".

To find out more about ICS visit their YouTube page , www.youtube.com and watch short videos about the work. Or [visitwww.ics-uk.org](http://www.ics-uk.org) to learn more about the church in Wengen and all other aspects of the work of the Society.



We were delighted to welcome the Bishop of Stockport, the Rt Revd Libby Lane to St Mary's during the Christmas period.

A traditional-style Carol Service gave dignity to the occasion and gave us the opportunity to hear Bishop Libby preach for the first time in this the "Civic" Parish Church. A first visit too for the Worshipful the Mayor and the civic party for this Mayoral year. Readings were given by Cllr June Somekh (Deputy Mayor), Eamonn Boylan (Chief Executive of Stockport Council) and Katy Frankland (representing the Mayor's charity for 2015/16 Stockport.

Bishop Libby is seen here in the Rector's Vestry signing the service register with Roger, in attendance, having given the Bishop a guided tour of both of the restored vestries.



Below - giving the Seasonal Address at the Mayor's Carol Service and with the Mayor and Mayoress of Stockport, Cllr Andrew Verdeille and Mrs Cleo Cundall who enjoyed their brief visit.

[photos thanks to Jim Birch – Stockport Heritage Trust]]

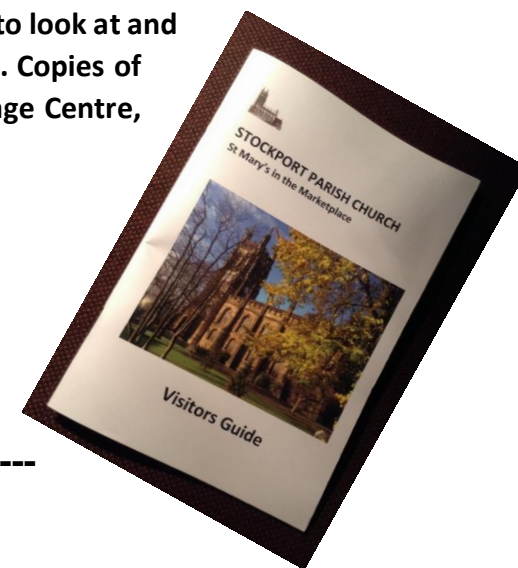


Sunday, 3 rd January	Holy Communion	10.30am
Monday, 4 th January	Panto at the Plaza with afternoon tea at St Mary's Rectory	2.30pm +
Wednesday, 6 th January	"At Home" at St Mary's Rectory An invitation from the Rector to members of the congregation(s) of St Mary's to call in for seasonal refreshments.	2.00pm – 6.00pm
Saturday, 9 th January	St Mary's re-opens after the Christmas/New Year break	9.00am+
Sunday, 10 th January	Holy Communion	10.30am
Tuesday, 12 th January	Holy Communion Lunch Time Service	10.00am 12.15pm
Sunday, 17 th January	Service of Morning Prayer	10.30am
Tuesday, 19 th January	Holy Communion Lunch Time Service	10.00am 12.15pm
Sunday, 24 th January	Holy Communion	10.30am
Tuesday, 26 th January	Holy Communion Lunch Time Service	10.00am 12.15pm
Sunday, 31 st January	Holy Communion	10.30am

Cover photo: Thanks to Phil Rowbotham [Stockport Heritage Trust]

THE NEW CHURCH GUIDE

It is many years since St.Mary's has had a Church Guide. A **NEW Church Guide** is now available, published by St.Mary's and written by Jill Trumble, who has already written a Guide to the Churchyard. The **NEW** guide is full of interest and detailed historical facts which will undoubtedly give anyone interested in The Parish Church a renewed insight into its unique place in Stockport's religious and social life. The **NEW** guide is attractive illustrated with black and white photographs and a walk-round plan of the building, which will be useful for any visitor to St. Mary's, seeing the fine old building for the first time. Even if you have been coming to St. Mary's for many years you may well find something new to look at and to learn about our historic Parish Church. Copies of the **NEW** guide are on sale in the Heritage Centre, price £2.



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Thank you to those who donated to the RBL Poppy Appeal in November. The collection box in the Nave Café raised £83.48