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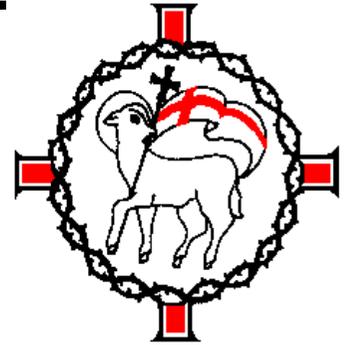
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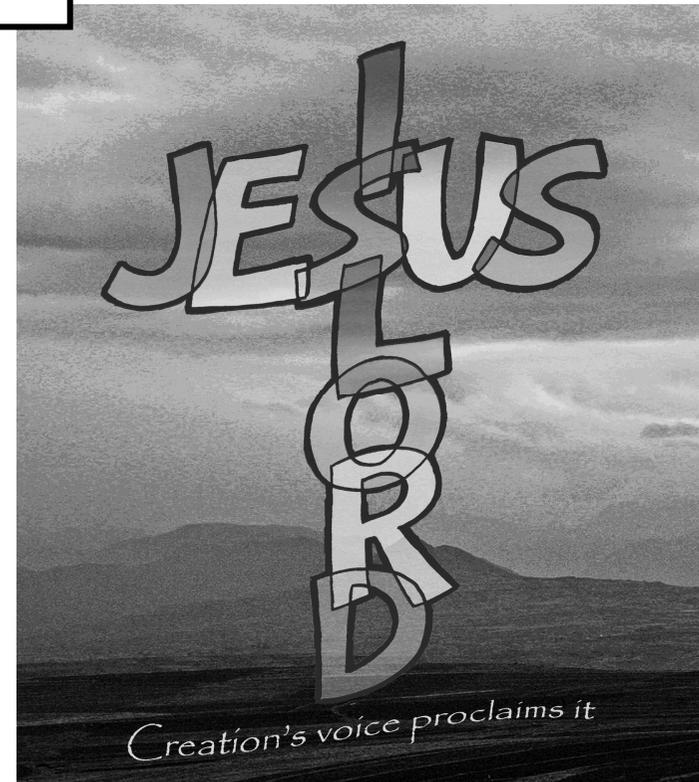
## St George's Parish Church Stalybridge



Diocese of Manchester

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

35p



**February 2017**

# St George's Church Stalybridge



## Clergy

**Vicar** Revd Philip Brierley 0161 338 2368

**Wardens** Mr Derek Redeyoff 0161 338 4779

Mrs Janet Vidler 0161 303 7689

**Deputy Wardens** Mrs Rose Hayward 0161 303 1731

Mrs Gillian Cotton 0161 303 2787

**P.C.C. Secretary** Mrs Lynn Moon 0161 338 5773

**Treasurer** Mr Michael Davies 0161 338 5998

**Magazine Editor** Mrs Linda Hurst 0161 330 0518

**Room Hire** Mrs Janet Vidler 0161 303 7689

email: stgwarden@hotmail.co.uk

## Worship

### Sunday

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)

10.30 a.m. Sung Communion and Junior Church (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Family Service)

18.00 p.m. Occasional Special Services as announced

### Tuesday

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

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 Philip or one of the Wardens.

**For Baptisms, Marriages or Funerals please phone Philip (Vicar) on 0161 338 2368. Baptisms are usually conducted at 12.30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.**

## From Our Book of Remembrance

1 Feb	Ernest Albert Whitehead	2000	19 Feb	James Harrison Rowbottom	1963
2 Feb	Vera Hadfield	2005	20 Feb	John Sedgwick	1964
	Carl Stephen Morrison	2013		Clara Brown	2009
4 Feb	Mary Priestley	1994		Nellie Allcock	2011
	Margaret Longmate	2011		Sylvia Wilson	2014
	Peter Andrew Diamond	2013	22 Feb	Frederick James Eldridge	1989
6 Feb	James Howarth	1993		Joan Wykes	2001
	Albert Livsey	1993	24 Feb	Mary Theresa Brierley	2004
	Norman Thomas Quest	2015	25 Feb	Philip Grocott	1975
7 Feb	Annie Howard	1981		Harry Nuttall	1992
	Adam Constantine	2004		Leslie Barber	2006
8 Feb	Edith Harriet Turner	1991	26 Feb	Herbert Newton	1971
	David Brian Bardsley	2011		George Henry Maddock	1983
9 Feb	Ada Alice Cooper	1970		Edward Cooper	1986
	Rose Pamela Gudgeon	2010		Francis Frederick Lawes	1999
10 Feb	Donald Joseph Sidebottom	1992		Lucy Wilson	2011
	Colin Birch	2001		Edith Lees	2014
11 Feb	Harold Lee	1961	27 Feb	Winifred Ada Christian	1968
	Iris Wilson	1975		Maud Green	1986
	Ada Stephenson	1983		Clara Wardle	1987
	Mary Skelton	2012		Elsie Violet Shaw	2000
12 Feb	Mary Pollitt	1987		Jessie Birch	2011
14 Feb	John Devlin	1973	28 Feb	Samuel Terence Broadbent	1990
15 Feb	John Edward Chadwick	2015		Robert Fowden	1982
16 Feb	Kenneth Shaw	2003		Elsie Hopwood	2006
17 Feb	Gertrude Fitchett	1984	29 Feb	Agnes Goodwin Ollerenshaw	1996
	George Hubert Morris	2015			
18 Feb	Annie Revell	1986			

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## 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 Philip.

The cost for the special inscription is £10 per entry

## From the Registers

### Baptisms

*We welcome into the Lord's family*

#### **15 January**

Lisa Bowman, North Avenue, Stalybridge  
Leo Alan Stephen Cooper-Sim, Holland Avenue, Stalybridge

#### **19 January**

Anastasia Diane Hill, Middlegreen, Ashton-under-Lyne

### Funerals

*Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord*

#### **4 January**

Walter Aves (aged 95 years) Oakwood House, Millbrook, formerly of Ridge Hill Lane, Stalybridge

#### **5 January**

Ronald Walker (aged 79 years) Hague Place, Stalybridge

#### **7 January**

Christine Whitehead (aged 66 years) Birchfields, Lees, Oldham  
*Interment of ashes*

#### **8 January**

Richard Henry Dalton (aged 84 years) Kendal House, Stalybridge  
*Interment of ashes*



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 for any Sunday this year.

## MAPPING OUR VISION



Dear Friends

I am writing this just a few days before undergoing surgery to remove a cataract from my left eye. I am hoping that the procedure is as successful and uncomplicated as it was four years ago, when I had one removed from my right eye. As many of you who have also undergone this treatment will know – the difference in colours, definition and sharpness of objects that follows, is a wonderful blessing after probably many years of cloudy vision.

Help towards a clearer vision for St. George's and the wider church is what our Parochial Church Council was asked to think about at their January meeting. We listened to a presentation given by the Revd Canon Andy Salmon on ways to get started on Mission Action Planning.

When the Diocese and the church in general introduces yet another 'new' initiative there is quite often a sense of trying to 're-invent the wheel'. "We've been here before, but last time it was called something else" is to be heard. This, of course, is perfectly true. The purpose of the church IS mission: spreading the love of God as widely as we can and trying to find the best way, in each particular age and area, to encourage those who are not church members to 'come and see'.

Mission Action Planning is a process to help churches develop a clear strategy for progressing God's plan. The new resources now being offered are designed to help churches at all levels – parishes, teams, deaneries – to discern what God is calling them to be and to plan activities over months and years to achieve their vision.

The new materials will help parishes develop a plan and, more importantly, see it through successfully.

One member of our PCC remarked that 'it sounded like hard work' and there is no doubt that it will be. Anything worth doing requires commitment to the cause. That doesn't stop it

being fun – finding ways of working together – bouncing ideas off one another and discovering the best way forward.

This, though, is not just a project for the PCC – everyone needs to be involved in some way or another to make it ‘OUR’ mission. Most people will have some thoughts – positive and negative – on things we do well and things that need improvement. Please jot them down, e-mail them to Philip (philip.brierley@yahoo.co.uk), tell a member of the PCC or whatever means of communication suits you best. Where do we hope St. George’s will be in five years time?

Inevitably, we do need to set up a working group – something many people are not all that keen to join. Please do give this some serious thought and let me know if you would like to join.

Hopefully by the time you are reading this my eyesight will be clearer – although I will still need the aid of glasses. Our church can be helped to see its mission more clearly too, but it needs your aid.

Best wishes

Philip

**Prayer for February**

Dear Lord,  
February can ++++++ seem such a bleak, mid-  
winter month, often flavoured with ‘flu  
and bad weather. But actually, the days are lengthening. There are  
snowdrops and other signs of new life, if we look expectantly. Spring is  
beckoning.

Open our eyes, Lord, to see the wonders of your creation, even in February. May we appreciate the rhythms of the seasons you designed for us, and rejoice in the hope you have given us in Jesus, who came to wonderfully re-create, to make all things new, by his death and resurrection.

Thank you Father for life-signs in February - and thank you especially for the new life-sign of Jesus. Amen

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ring the editor on 0161 330 0518**



### **A Priceless Find – by accident!**

70 years ago this month, on 7th February 1947, a couple of shepherds in the hills above Qumran near the Dead Sea were looking for a sheep and idly threw a stone into what they thought was an empty cave. When they heard the sound of smashing pottery they searched inside, and found the most important biblical discovery of the century.

Their stone had led them to what became known as the Dead Sea Scrolls, manuscripts of the entire Hebrew Bible except for the book of Esther, stored in clay vessels. The scrolls were the work of a religious community called the Essenes, who lived near that site before and during the life of Jesus.

As scholars slowly unraveled them – and that task took decades - they discovered that they were handling manuscripts of the Bible which were hundreds of years older than any we had previously possessed. Most of the biblical manuscripts on which our translations had previously been based were copies of copies, carefully crafted in monasteries over the centuries by people dedicated to preserving the sacred text. But inevitably, in the process, there were occasional slips in the copying, and at times it's obvious that those who were doing it didn't understand the words they were copying.

So, in February 1947, the world had access to a much older and therefore more accurate record of the Jewish Scriptures – the Bible of Jesus and the first Christians. The most remarkable thing is actually how few 'mistakes' there were, seeing the centuries of copying – and not one that seriously affects our fundamental understanding of the Bible.

Those two shepherds 70 years ago ensured that we today have a Bible text which is as close to the original as one could ever hope to get. I'm glad they threw the stone into the right cave!

\*\*\*\*\*

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Can't get round to finishing the decorating?

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"To think we grumbled when the Church used unintelligible archaic language!"

## CHURCH FINANCES

### January 2017 Weekly Giving

Date	Sunday	Open Plate	Envelopes	Total	Monthly Shortfall
01 Jan 2017	2nd Sunday of Christmas	£62.29	£328.50	£390.79	
08 Jan 2017	Epiphany	£51.50	£425.00	£476.50	
15 Jan 2017	2nd Sunday of Epiphany	£48.45	£332.00	£380.45	
22 Jan 2017	3rd Sunday of Epiphany	£94.00	£434.01	£528.01	
29 Jan 2017	Candlemas				
	Standing Orders etc		£864.00	£864.00	
	<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>£256.24</b>	<b>£2383.51</b>	<b>£2639.75</b>	<b>-826.25</b>

\* Assuming £10 per adult per week needed for running the church this means we need £3,466 per month

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### 200 CLUB

The 200 Club winners for January 2017 are:

1st Prize	£25	71	Kathleen Childs
2nd Prize	£15	45	Sharon Billington
3rd Prize	£10	47	Joan Spencer

The cost is £12 per year per number and 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.

Don't forget to pay your subscriptions for 2017—Rose is now collecting these.

### End of Year Figures

#### 200 Club 2016

Income 109 x 12 = £1,308  
1 x 2 = 2  
Total = £1,310

Prizes = £ 600

£ 710 to Church Funds

#### Building Society—Nationwide

December 2015 = £41.21

December 2016 = £42.54

## The Small Beatitudes—Joseph Folliet

Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves; they will have no end of fun.

Blessed are those who can tell a mountain from a molehill; they will be saved a lot of bother.

Blessed are those who know how to relax without looking for excuses; they are on the way to becoming wise.

Blessed are those who are sane enough not to take themselves too seriously; they will be valued most by those about them.

Happy are you if you can take things seriously and face things calmly; you will go far in life.

Happy are you if you can appreciate a smile and forget a frown; you will walk on the sunny side of the street.

Blessed are those who think before acting and pray before thinking; they will avoid many blunders.

Happy are you if you know how to hold your tongue and smile, even when people interrupt and contradict you or tread on your toes; the gospel has begun to seep into your heart.

Above all blessed are you who recognise the Lord in all whom you meet; the light of truth shines in your life for you have found true wisdom.

<b>Fair Trade 2016</b>	+++++	<b>End of Year</b>
	<b>Figures</b>	

Sales	= £1,110.00	
Less 10%	= £ 111.00	given to Church funds

Amount to Church	£ 111.00	Donations	£ 6.16	
Spent	<u>£ 112.16</u>	less	<u>£ 1.16</u>	
Deficit -	£ 1.16		£ 5.00	to carry forward to 2017

Value of stock held = £267.30 to be carried forward to 2017.

Thank you to everyone who helps with the Fair Trade stall.

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## Readings and Psalms for February 2017

<b>Sun 5<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>4th Sunday before Lent</b>
	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Isaiah 58.1-9a; Psalm 112.1-9; 1 Corinthians 2.1-12; Matthew 5.13-20</b>
<b>Tues 7<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30	Genesis 1.20-2.4a; Psalm 8; Mark 7.1-13
<b>Sun 12<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>3rd Sunday before Lent</b>
	8.30	Deuteronomy 30.15-end; Matthew 5.21-37
	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Deuteronomy 30.15-end; Psalm 119.1-8; 1 Corinthians 3.1-9; Matthew 5.21-37</b>
<b>Tues 14<sup>h</sup></b>	10.30	Genesis 6.5-8; 7.1-5,10; Psalm 29; Mark 8.14-21
<b>Sun 19<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>2nd Sunday before Lent</b>
	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Genesis 1.1-2.3; Psalm 136; Romans 8.18-25; Matthew 6.25-end</b>
<b>Tues 21<sup>st</sup></b>	10.30	James 1.12-18; Psalm 94.12-18; Mark 9.30-37
<b>Sun 26<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>Sunday next before Lent</b>
	8.30	Exodus 24.12-end; Matthew 17.1-9
	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Exodus 24.12-end; Matthew 17.1-9</b> <i>Worship For All</i>
<b>Tues 28<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30	James 4.1-10; Psalm 55.7-9,24; Mark 10.28-31

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Happy moments, praise God. Difficult moments, seek God.  
 Quiet moments, worship God. Painful moments, trust God.  
 Every moment, thank God. - Anon

**With Valentine's day approaching .....**



**Romance, marriage and all that stuff - the way children see it....**

How do you decide whom to marry?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the crisps and dip coming. - Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - Kirsten, age 10

How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

- Derrick, age 8

What do you think your mum and dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids. - Lori, age 8

What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say, if you listen long enough. - Lynnette, age 8 (isn't she a treasure)

When is it okay to kiss someone?

When they're rich.

- Pam, age 7

The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do.

- Howard, age 8

Is it better to be single or married?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. - Anita, age 9

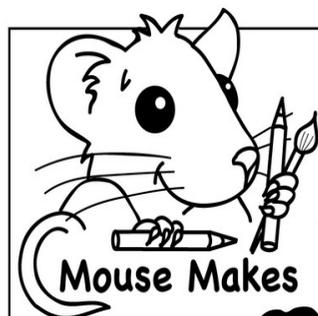
And the #1 Favorite is.....

How would you make a marriage work?

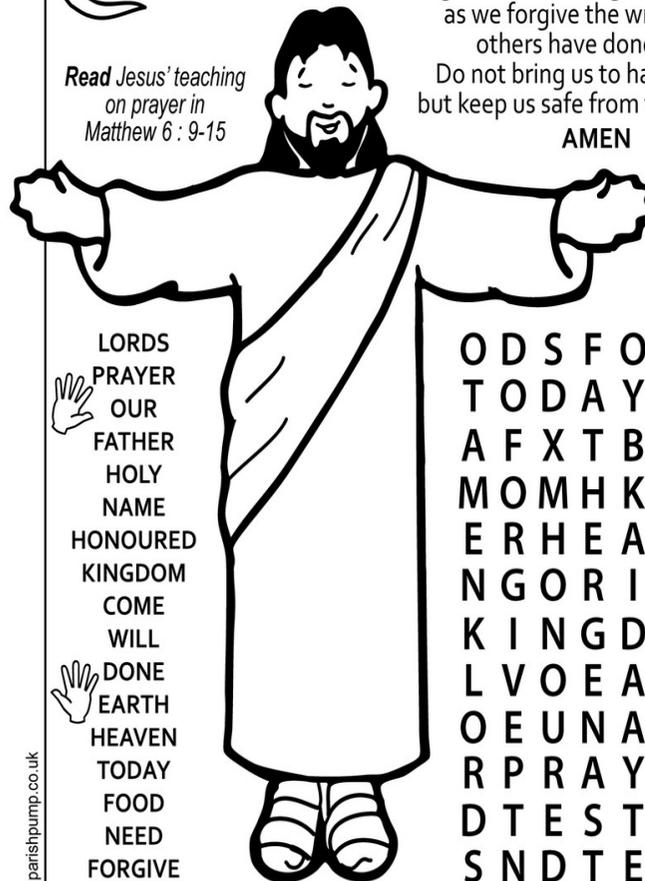
Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck.

- Ricky, age 10 (smart fellow)

**Children's Page**



Read Jesus' teaching on prayer in Matthew 6: 9-15



**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven:  
 May your holy name be honoured;  
 may your Kingdom come;  
 may your will be done on earth  
 as it is in heaven.  
 Give us today the food we need.  
 Forgive us the wrongs we have done,  
 as we forgive the wrongs that  
 others have done to us.

Do not bring us to hard testing,  
 but keep us safe from the Evil One.

**AMEN**

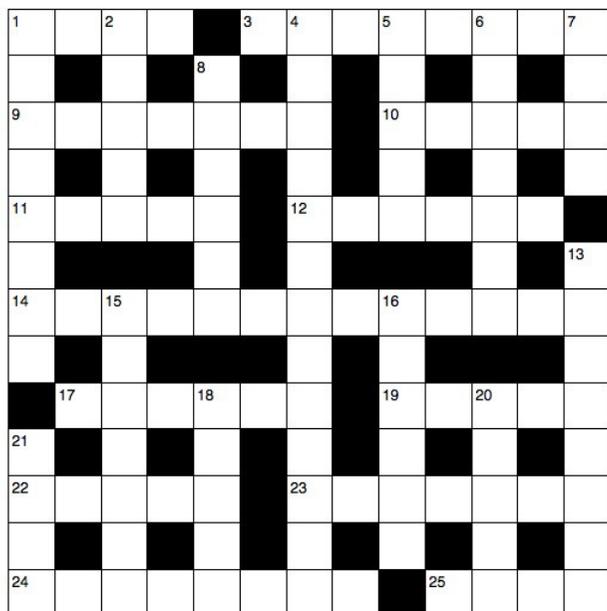
Write a prayer of praise to God

LORDS  
 PRAYER  
 OUR  
 FATHER  
 HOLY  
 NAME  
 HONOURED  
 KINGDOM  
 COME  
 WILL  
 DONE  
 EARTH  
 HEAVEN  
 TODAY  
 FOOD  
 NEED  
 FORGIVE  
 WRONGS  
 TESTING  
 SAFE  
 EVIL  
 AMEN

ODSFOODH  
 TODAYGCW  
 AFXTBPOR  
 MOMHKVMO  
 ERHEAVEN  
 NGORISBG  
 KINGDOMS  
 LVOEARTH  
 OEUNAMEO  
 RPRAYERS  
 DTESTING  
 SNDTEHLF  
 AEOTVOUR  
 FENWILLD  
 EDEHLYGR

Can you find all the words from the list in the wordsearch?

## February Crossword



### Across

1 Salary (Isaiah 19:10) (4), 3 Question Jesus asked of those healed of leprosy, 'Were not all ten — ?' (Luke 17:17) (8), 9 Wide, elevated level area of land (Joshua 13:9) (7), 10 'So you also must be — , because the Son of Man will come... when you do not expect him' (Matthew 24:44) (5), 11 '[He] said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He — — , and his hand was completely restored' (Luke 6:10) (3,2), 12 'Who has gathered up the wind in the — of his hand?' (Proverbs 30:4) (6), 14 Not born again (13), 17 'Again and again he — the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins' (Hebrews 10:11) (6), 19 Mails (anag.) (5), 22 'He — — here; he has risen' (Matthew 28:6) (2,3), 23 Defeated (Judges 20:43) (7), 24 Soldiers' quarters (Acts 21:34) (8), 25 'Pillars of marble' were how the Beloved described those of her Lover (Song of Songs 5:15) (4)

### Down

1 Totally destroyed (Genesis 7:23) (5,3), 2 What the Philippian jailer was told to do with his prisoners Paul and Silas (Acts 16:23) (5), 4 Object of ridicule (Job 12:4) (8-5), 5 In most years, the month in which Easter falls (5), 6 For example, Caesarea, Joppa, Tyre, Sidon (7), 7 '[Jesus] was in the desert for forty — , being tempted by Satan' (Mark 1:13) (4), 8 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power — to our God' (Revelation 19:1) (6), 13 Mend dots (anag.) (8), 15 Purifier (Malachi 3:3) (7), 16 Attacked (1 Samuel 27:8) (6), 18 The good Samaritan to the innkeeper: 'When I return, I will reimburse you for any — expense you may have' (Luke 10:35) (5), 20 How Matthew described the crowds who followed Jesus (Matthew 4:25) (5), 21 For example, one of 25 Across (Judges 19:29) (4)

### January Crossword Solution

**ACROSS:** 1, Armour. 4, Twelve. 8, Ulric. 9, Imitate. 10, Lectern. 11, Trees. 12, Endurance. 17, Harem. 19, Newborn. 21, Divorce. 22, Erica. 23, Wisest. 24, Stoned.

**DOWN:** 1, Aquila. 2, Miracle. 3, Uncle. 5, Written. 6, Leave. 7, Ever so. 9, Ignorance. 13, Damaris. 14, Erosion. 15, Shadow. 16, Onward. 18, Raves. 20, Wheat.

## Some dates for your diary - February 2017

- Thurs 2nd 9.00a.m. Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)  
7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice
- Sun 5th 4th Sunday Before Lent**  
**10.30a.m. Parish Eucharist & Junior Church**  
**12.30p.m. Holy Baptism**
- Tues 7th 10.30a.m. Holy Communion
- Thurs 9th 9.00a.m. Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)  
7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice
- Sat 11th 2.00p.m. to 4.00p.m. Fair Trade Afternoon Tea
- Sun 12th 3rd Sunday Before Lent**  
**8.30a.m. Holy Communion**  
**10.30a.m. Parish Eucharist & Junior Church**  
**After the Service a Chocolate Tombola and Home Bake Stall**
- Tues 14th 10.30a.m. Holy Communion
- Thurs 16th 9.00a.m. Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)  
7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice
- Sun 19th 2nd Sunday Before Lent**  
**10.30a.m. Parish Eucharist & Junior Church**
- Tues 21st 10.30a.m. Holy Communion  
7.30p.m. Deanery Synod Meeting at Christ Church Ashton  
7.45p.m. Parochial Church Council Meeting
- Thurs 23rd School Holiday
- Sat 25th 8.00p.m. Quiz in the Lounge
- Sun 26th Sunday Next Before Lent**  
**8.30a.m. Holy Communion**  
**10.30a.m. Worship For All**
- Tues 28th 10.30a.m. Holy Communion  
2.00p.m. to 3.00p.m. Councillor Adrian Pearce - Surgery

For more information please go to our website [www.stg.org.uk](http://www.stg.org.uk)

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## Saint of the Month ]] 4 February - Gilbert of Sempringham, Founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189

Gilbert was born at Sempringham (Lincolnshire). His father, Jocelin, was a wealthy Norman knight, his mother an Englishwoman of humble rank. Gilbert studied in France, eventually returning to England to work as a teacher near to his place of birth. His father, who had churches on his land, appointed him vicar, although he was not an ordained priest. However, Gilbert received the support of the Bishop of Lincoln and he became a member of the bishop's household. In 1123 the new Bishop of Lincoln ordained him priest.

Gilbert was offered the Archdeaconry of Lincoln, but he refused, saying that he knew no surer way to perdition. On the death of his father he returned to Sempringham and became Lord of the Manor. However, his newfound position in society did not change his austere lifestyle and he continued to give much of his income away.

It was at Sempringham that he renewed his acquaintance with a group of seven women, whom he knew from his earlier teaching career. They desired to live a life of devotion to God, but they were unable to form a monastery on their own. Gilbert presented the women with a 'rule of life' largely based on the Rule of St Benedict, and emphasized seclusion and solitude. Through the patronage of Gilbert the group received the support of the Bishop of Lincoln, and grew rapidly.

This growth required good government, and Gilbert applied to the Cistercians for oversight. Although his request was denied, the order grew rapidly and for two years he was continually founding new communities and houses. Thirteen houses were founded in Gilbert's life, four of which were for men only. There were approximately 1,500 members of his order at its height. The Gilbertines were the only purely English monastic order and owed allegiance to no foreign superiors, unlike the

Cluniacs and Cistercians. This brought them much support and financial assistance from the Crown. By the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536 there were 26 communities throughout England.

Gilbert was a supporter of Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury and helped him escape from the king to the Continent after the Council at Northampton in 1164. Thomas, dressed as a Gilbertine monk, spent time in their houses before crossing the sea. Gilbert was summoned before the king to explain his actions, but obtained pardon and immunity for himself and his order.

### February 14

The very

\*\*\*\*\*

first

### Valentine card - a legend



The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home with their wives, instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison awaiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

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