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St George's Parish Church Stalybridge



Diocese of Manchester

35p

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



December 2013

St George's Church Stalybridge

Clergy

Priest-in-Charge Revd Philip Brierley 0161 338 2368

Assistant Priest Revd Keith Stewart 0161 303 7483

Associate Priest Revd Doreen Broadbent 0161 330 9085

Wardens Ms Janet Vidler 0161 303 7689

 Mrs Gillian Cotton 0161 303 2787

Asst Warden Mrs Rose Hayward 0161 303 1731

P.C.C. Secretary Mrs Rachel Anderson 0161 304 8560

Treasurer Mrs Juliana Stewart 0161 303 7483

Magazine Editor Mrs Linda Hurst 0161 330 0518

Room Hire Mr Norman Quest 0161 338 4691

Worship

Sunday

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd & 4th Sundays)

10.45 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 one of the clergy or Wardens.

For Baptisms, Marriages or Funerals please phone Philip (Priest-in-Charge) 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 Dec	Dean Stanley	1976	18 Dec	Martha Ireson	1937
2 Dec	Harriet Shenton	1976		Mary Lloyd	1999
	Harold Harrison Rowbottom	1988		Thelma Adnett	2005
	Harry Brayshaw	2001		Edith Brayshaw	2010
4 Dec	Ellen Wooley Lomas	1970	19 Dec	Jonas Ward	2000
7 Dec	Edgar Jones	1990	22 Dec	Jesse Wyld	1991
7 Dec	Moreen Branwood	1943		Gladys Jakeman	1999
9 Dec	Jack Fitchett	1951		Winifred Barnshaw	2005
10 Dec	Jane Anne Greenhalgh	1989	23 Dec	Emma Gudger	1962
	Malcolm James Donald	2008		James Stott	1983
12 Dec	George Woolley Buckley	1990		Sarah Hannah Hague	1981
	Joseph Kinder	1929		Dorothy Stott	2012
13 Dec	Frank Turner	1976	24 Dec	Mona Jefferson	1988
14 Dec	Gertrude Barbara Fitchett	1938		Audrey Fallows	2012
	Ernest Ives	1975	25 Dec	Frank Buckley	1974
	Nora Grace Council	2008		James Reedy	1982
	Philip Edward Davenport	2010		Derek Hibbert	1992
15 Dec	William Dyson Duckworth	2010		David William Heap	1979
16 Dec	Eva Whittingham	1984		Ivy Holt	2009
	John Hague	1968	28 Dec	Emily Rosina Pendleton	1987
	Minnie Press	1984		Alfred Wilde	1988
	Edith Longden	2008		Thomas Holt	2009
17 Dec	Anthony John David Gough	1993		George Henry Burtoft	2010
	Bertha Barnfield	1998		Alan Oldham Miller	2011
	Norman Quest	2001	29 Dec	Joan Pickles	2006
	William Hadfield	2012	31 Dec	Alice Shenton	1989
				Joseph Lees	2000
				John White	2008



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.

The cost for the special inscription is £10 per entry

From the Registers

Baptisms

We welcome you into the Lord's family

3 November

Dylan Stephen Ashton Deardon, Whiteacre Road, Ashton-under-Lyne
Tyler Geoffrey Benson-McLaughlin, Whiteacre Road, Ashton-under Lyne
Jude Douglas Wilde, Broadhill Road, Stalybridge

22 November

Lavell Dennis Senoir, Credon Avenue, Peel Hall, Manchester

Funerals

Blessed are the dead who die in the faith of the Lord

1 November

Florence Margaret Oliver (76 years) Manton Avenue, Denton

+++++

Don't forget your second child this Christmas

Get your camera out this Christmas for your second (and third) child! A recent study has found that while many parents document everything their first child does, they can be simply too tired and busy to do the same for their second (and third...) child. Yet in later life, it can hurt the younger members if the family album does not contain a good amount of photos and keepsakes from their youngest years.

So this Christmas, when it comes to shopping, writing Christmas cards, wrapping presents, decorating the cake, decorating the tree, taking part in the school nativity, singing at the carol service and opening those presents – why not photo-document the fun that your younger children are having? The survey was carried out by Venture Photography, who urge: “Those early months and years go by so fast..”

November Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Hopefulness. 9, Hitting. 10, du Pre. 11, Ere. 13, Ozni. 16, Wait. 17, Climbs. 18, Obey. 20, Joni. 21, Cuckoo. 22, In it. 23, Yaws. 25, Elm. 28, Alarm. 29, Epistle. 30, Whitsuntide.
DOWN: 2, Often. 3, Exit. 4, Urge. 5, Node. 6, Soprano. 7, Theological. 8, Westminster. 12, Rebuke. 14, Icy. 15, Ritual. 19, Epitaph. 20, Joy. 24, Acted. 25, Emit. 26, Menu. 27, Gift.

'Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel (which means, God with us)'



Christmas came early to the Trafford Centre. As I write this (mid November) we have just been shopping there and purchased some of our Christmas presents – not all, there are more to get! Of course, it's not only the Trafford Centre, but more or less all our stores and supermarkets have been having a festive time for some weeks now; the season of good cheer is a wonderful time for the world of commerce. Decorations abound in our streets and in our homes; Christmas trees festooned with strings of coloured lights draw exclamations of delight and amaze-ment from young and old alike.

But no forest of tinselled Christmas trees, no glowing shop window displays, can quite hide the fact that for many people, Christmas is something of an empty affair. We celebrate the birth of Christ, but in reality what we see around us is some-thing less happy and less truly human that what we might hope for. Two thousand plus years of Christianity, but how far we have still to go!

Of course, this is not to run down the Christmas presents or the happiness of the family party and even the extra welcome of joy and consideration for others that Christmas brings: these are all good and enjoyable and we wish everyone, a happy time -even if it might only last for the Christmas festival.

But in our thoughts this December we would do well to put aside, for a moment, all the feverish preparations and all thoughts of the festive arrangements. Christmas is not just an ancient story we re-tell for our children: Bethlehem, shepherds, animals, angels, wise men and the wonder and glory of the new life in a simple cradle made from a manger. But we should not to stop there. The Christmas story is a new beginning, not an end in itself. If all that Christmas means to us is just the re-telling of a lovely and moving story, then we miss the point.

When God became human and dwelt among us, he made a new relationship with us. We, too, should respond each year, every Christmas, by making – each one of us – a new start. As we recall God being born into our world, let us ask that he may be born again in our lives: for we worship, not a God who was born in Bethlehem a long time ago, but Christ in God who lives today.

At Bethlehem Christ came to be with us, but the mystery of this is that his actual dwelling-place is within us. Each one of us has a human heart,

which ought to be the present-day cradle of the living Christ: Christ in us. If our faith has grown dim, if it is not as fresh and as vigorous as it used to be, then now is the time to replenish it. As we contemplate Mary's child, we ask for the presence of God within us to be restored and renewed.

One of the oldest Christian prayers we have seems to sum up our needs and our hopes for Christmas. This prayer is based on a familiar psalm (130 v5) and was used by early Christians at the Eucharist and indeed, still is:

*As the watchman longs for the morning,
So do our souls long for you, O Christ.
Come, Lord Jesus, and make yourself known to us
In the Breaking of the Bread;
for you are our God for ever.*

Advent, in the Church's year, represents the centuries of longing for a Saviour; a kind of dark age when the Lord God was not often seen. Like the watchman, humanity longed for the first signs of a dawn. This season is like that, with our souls beginning to stir, and responding to the new dawn of the Christian Day, the era of Christ. In his vision in the Book of Revelation, St John looked for the coming Christ. It must also be our vision, our hope and our desire – that God will dwell with us and that we shall be his people.

All this is a great mystery: a mystery that stems from another mystery, that of love. For God is love. He so loved the world that he sent his own Son into it, to redeem it. God, who in the beginning spoke to humanity through his creation, and afterwards through his prophets and teachers, through his word in the Holy Scriptures, has finally and most clearly spoken through Christ the Word made flesh – full of grace and truth.

May peace, joy and love, be with us all at Christmas; may the love of the Child of Bethlehem change our hearts and minds, and as we kneel at the Crib and share in the happiness of the Holy Family, so let us make our own families truly happy, and centres of love and faith and joy.

With Christmas blessings.

Philip

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Christmas Services and Carol Singing



**Sunday 1st Dec at 6 p.m.
Advent Carol Service by candlelight**



**Sunday 15th Dec at 3.00 p.m.
Christingle & Toy Service with
Children's Choir from Silver Springs
Bring a toy to put under the tree for
the Children's Society**



**Wednesday 18th December & Thursday
19th December at 5.00p.m.
Stalybridge Churches Together Carol
Singing on Stalybridge Station**



**Wednesday 18th December 7.00p.m.
Carol Singing at Heyrod Village Hall**

**Sunday 22nd Dec at 6.00 p.m.
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
by Candlelight**



**CHRISTMAS EVE
Tuesday 24th Dec at 6.00 p.m.
A Service of The Blessing of the Crib
with Carols**

**Tuesday 24th Dec at 11.45 p.m.
First Communion of Christmas**



**CHRISTMAS DAY
Wednesday 25th Dec at 10.45 a.m.
Christmas Day Eucharist**

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Can't get round to finishing the decorating?



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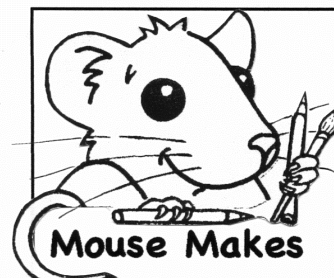
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Children's Page



Mouse Makes

A SAVIOUR HAS BEEN BORN!
"Good news! - **wonderful, joyous**
news for **all** people.
A Saviour has been born.
He is **Christ the Lord.**"

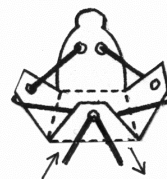
"Glory
to God
in the
heavenly
heights,
Peace
to all
men and
women
on earth
who please
him."

Read about the
birth of Jesus
in Luke
chapters 1 and 2

- Make this
crib box
to hang
from the
Christmas
tree.
- Glue onto
thin card then
carefully cut
around the
outside.
Fold back
the sides
along the
dotted lines.

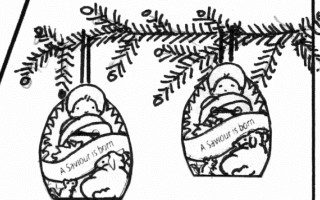


- Punch out the
⊗ holes then cut 30cm
of thin ribbon and thread
through the holes.



- Pull
together
and knot to
form a box.
Hide small
sweets inside.

HAPPY
CHRISTMAS!



- Photocopy this page onto card
to make lots of crib boxes.

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wardens or contact the editor on
0161 330 0518

Readings and Psalms for December 2013

Sun 1st	1st Sunday of Advent 10.45 Isaiah 2.1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13.11-end; Matthew 24.36-44 18.00 <i>A Sequence of Readings and Hymns for Advent Sunday</i>
Tues 3rd	10.30 Isaiah 11.1-10; Psalm 72.1-4,18-19; Luke 10.21-24
Sun 8th	2nd Sunday of Advent 8.30 Isaiah 11.1-10; Matthew 3.1-12 10.45 Isaiah 11.1-10; Psalm 72.1-7,18-19; Romans 15.4-13; Matthew 3.1-12
Tues 10th	10.30 Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 96.1,10-end; Matthew 18.12-
Sun 15th	3rd Sunday of Advent 10.45 Isaiah 35.1-10; Psalm 146.4-10; James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11 15.00 <i>The Christingle Service</i>
Tues 17th	10.30 Genesis 49.2,8-10; Psalm 72.1-5,18-19; Matthew 1.1-17
Sun 22nd	4th Sunday of Advent 8.30 Isaiah 7.10-16; Matthew 1.18-25 10.45 Isaiah 7.10-16; Matthew 1.18-25 18.00 <i>A Festival Of Nine Lessons and Carols</i>
Tues	Christmas Eve 18.00 <i>Blessing of the Crib</i> 23.45 Isaiah 9.2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-20
Wed 25th	Christmas Day 10.45 Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1.1-4; John 1.1-14
Sun 29th	1st Sunday of Christmas 10.45 Isaiah 63.7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2.10-18; Matthew 2. 13-23 <i>BCP Holy Communion</i>
Tues 31st	10.30 1 John 2.18-21; Psalm 96.1,11-end; John 1.1-18

November 2013 Weekly Giving

Date	Sunday	Open plate	Envelopes	Total	Shortfall (Assuming £10 per adult pw needed for running the church)
3 Nov	All Saints Day /All Souls	£70.59	£385.00	£455.59	
10 Nov	Remembrance Sunday	£37.56	£273.00	£310.56	
17 Nov	2nd Before Advent	£28.46	£370.24	£398.70	
24 Nov	Christ the King	£50.60	£273.40	£324.00	
		Standing orders etc		£799.00	
Monthly Total				£2287.85	£512.15

Previous weekly amounts in the magazine did not include standing orders etc and for this we apologise. It makes the books seem healthier, but we are still far short of our monthly target.

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200 Club Winners



The 200 Club winners for November are:

1st Prize	£30	No 57	Graham Clifford
2nd Prize	£15	No 2	Jackie Mellor
3rd Prize	£ 5	No 93	Margaret Schofield

Rose will be collecting money for the 2014 draws in December and the amount due for the full 12 draws is £12 per number.

There are still some numbers available so if you would like to become a member of the 200 Club please contact Rose Hayward on 0161 303 1731 or Juliana Stewart on 0161 303 7483.

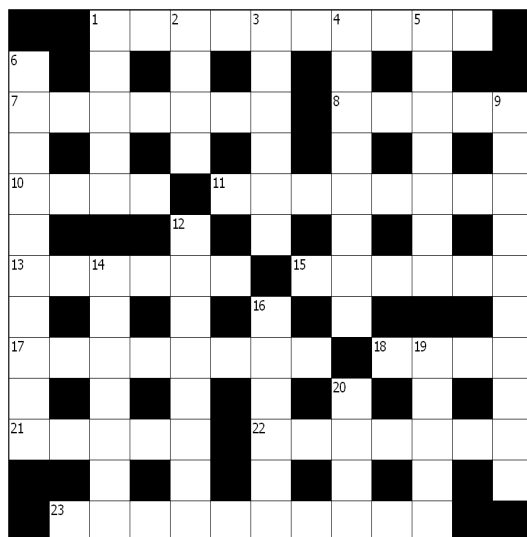
Thank You

Some dates for your diary - December 2013

Sun	1st	10.45a.m.	Parish Eucharist and Junior Church
		12.30p.m.	Baptism x 1
		6.00p.m.	The Advent Carol Service
Mon	2nd	7.30p.m.	Devotion Deanery Synod
Tues	3rd	10.30a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		7.30p.m.	Willow Wood Choir Concert
Thurs	4th	9.30a.m.	Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs
Sun	8th	8.30a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		10.45a.m.	Parish Eucharist and Junior Church
Tues	10th	10.30a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		7.45p.m.	Knit & Natter (Craft Group)
Thurs	12th	9.30a.m.	Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs
Sat	14th	10.00a.m.	Christingle Making
Sun	15th	10.45a.m.	Parish Eucharist and Junior Church
		3.00p.m.	Christingle & Toy Service
Tues	17th	10.30a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		8.00p.m.	Parochial Church Council Soiree
Wed	18th	5.00p.m.	to 7.00pm Churches together Carol Singing at Stalybridge Railway Station
Thurs	19th	9.30a.m.	Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs
		5.00p.m.	to 7.00pm Churches together Carol Singing at Stalybridge Railway Station
Sun	22nd	8.30a.m.	Holy Eucharist
		10.45a.m.	Parish Eucharist and Junior Church
		6.00p.m.	A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Tues	24th	Christmas Eve	
		6.00p.m.	A Service of the Blessing of the Crib with Carols
		11.45p.m.	Christmas Midnight Eucharist
Wed	25th	Christmas Day	
		10.45a.m.	Family Eucharist
Sun	29th	10.45a.m.	Parish Eucharist
Tues	31st	10.30a.m.	Holy Eucharist

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

December Crossword



Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14–15) (7)
 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith — (6)
 17 Stormy (8)
 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)
 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

- 1 '— and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8) (5)
 2 'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as — as a lion' (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19–20) (8)
 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
 6 'Offer your bodies as living —, holy and pleasing to God' (Romans 12:1) (10)
 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
 20 'You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will — his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21) (4)

Dear Sir

Please be advised that all employees planning to dash through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh, going over the fields and laughing all the way are required to undergo a Risk Assessment addressing the safety of open sleighs for members of the public. This assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly where there are multiple passengers. Please note that permission must also be obtained in writing from landowners before their fields may be entered. To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations we request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.

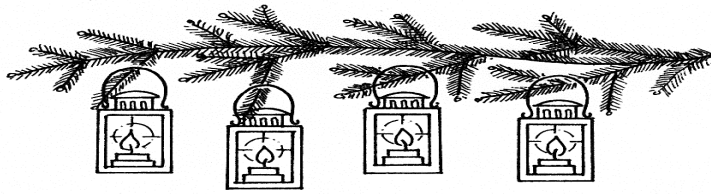
Benches, stools and orthopedic chairs are now available for collection by any shepherds planning or required to watch their flocks at night. While provision has also been made for remote monitoring of flocks by CCTV cameras from a centrally heated shepherd observation hut, all facility users are reminded that an emergency response plan must be submitted to account for known risks to the flocks. The angel of the Lord is additionally reminded that - prior to shining his/her glory all around- s/he must confirm that all shepherds are wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to account for the harmful effects of UVA,UVB and the overwhelming effects of Glory.

Following last year's well publicized case, everyone is advised that EEOC legislation prohibits any comment with regard to the redness of any part of Mr. R Reindeer. Further to this, exclusion of Mr. R Reindeer from reindeer games will be considered discriminatory and disciplinary action will be taken against those found guilty of this offence.

While it is acknowledged that gift bearing is commonly practiced in various parts of the world, particularly the Orient, everyone is reminded that the bearing of gifts is subject to Hospitality Guidelines and all gifts must be registered. This applies regardless of the individual, even royal personages. It is particularly noted that direct gifts of currency or gold are specifically precluded under provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Further, caution is advised regarding other common gifts, such as aromatic resins that may evoke allergic reactions.

Finally, in the recent case of the infant found tucked up in a manger without any crib for a bed, Social Services have been advised and will be arriving shortly.

Merry Christmas



Gift Day Request

You know when Christmas time draws near
And you make a list of names
Of those to whom you'll give a gift?
(Some perfume, socks or games).

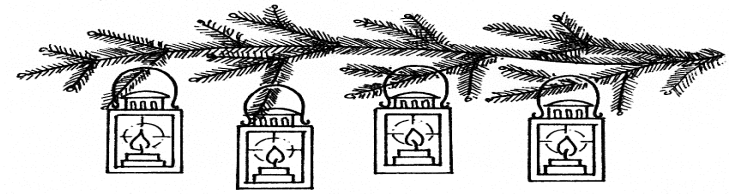
Would it be possible for you
To add an extra gift?
One for St. George's Parish Church
(Its coffers need a lift).

We know this church is greatly loved
By those who worship here
But as you know - just like at home
(The costs go up each year).

There is to be a Gift Day
On December 1st - so please
Could you afford to contribute
(Our 'present' plight to ease)?

Whatever sum is given
Will help us on our way
To meet our obligations
(And all our bills to pay).

So when you make that Christmas list
Remember these few lines
And heartfelt thanks to those who give
To us, so many, many times.



Gift day

Last month we mentioned that we will be having a Gift Day on 1st December (Advent Sunday) so that we may contribute more to our work done in and for St George's. The article is repeated opposite for those who missed it.

In this magazine you will find an envelope for you to give a donation towards St George's. If you pay tax and would like to gift aid the amount, please add your name and most importantly your address and postcode so that we can reclaim the amount of tax back from the Government.

Please either bring the envelope to church on any Sunday or during one of the special services we will be holding during December. Alternatively, please give it to your magazine distributor who will bring it to church.

With many thanks
Philip

+++++++

Thankfully our Saviour is not Father Christmas.
He gave his best to us because we were not good.

Moe Bergeron