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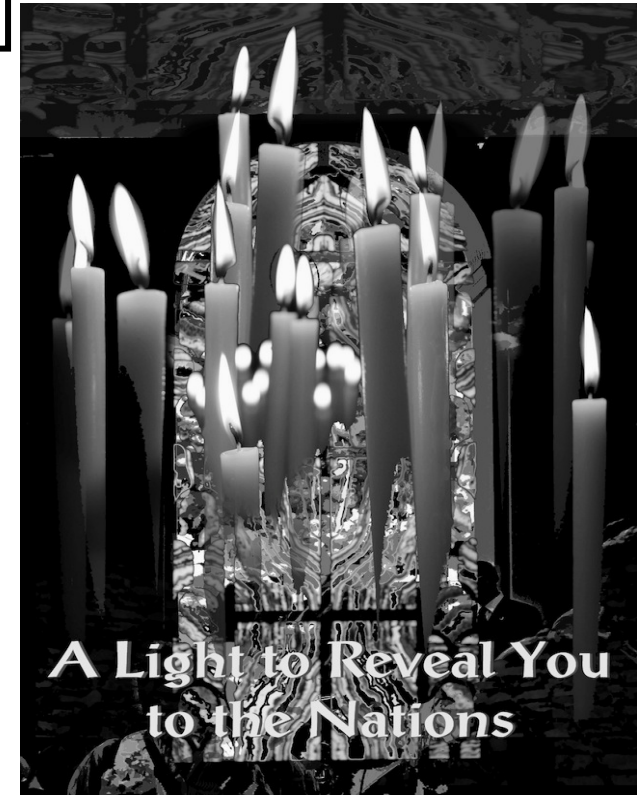
St George's Parish Church Stalybridge

Diocese of Manchester

35p



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



February 2012

St George's Church Stalybridge

Clergy

Vicar		338 2368
Curates	Revd Philip Brierley	303 0809
	Revd Keith Stewart	303 7483
Associate Priest	Revd Doreen Broadbent	330 9085
Wardens	Ms Janet Vidler	303 7689
	Mrs Gillian Cotton	303 2787
P.C.C. Secretary	Mrs Margaret Smith	338 3702
Treasurer	Mrs Juliana Stewart	303 7483
Magazine Editor	Mrs Linda Hurst	330 0518
Room Hire	Mr Norman Quest	338 4691

Worship

Sunday

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

Tuesday

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

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

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From the Registers

Baptisms



15 January

Amy Anne Kathryn Sinacola, Parvet Avenue, Droylsden

Funerals



9 January

Henry "Harry" Cooper (91) Daisy Nook Care Home, formerly of Belsay Close, Ashton-under-Lyne

20 January

Constance Lily Stratten (86) Gladstone Street, Glossop

24 January

Barrie Hilton (75) Buckton Vale Road, Carrbrook, Stalybridge

26 January

Elsie Trelfa (102) St George's Nursing Home, formerly of Lees Street and Hamilton Street, Stalybridge

From Our Book of Remembrance

1 Feb	Ernest Albert Whitehead	2000	22 Feb	Frederick James Eldridge	1989
2 Feb	Vera Hadfield	2005		Joan Wykes	2001
4 Feb	Mary Priestley	1994	24 Feb	Mary Theresa Brierley	2004
	Margaret Longmate	2011	25 Feb	Philip Grocott	1975
6 Feb	James Howarth	1993		Harry Nuttall	1992
	Albert Livsey	1993		Leslie Barber	2006
7 Feb	Annie Howard	1981	26 Feb	Herbert Newton	1971
	Adam Constantine	2004		George Henry Maddock	1983
8 Feb	Edith Harriet Turner	1991		Edward Cooper	1986
	David Brian Bardsley	2011		Francis Frederick Lawes	1999
9 Feb	Ada Alice Cooper	1970		Lucy Wilson	2011
	Rose Pamela Gudgeon	2010	27 Feb	Winifred Ada Christian	1968
10 Feb	Donald Joseph Sidebottom	1992		Maud Green	1986
	Colin Birch	2001		Clara Wardle	1987
11 Feb	Harold Lee	1961		Elsie Violet Shaw	2000
	Iris Wilson	1975		Jessie Birch	2011
	Ada Stephenson	1983	28 Feb	Samuel Terence	1990
12 Feb	Mary Pollitt	1987		Broadbent	
14 Feb	John Devlin	1973		Robert Fowden	1982
16 Feb	Kenneth Shaw	2003		Elsie Hopwood	2006
17 Feb	Gertrude Fitchett	1984	29 Feb	Agnes Goodwin	1996
18 Feb	Annie Revell	1986		Ollerenshaw	1996
19 Feb	James Harrison Rowbottom	1979			
20 Feb	John Sedgwick	1964			
	Clara Brown	2009			
	Nellie Allcock	2011			

From the Vicar

Dear All,

You will not need me to tell you that for the last couple of weeks or so the hot cross buns have been on sale in our supermarkets, no doubt the results of their respective managers' forward planning. Since I have preached in the past about, "Failing to plan equals planning to fail" I can't really complain I suppose, but earlier today I returned to thinking about the Christmas season and one Christmas carol in particular; "Good King Wenceslas (last) looked out". (I note that our hymn book now omits the word "last.") This carol refers to King Wenceslas who, on the 26th, December, the feast of St. Stephen, went out into the cold, frozen streets in order to distribute alms to the poor and needy. So what, you may be asking yourselves, am I leading to? Simply this; today (21st January), is the feast of St. Agnes, referred to in the second verse of the above carol. Who was St. Agnes?

"Agnes is one of the most-well known and widely venerated of the early Roman martyrs, perhaps because of the expression of mature resilience and sheer bravery in a girl of thirteen. Agnes is reputed to have refused an arranged marriage because of her total dedication to Christ and stated that she preferred even death of the body to the death of consecrated virginity. The growing veneration for the state of consecrated virginity at this time, combined with the last major Roman persecution under the emperor Diocletian, climaxing in an innocent virgin-child willingly shedding her blood for Christ, placed her at the forefront of veneration almost from the moment the persecution ended. She is believed to have died in the year 304 and her feast has ever since been celebrated on this day." *Exciting Holiness, Canterbury Press.*

Thankfully, not many of us will ever be called upon to make such a terrible sacrifice for our faith, but that does not mean we are immune from threats. These threats, it seems to me, do not, in the main, come from moderate people of other faiths, but from people who are, I think afraid of the unknown. To a degree this is perfectly normal, because we cannot make plans based upon what we don't know and in any case, given that most of us wish to live in a liberal democracy, means that we have to be prepared to rub shoulders with those who hold very different views from our own. The trouble is, if certain people, even in this country had their way, all religions would be banned because, as I understand their pronouncements, religious beliefs cause nothing but trouble. I will grant such people one thing, it's an interesting thought. Surely, it's the abuse of religious beliefs, and what may flow therefrom that can cause such troubles?

When I was at school I remember our history mistress saying that there was nothing more dangerous in the world than a person who is an "ist." Again, it is our individual prerogative to agree or otherwise, but just consider such words as 'fanaticist', 'rapist', 'bigamist', 'fundamentalist', 'terrorist' or 'extremist'. Are they not all words that cause us concern? Perhaps you could add to this list? I was told this some fifty years ago; what a far-sighted lady that history mistress was!

For decent, moderate people of any or no faith, none of this should present major problems and especially not for Christians. Let us remember that biblical faith is never a matter of trying to believe in the impossible, but responding to a God-given vision. Think of Abraham, when he left his home city and had no idea where God was leading him. Think of the people in the New Testament who may have considered that the miracles of Jesus were simply wonders or even the work of Satan. There are even accounts of Roman Centurions (officers of the occupying army) realizing the goodness of Jesus, one of whom was actually commended by Jesus for his faith.

Nothing wrong, then in looking forward to Easter, provided it is done for the correct reasons. Nothing wrong with planning ahead, indeed, we have to; just ask those who represent you on the Parochial Church Council! We have to remember, though, that faith will, from time to time, mean witnessing to the truth and that Christianity is not just a set of fixed beliefs or a creed, but a living and on-going relationship with Christ.

With every good wish,

Keith.

+++++++

God's sense of humour

While creating wives, God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world.

And then He made the earth round.



BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

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

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Readings and Psalms for February 2012

Sun 5 th	3rd Sunday before Lent	
	10.45	Proverbs 8.1-16; Psalm 121; Revelation 21.22-22.4; Luke 22.24-30
Tues 7 th	10.30	1 Kings 8.1-7,9-13; Psalm 84.1-10; mark 7.1-13
Sun 12 th	2nd Sunday before Lent	
	8.30	Proverbs 8.1,22-31; John 1.1-14
	10.45	Proverbs 8.1,22-31; Psalm 104.26-end; Colossians 1.15-20; John 1.1-14
Tues 14 th	10.30	James 1.19-end; Psalm 15; Mark 8.14-21
Sun 19 th	Sunday next before Lent	
	10.45	2 Kings 2.1-12; Psalm 50.1-6; 2 Corinthians 4.3-6; Mark 9.2-9
Tues 21 st	10.30	James 4.1-10; Psalm 55.7-9,24; Mark 9.30-37
Wed 22 nd	Ash Wednesday	
	20.00	Joel 2.1,2,12-17; Psalm 51.1-18; 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10; Matthew 6.1-6,16-21
Sun 26 th	1st Sunday of Lent	
	8.30	Genesis 9.8-17; Mark 1.9-15
	10.45	Genesis 9.8-17; Psalm 25.1-9; 1 Peter 3.18-end; Mark 1.9-15
Tues 28 th	10.30	Isaiah 55.10-11; Psalm 34.4-6,21-22; Matthew 6.7-15

8.30a.m. Holy Communion Service from February 2011

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

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Pastoral Search Report *(a tongue in cheek look at our search for a new vicar)*

We do not have a happy report to give. We've not been able to find a suitable candidate for this church, though we have one promising prospect still. We do appreciate all the suggestions from the church members, and we've followed up each one with interviews or calling at least three references. The following is our confidential report on the present candidates.

Adam: Good man but problems with his wife. Also one reference told of how his wife and he enjoy walking nude in the woods.

Noah: Former pastorate of 120 years with no converts. Prone to unrealistic building projects.

Abraham: Though the references reported wife-swapping, the facts seem to show he never slept with another man's wife, but did offer to share his own wife with another man.

Joseph: A big thinker, but a braggart, believes in dream-interpreting, and has a prison record.

Moses: A modest and meek man, but poor communicator, even stuttering at times. Sometimes blows his stack and acts rashly. Some say he left an earlier church over a murder charge.

David: The most promising leader of all until we discovered the affair he had with his neighbour's wife.

Solomon: Great preacher but our vicarage would never hold all those wives.

Elijah: Prone to depression-collapses under pressure.

Elisha: Reported to have lived with a single widow while at his former church.

Hosea: A tender and loving pastor but our people could never handle his wife's occupation.

Deborah: Female.

Jeremiah: Emotionally unstable, alarmist, negative, always lamenting things, and reported to have taken a long trip to bury his underwear on the bank of foreign river.

Isaiah: On the fringe? Claims to have seen angels in church. Has trouble with his language.

Jonah: Refused God's call into ministry until he was forced to obey by getting swallowed up by a great fish. He told us the fish later spit him out on the shore near here. We hung up.

Amos: Too backward and unpolished. With some seminary training he might have promise, but has a hang-up against wealthy people. Might fit in better in a poor congregation.

John: Says he is a Baptist, but definitely doesn't dress like one. Has slept in the outdoors for months on end, has a weird diet, and provokes denominational leaders.

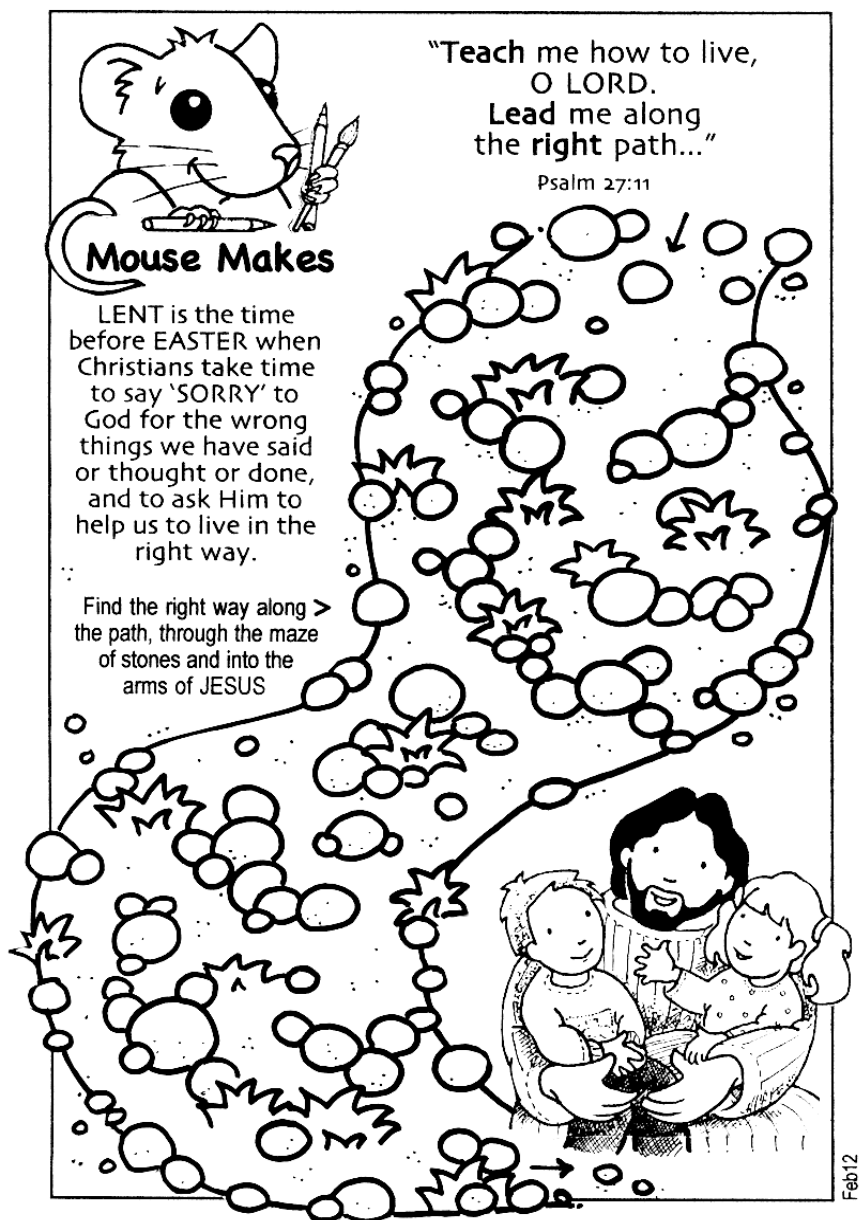
Peter: Too blue collar. Has a bad temper—even has been known to curse. Had a big run-in with Paul in Antioch. Aggressive, but a loose cannon.

Paul: Powerful CEO type leader and fascinating preacher. However, short on tact, unforgiving with younger ministers, harsh and has been known to preach all night.

Timothy: Too young.

Jesus: Has had popular times, but once when his church grew to 5000 he managed to offend them all and this church dwindled down to twelve people. Seldom stays in one place very long. And, of course, he's single.

Judas: His references are solid. A steady plodder. Conservative. Good connections. Knows how to handle money. We're inviting him to preach this Sunday. Possibilities here.



Some dates for your diary - February 2012

Thur	2nd	9.30a.m.	Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Fri	3rd	3.00p.m. to 4.00p.m.	Cllr. C. Patrick - Surgery
Sun	5th	Third Sunday Before Lent	
		10.45a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
Tues	7th	10.30a.m.	Holy Eucharist
Thur	9th	9.30a.m.	Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sun	12th	Second Sunday Before Lent	
		8.30a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		10.45a.m.	Parish Eucharist with Guest
			Lay Reader: Linda Marshall & Junior Church
Tues	14th	10.30a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		7.45p.m.	Knit & Natter (Craft Group)
Sun	19th	Sunday Next Before Lent	
		10.45a.m.	Parish Eucharist with Guest
			The Revd. Roger Dixon & Junior Church
Tues	21st	10.30a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		8.00p.m.	Parochial Church Council
Wed	22nd	ASH WEDNESDAY	
		8.00p.m.	The Imposition of Ashes & Eucharist
Sat	25th	2.00p.m. to 4.00p.m.	Fair Trade Afternoon Tea/Coffee
Sun	26th	First Sunday Of Lent	
		8.30a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		10.45a.m.	Worship For All
Tues	28th	10.30a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		7.45p.m.	Knit & Natter (Craft Group)

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

February Wordsearch

February brings us the beginning of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Valentine's Day, and Lent. All three are about celebrating commitment and love and giving. What relationships in your life need your commitment, love, and generosity? Lent is a good time to reflect on the love in our lives: God's love for us, our love for him, and our love for each other. Our wordsearch this month reflects these themes.

king
country
coronation
diamond
jubilee
queen
princess
death
mourning
love
romance
flowers
hearts
commitment
wilderness
prayer
fasting
Jesus
temptation
stones
bread
kingdom
devil
angels
foot
kindness



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.

SIXES and SEVENS

Whilst recently watching the Lord Mayor's Show on TV, I was interested to find out that there are 108 Livery Companies (trade associations) in the City of London, almost all of which are known as the "Worshipful Company of" their relevant trade or profession. There are also a further 8 Companies who do not have a Livery. The medieval Companies originally developed as guilds and were responsible for the regulation of their trades, controlling, for instance, wages and labour conditions. Until the Protestant Reformation, they were closely associated with religious activities, notably in support of chantry chapels and churches and the observance of ceremonies, such as the mystery plays.

In 1515, the court of Aldermen of the City of London settled an order of precedence for the 48 Livery Companies then in existence, which was based on the Companies' economic or political power. The first 12 Companies are known as the Great Twelve City Livery Companies. There are now 116 companies, so the Order of Precedence is sometimes reviewed.

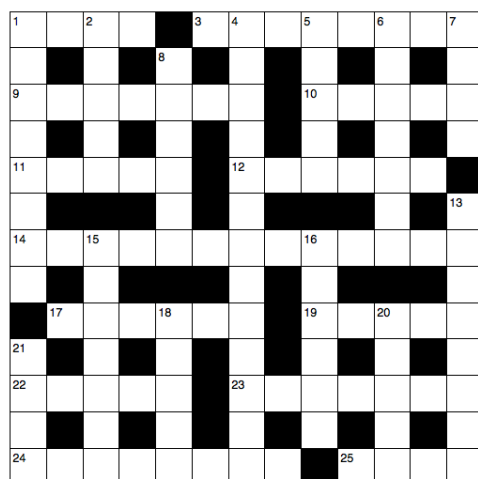
The Great Twelve City Livery Companies are:-

- 1) The Worshipful Company of Mercers (general merchants)
- 2) " " " " Grocers
- 3) " " " " Drapers (wool & cloth merchants)
- 4) " " " " Fishmongers
- 5) " " " " Goldsmiths
- 6) " " " " Merchant Taylors* (tailors)
- 7) " " " " Skinners* (fur traders)
- 8) " " " " Haberdashers (sellers of sewing articles)
- 9) " " " " Salters (trades of salts & chemicals)
- 10) " " " " Ironmongers
- 11) " " " " Vintners (wine merchants)
- 12) " " " " Clothworkers

* The Merchant Taylors and the Skinners have always disputed their precedence, therefore, once a year (at Easter) they exchange 6th & 7th place and this change is one of the theories for the origin of the phrase "Sixes and Sevens"!

Julia Davies

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)

Pancake fun for Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday means pancakes, whether you race with them, or just enjoy eating them. Here's a good fail-safe recipe for a good batter:

Sift 100g of plain flour with a pinch of salt. Make a well in the centre, break in an egg and beat with a wooden spoon. Gradually add 300ml of milk, beating and drawing in the flour from the sides of the bowl until the batter is smooth. Heat a little oil in a heavy-based saucepan and add just enough butter to cover the bottom, running the mixture around the sides. Cook the pancake for one to two minutes, using the spatula to make sure the batter isn't sticking. Then turn the pancake over, and cook for a couple of more minutes on the other side. Serve immediately, with sugar and a squeeze of lemon juice.



"It's either an appeal to youth culture or the heating's playing up again"

Shampoo

I don't know why I didn't realise this sooner. It's the shampoo we use in the shower. When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning , "FOR EXTRA VOLUME AND BODY." No wonder I have been gaining weight. I am getting rid of the shampoo and am going to use dishwashing liquid instead. It's label reads, "DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE." Problem solved.



This month marks the 60th anniversary of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, David Winter, former head of Religion for the BBC, has compiled a series covering the 60 years and this month we begin at the beginning....

Diamond Jubilee: Elizabeth - Child of Destiny

In 1926 a baby girl was born to the younger son of King George V. She was named Elizabeth and was joined a few years later by a sister, Margaret Rose. Growing up in royal circles, in the custom of the time they were privately educated at home.

Elizabeth knew from an early age that her father was a royal prince, but it would probably never have occurred to her that he might one day be the King nor, even more improbably, that she would one day be Queen. After all, the Prince of Wales and heir to the throne was the very popular and personable Edward. Her father was altogether of a more retiring nature and - as the whole world now knows - was handicapped by a serious stutter.

When Elizabeth was ten an event occurred which shook the nation and was destined to change the whole course of her life. Edward, Prince of Wales, had become king on the death of his father in 1936. However, before his coronation he made it known that he wished to marry an American woman, Wallis Simpson, who was divorced. That would probably not seem an insurmountable problem today - after all, the current heir to the throne is married to a divorced woman - but in 1936 it provoked a constitutional crisis.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was opposed to the marriage. The Prime Minister, Stanley Baldwin, and his cabinet came to the conclusion that despite Edward's popularity it was unlikely that the people would ever accept Mrs Simpson as his Consort, let alone their Queen.

The newspapers had a field day, the nation was in uproar, and a new ditty was added to children's playground repertoire:

Hark the herald angels sing,
Mrs Simpson stole our king.

Of course, she hadn't 'stolen' him. Far from it. Everything he said indicated that - as he put it in his last broadcast speech to the nation - he could not achieve anything 'without the support of the woman I love'.

The final outcome was inevitable. Edward signed an Act of Abdication, and as he did so his younger brother George automatically became king - and the young Elizabeth (though she may not at that moment have realised it) became heir to the throne.

A story was told at the time of the two sisters, Elizabeth and Margaret, being

challenged in Windsor Great Park, where they were playing, by a security guard who didn't realise who they were. 'Now then, you two, what are you doing here? Who are you?'.

Elizabeth, taking responsibility for her younger sister, replied, 'Oh, we're nobody. But our daddy is the King'. So he was - somewhat reluctantly. But he had an almost painful aversion to the public spotlight that now inevitably followed him, his strong and dedicated wife (another Elizabeth) and the two small girls.

Storm clouds were gathering over Europe. Hitler was demanding more territory in which to build his Arian dreamland. Already Jews were being rounded up and labelled in Germany and Austria. The new King and his family, together with the people he was pledged to serve, were about to face a monumental test of courage, character and resolve.

Some of our readers will have been children when news came through of the king's death. If so would you be prepared to share your memories by writing a short article for the magazine? The one below has been written by Gordon Neal, a retired university lecturer.

Where were YOU when the King died?

At only 14, some six weeks short of 15, I was, I suppose, a political puppy. And a royalist by default, you might say - perhaps after all the best sort of royalist.

I'd been brought up to stand to attention for the National Anthem, listen to the King's Speech, and sit enamoured by the Pathe Newsreel film of the Coronation which my father projected in our sitting room every time some of our numerous relatives from Canada, New Zealand, or the USA came to visit.

We didn't go as far as camping overnight outside Westminster Abbey for the Royal Wedding, or even lining the route on the day. But we did invite friends and neighbours in to watch the event on our - what? 9-inch? - black and white console TV. 25 or more packed the room. Every movable chair in the house, as I remember, was pressed into service.

And Buckingham Palace was certainly on the route for the statutory tour of London on which said relatives were always taken. And after all, every important national event was marked by the presence of royalty. The Victory Parade of 1946 was one such occasion, and the one, my memory tells me, which prompted my parents to acquire the television in the first place.

And closer to home, at the top of our road we had the King George V Memorial Garden, the frequent destination for a family walk on a sunny Sunday afternoon.

So a royalist by default. And as such this 14-year-old was surprised how deeply he was moved when the news came through on the morning of 6 February 1952. It was a dark, grim, damp day. London was building up to the 'killer fog' that hit the capital a fortnight later. I was in the Science lab. As I remember it, there was no formal announcement. Word just went round the class. The King had died. It was a real emotional jolt. Somehow a hole had been punched in my world.