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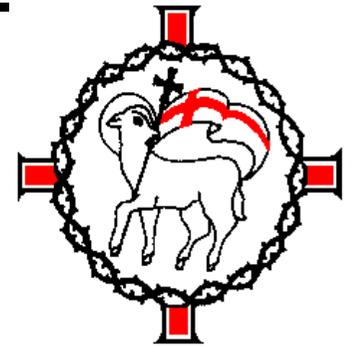
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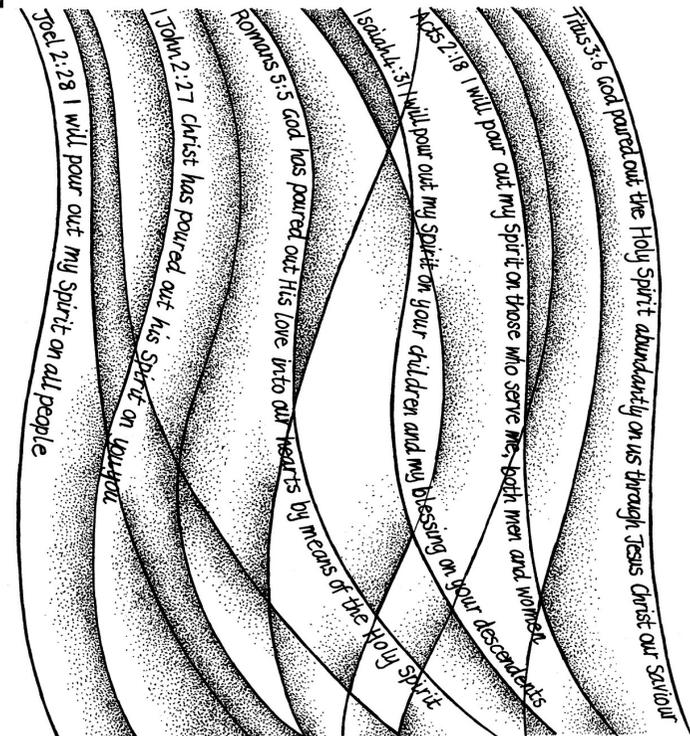
St George's Parish Church Stalybridge



Diocese of Manchester

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

35p



May 2016

From the Registers

Baptisms

We welcome into the Lord's family

3 April

Matthew Leigh Braithwaite, Broadhill Road, Stalybridge
Adam James Braithwaite, Broadhill Road, Stalybridge
Tyler Boulton, Minto Street, Ashton-under-Lyne

17 April

Annabelle Rose Powell, Bond Street, Stalybridge
Reece Nicolaos Gomm, Clarence House, High Street, Stalybridge

Weddings

God is love, and those who live in love abide in God, and God lives in them

16 April

Brian and Jane Johnson (Wedding Blessing)

Funerals

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

31 March

Alice Lily Louise Reid (age 85 years) Holme Lea Nursing Home, late of Blandford House, Stalybridge

4 April

Christine Whitehead (age 66 years) Birchfields, Lees, Oldham

28 April

Eileen Longsdon (age 75 years) Camberwell Drive, Ashton-under-Lyne

MORE TEA VICAR?



I was delighted to announce in church on Easter Sunday morning that I had been invited - and had accepted - the post of Incumbent of St. George's.

"But I thought you were already the Vicar" has been said to me on quite a number of occasions since the announcement was made, so here is a brief outline of the situation.

Five years ago - after the departure of our Incumbent, Ian Stubbs, and following a consultation with the Archdeacon of Rochdale - the Parochial Church Council voted to 'Suspend the Presentation to the Benefice of St. George'. This move gave the Diocese some flexibility should there be any need for pastoral reorganisation. As some of you may recall, there has been discussion over the past few years concerning the possibility of forming a Team Ministry between ourselves, St. John, Hurst, St. George, Mossley and St. John, Roughtown. This does not seem to be the best way forward for the time being and no such plans are currently in place.

When a Benefice is in Suspension - the person appointed to that parish is designated as 'Priest-in-Charge' as opposed to 'Incumbent'. Again, this allows for flexibility and is the position to which I was appointed and licensed on 22nd March 2013.

A Suspension of Benefice Measure is only valid for a maximum of five years - after which time it must be renewed or cancelled. Our five year suspension period came to an end on 9th March, and the Bishop of Manchester wrote to us to say that there were no plans to renew the Suspension and, therefore, the appointment of an Incumbent was the next step. The Bishop asked that, subject to the approval of the Patrons of the Benefice and the Parochial Church Council, if I would take on the role of Incumbent and this I have agreed to do. The PCC and the Patrons also gave their consent.

The change from being 'Priest-In-Charge' to Incumbent (or Vicar) is not a promotion (which is also a question I have been asked) - the title refers to the status of the Benefice. There are legalities involved, but the job itself is exactly the same. And nor will I get a rise in my stipend.

The change does, however, show that the Diocese considers St. George's to be a living and growing church community, which is

testament to the faithfulness and hard work and dedication of our members.

Because of the legalities involved there has to be a service of licensing for me to take on the role of Vicar. The timing of the service will depend on the availability of Bishop Mark (our Area Bishop), Archdeacon Cherry and the Area Dean and Lay Chair of the Ashton Deanery. As yet, I don't know when this is likely to be.

I truly hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come along to this service and re-dedicate yourselves, along with me, to the next step along our road of faith.

The weather on the night of my licensing three years ago was diabolical with snow, rain and high winds - hopefully it will not be as inclement on this occasion - but be that as it may, please do come along if you can.

On the 15th of this month, the Church celebrates Pentecost, or Whit Sunday, and, as is the custom in Stalybridge, we will walk as a church down to Armentieres Square to meet with our Christian sisters and brothers and join in a celebration of the Gift of the Holy Spirit to the first Apostles. The service of thanksgiving will begin at 2.30p.m. Again, please do show your support, either by walking with us if you are able, or just being there for the service itself.

With my very best wishes to you all.

Philip

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With Trinity Sunday to remember ...

Tell me how it is that in this room there are three candles and but one light, and I will explain to you the mode of the divine existence. - John Wesley

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Ladiestime to get your glad rags on again
St George's is holding
a

Ladies Day

with a
Traditional Afternoon Tea and 'bubbly'
on Saturday 6th August
2pm - 4pm

Ladies will be encouraged to wear hats or fascinators.

Last year's event was very successful so you won't want to
miss this - keep the date free!

Booking is essential for catering purposes and the
list will be put up in the church lounge in June.

Tickets will cost £10 and are available from Alicia Harris.

Readings and Psalms for May 2016

Sun 1 st	6th Sunday of Easter	10.30 Acts 16.9-15; Psalm 67; revelation 21.10,22-22.5; John 14.23-29
Tues 3 rd	10.30 Acts 16.22-34; Psalm 138; John 16.5-11	
Wed 4 th	Eve of Ascension Day	20.00 Acts 1.1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1.15-end; Luke 24.44-end
Sun 8 th	7th Sunday of Easter	8.30 Acts 16.16-34; John 17.20-end 10.30 Acts 16.16-34; Psalm 97; Rev 22.12-14,16-17,20-end; John 17.20-end
Tues 10 th	10.30 Acts 20.17-27; Psalm 68.9-10,18-19; John 17.1-11	
Sun 15 th	Pentecost –Whit Sunday	10.30 Acts 2.1-21; Psalm 104.26-36; Romans 8.14-17; John 14.8-17
Tues 17 th	10.30 James 4.1-10; Psalm 55.7-9,24; Mark 9.30-37	
Sun 22 nd	Trinity Sunday	8.30 Proverbs 8.1-4,22-31; John 16.12-15 10.30 Proverbs 8.1-4,22-31; John 16.12-15 Worship For All
Tues 24 th	10.30 1 Peter 1.10-16; Psalm 98.1-5; Mark 10.28-31	
Sun 29 th	1st Sunday after Trinity	10.30 1 Kings 8.22-23,41-43; Luke 7.1-10 BCP Holy Communion
Tues 31 st	10.30 Zephaniah 3.14-18; Psalm 113; Romans 12.9-16; Luke 1.39-49	

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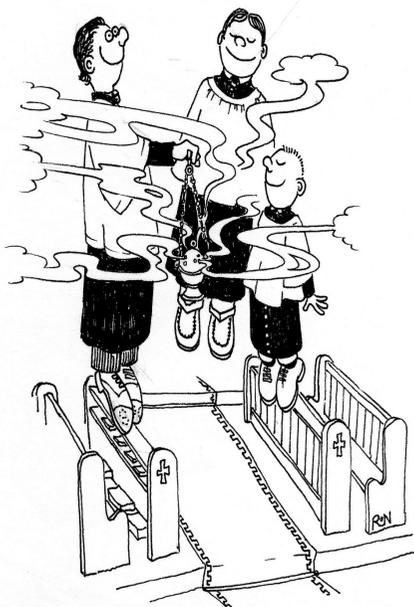
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They all pronounced the Columbian
incense excellent

CHURCH FINANCES

April 2016 Weekly Giving

Date	Sunday	Open Plate	Envelopes	Total	Monthly Shortfall
3 April 2016	Easter 2	£61.90	£438.90	£500.80	
10 April 2016	Easter 3	£55.20	£199.50	£254.70	
17 April 2016	Easter 4	£51.93	£411.17	£463.10	
24 April 2016	Easter 5 & Celebrating St George	£372.00	£281.50	£653.50	
	Standing Orders etc		£864.00	£864.00	
	Monthly Total			£2736.10	-£3864.90

* Assuming £10 per adult per week needed for running the church this means we need £6,601.00 per month

200 CLUB

The 200 Club winners for April 2016 are:

1st Prize	£25	65	Judith Pymm
2nd Prize	£15	16	Linda Hurst
3rd Prize	£10	69	Jack Walker

The cost is £12 per year per number and payment for 2016 is now due. There are still some spare numbers available and new members are always welcome.

If you would like to join please see Rose Hayward or ring 303 1731.

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Whatever we part with for God's sake shall be made up to us in kind or kindness.—Matthew Henry



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NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW!



**Now open Willow Wood's new Coffee Shop is situated at
the PAD Department Store, 15 Shepley Street, Stalybridge.**

**Cappuccinos, lattes and even just a good old cup of tea
are all available together with biscuits, home made cakes
and scones.**



**Why not call in for a cuppa and a light snack and
pick up a bargain at the same time?!**
Open 10.00am—3.30pm Monday—Saturday

Thy Kingdom Come

In a letter I have recently received from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, they write

As we travel around the country, we are continuously encouraged by the faithfulness, commitment and courage of all their Partners in the Gospel. Your ministry in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, often in testing circumstances, is an inspiring testimony to the transforming work of our Lord. We thank God for our partnership in the Gospel.

Like us, you will know that ministry is empty and barren without prayer. That is why we are taking the unprecedented step of writing to every serving parish priest in the Church of England inviting you and your people to join us in a week of prayer for the evangelisation of our nation. In the week leading up to Pentecost (May 8 – 15th, 2016) we long to see a great wave of prayer across our land, throughout the Church of England and many other Churches.

Our hope is

- for all Christians to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ
- for all of us to have confidence to share the Gospel
- for all to respond to the call of Jesus Christ to follow Him as disciples, to live out the Gospel and to seek God's Kingdom from day to day.

At the heart of our prayers will be the words that Jesus himself taught us – 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.'

There are a number of ways in which we can do this, and you can find some of them on the website www.thykingdom.co.uk

One of the ways is the following, and I hope that all members of St George's will take this to heart in their daily prayers.

Praying for Five Friends

Praying for others to know Jesus is one of the most powerful things we can do; persistent prayer for others brings transformation to their lives.

Consistently praying for others takes discipline, and there are many ways that we can build up habits that will help us to pray for our friends and family. Choose five people you would regularly like to pray for and write their names down onto a list. If you're not sure who to pray for, ask God to guide you as you choose. Once you have settled on 5 names, commit to praying for them regularly.

Here are five easy ways to pray for five people regularly. Choose the one that suits you best:

1. PIECE OF STRING

Take a piece of string or cord, and tie five knots in it to represent each of the five people you have committed to pray for. You could carry the knotted string in your pocket, tie it round your wrist or place it somewhere that you'll see it regularly. Use the knots to remind you to pray for each person on your list of five.

2. SMALL STONES

Find five small stones (light coloured ones are best) and write each of the people on your list onto each of the stones. Place them on your desk, bedside table or fireplace as a reminder to pray. Alternatively, you could place each stone in a different room of your home and pray for each person as you enter or leave the room.

3. BUSINESS PRAYER CARD OR BOOKMARK

Grab a piece of card that will easily fit inside your wallet, purse or book. Write your list of five names onto the card before putting it in your wallet or book. Use this card as a daily reminder to pray for them.

4. PRAYER ALERTS

Add your list of five people to the alerts section of your phone and set reminders to pray for them. You could choose one name per day, or pray for all five across your day. Remember to set alerts for a suitable time where you can stop to pray for your list.

5. POST-IT NOTES

Use five post-it notes and write one name onto each. Stick them onto your mirror, above your bed or somewhere that you'll see them regularly and will be reminded to pray.

YOU MIGHT LIKE TO USE THE FOLLOWING PRAYERS AS YOU PRAY FOR OTHERS:

Loving Lord, please work in me so I can share your love, life and message with... Reveal your love to them, that they might know, follow and witness to you, for your Glory. Amen.

Loving Father, send your Holy Spirit so I can share your love, life and message with... Reveal Jesus to them, that they might know, follow and love him, for Your Glory. Amen.

You build your church through the power of your Spirit. By the same Spirit enable me to witness to... your love, beauty and grace. That they may come to the fellowship of the faithful for Your Glory. Amen.

Lord, I pray that you will lead... to you. Thank you that you love them and I pray that you would break into their life and show them your love, grace and peace. For Your Glory. Amen.

Come and join us

Spring Fair

**Café - Plants - Tombola -
Home Bake - Bottle Stall**

Saturday 14th May 2016

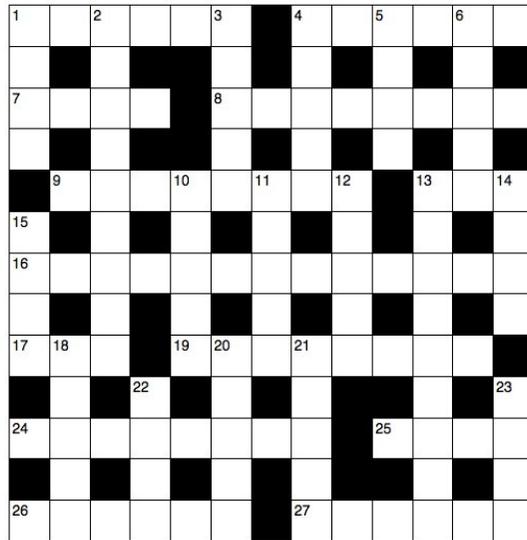
11.00 am - 2.00 pm

**Books
DVD's**

**St George's Church
Church Walk
Stalybridge**

The poster features several illustrations: a cup of tea on a saucer, a slice of pie, a sandwich, a potted plant, and several small images of yellow daffodils. The text is arranged in a central, eye-catching layout with a decorative border.

May Crossword



Across

1 One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6), 4 'A good measure, pressed down, — together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6), 7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4), 8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8), 9 'But take heart! I have — the world' (John 16:33) (8), 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3), 16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13), 17 Rap (anag.) (3), 19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8), 24 'For where your — is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8), 25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4), 26 'We all, like sheep, have gone — ' (Isaiah 53:6) (6), 27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

Down

1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the — hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4), 2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9), 3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5), 4 'Like a — of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5), 5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4), 6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5), 10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (John 3:2) (5), 11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5), 12 'I will — you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5), 13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9), 14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4), 15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in — with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4), 18 Cares (anag.) (5), 20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5), 21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put — — to all people"' (Genesis 6:13) (2,3), 22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4), 23 'The — of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)

April Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 8, Transgressors. 9, Out. 10, Ephesians. 11, Throb. 13, Ramadan. 16, Nearest. 19, Neath. 22, Childless. 24, Ant. 25, Excommunicate.

DOWN: 1, Utmost. 2, Easter. 3, Assemble. 4, Archer. 5, Isis. 6, To hand. 7, As a son. 12, Hoe. 14, Monastic. 15, Apt. 16, Nuclei. 17, A piece. 18, Tied up. 20, Ararat. 21, Hatred. 23, Dome.

Some dates for your diary - May 2016

Sun	1st	10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
		4.00p.m.	Wedding Blessing
Wed	4th		Eve of Ascension Day
		8.00p.m.	Holy Communion Service with Hymns for The Ascension of Our Lord
Thurs	5th	7.00a.m. to 10.00p.m.	Polling Day
Sun	8th	8.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist
		12.30p.m.	Holy Baptism x 2
Wed	11th	7.30p.m.	Deanery Synod at St. Stephen's, Audenshaw
Thurs	12th	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sat	14th	11.00a.m. to 2.00p.m.	Spring Fair
Sun	15th		PENTECOST - Whit Sunday
		10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist
		1.30p.m.	Assemble at Church
		1.45p.m.	Walk to Stalybridge
		2.30p.m.	United Act of Witness
Tues	17th	7.45p.m.	Parochial Church Council Meeting
Thurs	19th	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
		7.30p.m.	Archdeacon's Visitation at St Michael's, Ashton
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sat	21st	8.00p.m.	Quiz
Sun	22nd		Trinity Sunday
		8.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30a.m.	Worship For All
		12.30p.m.	Holy Baptism x 4
Thurs	26th	9.30a.m.	Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sun	29th		1st Sunday After Trinity - Proper 4
		10.30a.m.	Eucharist Service with Holy Baptism and Junior Church
		12.30p.m.	Holy Baptism x 2

For more information please go to our website www.stg.org.uk

Saint of the Month

24 May John and Charles Wesley, Evangelists, Hymn Writers, 1791 and 1788

John Wesley (1703–91)

Born at Epworth Rectory in Lincolnshire in 1703, John Wesley was educated at Charterhouse School and Christ Church, Oxford. Ordained into the Anglican ministry, he acted for a time as his father's curate. In 1729 he went into residence at Oxford as Fellow of Lincoln College. There he joined his brother Charles and George Whitefield in the Holy Club, a group of students who met together for private worship and good works, including visiting prisons and comforting the sick. Their strict and methodical religious practices earned them the nickname 'methodists' from their fellow students.



In 1735 Wesley went to Georgia with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, but his personal faith was far from sure at this time. On board ship he met some German Moravians, whose simple faith and fearlessness in the face of Atlantic storms greatly impressed him. On his return to England in 1738, he sought them out and, while attending one of their meetings in Aldersgate Street, London, on 24 May 1738, he had a profound spiritual experience, often referred to as his 'conversion'. He famously recorded in his Journal:

About a quarter before nine while [the speaker] was describing the change, which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for my salvation; and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.

In March 1739 he was persuaded by George Whitefield to begin outdoor preaching and the following month founded the first Methodist society in London. Methodism was initially intended to be an add-on for Anglicans who had experienced conversion and Wesley expected them to attend worship and the sacraments at their parish church. But as time went on Methodism began to develop its own structures with classes for pastoral care, authorised lay preachers to address the societies and, from 1744, an annual Conference.

An indefatigable preacher and organiser, Wesley travelled around 5,000 miles a year on horseback, sometimes delivering up to five sermons a day. Huge numbers came to hear him and the response varied from tearful repentance to violent attack. On 7 December 1745, Wesley preached at Staley Hall, and again in 1747, when he is thought to have preached at Thomson Cross.

Rejecting Whitefield's moderate Calvinism, he rejoiced to be known as an 'Arminian', emphasizing that salvation was available for all through Christ. He also stressed the doctrine of assurance: 'every man can be saved and every man can know that he is saved'. He died on 2 March 1791, and was buried at City Road Chapel, London.

Charles Wesley (1707–88)

John's younger brother by four years, Charles Wesley was educated at

Westminster School and Christ Church, Oxford. While at Oxford he was a founder member of the Holy Club. Ordained in 1735, later that year he went to Georgia with his brother John as secretary to the colonial governor James Oglethorpe. But ill health forced him to relinquish the post and he returned to England the following year. Caught up in the growing evangelical revival, Charles had a conversion experience on Whit Sunday, 21 May 1738, three days before his brother.



Charles subsequently was closely associated with the Wesleyan movement and travelled extensively as a preacher. In 1749 he married Sally Gwynne, the daughter of a Welsh magistrate and, unlike his brother, for whom marriage was much more of a trial than a joy, he enjoyed a happy family life in Bristol, where he ministered to the Methodist Society at the New Room. From 1771 he lived in London.

The two Wesleys differed on certain doctrinal matters, Charles always being the more conservative of the two. In addition, Charles strongly opposed steps that might lead to separation from the Church of England and thus disapproved of John's unilateral ordinations of Methodist ministers for North America and Scotland from 1784 and from 1788, the year of Charles' death, for England also. Charles greatly regretted this innovation that could only cause greater discord between Methodism and the Church of England, but suggested that his brother's judgement might have been sounder if he had been younger: "Twas age that made the breach, not he'.

But Charles Wesley's greatest work was his poetry and hymn writing. It was he who ensured that Methodism would be noted for its congregational singing and he left a incomparable legacy of nearly 7,000 hymns, far more than any other hymn writer, before or since, and many of them are still regularly sung. Among the most widely known are *And can it be?*, *Hark! the herald angels sing*, and *Love divine, all loves excelling*.

Yet Charles has not been without his critics who have claimed that early Methodist worship encouraged emotionalism, dwelt unhealthily upon sin and that some of his lyrics had unnecessarily erotic imagery. Nevertheless Charles Wesley remains probably one of the greatest Christian poets and certainly the greatest hymn writer of all time. A day or two after his conversion Charles wrote the hymn *Christ the friend of sinners*, with the first verse:

Where shall my wandering soul begin?
How shall I all to heaven aspire?
A slave redeemed from death and sin,
A brand plucked from eternal fire,
How shall I equal triumphs raise,
Or sing my great Deliverer's praise?

+*****+