

St Mary's in the Marketplace

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Rector:

Rev Roger Scoones

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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.

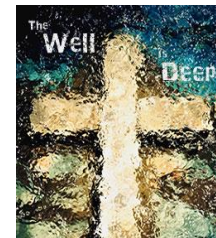
St Mary's and the Nave Café is open – Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 9.00am – 3.00pm

Readers contributions to the magazine are always welcome. Editorial discretion with regard to content and space available will apply.

web site: www.stmarysinthemarketplace.com



St Mary's in the Marketplace, Stockport



Parish Magazine January 2015





St Mary's Toy Story (our cover photo)

Our "Toy Service" was a relatively simple, but wonderful to see all the toys being donated, knowing that they would make children somewhere in the Borough so much happier.



Introducing Sarah Murray from Stockport Without Abuse.

In addition to the new toys you all kindly donated for which Sarah sends a big "thank you" we were able to present her with a cheque for £50 from the sale of used toys at our Christmas Fayre. If you were wondering where the unsold ones went – well they are at St Andrews for the children (from the Pure Innovations Parents Group) to use with their little ones. **Thank You everyone for your support on this new venture for St Mary's.** We look forward to working with Sarah again during 2015 and doing what we can to support her Charity. Being in an abusive situation must be hard for anyone, having the courage to get out of it difficult, to have somewhere to go for support is so important.



From the Rector's "i-pad"

Dear Reader



THE NEW BISHOP

All the talk before Christmas was about the announcement of the new Bishop of Stockport, not because it was simply good news, but because it was to be a woman! The Rev. Libby Lane, it was announced at 10am on Wednesday 17th December, was to be the first woman Bishop in the Church of England. The announcement was shrouded in secrecy until the very last minute, and it was not until Libby walked into the Ballroom of Stockport Town Hall that anyone knew who it was to be. The press were there in great numbers and the historic announcement was made behind a battery of television cameras and reporters. There was a real sense of occasion, and it was a privilege for me to be there, even though it was rather more of a Press Conference than a Diocesan Church do!

What will be more impressive still, will be the consecration service of this first woman Bishop, which will take place on January 26 in York Minster. Having attended the consecration of a former Bishop of Stockport, I can vouch for the fact that it is an awesome occasion, and one not to be missed. Then, in March, the new Bishop of Stockport will be installed in Chester Cathedral, which will be a further cause for celebration in the Diocese, and one to which all are invited to attend. I am often being asked why the Bishop of Stockport doesn't have a throne! Only a Diocesan Bishop has a throne, which in Latin is cathedra, hence the term cathedral. Libby will still be a real bishop!

I have been asked many times over, directly and indirectly what my opinions are of the new Bishop. I am very glad that Libby, whom I have known since she was a team vicar at St. George's, has been chosen for this historic and key appointment. Libby knows the Diocese well, and she is already well known, liked and respected. She knows her way around, and her experience

of ministry at diocesan and national level have already prepared her for this task in ways which I feel sure will help her enormously in the coming months. Libby is ably supported by her clergyman husband George, whom I saw only recently on active service, as I passed through Manchester Airport, where he is the Anglican Chaplain. Not only will Libby advance the cause of ordained women immensely by her wisdom, her example and her leadership, but she will also be a great blessing to the Diocese of Chester as a whole, I am sure. I look forward to welcoming Bishop Libby to St. Mary's for the Civic Service in June.

THE NEW VESTRIES

Meanwhile, the historic conservation and restoration work on the old vestries begins again this month after the Christmas holiday. It remains to be seen how much can be achieved in terms of recording the archeology of this fascinating old building, and how much work can actually be done inside the building to make the two rooms attractive and useable, after the essential work on the roofs has been completed. It will all depend on the funds available. I hope that as much can be achieved as possible, and that we will all be pleased and satisfied with the end result. Important meetings will take place this month to guide the church's thinking and planning in this regard. These are challenging times.

NEW EVENTS

As I look back over the events of last month I am acutely aware of the enormous burden which the Advent and Christmas programme puts on the building and the volunteers who keep St. Mary's open, warm and welcoming. Over 2200 people were recorded attending the 19 regular carol vices and concerts, not to mention those six concerts and services which were NEW this last year. Many of those who attended were children, including representatives of 4 local Primary Schools. Sadly the Senior Schools Carol Concert was cancelled at the last minute, and a choir also withdrew from a concert at short notice. Although numbers were slightly down on last year, most of the regular events attracted even more people



Who are Stockport Without Abuse?

They are a local charity who offer a range of services to help and support women, men and children who are affected by domestic abuse.

Everyone has the right to live their life free from fear, violence and abuse. The

charity state that sometimes it is difficult for a person to know what is happening, they can feel confused and unsure about whether they are in an abusive relationship or what options are available for them to take. They may feel frightened, humiliated and isolated.

What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic abuse is about how people use their power to control someone in a relationship – it can involve physical, emotional, sexual and financial abuse as well as forced marriage and 'honour-based' violence. It is rarely a one-off incident and tends to get worse over time. Help is available for anyone experiencing or have recently experienced abuse from a partner, ex-partner or a close family member or for someone being forced into marriage.

One of the charities selected for support by former Mayor, Cllr Wendy Meikle, this is without doubt a cause worthy of support

www.stockportwithoutabuse.org.uk

Biblical Cooking: (*Answers to Bible clues: 1 butter; 2 sugar; 3 honey; 4 eggs; 5 raisins; 6 figs; 7 almonds; 8 flour; 9 spices; 10 salt; 11 Leaven may be taken as baking powder or as yeast; 12 milk*)

A Big Thank You...

Thanks once again to everyone who made or provided such lovely goods for us to sell on our many stalls at the St Mary's Christmas Fayre. Thanks also to CLC Bookshop for coming up and joining us and to Viv and Jane. A big thank you to everyone who has bought anything and everything – thank you to our stall volunteers. Between us we have raised just over £600 towards our "Phase 6 Appeal" as well as the £50 from the toy stall later donation to "Stockport Without Abuse".



than last year. It goes without saying that the spirit of Christmas as evident at each service and at every concert, with their rich and varied styles of music and presentation, and everyone went home happy! I would like to put on record my personal thanks to all those who volunteered their time and energy to help with the programme and to be there to give our visitors a warm welcome. And I would also like the community to know how much we value their support in bringing all these community groups to St. Mary's, making sense of our historic and beautiful and now at last, warm and comfortable, church at Christmastime. Well done everyone!

THE NEW CHURCH

In 2017, in just two year's time, St. Mary's will celebrate the 200th anniversary of its rebuilding and re-consecration, which took place in August 1817, after a three year programme of rebuilding. It was in effect a NEW church! This year of anniversary, 2017 will be a great opportunity for St. Mary's. It is such an iconic and much loved building in the historic town centre of Stockport. It deserves to be better known better used and better loved! St. Mary's is variously known, by some, as "The Old Church"; and by others as "The Parish Church" and also as "The Civic Church", not forgetting its relatively new title "St. Mary's in the Marketplace" (see Google Earth!) and it will have much cause to celebrate. Planning must needs begin this month, to ensure that this once in a lifetime anniversary is suitable recognised!

NEW READER

Thank you for taking this Magazine and reading it. If you like it, why not pass it on to someone else to read. Like the Good News of Jesus which it has been said, is more caught than taught! Pass it on! You may find that it reaches a NEW reader!

May you know God's deepest Peace and richest Blessing and clearest Guidance this New Year of Our Lord 2015.
Warmest best wishes.

Roger Scoones

Our Christmas Programme and some “new” faces

Gorton Voice Community Choir - a successful community choir based in Gorton, Manchester. Formed in 2004 with just a few members choir membership has increased year by year to approximately thirty members, and is still rising. Members are local people from Gorton and surrounding areas of Manchester and include all ages. The Choir practice every Wednesday at the incredible and beautiful Gorton Monastery. Their programme includes inspirational music, including gospel, pop, African and other traditional songs. The Choir have sung at corporate functions, weddings and christenings as well as local events and festivals, and have appeared on the B.B.C. Songs of Praise. Now having appeared at St Mary's we look forward to seeing them back later in the year.

Ladybrook Singers - The Ladybrook Singers are a ladies choir established back in 1928 and based in based in Hazel Grove, Stockport with an average membership of around forty ladies of various ages and from all walks of life. The choir sing a wide and varied repertoire including art songs, folk songs, madrigals, modern musicals, gospel and other sacred and secular music, and enjoy performing in concerts and festivals with many successes over the years attaining first place at several music festivals throughout the UK. Once again we look forward to their return to St Mary's during 2015.

Laurel Lane Singers – joining the Maia Singers for the first time at our “Sing Christmas” Concert, the Laurel Lane Singers are a group of children from Tithe Barn Primary School. Always lovely to see young faces at St Mary's and to have been able to welcome TBS. We look forward to their return.

NK Theatre Arts – representatives from NK Theatre Arts were an unexpected surprise when they came to sing at the Marketing Stockport Carol Service. NKTA believe in changing lives for the better through the medium of performance. A registered charity, performances have to be seen to be believed – why not visit them at Romiley, although we look forward to working with them in the future at St Mary's.



The Great War continued...

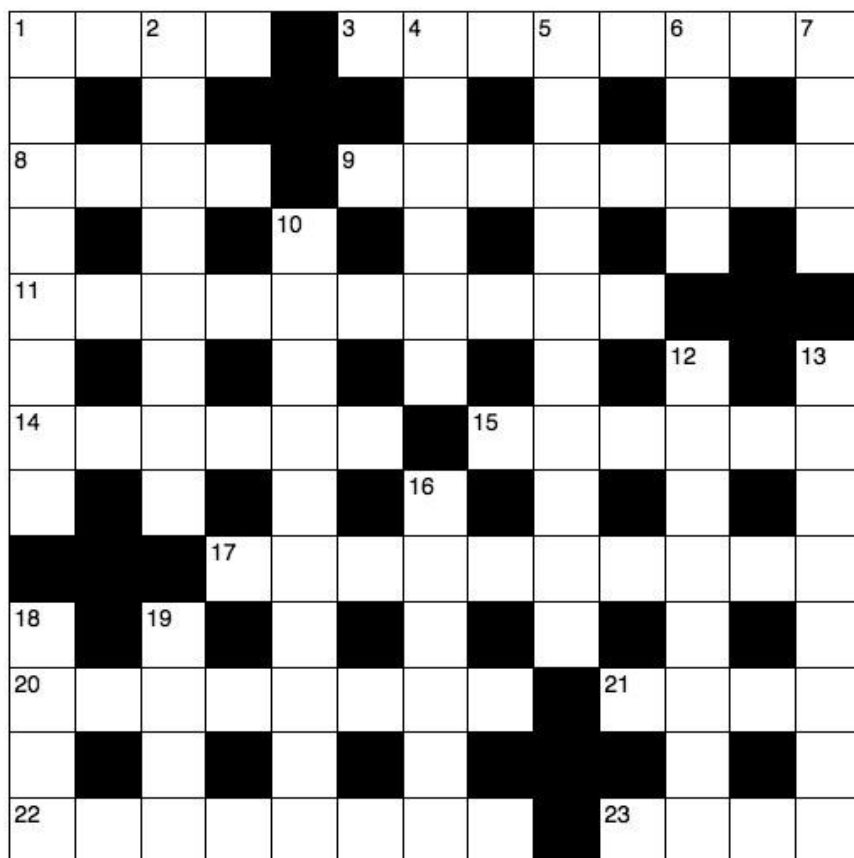
January 1915



January 1 -The Royal Navy battleship HMS *Formidable* is sunk off Lyme Regis, Dorset, England, by an Imperial German Navy U-boat with the loss of 547 crew. HMS *Formidable*, the third of four ships of that name to serve in the Royal Navy, was the lead ship of her class of pre-dreadnought battleships. Commissioned in 1904, she served initially with the Mediterranean Fleet, transferring to the Channel Fleet in 1908. In 1912, she was assigned to the 5th Battle Squadron, which was stationed at Nore. Following the outbreak of World War I, the squadron conducted operations in the English Channel, and was

based at Sheerness to guard against a possible German invasion. Despite reports of submarine activity, early in the morning of 1 January 1915, whilst on exercise in the English Channel, *Formidable* sank after being hit by two torpedoes. She was the second British battleship to be sunk by enemy action during the First World War. **January 19** - German Zeppelins bomb the coastal towns of Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn in England for the first time, killing more than 20. **January 24** - Battle of Dogger Bank: British Grand Fleet defeats the German High Seas Fleet, sinking the armoured cruiser SMS *Blücher*. **January 26** – Ottoman Army begins Raid on Suez Canal. **January 27** – Military casualties begin arriving at the Hôpital Temporaire d'Arc-en-Barrois, established earlier in the month. **January 31** –Germany's first large-scale use of poison gas as a weapon occurs when 18,000 artillery shells containing liquid xylyl bromide tear gas are fired on the Imperial Russian Army on the Rawka River west of Warsaw during the Battle of Bolimov; however, freezing temperatures prevent it being effective.

Crossword



Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
- 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2–4) (8)
- 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
- 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)

- 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
- 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
- 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
- 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
- 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
- 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
- 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
- 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
- 19 Pans (anag.) (4)



Time to think "spring"....

... and to start planning our Spring Fayre

The date has yet to be confirmed but is likely to be towards the end of March as part of our preparations for Easter. If you want to run a stall (or know anyone who does) just let us know. If you have any ideas to raise funds – please talk to us. If you can spare some time to help plan and organise – you are most welcome to join our yet to be formed "committee"!

Our "knit and natter" (with Stockport Crafters) returns on Thursday, 8th January – why not come along.

Avoid those “New Year Blues”

It’s cold outside, the Christmas cards that landed on the door mat last month are replaced by incoming bills (the credit card has all the added expenses of Christmas loaded on it) and the bank account is running on empty. The car needs defrosting before setting off anywhere (or worse it needs repairing – days off the road in the body shop - if you were unfortunate enough to be “dented” in the car park when you weren’t even there). It’s no better on public transport - the train or bus doesn’t come on time, all this standing around with everyone sneezing and coughing or is this nausea you feel the start of the winter vomiting bug?! You stare out the window and think of all the endless dark freezing days that still lie ahead.

Is your home full of clutter? It seems that almost a quarter of us are feeling stressed by the sheer amount of stuff in our homes. This includes unread books, old video and cassette tapes, and now, those unwanted Christmas presents. No wonder people can feel desperate in January.

On a positive note however, the Church of England last year found January to be the top month for couples getting engaged! Perhaps a New Year brings a desire for new love and a new commitment in our lives!

Taking a positive approach must surely help beat the “New Year Blues” - organise something that you can look forward to – perhaps a film or meal with a friend. Listen to music that is upbeat. GET OUTSIDE for a brisk walk – the lack of sunlight drains us, and so get what little there is on offer. Take up a new hobby, dress in brightly coloured clothes and make the effort to smile at friends and colleagues – well anyone really! De-clutter and start an early “spring clean” -

Which brings us to a request for help..... **MONDAY, 5TH January 2015 has been declared to be CHURCH CLEANING DAY. The kitchen area is to be “deep cleaned” – also the Nave Café storage areas. The Church also needs to be given a general “once-over” before we re-open on Tuesday, 6th January. Can you spare an hour or so to help?**



Thank you to all the members of St Mary’s and friends who brought gift-filled shoe boxes to church or made and gave items for the boxes, or gave cash donations.



A lorry with over 10,000 boxes was loaded and sent to Belarus and containers each with around 8,000 boxes were loaded for Zambia and Kyrgyzstan to go by sea. Others were packed at Bolton for Swaziland, so from the Manchester area a total of 32,500 shoe boxes have been processed and packed for needy children.

A really easy New Year’s resolution you could (probably) keep

Try eating one apple a day. Apparently, it really does keep the doctor away, as apparently it can be as effective as statins in preventing strokes and heart attacks. Researchers at Oxford University believe that more than 8000 deaths a year might be prevented if over 50s who are not already on statins simply ate an apple each day. Apples are high in soluble fibre which slows the build-up of cholesterol-rich plaque in the arteries. Also, apples, unlike statins, have no side-effects. So – they are worth trying!

=====

Crossword answers: ACROSS: 1, Cock. 3, Shackles. 8, Play. 9, Paradise. 11, Faithfully. 14, Enmesh. 15, Unseen. 17, Armageddon. 20, Benjamin. 21, Beri. 22, Capitals. 23, USPG. DOWN: 1, Cup of tea. 2, Charisma. 4, Heap up. 5, Challenged. 6, Lois. 7, Slew. 10, The Servant. 12, Lewdness. 13, Unending. 16, Daniel. 18, BBFC. 19, Snap.
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Burns Night at the Nave Cafe

Join us for our 2015 Burns Night
on Saturday, 24th January 2015

7.00pm

Tickets: £17.00



An evening out...
at The Forum Theatre, Romiley.
NK Theatre Arts



*Let is know if you would be interested in
attending "The Magic of Musicals"*

Join a host of performers as they bring to life their favourite musical numbers from some of the smash hits ever seen on Broadway and the West End, culminating in an extract of the most famous musical of them all, Les Miserables.

Includes late bar and disco in a cabaret seating lay out.

*Arrangements can also be made for us to
eat first at the Indigo Restaurant (au-*

thentic Bangladeshi cuisine) at The Precinct, Romiley.

For your entertainment next month:
Joining us on the 28th February at St Mary's Nave Café – members of the Stockport Symphony Orchestra will play mid-morning for approximately an hour...

THINKING of those less fortunate at Christmas time – those who had been sleeping in the porch of St Mary's or in a tent at the back of Church.

We were delighted to welcome back to St Mary's the Worshipful the Mayor of Stockport, Cllr Kevin Hogg and the



Mayoress, Kathleen Hogg to various events including of course the Civic carol service. A warm welcome to the Bishop of Chester visiting us on the day of the announcement of the new Bishop of Stockport.

For the first time, our doors were open on Christ-



alone". Thank you
food/drink as a gift for Christmas.

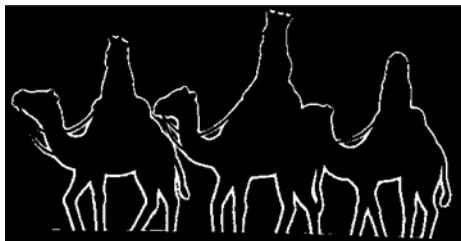


mas Day to anyone wishing to join us for Christmas dinner, in particular those otherwise "home

Roger for providing all the

Epiphany

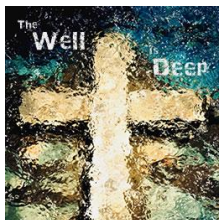
On 6 January we celebrate Epiphany - the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. But who were these wise men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were called kings - by a church father, Tertullian. Another church father, Origin, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the eighth century, the magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.



2015

4 th January	The Second Sunday after Christmas
6 th January	The Epiphany (Tuesday)
11 th January	The Baptism of Christ (First Sunday of Epiphany)
18 th January	The Second Sunday of Epiphany

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity as traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January - the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul



The Well is Deep This year's theme comes to us from the churches of Brazil

25th January The Conversion of Paul (Third Sunday of Epiphany)

Celebrating 175 years of the Penny Post...



In January 1840 – just 175 years ago – the penny post was established throughout the UK and, as we know from Dickens and other novelists, letters flowed freely to and fro several times a day. It was a golden age of communication.

Sadly, this facility has now disappeared: recently the Royal Mail reported that it is struggling to deliver to every house just once a day for a price of 62p - over 150 times more than in 1840 (1p = 2½ old pennies). That's not quite as bad as it seems, of course: a penny in 1840 would be equivalent to about 35p now.

Never mind; we now have another golden age of communication, featuring the mobile phone. Mobiles are as ubiquitous nowadays as the penny post was in 1840, and it is hard to believe that it was only 30 years ago that the first mobile phone call was made in the UK – by comedian Ernie Wise, who called Vodafone's head office in Newbury from St Katharine Docks in London on New Year's Day, 1985.

Quick off the mark as always, it was in the same month (just over a fortnight later) that British Telecom officially retired the much-missed iconic red telephone box. Maybe a bit too quick off the mark, because there are still vast tracts of Britain without a reliable mobile phone signal. Not so golden after all.

Who said 'thank you' this Christmas?

Remember those presents you bought and wrapped and then posted with some degree of hassle, just before Christmas? What happened to them? Have you heard back yet from the people that you sent them to? It seems that the thank you card has become a thing of the past (maybe something to do with the cost of postage) ... so feel grateful if you even get an email or text in acknowledgement!

Research by Churchill Insurance.



Remembering Sir Winston Churchill – Fifty years ago, on 24th January, Sir Winston Spencer Churchill died aged ninety. He was buried at Bladon church, near Blenheim Palace, the Spencer family seat. A soldier (in the Boer War), and then a controversial politician, he held several important offices of state, but it wasn't until 1940 that his unique gifts, both of leadership and oratory, became widely recognised. When Neville Chamberlain's government was replaced by a wartime coalition - a 'national government' - Churchill was appointed prime minister. From the first time he rose to his feet to address a tense and anxious House of Commons it was clear that a remarkable personality had assumed high office. At the end of his first wartime broadcast the whole nation knew that it had found its voice. Churchill's wartime oratory was unique, both in its impact and its eloquence. Although showing no academic prowess at school, and without the advantages of a classical or university education, he revealed an absolute mastery of the rhythms and cadences of the English language. That, allied to an uncanny appreciation of the public mood and the responses of the human heart, enabled him to evoke a unique response from the British people. Whether it was after Dunkirk, when invasion seemed imminent - 'we will fight them on the beaches . . . we will never surrender', or in the aftermath of the Battle of Britain - 'never in all the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few' - his words breathed courage into a beleaguered nation. He ended one long speech, which realistically set out the military position at the time, with words that have a Shakespearian ring to them: 'Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, "This was their finest hour".' He was, quite simply, the voice of Britain, distinctive, eloquent, passionate, utterly committed to the national cause. If ever a sequence of speeches changed history, this was it. He was precisely the right man for those potentially catastrophic days, urging the nation to 'blood, sweat, toil and tears', but promising in the end victory for justice and freedom. At the end of the War he counselled 'magnanimity in victory', and then, unexpectedly, lost a general election and never again achieved the heights of those wartime years, though he did return as prime minister for four years from 1951. None however can doubt his place as one of the greatest Englishmen of all time.

Biblical Cooking (and now for a something a little different)

[It is suggested that the Authorised version is used]

Ingredients :

- 1 ½ lb of Judges 5:25 (end);
- 2 ½ lb of Jeremiah 6:20;
- 3 1 tablespoon of 1 Samuel 14:25;
- 4 3 of Jeremiah 17:11;
- 5 ½ lb of 1 Samuel 30:12;
- 6 ½ lb of Nahum 3:12 (chopped);
- 7 2 oz of Numbers 17:8 (blanched and chopped);
- 8 1 lb of 1 Kings 4:22;
- 9 2 Chronicles 9:9;
- 10 a pinch of Leviticus 2:13;
- 11 1 teaspoonful of Amos 4:5
- 12 3 tablespoons of Judges 4:19

Preparation:

Mix 8, 9, 10 and 11, and put them aside.
Beat 1, 2 and 3 to a cream.
Still beating add 4, one at a time.
Then add 5, 6 and 7 and beat again.
Add 12.

Bake in a low oven for 1½ hours