

Four Seasons Flowers

*Flowers For All Occasions
Weddings, Parties, Funerals*

0161 338 4227

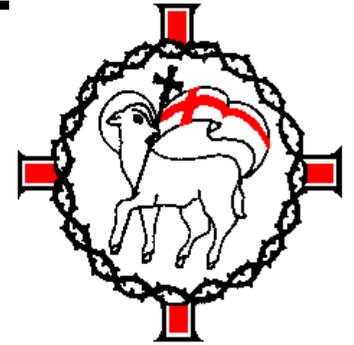
07595 937 046

 Fsf fourseasonsflowers

 fourseasons655866@yahoo.com

29 Grosvenor Street, Stalybridge SK15 2JN

St George's Parish Church Stalybridge



Diocese of Manchester

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

35p



March 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 (2nd & 4th Sundays)

10.30 a.m. Sung Communion and Junior Church
(4th 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 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
	Betty Curtis	2014	19 Mar	Thomas Green	1966
2 Mar	George Jubb	1978	20 Mar	Ernest Sidebottom	1988
	Gerard Postings	1996	21 Mar	James Shenton	1964
3 Mar	Tom Broadbent	1989		John Duxbury	1985
4 Mar	Jean Boyle (nee Smith)	2011		Regan Joseph Michael	1988
5 Mar	Dennis Harrison	1985		Tetlow	
	Rose Ann Quest	1991		Frank Cooke Jackson	1993
6 Mar	James Wilkinson	1985		Emmeline Elizabeth Heap	1997
	Albert Barber	1987	23 Mar	Harold Moore	1996
	James Eric Hinchliffe	1999		George James Crossland	2002
	Barry Mutch	2008		James Wright	2001
7 Mar	Henry Saxon	1977		Ian Stuart Wharton	2014
	Sadie Shaw	1984	24 Mar	Alice Hardon	1989
	Jessie Mary Daly	1986	26 Mar	Denis Patrick Daly	1984
8 Mar	Jane Norris	1969		Samantha Jane Dunlop	1984
	Margaret Cawley	1985		Edward Noah Clayton	1989
9 Mar	Gordon Wheatley	1998		Hilda Graham	2009
	Joseph Sharpe	2000	27 Mar	Herbert Battersby	1965
	Norman Nield	2005		Theresa Aldred	1999
10 Mar	Lewis Dain Gudger	2014		Mary Bardsley	1994
11 Mar	Sarah Ann Allsop	1986	28 Mar	Patricia Carter	2014
	Enid Longden	2014	29 Mar	William Spencer	2000
12 Mar	Herbert Bardsley	1981		Olive Stephenson	1985
	James Turner	1987		Bernard Joseph Walsh	2012
	Harold Webster	1987	30 Mar	Norman Stokes	1970
	Mabel Sweeney	1991		William Forde Clarke	2005
	Basil Kirk	1989		John William Arthur Dale	2008
	Mary Bailey	2014		Maureen Bebbington	2016
13 Mar	William Bateman	1978	31 Mar	Tom Grimes	1980
	Donald Feetham	1997		Mark Press	1981
	Beatrice Kelsall	1981			



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.

From the Registers

Baptisms

We welcome into the Lord's family

5 February

Jamie Michael Ryan, Heather Brow, Stalybridge
Jack James Holian, Longridge Avenue, Stalybridge

Funerals

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

2 February

June Rose Turley (aged 73 years) Buckingham Road, Stalybridge

6 February

Edith Mellor (aged 85 years) Guide Lane Nursing Home, formerly of St George's house, Cambridge Street, Stalybridge

8 February

Kathleen Wilde (aged 77 years) Yew Trees Nursing Home, formerly of Yew Tree Lane, Dukinfield

16 February

Ivy Mitchell (aged 95 years) Fairfield View Care Home, Manchester Road, Audenshaw

17 February

Albert Marcel Hough (aged 86 years) Stephens Road, Stalybridge

27 February

James Raymond Seymour (aged 86 years) Watermill Court, Ashton-under-Lyne



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.

LENT

Dear Friends,



Lent begins this year on March 1st and we will have our usual Holy Communion service with the Imposition of Ashes at 7.30p.m. on that day. Lent is a time for quiet reflection and I have recently been reading a book by the author Carmel Thomason entitled *Believe in Miracles: A spiritual journey of positive change*. The book takes you on a 40 day journey into a world of possibility. Focusing on small practical steps, it offers a series of short exercises to promote lasting changes, leading to a more prayerful, contented and connected life. By looking for the good and focusing on actions to take now, it helps to learn to view differently your daily circumstances, your relationship with God, and your relationships with others, bringing something of the ways of heaven to Earth.

It is a very easy read and the idea is that you read one chapter – there are 40 of them – per day and then try to put the suggestions into action. The two main foundations for the life-changes that readers are encouraged to make on their journey are the practice of stillness in the presence of God, and the development of an attitude of thanksgiving for God's gifts. Each of these is suggested as a discipline for each day at the end of the reflection, together with another idea for a response specific to the material for the day.

With forty chapters it makes an ideal book to use on your Lenten journey. It costs £8.99 and is available from the Bible Reading Fellowship <http://www.brforonline.org.uk>. It is also available as a kindle download. I recommend it to you.

Rather than giving something up for Lent – another way of observing it, and one which has become very popular throughout the world – last year there were more than four million generous acts in 180 countries – is to sign up for *40acts* now in its seventh year. <https://40acts.org.uk> Each day, except Sundays, a message is sent to you via e-mail with a generosity challenge (an 'act') and short Bible-based blog sent straight to your inbox. Each act is designed to sharpen your awareness and give you practical ways to stretch your faith as well as your generosity, with three challenge levels – green, amber and red. If you want to make a difference to other peoples' lives, and to your own, then take up the challenge. It is free! *40acts* is run by the charity Stewardship, whose aim is to make giving easy, inspire greater generosity and strengthen

Christian causes.

It is also our tradition at St. George's to hold a series of discussions through Lent based on a book or other suitable material. For our Lenten Study Group this year we will be using a book by the author Stephen Cottrell who is the Bishop of Chelmsford: *The Things He Carried – a Journey to the Cross: Meditations for Lent and Holy Week*.

As it says on the cover: *the narrative of Holy Week is powerful and painful but, because we know how the story ends, it is easy to gloss over the difficult details and stay in the comfort zone of our understanding. Stephen Cottrell brings home, vividly and poignantly, the physical reality of the passion story.*

Bishop Stephen also wrote the book *The Nail* which we used in our Lent Study Group two years ago and everyone who attended those sessions, I think, were impressed by his writings. I hope this book will help us on our journey this Lent. Maybe you might think coming to the Lent Group is not convenient, but neither was the cross for Jesus, and neither were the nails hammered into his hands.

The Study Group will meet at 7.45pm in the Lounge, each Monday in Lent beginning on 6th March and will last for about an hour. I hope you will give serious consideration to coming along, listening and learning from each other and benefiting from this time, set apart, in Lent.

Best wishes
Philip

**The Original Real Easter Egg (150g)
£3.99 each**

Orders are now being taken for The Original Real ++++++ Easter Eggs. This is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate egg to explain the true meaning of Easter. Inside each is a beautifully illustrated 24 page Easter story activity book, a milk chocolate egg (125g) and a Fairtrade milk chocolate bar (25g). A charity donation is made from each sale. There are three crosses on the front and under the lid there is a quote from the bible - the resurrection text from Mark chapter 16.

If you would like to order one (or more!) of these eggs please put

***H. REVELL & SONS
LTD.***

**A Family of Funeral Directors since
1888**

Pre-payment Plans arranged

**96 Stamford Street
Stalybridge**

0161 338 2520

***Proprietors: N.T. Revell
K. Revell BA (Hons)***

PC WIZARD

*'Is your PC running slow? 'WORRIED ABOUT SECURITY?'
'SPYWARE, VIRUSES, AND TROJANS ... REMOVED.*



NO CALL OUT FEE

FOR RELIABLE, FRIENDLY SERVICE

TEL: 07729910077 OR: 01613037689

Carr's

THE BAKERS
of Stalybridge
Wholesale and Retail



Est.1922
44-46 RIDGEHILL LANE
STALYBRIDGE
0161 338 2177
164 MOSSLEY ROAD
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE
0161 330 1341



Want to advertise your local business?

We still have some advertising space available.

**Full page £40 for 12 issues.
1/2 page £25, 1/4 page £15**

Help yourself, help your business and help St George's.

For more information see church wardens or ring the editor on 0161 330 0518

your name and the number required on the form on the notice board in the church lounge.

The closing date for orders is Sunday 2nd April.



Christian Aid appeals for good 'neighbours'

As Christians around the world mark Lent, Christian Aid is asking the British public to support people seeking a safe place to call home.



Based on the hymn 'When I Needed A Neighbour, Were You There', Christian Aid is asking its supporters to follow Christian Aid's Lent calendar, and reflect each day on the good things in their lives, thinking about daily opportunities to give,

act and pray for the world, and safe place to call

+++++

communities around helping them to find a home.

This Lent, Christian Aid is working with local partners in South Sudan, to provide much-needed food, safe water to drink and sanitation facilities to desperate communities. The charity says that £15 can provide fishing gear for a family; £8.50 could provide two cooking pots so they can eat a hot meal; and £3 could pay for two plastic jerry cans so they can store safe drinking water.

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

Then call
Brian Allsopp
on
0161 338 6834



Leaking taps
Curtain rails
Wooden Flooring
Professional Painter and Decorator

No job too small

Free estimates

CHURCH FINANCES

January & February 2017 Weekly Giving

Date	Sunday	Open Plate	Envelopes	Total	Monthly Shortfall
29 Jan 2017	Candlemas	£74.00	£356.01	£430.01	
05 Feb 2017	4th Sunday before Lent	£66.65	£335.00	£401.65	
12 Feb 2017	3rd Sunday before Lent	£55.00	£426.31	£481.31	
19 Feb 2017	2nd Sunday before Lent	£54.05	£504.67	£558.72	
26 Feb 2017	Sunday next before Lent				
	Standing Orders etc		£864.00	£864.00	
	Monthly Total	£249.70	£2485.99	£2735.69	-£730.31

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

+++++



My Feet

MOBILE Chiropody & Podiatry
Foot care at home

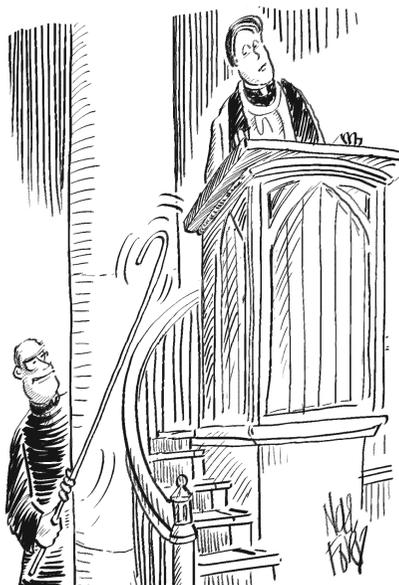
Nail care,
Corns,
Callus,
Fungal infections,
Ingrowing toe nails.
Footwear advice
Insoles, and other
foot related problems.

Janette McLean
BSc (Hons) Podiatry

Tel: 0161 338 8950
Mobile: 07961 583 668



HPC registered Podiatrist



The verger was on hand to support the vicar's resolution to keep sermons down to not a second longer than 20 minutes

200 CLUB

The 200 Club winners for February 2017 are:

1st Prize	£25	33	Janet Vidler
2nd Prize	£15	77	Phil Noonan
3rd Prize	£10	40	Freda Taylor

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.

How could God let all these bad things happen?

A journalist once asked Billy Graham's daughter why God allowed all the problems in the world today. Here is what Anne Graham Lotz replied: "I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools, to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. "And being the gentleman he is, I believe he has calmly backed out.

How can we expect God to give us his blessing and his protection if we demand he leave us alone?"

In America some years ago people complained that they did not want prayer in our schools. And we said OK. "Then someone said: 'you better not read the Bible in school ... the Bible says thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbour as yourself.' And we said OK.

"Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said OK.

"Then someone said teachers better not discipline our children when they misbehave. The schools feared bad publicity, and said there was no difference between proper discipline and cruel humiliation. And we said OK.

"Then some of our top elected officials said it doesn't matter what we do in private as long as we do our jobs. Agreeing with them, we said it doesn't matter to me what anyone, including the President, does in private as long as I have a job and the economy is good. And we said OK.

"Then the entertainment industry said, 'let's make TV shows and movies that promote profanity, violence, sadistic cruelty and illicit sex. Let's record music that encourages rape, drugs, murder, suicide, and satanic themes.' And we said it's just entertainment, it has no adverse effect, nobody takes it seriously anyway, so go right ahead.

"Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why our society is so violent and dangerous, why no one seems to know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother people to cheat, threaten and even kill each other. Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out.

"I think it has a great deal to do with 'WE REAP WHAT WE SOW'."

Readings and Psalms for March 2017

Wed 1st	Ash Wednesday	20.00	Isaiah 58.1-12; Psalm 51.1-18; 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10; John 8.1-11
Sun 5th	1st Sunday of Lent	10.30	Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5.12-19; Matthew 4.1-11
Tues 7th		10.30	Isaiah 55.10-11; Psalm 34.4-6,21-22; Matthew 6.7-15
Sun 12th	2nd Sunday of Lent	8.30	Genesis 12.1-4a; John 3.1-17
		10.30	Genesis 12.1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4.1-5,13-17; John 3.1-17
Tues 14^h		10.30	Isaiah 1.10,16-20; Psalm 50.8,16-end; Matthew 23.1-12
Sun 19th	3rd Sunday of Lent	10.30	Exodus 17.1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5.1-11; John 4.5 - 42
Tues 21st		10.30	Daniel 2.20-23; Psalm 25.3-10; Matthew 18.21-end
Sun 26th	Mothering Sunday	8.30	Exodus 2.1-10; Luke 2.33-35
		10.30	Exodus 2.1-10; Luke 2.33-35 <i>Worship For All</i>
Tues 28th		10.30	Ezekiel 47.1-9,12; Psalm 46.1-8; John 5.1-3,5-16

+++++

Happiness sometimes comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.

JAR OF GRACE



CHILDREN ARE HARDEST HIT BY EMERGENCIES

Never before have children faced so many devastating wars and disasters. When an emergency hits, children's worlds are turned upside down. Whether they face conflict or natural disaster, children are put in terrible danger. Many lose their families, their homes, their schools - even their lives. UNICEF is on the ground, all over the world, providing lifesaving food, vaccines, clean water and warm blankets and pledge to do whatever it takes until every child is safe.

Jar of Grace raises money for the vital work that UNICEF delivers for children facing emergencies all over the world and you can help. When you say grace before a meal, take a moment to think about all the children in danger around the world who so desperately need our help. Put a few coins in a jar to help keep children safe.

Thank you to everyone who saved and donated to the Jar of Grace in 2016, I sent a cheque to UNICEF for £252.87.

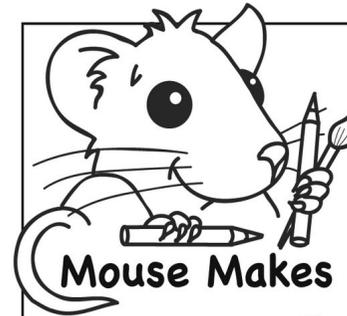
Kathleen Redeyoff

+++++

February Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Wage. 3, Cleansed. 9, Plateau. 10, Ready. 11, Did so. 12, Hollow. 14, Unregenerated. 17, Offers. 19, Islam. 22, Is not. 23, Overran. 24, Barracks. 25, Legs.
DOWN: 1, Wiped out. 2, Guard. 4, Laughing-stock. 5, April. 6, Seaport. 7, Days. 8, Belong. 13, Oddments. 15, Refiner. 16, Raided. 18, Extra. 20, Large. 21, Limb.

Children's Page



SHROVE TUESDAY

During **Lent** some Christians eat simple food or go without food for a while like Jesus did. Pancakes are often made to use up all the fresh eggs and milk on Shrove Tuesday, the day before the start of Lent.



ASH WEDNESDAY

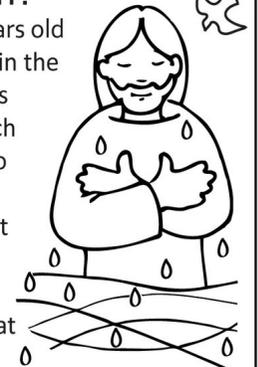
The first day of **Lent** is called **Ash Wednesday**, it is a day for saying **sorry** to God for any wrong things you have **said or thought or done** and to ask for God's help to live in the right way.

In bible times people would cover themselves with ashes as a sign of repentance. In some churches today on Ash Wednesday the minister will draw a cross shape on our foreheads with ash.



WHAT IS LENT?

When Jesus was 30 years old he was baptised by John in the River Jordan. Before Jesus began to preach and teach and heal he went out into the wilderness alone. For 40 days he did not eat but spent time praying and talking to God, preparing himself for what God had sent him to do.



Remembering those days Jesus spent in the wilderness, the Christian Church set aside the 40 days before Easter as a time to pray, read the bible and learn more about God.

This time is called **LENT**



While Jesus was out in the wilderness he was tempted by the Devil **three** times.

Look up the bible verses to see how Jesus replied.



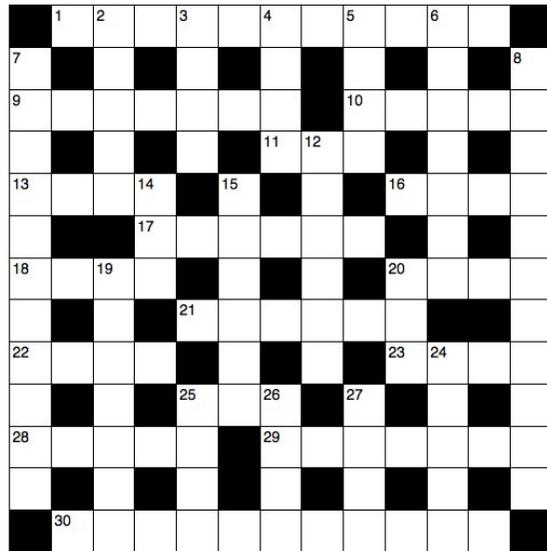
- 1** The devil said, "If you are God's Son order this stone to turn to bread."
Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 4** and **Deuteronomy 8: 3**
- 2** The devil said, "I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."
Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 7** and **Deuteronomy 6: 13**
- 3** The devil said, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, the Scriptures say God will take care of you."
Read Jesus' reply in **Luke 4: 12** and **Deuteronomy 6: 1**



Dear Lord,
Please forgive me for

.....
Amen

March Crossword



Across

1 These letters _____ come between Romans and Galatians (11), 9 'You will not — me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7), 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5), 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3), 13 Mede (anag.) (4), 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4), 17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6), 18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4), 20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The — of God Incarnate (4), 21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3), 22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4), 23 Edit (anag.) (4), 25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3), 28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5), 29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4), 30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

Down

2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him"' (John 9:23) (2,3), 3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1) 4, 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his — of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4), 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4), 6 'Do we, then, — the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7), 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11), 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be — in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11), 12 'Out of the same mouth come — and cursing' (James 3:10) (6), 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3), 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6), 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7), 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul — with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3), 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord — — ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3), 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4), 26 'In the image of God he created him; — and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4), 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)

Some dates for your diary - March 2017

Wed	1st	ASH WEDNESDAY	
		8.00p.m.	Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes
Thurs	2nd	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sun	5th	10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
Mon	6th	7.45p.m.	Lent Study Group
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	8.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
		6.30p.m.	Unity Service at Methodist Church, Stalybridge
Mon	13th	7.45p.m.	Lent Study Group
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
Sat	18th	7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Concert in Aid of The British Heart Foundation
Sun	19th	10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
		12.30p.m.	Holy Baptism x 2
Mon	20th	7.45p.m.	Lent Study Group
Tues	21st	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		8.00p.m.	Vestry Meeting & Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Thurs	23rd	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sun	26th	8.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30a.m.	Mothering Sunday Worship For All
Mon	27th	7.45p.m.	Lent Study Group
Tues	28th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		2.00p.m. to 3.00p.m.	Councillor Adrian Pearce - Surgery
Thurs	30th	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice

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



Saint of the Month
31 March
John Donne, Priest, Poet, 1631

John Donne was born into a Roman Catholic family in London in 1572. His father, an ironmonger, died when Donne was four. After periods of study at both Oxford and Cambridge, he came down without a degree and began the study of law at Lincoln's Inn in 1592. About two years later he relinquished the Roman Catholic faith and conformed to the Church of England, possibly in order to qualify for a career in government service. But whatever his motives Donne took his new-found Anglican faith seriously.

In 1596, he joined the naval expedition led by the Earl of Essex against Cadiz in Spain. On his return to England in 1598 he was appointed private secretary to Sir Thomas Egerton, Lord Keeper of the Seal and in 1601 he secretly married Egerton's 16 year old niece, Anne More. This lost him his job and earned him a short period of imprisonment. But in a few short years he had turned from a debauched and sceptical youth into both a faithful husband and a man of faith. During the next few years Donne made a meagre living as a lawyer. A book he wrote in 1610, encouraging Roman Catholics to take the Oath of Allegiance to the king, brought Donne to the notice of James I who may have suggested that he consider a career in the Church. Certainly, he was appointed as a royal chaplain a few months after his ordination in 1615.

Donne continued to write poetry, but most of it remained unpublished until 1633. In 1617 his wife died, and, in his bereavement, Donne turned fully to his vocation as an ordained minister. From 1621 until his death he was Dean of St Paul's, and with a growing reputation as a preacher, drew large crowds to hear him, both at the Cathedral and at Paul's Cross, the nearby outdoor pulpit.

Largely forgotten by the century after his death, Donne's reputation was restored in the 1920s when Ezra Pound and T. S. Eliot openly acknowledged their literary debt to him. Today, Donne is recognized as one of the greatest of the seventeenth-century 'Metaphysical' poets, many of whom, like George Herbert, were influenced by his work. Unlike George Herbert, however, Donne wrote both sacred and secular poetry. And his main themes of human love and divine love remain ever relevant, as demonstrated in this extract from *Holy Sonnet*:

Batter my heart three-personed God; for, you
 As yet but knock, breathe, shine and seek to mend;

...
 But I am betrothed unto your enemy,
 Divorce me, untie or break that knot again,
 Take me to you, imprison me, for I
 Except you'enthrall me, shall never be free,
 Nor ever chaste, except you ravish me

**26 Mothering
 Sunday in Lent**

+++++

Sunday – 4th

There is an old Jewish saying: God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mothers' Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.