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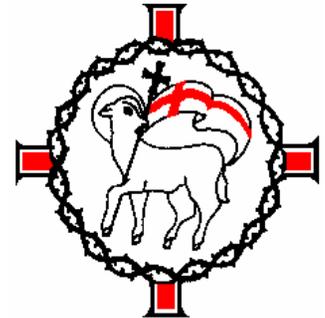
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St George's Parish Church Stalybridge



Diocese of Manchester



35p



March 2011

St George's Church Stalybridge

Clergy

Vicar		338 2368
Curates	Revd Philip Brierley	303 0809
	Revd Keith Stewart	303 7483

Associate Priest	Revd Doreen Broadbent	330 9085
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Wardens	Mrs Nancy Nield	338 4985
	Ms Janet Vidler	303 7689

P.C.C. Secretary	Mrs Margaret Smith	338 3702
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Treasurer	Mrs Juliana Stewart	303 7483
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Magazine Editor	Mrs Linda Hurst	330 0518
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Worship Sunday

8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (2 nd & 4 th Sundays)
10.45 a.m.	Sung Communion and Sunday School (4 th Sunday – Family Service)
18.00 p.m.	Occasional Special Services as announced

Tuesday

10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
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To receive Communion at home when you are sick or housebound, or to have the name of a departed friend or relation entered in the Book of Remembrance, please contact one of the clergy or Wardens.

For Baptisms, marriages and funerals please phone the Vicarage and follow the information given.

Take a closer look around



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Is it just an age thing?

The article in our January magazine about the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible prompted me to blow the dust off my own copy. Inscribed in the front are the words 'With best wishes to Doreen on her Confirmation Day' and the date. I now need not only my specs, but also the help of a magnifying glass to read the small print on flimsy paper but this book remains a treasure which had a big part in my spiritual journey.



In Crux last month Philip Alexander from Manchester University wrote the following:
"2011: It's the year of the King James Bible. It has forged our national identity and moulded the spiritual life of our churches. We use lots of phrases without realizing where they come from: 'the signs of the times', 'a law unto themselves', 'the powers that be', and 'all things to all men'."

I vividly remember on my wedding day over 50 years ago in his father of the bride speech my Dad told us – "don't go to bed vexed". I'm sure he didn't realize he was quoting from Ephesians 4: verse 26: Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.

Perhaps it is an age thing with me, harking back to the safety of my childhood when we were taught to accept rather than question; to read rather than analyse. Yet the words are still deep in my consciousness and come easily to mind when needed,
'I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help'

Whatever the reason, I have been inspired by the call from the Archbishop of Canterbury to re-discover and celebrate this treasure. To read, mark and learn again from it – this time with a little help from my magnifying glass.

Doreen

+++++

February Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Prosperity. 7, Raisins. 8, Admit. 10, View. 11, Confetti. 13, Distil. 15, Groyne. 17, Navigate. 18, Whit. 21, Enoch. 22, Trodden. 23, Prophetess.

DOWN: 1, Pride. 2, Ovid. 3, Pastor. 4, Reaffirm. 5, Timothy. 6, Providence. 9, Tridentine. 12, Kingship. 14, Saviour. 16, Statue. 19, Hades. 20, Rome

Readings and Psalms for March 2011

Tues 1 st	10.30	Ecclesiasticus 17.24-29; Psalm 50.1-6; Mark 10.17-27
Sun 6 th	10.45	Sunday Next before Lent Exodus 24.12-end; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1.16-end; Matthew 17.1-9
Tues 8 th	10.30	Tobit 2.9-end; Psalm 112; Mark 12.13-17
Wed 9 th	20.00	Ash Wednesday Joel 2.1-2,12-17; Psalm 51.1-18; 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10; Matthew 6.1-6,16-21
Sun 13 th	10.45	1st Sunday of Lent 8.30 Genesis 2.15-17;3.1-7; Matthew 4.1-11 Genesis 2.15-17;3.1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5.12-19; Matthew 4.1-11
Tues 15 th	10.30	Isaiah 55.10-11; Psalm 34.4-6,21-22 Matthew 6.7-15
Sun 20 th	10.45	2nd Sunday of Lent Genesis 12.1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4.1-5,13-17; John 3.1-17
Tues 22 nd	10.30	Isaiah 1.10,16-20; Psalm 50.8,16*end; Matthew 23.1-12
Sun 27 th	10.45	3rd Sunday of Lent 8.30 Exodus 17.1-7; John 4.5-42 Exodus 17.1-7; John 4.5-42 Worship For All
Tues 29 th	10.30	Song of the Three 2,11-20; Psalm 25.3-10; Matthew 18.21-25

8.30a.m. Holy Communion Service from February 2011

During the time that we are without a Vicar - the 8.30a.m. service of Holy Communion will be celebrated only on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

From the Registers

Baptisms



6 February

Sophie Ann Oldham, Ridge Hill Lane, Stalybridge

20 February

Poppy Rose Falconer-Flint, Demesne Drive, Stalybridge

Funerals



16 February

May Hansell (91) Heritage House and formerly of Assheton Avenue, Audenshaw

17 February

David Brian Bardsley (39) Cheshire Square, Carrbrook, Stalybridge
Margaret Longmate (84) Repton Avenue, Hyde

25 February

Vera Cowle (94) Heys Road, Ashton-under-Lyne

From Our Book of Remembrance

1 Mar	Thomas Cowman	1984	13 Mar	Christine Higgins	2010
	George Harry Hobson	1984	14 Mar	Frank Stones	1990
	Mary Bailey	1969	18 Mar	Thomas William Thomson	1983
	Tom Bowden	1972		Alma Nuttall	1991
	Joan Wheatley	1972		Roberto Luigi Pravisani	2005
	Allen Marsden	1995		David Rawsterne	2009
2 Mar	George Jubb	1978	19 Mar	Thomas Green	1966
	Gerard Postings	1996	20 Mar	Ernest Sidebottom	1988
3 Mar	Tom Broadbent	1989	21 Mar	James Shenton	1964
5 Mar	Dennis Harrison	1985		John Duxbury	1985
	Rose Ann Quest	1991		Regan Joseph Michael	1988
6 Mar	James Wilkinson	1985		Tetlow	
	Albert Barber	1987		Frank Cooke Jackson	1993
	James Eric Hinchliffe	1999		Emmeline Elizabeth Heap	1997
	Barry Mutch	2008	23 Mar	Harold Moore	1996
7 Mar	Henry Saxon	1977		George James Crossland	2002
	Sadie Shaw	1984		James Wright	2001
	Jessie Mary Daly	1986	24 Mar	Alice Hardon	1989
8 Mar	Jane Norris	1969	26 Mar	Denis Patrick Daly	1984
	Margaret Cawley	1985		Samantha Jane Dunlop	1984
9 Mar	Gordon Wheatley	1998		Edward Noah Clayton	1989
	Joseph Sharpe	2000		Hilda Graham	2009
	Norman Nield	2005	27 Mar	Herbert Battersby	1965
11 Mar	Sarah Ann Allsop	1986		Theresa Aldred	1999
12 Mar	Herbert Bardsley	1981	29 Mar	William Spencer	2000
	James Turner	1987		Olive Stephenson	1985
	Harold Webster	1987	30 Mar	Norman Stokes	1970
	Mabel Sweeney	1991		William Forde Clarke	2005
	Basil Kirk	1989	31 Mar	Tom Grimes	1980
13 Mar	William Bateman	1978		Mark Press	1981
	Donald Feetham	1997			
	Beatrice Kelsall	1981			

As we have no 'From the Vicar' at the moment some members of the congregation have kindly agreed to take it in turn to write the lead article. This month Doreen pays tribute to Churchwardens.

Lord Help our Churchwardens.

Nowadays much of a churchwarden's responsibilities are to assist the vicar in the day to day smooth running of a parish. During an interregnum (when we are between vicars) they have a legal responsibility and share the extra duties for the church and its worship activities with the Area Dean.

Last year a magazine 'Cheshire Ancestor' had an article by Joan Irving telling how the role of churchwardens has changed over the years. In the past they kept close scrutiny on the morality and lifestyle of parishioners. The crimes of slander, adultery, non-observance of church holy days or a refusal to pay tithe were all entrusted to church courts for punishment. Wardens would present offenders to the court for sentence, and then ensure that the punishment - usually a simple naming and shaming - was carried out.

Churchwardens have, from time to time, been tasked with the extermination of vermin, the supervision of education, the maintenance of weapons for the militia, the allocation of pews, and the management of parish property. Some of their duties over the years have also included:

Reporting any morality or disorderly problems, i.e. drunkenness, swearing, disturbing divine service.
Also non-attendance at church on Sundays and Holy Days.

The upkeep of bells, village clock, village stocks and bridges, whipping posts and lock-up.

Pay men to 'beat the bounds' (every 3 years) to check parish boundaries and note repairs to hedges etc.

Prevent people standing idle, walking or talking in Church or churchyard.

Fund raising was a bit different too. In July 1511 the churchwardens' accounts for a church in Cambridgeshire records expenditure on an open air play about St George, which was performed in the parish. The profit from the event was put towards a fund of money gathered for the image of St George, and ten years later the parish had saved enough to purchase a wooden statue of the saint, at a cost of £20.

As I thank God that some things have indeed changed, I hope you will join me in a simple prayer for Nancy and Janet – Lord Help our Churchwardens.

Doreen

P.S. Nancy is due to retire in April after many years of faithful service. Anyone thinking of applying for the vacancy of Warden should not let any of the above put them off !!

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Junk that junk mail...

Are you tired of receiving junk mail? Here's an easy way to stop it: sign up to a website at www.StayPrivate.org. So far more than 10,000 people have done so – and thus reduced the amount of unwanted junk mail that comes their way.

Consumer Focus Labs, the online arm of watchdog Consumer Focus, launched the site to provide people with an easy way of registering with the Direct Marketing Association's various preference services for opting out of receiving junk mail and sales calls.

Consumers can use the website to sign up simultaneously to the Mailing Preference Service and the Telephone Preference Service, so they do not receive unsolicited sales and marketing telephone calls.

Some dates for your diary March 2011

Tuesday	1st	10.30a.m.	Holy Eucharist
Thursday	3rd	9.30a.m.	Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs
Friday	4th	3.00pm to 4.00pm	Cllr C. Patrick - Surgery
		2.15p.m.	Woman's World Day of Prayer at the Congregational Church Stalybridge
Sunday	6th	Next befor Lent	
		10.45a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
		12.30p.m.	Holy Baptism x 3
Tuesday	8th	10.30a.m.	Holy Eucharist
Wednesday	9th	Ash Wednesday	
		8.00p.m.	The Imposition of Ashes & Eucharist
Thursday	10th	9.30a.m.	Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs
Sunday	13th	First Sunday of Lent	
		8.30a.m	Holy Eucharist
		10.45a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
		12.30p.m.	Holy Baptism x 2
Tuesday	15th	10.30a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		11.15a.m.	Lent Discussion Group
		8.00p.m.	Parochial Church Council Meeting
Thursday	17th	9.30a.m.	Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs
Sunday	20th	Second Sunday of Lent	
		10.45a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
		12.30p.m.	Holy Baptism x 2
Tuesday	22nd	10.30a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		11.15a.m.	Lent Discussion Group
Saturday	26th	2.00p.m. to 4.00p.m.	Fair Trade Afternoon Tea & Soap donations for Mulanje Orphans
Sunday	27th	Third Sunday of Lent	
		8.30a.m	Holy Eucharist
		10.45a.m.	Service with Holy Baptism
		12.30p.m.	Holy Baptism x 1

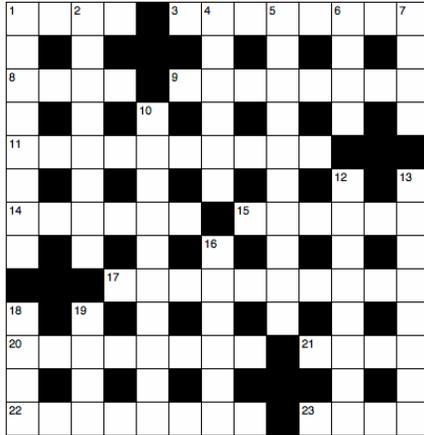
BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE



To have the name of a loved one entered into this special book, and remembered in our intercessions for their anniversary please have a word with one of the wardens or one of the clergy.

The cost for the special inscription is £7.50 per entry

March Crossword



CLUES

Across

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
 3 'You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on —' (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)
 8 Seep (4)
 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)
 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
 14 'A city on a hill — be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (6)
 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:12-13) (6)
 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)
 20 'Only in his home town and in his — — is a prophet without honour' (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)
 21 Sail (anag.) (4) 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)
 23 Eye sore (4)

Down

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

Children's Page

Mouse Makes

ASH WEDNESDAY is the first day of LENT. It is a day for saying 'sorry' to God for any wrong things you have said or thought or done.

THE 40 DAYS OF LENT
 When Jesus was 30 years old he was baptised by John in the River Jordan. Before Jesus began to preach and teach he went out into the desert alone. For 40 days he spent time praying and talking to God, preparing himself for what God had sent him to do.

Remembering those days Jesus spent in the desert, the Christian Church set aside 40 days before Easter as a time to think, pray and learn more about God. This time is called LENT.

1 Ash Wednesday

2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16 17 18 19

20 21 22 23 24 25

26 Mothering Sunday

27 28 29 30 31 32

33 34 35 36 37 38 39

40 PALM SUNDAY

Mon

Tues

Thurs

GOOD FRIDAY

Sat

EASTER SUNDAY

READ Matthew chapters 27-28

The day Jesus was put to death

A day to celebrate. JESUS IS RISEN!

Colour in one step each day

READ Matthew chapters 3-4

Mar 11

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"I think I've finally become fully accepted here. After 25 years, the villagers have stopped calling me, The new incumbent!"

Brownie "Soap Stars"

In 2009 St George's Brownies became "Soap Stars" for a month when they collected almost 200 bars of soap for the orphans in Malanje, Malawi. The Brownies loved collecting the soaps and even gave up their pocket money to buy bars of soap, So once again, during the month of March we are going to become "Soap Stars" and collect bars of soap for FOMO (Friends Of Malanje Orphans). We know that the FOMO children would rather have a bar of soap than a bar of chocolate! So if anyone would like to help the Brownie Appeal by donating bars of soap, we will be only too pleased to receive any donations either by leaving them at church or by giving them to any Brownie or Brownie Leader. We are aiming to collect over 200 bars of soap. Thank you.

+++++



Fair Trade Days

It has been decided that each time we have Fair Trade items for sale we will also support another charity. Last January we supported the local Women's Refuge by donating small household items. In February toothbrushes and toothpaste were donated for the Booth Centre in Manchester. Our next Fair Trade Coffee afternoon will be on March 26th from 2pm - 4pm and this month we are going to help our Brownies to complete their challenge by donating bars of soap for the orphans of Malawi. So why not pop in for a cup of tea or coffee on March 26th or come to church on Sunday morning March 27th when our Fair Trade items will be on sale and any soap donations will be gratefully received.

+++++

Freaky or what!

This year we will experience 4 unusual dates . . . 1/1/11, 1/11/11, 11/1/11, 11/11/11

Now go figure this out

Take the last 2 digits of the year you were born plus the age you will be this year and it will equal . . . 111 !

Word search for March

March brings us daffodils – and the official start of Spring (whatever the weather may be doing!) It begins with a leek – in honour of St David of Wales. It goes on to parades and the colour green – in honour of St Patrick of Ireland. Most important, it brings us Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent – the 40 day period of prayer and spiritual self-examination, leading up to Easter.

Daffodils
 Weather
 Cold
 Wet
 Leek
 David
 Wales
 Patrick
 Ireland
 Ash
 Wednesday
 Lent
 Forty
 Wilderness
 Prayer
 Fasting
 Spiritual
 Reflections
 Temptation
 Devil
 Glory
 Power
 Stones
 angels



The Bible declares that "laughter does good - like medicine," so read and laugh, and you'll feel better!

Church Ladies With typewriters . . .

Thank God for church ladies with typewriters!

These sentences (with all the BLOOPERS) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

he Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. Please use the back door.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

News from FOMO

On the 24 January Juliana, Nancy and I enjoyed a meal at the Ashton Soroptimists Speaker Meeting when the guests were Mary and Keith Woodworth who had come to talk about recent developments within the Charity they founded in 2000.

Many of you will recall the disturbing T V pictures of how Mary was imprisoned on a wrongful charge of trespass last year and it was a real relief for FOMO supporters to see her safely back in UK. I gave her a hug and was shocked at how much weight she has lost, she is only tiny to start with. In typical Mary fashion she tossed back her braids and said that she had put a lot back on! She always focuses on positives.

She is still downplaying events, that at the time must have been terrifying to her and the workers out in Malawi and we were especially horrified to hear of how, after her wrongful arrest she insisted at gunpoint that she would not be separated from the others and knew if she went to sleep that she would be shot. She forced herself to keep awake for three days and nights protecting herself and others.

After a protracted legal wrangle which took many months the judge finally dismissed the case. The man who had tried to take Mary's land thought he had so many *high ups* in his pocket a trouble-some woman was going to prove no difficulty and he learned a learned a valuable lesson. He is still around but his position is much weaker thanks to Mary and FOMO who throughout all this have had right on their side.

Despite the problems FOMO is continuing to thrive. Before Mary was allowed to leave Malawi but she could continue her work, she went to South Africa to purchase a much needed ambulance from funds raised in UK, she organised better conditions for the prisoners where she was held by getting a toilet installed and the cells painted and continued to distribute goods donated from UK from the recently arrived container sent from Preston.

Her energy is phenomenal and she is a real champion to the orphans and their guardians. The current Big Project is to build a secondary school for FOMO pupils.

Keith gave us an update on some of the activities especially the 13 centres Sports Day when all the Centres compete against each other. Of interest to our Brownie Pack would be the prized bars of soap given to the winners of races etc. FOMO children turn their noses up at sweets as they prefer something that lasts and the highly prized bars of soap are what they want. Who knows, one of the bars our Soap stars contributed may have been given as a prize!

Mary was so grateful to all who took the trouble to write to the authorities here on her behalf and for keeping her in our prayers for so long. It was a great comfort to her. She and Keith are greatly concerned by corruption out in Malawi and if people reading this are also worried please contact your MP to find out more of how aid money donated by the government on our behalf is administered.

Mary and Keith were recently awarded a prestigious Beacon Fellowship for their work, and it was richly deserved. If you wish to support FOMO in any way please see their website www.fomo.co.uk for details and see more of the work of this tiny charity.

In friendship. Ann Winstanley

+++++

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