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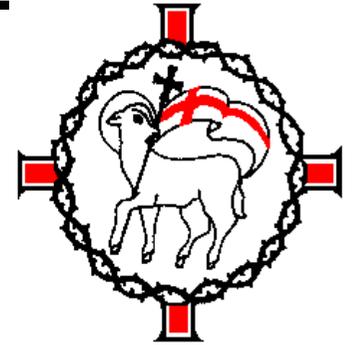
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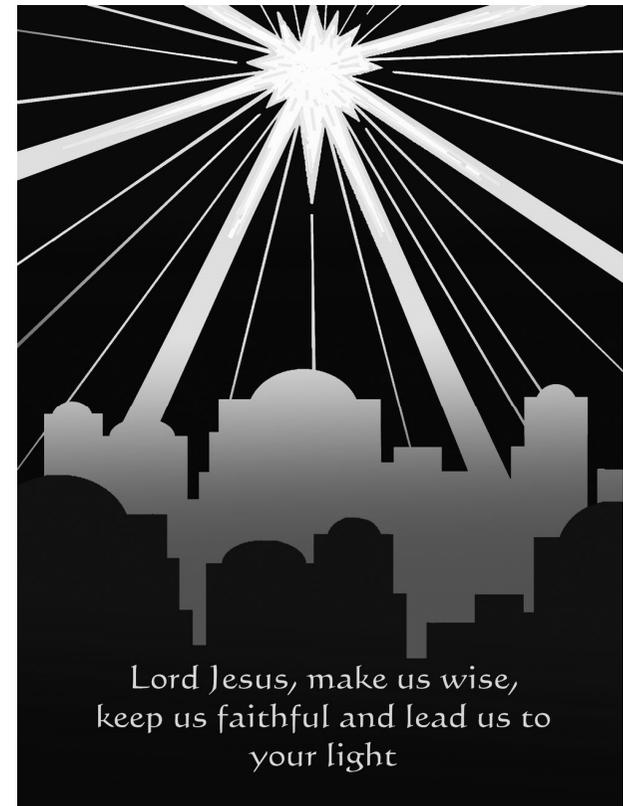
St George's Parish Church Stalybridge



Diocese of Manchester

 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**

35p



Lord Jesus, make us wise,
keep us faithful and lead us to
your light

January 2016

From the Registers

Baptisms

We welcome into the Lord's family

6 December

Jack David Arrundale, Saxon Avenue, Dukinfield
Ralph Hunter Clayton, Stamford grove, Stalybridge

27 December

Harry Raymond Power, Oval Drive, Dukinfield

30 December

Daniel Stuart M^cLeese, St John's Crescent, Whitchurch, Cardiff
Henry Daniel M^cLeese, St John's Crescent, Whitchurch, Cardiff

Funerals

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

2 December

May Green (age 72 years) Blandford Court, Stalybridge

14 December

Jean Robinson (age 80 years) Bower Fold, Stalybridge
(at *St Paul's Stalybridge*)

23 December

Mary Groves (age 100 years) Oakwood House, Millbrook, Stalybridge



If anyone would like to take up the bread and wine at the offertory—to celebrate a special occasion, in memory of a loved one or just to take part, please have a word with one of the wardens or clergy for any Sunday this year.

Cause and Effect

Dear Friends

Happy New Year. I hope your year is blessed with good health, peace and joy, and much happiness.



I am writing this article just a few days before Christmas, and at a time when I am currently undergoing some medical investigations. Should the condition they are testing me for already exist, or actually materialise in the years to come, it will more than likely have been caused by the thirty-seven years that I spent working in the chemical industry. A straightforward case of cause and effect.

It is, of course, a worrying time, and several friends have called to offer encouragement and support. Sometimes, though, their words have exactly the opposite effect to that which they intended, and have been a valuable lesson for me in 'how not to visit the sick!' However ill-chosen some of their expressions have been, I am very aware that they were offered with love and with concern. These friends were communicating their care for me and that is what is important.

Good communication is essential to the health of all our relationships, both personal and corporate, and sometimes we need to be more aware of the effect that our words are having. Words are very powerful – they can have a positive and sustaining effect – or can have the negative impact of slander or gossip. For example, there is the hastily spoken and sometimes unfair word that wounds the recipient so deeply. The misunderstanding of a throwaway phrase that stays in the mind and festers away, causing rifts that can last for years. Very often, sometimes, we neglect to use a kindly word and by leaving it unspoken, the effect on another is that they feel undervalued or ignored.

Of course, communication is not purely verbal. Our actions and attitudes can have long lasting effects on others – some

we can see, but, so often, we don't fully think things through, and cause pain and hurt as a result. I think it's a good adage to, 'Put your brain into gear before putting your mouth into motion!'

Modern technology has brought a whole new dimension to communication. Text Speak, Twitter, Facebook etc. have languages of their own and, not being a participant, I am a little ignorant of much of their terminology, but the cause and effect of their impact on society is well documented and broadcast both for good and not so good.

I am certainly going to try much harder this year to consider the cause and effect of my words and actions and try to be a better communicator. Communicating the Gospel word is what we are about, as a church and as individuals, and we need to be alert to how our words and actions encourage others to be part of our worshipping community and not to be a stumbling block on anyone's pathway to faith.

To sum up by using the well known verse by Paul Gilbert:

"You are writing a Gospel,
A chapter each day,
By the deeds that you do,
By the words that you say.

Men read what you write,
Whether faithless or true;
Say, what is the Gospel
According to you?

With my very best wishes for 2016

Philip

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SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY

This year the Senior Citizens' Party will take place on 23rd January 2016 from 1.30 to 5.30pm to which we extend a very warm invitation to all of our Senior Citizens. There will be a chance to

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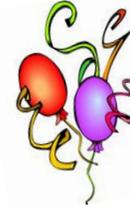
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meet old friends and possibly make some new ones. As usual, there will be a lavish tea and not forgetting, of course, the very popular Bingo session. This year, our entertainers are Tameside Community Choir, superbly led by Joyce Hansell, who will be singing some entertaining songs for us. As always,

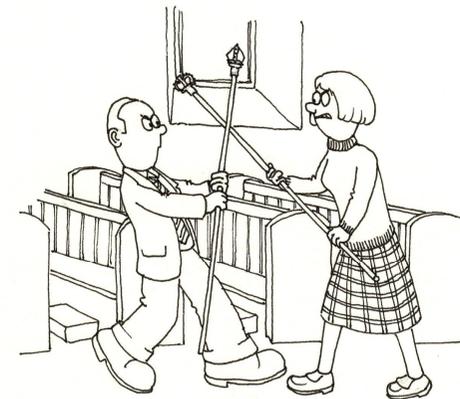
it will cost you nothing except your presence! But you'll have to act quickly because numbers are limited. If you would like to come, then please get in touch with Karen Wright to book your ticket (303 0280)

HELP! HELP! HELP!

We need your help. In order to provide some prizes for our Senior Citizens' Party, and get it going with a real swing, we are asking if you would kindly donate a prize for the Bingo. If you can provide a couple of prizes, or just even one, would you please bring them to church and give them to one of the Wardens or Karen before the Party gets into full swing.

Many thanks in anticipation for your help.

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In a tradition dating back to 1977, the churchwardens re-enacted "Star Wars"

Need some odd jobs doing?
Can't get round to finishing the decorating?

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Janette McLean
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HPC registered Podiatrist



"The Vicar's New Year Resolution is to attract more people by implementing a less formal approach to church-going."

CHURCH FINANCES

December 2015 Weekly Giving

Date	Sunday	Open Plate	Envelopes	Total	Monthly Shortfall
6 Dec 2015	Advent 2	£93.56	£349.50	£443.06	
13 Dec 2015	Advent 3	£76.82	£372.15	£448.97	
20 Dec 2015	Advent 4	£106.10	£667.00	£773.10	
27 Dec 2015	Christmas 1	£88.50	£316.00	£404.50	
	Standing Orders etc		£864.00	£864.00	
Monthly Total				£2,933.63	-£1467.37

* Assuming £10 per adult per week needed for running the church this means we need £4,401.00 per month

200 CLUB

January—December 2015

109 x £12 £ 1308
£ 204 from Mildred Bradshaw

Total £ 1512

£ 600 Prizes

£ 912 To Church Funds

Prizes for 200 club from January 2016 will be £25, £15 & £10 = £50 per month and we will be collecting for 2016 starting in January. The cost is £12 per year per number. There are still some spare numbers and new members are always welcome.

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

The 200 Club winners for December are:

1st Prize	£30	109	David Winstanley
2nd Prize	£15	59	Emily Mehan
3rd Prize	£ 5	7	Emma Stokes

Fair Trade 2015

Sales = £1,400.00

Commission earned @ 10% = £ 140.00

Less tea, coffee, sugar = £ 102.20

Amount to Church Funds = £ 44.72

Thank you for all your support over the year.



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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

Readings and Psalms for January 2016

Sun 3 rd	Epiphany 10.30 Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.10-15; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12
Tues 5 th	10.30 1 John 4.7-10; Psalm 72.1-8; Mark 6.34-44
Sun 10 th	The Baptism of Christ— <i>1st Sunday of Epiphany</i> 8.30 Isaiah 43.1-7; Luke 3.15-17,21-22 10.30 Isaiah 43.1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8.14-17; Luke 3.15-17,21-22
Tues 12 ^h	10.30 1 Samuel 1.9-20; Canticle: 1 Samuel 2.1,4-8; Mark 1.21-28
Sun 17 th	2nd Sunday of Epiphany— <i>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</i> 10.30 Isaiah 62.1-5; Psalm 36.5-10; 1 Corinthians 12.1-11; John 2.1-11
Tues 19 th	10.30 1 Samuel 16.1-13; Psalm 89.19-27; Mark 2.23-end
Sun 24 th	3rd Sunday of Epiphany 8.30 Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6,8-,10; Luke 4.14-21 10.30 Nehemiah 8.1-3,5-6,8-10; Luke 4.14-21 <i>Worship For All</i>
Tues 26 th	10.30 2 Samuel 6.12-15,17-19; Psalm 24.7-end; Mark 3.31-35
Sun 30 th	4th Sunday of Epiphany 10.30 1 Corinthians 13; Luke 2.22-40 BCP Holy Communion

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December Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.
DOWN: 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.

Quiz for January

In January the Church celebrates the naming of Jesus, the Epiphany, and the baptism of Jesus. And so our quiz this month is based on Matthew 2 and Luke 2 & 3. (Answers on next page)

Questions

- 1 Who said that Jesus should be called Jesus?
- 2 Which two people welcomed the infant Jesus at the Temple?
- 3 What would Jesus be to the Jews?
- 4 What would Jesus be to the Gentiles?
- 5 Whom did the wise men upset when they arrived in Jerusalem?
- 6 What three gifts did the wise men bring to Jesus?
- 7 How did the angel warn Joseph?
- 8 Where did Joseph take Mary and Jesus, to keep them safe?
- 9 In which body of water was Jesus baptised?
- 10 Who baptised him?
- 11 What happened when the heavens opened?
- 12 What did the voice say?

NEW YEAR

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2016

If we put our hand in God's hand
As we enter this New Year
Not knowing what the future holds
But that our Friend is near.

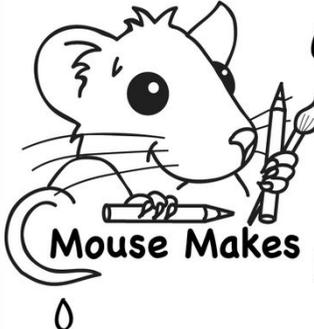
We shall not fear what lies ahead
If He is by our side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If He will be our guide.

The Sinless One from heaven came
To dwell with us on earth,
He sought and bought us with His blood
And offered us new birth.

Now as we travel through this year
He knows the things He's planned,
So let us trust and know just this -
Our times are in His hands.

By Megan Carter

Children's Page



Mouse Makes

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

John appeared in the desert baptising and preaching and many people confessed their sins and were baptised.

Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the river Jordan. As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, He saw heaven opening and the Spirit coming down on Him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my own dear Son. I am pleased with you".

H	E	A	V	E	N	E	E	B	O	U	R
G	Z	O	P	L	E	A	S	E	D	A	I
O	P	E	N	O	T	B	I	L	W	J	V
D	N	J	O	R	D	A	N	E	I	E	E
O	L	W	I	D	O	P	S	I	L	S	R
V	O	I	C	E	Z	T	U	V	D	U	K
E	V	D	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	S	R
T	E	H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T
U	W	A	T	E	R	E	P	E	N	T	F
R	J	O	H	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H
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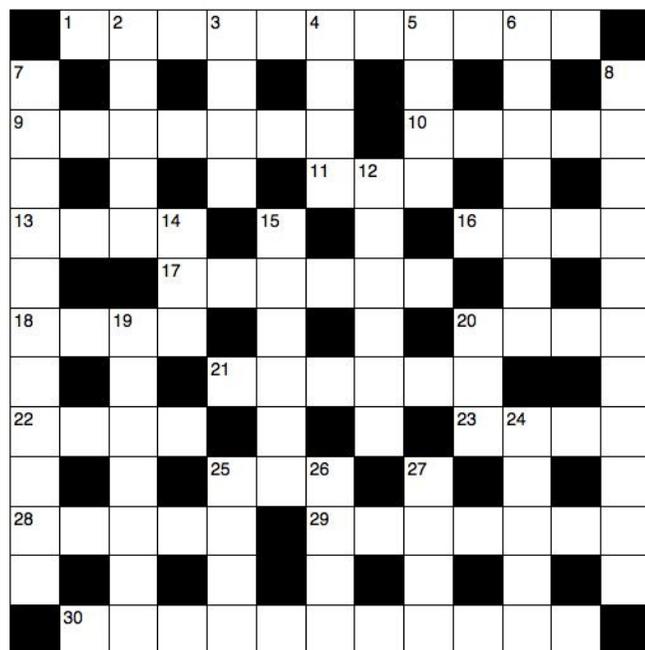


Can you find these words from the story in the grid above?

BAPTISE • WILDERNESS • WATER
 FORTY DAYS • NAZARETH
 FORGIVENESS • GALILEE • SINS
 JOHN • JESUS • RIVER
 JORDAN • REPENT • TURN
 BELIEVE • HEAVEN • OPEN
 HOLY SPIRIT • GOD • DOVE • VOICE
 SON • LOVE • PLEASD • LORD

READ Mark 1: 1-13

January Crossword



ACROSS

1 Paul said the wrath of God 'is being revealed from heaven' against this (Romans 1:18) (11),
 9 Go smite (anag.) (7) 10. 'But — I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee'(Matthew 26:32)
 (5), 11 'Take and —; this is my body' (Matthew 26:26) (3) 13 Type (2 Thessalonians 2:10) (4)
 16 'Woe to those who — iniquity' (Micah 2:1) (4), 17 'How shall we — if we ignore such a great
 salvation?' (Hebrews 2:3) (6), 18 Opposite of evens (4), 20 Previously cited (Latin) (4), 21 'There is
 surely — — of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife' (Genesis 20:11) (2,4),
 22 The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from every brother who was this (2
 Thessalonians 3:6) (4), 23 Beat (anag.) (4), 25 To trouble or afflict (Job 16:3) (3), 28 Part of a roof
 (1 Kings 7:9) (5), 29 Attain (Job 5:12) (7), 30 Insect noted for its gymnastic ability (Psalm 78:46)
 (11)

DOWN

2 Smell (John 11:39) (5), 3 Lion's home (Jeremiah 25:38) (4), 4 'Jesus Christ is the — yesterday
 and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8) (4), 5 Tidy (4), 6 Made their home (Genesis 47:27) (7),
 7 Their task was to carry the curtains of the tabernacle (Numbers 4:25–26) (11), 8 Timothy's was
 called Lois (2 Timothy 1:5) (11), 12 The Lover likened the fragrance of the Beloved's breath to
 these (Song of Songs 7:8) (6), 14 Times Educational Supplement (1,1,1), 15 Eight-tentacled sea
 creatures (6), 19 'And lead us not into temptation, but — us from the evil one'(Matthew 6:13) (7)
 20 D.L. Moody's legendary song leader, — D. Sankey (3), 24 Rarely used musical note (5),
 25 'Your will be done on earth — it — in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,2), 26 and 27 'The Lord
 Almighty will — them with a — , as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb' (Isaiah
 10:26) (4,4), 27 See 26 Down

Some dates for your diary - January 2016

Sunday	3rd	10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
Tuesday	5th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
Thursday	7th	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sunday	10th	8.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
Tuesday	12th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		7.45p.m.	Social and Fund Raising Meeting
Thursday	14th	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Saturday	16th	2.00p.m.	to 4.00p.m. Fair Trade Afternoon Tea
Sunday	17th	10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
Tuesday	19th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		7.30p.m.	Parochial Church Council Meeting
Thursday	21st	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Saturday	23rd	1.30p.m.to 5.30p.m.	Senior Citizens Party
Sunday	24th	10.30a.m.	Worship For All
			Chocolate Tombola after the Service
Tuesday	26th	10.30a.m.	No Service of Holy Communion
		2.00p.m. to 3.00p.m.	Councillor Adrian Pearce - Surgery
Thursday	28th	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Saturday	30th	8.00p.m.	Quiz
Sunday	31st	8.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30a.m.	Holy Communion B.C.P.
		6.30p.m.	Stalybridge Churches Together
			Unity Service at Holy Trinity

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



Saint of the Month
13 January
George Fox,
Founder of the Society of Friends
(the Quakers), 1691

George Fox was born in 1624 at Fenny Drayton, Leicestershire, the son of a weaver. In 1643, when Fox was 19, he said that he received mystical revelations in

which the voice of God told him to be directed by Christ alone. He described these revelations, which he took as a sign that everyone should be guided by their individual 'inner light', as coming to him while he waited in an absolutely calm frame of mind and as being preceded by violent physical agitation. He felt called to give up ties of family and friends and travelled in search of spiritual enlightenment.

In 1646, after many dead ends in his quest, he heard a voice which told him, 'There is one, even Christ Jesus, who can speak to thy condition.' In 1647 Fox began to preach openly his 'inner light' doctrine. He objected to political and religious authority, opposed war and slavery, and believed that all human actions should be directed by inner contemplation and a social conscience inspired by God.

On Pendle Hill in Lancashire George Fox experienced a vision of 'a people to be gathered to the Lord'. He made many converts and it was in the north-west that Fox's teachings had the greatest effect. In 1659 he made his home at Swarthmore Hall near Ulverston, owned by an influential supporter, Thomas Fell. When Fell died Fox married his widow, Margaret.

Fox's overt opposition to the established Church (whether Presbyterian or Anglican) resulted in frequent imprisonment – in 1649, 1650, 1653, 1656, 1664-6, 1673-5 – and it was the judge who sentenced him at Derby in 1650 who contemptuously described Fox and his followers as 'quakers' – a name which was to come into widespread use.

In 1666, though weakened by hardship and the effects of imprisonment, Fox began to devote most of his time to the organisation of the Quakers as a Church. He was greatly

assisted by Margaret Fell, whom he married in 1669, the year of the first great Quaker meeting. He also made missionary journeys to North America, Germany and Holland.

Fox spent his final years founding Quaker schools and communities and lobbying for passage of the Toleration Bill, which granted freedom of worship to all except Roman Catholics and Unitarians, that was finally enacted by Parliament in 1689. The Quakers registered under the Act as the 'Society of Friends'. He died in 1691 and his Journal was published posthumously in 1694.

On page 2 of Fox's Epistles (Volume VII of his Works), a prayer appears just before the first epistle:

Upon the Fourth-day of the First month, 1650, I felt the power of the Lord to spread over all the world in praise.

Praise, honour, and glory be to the Lord of heaven and earth! Lord of peace, Lord of joy! thy countenance maketh my heart glad. Lord of glory, Lord of mercy, Lord of strength, Lord of life, and of power over death, and Lord of lords, and King of kings! In the world there are lords many, but to us there is but one God the Father, of whom are all things; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things: to whom be all glory, who is worthy! In the world are many lords, and many gods, and the earth maketh lords, coveting after riches, and oppressing the creatures; and so, the covetous mind getting to itself, lords it above others. This nature of lordly pride is head, until subdued by the power of God: for everyone in that state, doth strive to be above another; few will strive to be the lowest. Oh! that everyone would strive to put down in themselves, mastery and honour, that the Lord of heaven and earth might be exalted!

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Quiz Answers

1 The angel, 2 Simeon & Anna, 3 Many would fall, and many would rise because of him., 4 A light for revelation., 5 Herod, 6 Gold, frankincense & myrrh, 7 In a dream, 8 Egypt, 9 Jordan, 10 John, 11 A dove descended