

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

35p



We will remember them



November 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 5112

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 (4th Sunday only)

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 Nov | Norman Clinton Ridgway | 1991 | 16 Nov | Alice Whalley | 1998 |
| 2 Nov | Roy Worsnip | 1972 | 18 Nov | Olive Bowden | 1993 |
| 3 Nov | Samuel Currie | 2010 | | Florence Wilson | 2006 |
| 4 Nov | Susan Ann Mann | 2006 | | Winifred Sarah Nield | 2011 |
| 5 Nov | Furness James Hall | 2006 | | Edward Broadhurst | 2013 |
| | Eric Gregson Eastwood | 2009 | 20 Nov | Jonathan Ratcliffe | 1917 |
| 6 Nov | Fanny Seaton | 1927 | | Kenneth Cyril La | 1982 |
| | Sydney Dring | 1981 | | Touche | |
| | Doreen Berry | 1988 | | Brian Hitchon | 1984 |
| | Dennis Holt | 1994 | 21 Nov | Edith Haigh | 1993 |
| | Catherine Tetlow | 2008 | | John Patrick Higgins | 1952 |
| 7 Nov | Leslie Percy Butterworth | 2015 | 22 Nov | Stanley Brierley | 1991 |
| 8 Nov | Norman Andrew | 1986 | 23 Nov | Doris May Brayshaw | 2002 |
| 9 Nov | Edward Priestley | 1989 | 24 Nov | Gary Lee Hughes | 1985 |
| | Grace Barber | 2008 | | Phyllis Watson | 2013 |
| 10 Nov | Roland Wilson | 1984 | 26 Nov | Julian William Parkhurst | 2014 |
| | Clifford Thomas John | 1994 | 27 Nov | Kathleen Irene | 1994 |
| | Jessie Dennis | 2005 | | Humphries | |
| | Harold Mellor | 1986 | 28 Nov | Gwilym Samuel Rees | 1974 |
| 13 Nov | Walter Raymond Skelton | 1998 | | Paul James Smyth | 1983 |
| | Lucy Louise Yvonne | 2011 | | Andrew John Philip | 2001 |
| | Taylor | | | Beckwith | |
| 14 Nov | Zoie Vidler | 2003 | | Joan Entwistle | 2005 |
| | Michael S Oliver | 2003 | | | |



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

1 October

Jade Leigh Wilde, Pennine View, Mossley
Lottie Emilia Hunt, Pennine View, Mossley
Tommy Paul Michael Power, Oval Close, Dukinfield

29 October

Jaxon George Whelan, Viscount Avenue, Ashton-under-Lyne
Mason Beck Wilkinson, Boulderstone Road, Stalybridge

Weddings

God is love and those who live in love abide in God, and God lives in them

7 October

Aaron Stuart Moody to Amy Louise Lewis

Funerals

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

9 October

Pauline Walker (aged 66 years) Oakwood Care Centre, Millbrook, Stalybridge



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

NOVEMBER – THE MONTH TO REMEMBER



Dear All

November, of course, is THE month when we remember certain events in the life of this country, as well as in our own lives. Every year, in November, we start with the afternoon service to remember all those who have passed away – both family and friends and whom we would wish to be named in our service. This year it will be at 3.00pm on Sunday 5th November and may I invite you all to this moving service?

In the morning of that day, at our main service at 10.30am, we will be remembering All Saints, both known and unknown, throughout Christian history.

Remembering Saints and Martyrs and dedicating a specific day to them each year, has been a Christian tradition since the 4th century AD, but it wasn't until 609AD that Pope Boniface IV decided to remember *all* martyrs. Originally, the 13th May was designated as the Feast of All Holy Martyrs. Later, in 837AD, Pope Gregory IV extended the festival to remember all the saints, changed its name to Feast of All Saints and changed the date to 1st November.

On a more secular note, if you are going to a bonfire that weekend, please do be careful with any fireworks and the fire itself.

A week later, on 12th November, at our 10.30am service, we will celebrate Remembrance Sunday and hold the traditional Two Minutes Silence for those who have given up their lives, not only in the two World Wars, but also in conflicts since then, in the service of their country – the supreme sacrifice.

At the end of the month, on 26th November, again at our 10.30am service, we remember the feast of Christ the King. The feast was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as the Feast of Christ the King in response to growing secularism, and along with all those churches that use the Revised Common Lectionary, the Anglican Church observes this day also, as the final Sunday of the liturgical year.

This particular day is also known as “Stir-Up Sunday” because of the words in the Post Communion Collect:

*Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Using these words, many people think the term refers to the fact that this Sunday is the day when they should make their Christmas puddings and give them a good stir. Most recipes for Christmas pudding require it to be cooked well in advance of Christmas and then reheated on Christmas Day, so the Collect of the day serves as a useful reminder. If you do make a pudding, be it on that day or at another point, then give it a good stir for me!

With my best wishes to you all
Philip

Prayer to remind us to remember

Lord, At this ++++++ remembrance time, we
remember those who gave their lives in the service and protection of their
country, whether many years ago, or in more recent conflicts. We thank you
for them and pray for those who loved them.

The death of a loved one, whatever the cause, changes our lives forever
and we walk an unchosen path. There are wonderful memories, times to be
thankful, but nothing takes away the pain and empty space every day.
Thank you, Lord, for understanding our loss. Thank you that when we cry,
we know that you cried first, when your friend died. It's all right to cry. It's all
right to pour out our pain to you, as we remember...

And Lord, we remember most of all your death on the cross. We thank you
that in this remembering we have hope and meaning and confidence
because you rose again; you overcame death. If we put our trust in you we
shall live with you forever. Lord at our saddest times, help us to remember
your victory and the bigger picture!
In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

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

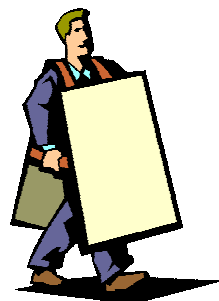
THE BAKERS

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**

St George's Church Christmas Fair

Saturday 25th November
11am till 2pm



**Santa will be dropping in so why not visit
him in his magical grotto**



hats

Bottle tombola



scarves

Christmas raffle



Home bake



Jewellery



**Lots of Christmas present ideas
and much more**

**Come and join us at
St George's Church, Church Walk, Stalybridge
All welcome!**

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



My Feet

MOBILE Chiropody & Podiatry
Foot care at home

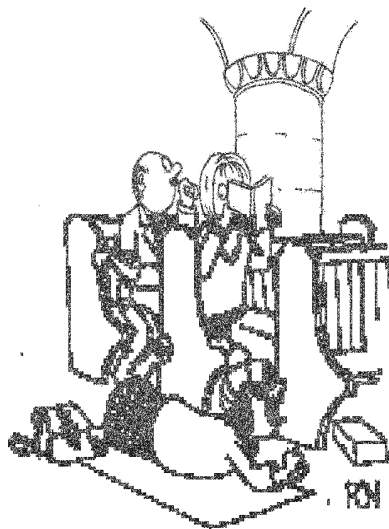
Nail care,
Corns,
Callus,
Fungal infections,
Ingrowing toe nails.
Footwear advice
Insoles, and other
foot related problems.

Janette McLean
BSc (Hons) Podiatry

Tel: 0161 338 8950
Mobile: 07961 583 668



HPC registered Podiatrist



Complimentary foot in Minnie's podiatry

CHURCH FINANCES

October 2017 Weekly Giving

| Date | Sunday | Open Plate | Envelopes | Total | Monthly Shortfall |
|-------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 01 Oct 2017 | Trinity 16 | £33.00 | £396.00 | £429.00 | |
| 08 Oct 2017 | Trinity 17 | £37.90 | £381.00 | £418.90 | |
| 15 Oct 2017 | Trinity 18 | £161.89 | £266.24 | £428.13 | |
| 22 Oct 2017 | Trinity 19 | £43.85 | £574.50 | £618.35 | |
| 29 Oct 2017 | Bible Sunday | | | | |
| | Standing Orders etc | | £864.00 | £864.00 | |
| | Monthly Total | £276.64 | £2481.74 | £2758.38 | -£707.62 |

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

+++++

200 CLUB

The 200 Club winners for October 2017 are:

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|--------------|
| 1st Prize | £25 | 44 | Sheila Finan |
| 2nd Prize | £15 | 20 | Pat Booth |
| 3rd Prize | £10 | 106 | Heather Lees |

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.

+++++



Ted's washcloth - a true story from Operation Christmas Child

Ever wonder what real difference a shoebox full of simple gifts can make to a deprived child? Here is Ted's story...

'I was an orphan in the former Soviet Union when I received my shoebox. We had to share everything at the orphanage, including towels. When I got a washcloth in my box I thought it was my own personal towel! It was very special because it was my all just for me —something that I didn't have before. Another item was a notebook. It was awesome, because when I was moved to a different orphanage I could use it to write letters to my sisters.

God used the shoebox to plant a seed of hope in me. All I knew was that there was someone who had cared enough to send me the washcloth and notebook. Through the next couple of years that was the hope that I held on to, that there must be someone out there who could care about me.

My sister Tanya had heard about a God who loved her when she received her shoebox gift. So she was praying, "God, if you're real, give me and my siblings a family."

One day I received a letter from her that said, "We might be getting adopted into an American family." I again thought, there really has to be someone who cares for me. It could only be someone like a God. All these little things were pointing to this amazing, loving God and yet at this point I had little comprehension of who He was. I hadn't heard about Jesus.

When I was 13, we were adopted. After I'd learned a little bit of English, my dad told me that God loved us so much that He sent His Son to die on the cross for our sins and that it was a free gift. I immediately remembered my Operation Christmas Child gift and thought, Wow, that makes sense. Someone who didn't know me gave me a gift, and in the same way before we ever knew God, He loved us enough to give us this gift.

At that moment, I realised that the hope I was feeling had been given from God. God ordained that shoebox for me. It opened my heart to Jesus, who changed my life forever.

It is not too late to pack a shoebox for this year! Boxes are available from Church with all the instructions on how and what to pack and you can be a part of changing a child's life.

Readings and Psalms for November 2017

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Sun 5 th | All Saints' Day | |
| | 10.30 | Revelation 7.9-end; Psalm 34.1-10; 1 John 3.1-3; Matthew 5.1-12 |
| | 3.00 | Lamentations 3.17-26,31-33; Psalm 27.1-6,16-end; John 5.19-25 |
| Tues 7 th | 10.30 | Romans 12.5-16; Psalm 131; Luke 14.15-24 |
| Sun 12 th | 3rd Sunday before Advent | |
| | Remembrance Sunday | |
| | 10.30 | Wisdom 6.12-16; <i>Canticle</i>: Wisdom 6.17-20; 1Thessalonians 4.13-end; Matthew 25.1-13 |
| Tues 14 th | 10.30 | Titus 2.1-8,11-14; Psalm 37.3-5,30-32; Luke 17.7-10 |
| Sun 19 th | 2nd Sunday before Advent | |
| | 10.30 | Zephaniah 1.7,12-18; Psalm 90.1-8,12; 1Thessalonians 5.1-11; Matthew 25.14-30 |
| Tues 21 st | 10.30 | Revelation 3.1-6,14-31; Psalm 15; Luke 19.1-10 |
| Sun 26 th | Christ the King | |
| | 8.30 | Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24; Matthew 25.31-end |
| | 10.30 | Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24; Matthew 25.31-end |
| | <i>Worship For All</i> | |
| Tues 28 th | 10.30 | Daniel 2.31-45; <i>Canticle</i> : Benedicite 1-3; Luke 21.5-11 |

+++++

September Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Also. 3, Offering. 9, The Magi. 10, Rules. 11, Soper. 12, Help me. 14, Isaac and Jacob. 17, Scorch. 19, In man. 22, Loads. 23, Inertia. 24, Vicinity. 25, Belt.

DOWN: 1, Artistic. 2, Sleep. 4, Faith in Christ. 5, Enrol. 6, Islamic. 7, Gasp. 8, Fabric. 13, Abundant. 15, Archaic. 16, Jailer. 18, Resin. 20, Mitre. 21, Slav.

The Real Advent Calendar



This Christmas why don't you put the real meaning back into Christmas by buying The Real Advent Calendar. It's a fun way for parents, grandparents and Godparents to share the Christmas story. The calendar comes with a free 24-page Christmas story activity book designed to be used every day in Advent. This year, the book is illustrated by award winning artist, Alida Massari.

Meaningful Features

- Behind each of the 25 windows there is a line from the Christmas story with a high quality colour picture
- Foiled for freshness
- 25 Festive Fairtrade chocolates made from our improved Fairtrade blend-35% cocoa
- Palm oil free
- Charitable donation
- Recyclable box and tray
- Made, designed and produced in the UK

The Real Advent Calendar is designed to share and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas so that Christ is not written out of Christmas.

The cost of the calendar is £3.99 and can be ordered from Rose Hayward until 19 November 2017.

+++++

When Elizabeth married Philip – 70 years ago

Princess Elizabeth (now Queen Elizabeth II) married Philip Duke of Edinburgh at Westminster Abbey 70 years ago, on 20th November 1947. They have reached their Platinum Anniversary. Elizabeth and Philip had got engaged secretly in 1946, but their engagement was not announced officially until July 9th, 1947.

Elizabeth and Philip of Greece, who were third cousins, met in 1939, when the future Queen was only 13 and Philip 18. The match was promoted by Philip's uncle, Earl Mountbatten, whose name Philip took before the marriage. Philip also converted from Greek Orthodoxy to Anglicanism and was given British citizenship.

The wedding took place in front of 2,000 invited guests and was broadcast on radio to 200 million listeners worldwide. The wedding dress was designed by Norman Hartnell, Princess Elizabeth using ration coupons to obtain the material. More than 2,500 wedding presents and 10,000 telegrams of congratulations were received. Most of the honeymoon was spent at Birkhall on the Balmoral Estate.

Children's Page

*"To those who are made holy in Christ Jesus, and called to be **saints**, with all those in every place who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours".*
from 1 Corinthians 1:2

The Bible tells us that a SAINT is not just a Christian that we think of as special but *anyone* who believes in Jesus.

Mouse Makes

All of God's people are saints ...

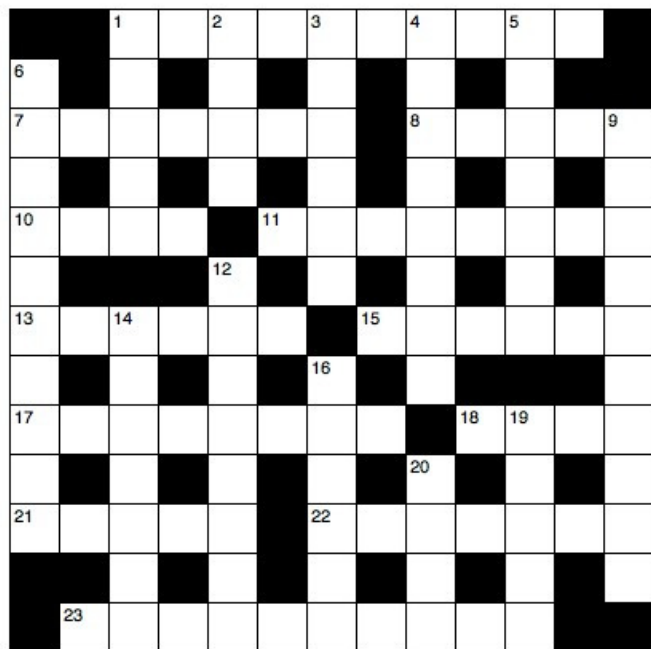
S T E P H E N
P E T E R D A N P
N O M I C H A E L E T
T I M O T H Y V S C J O N
P C O P A T R I C K O M J
H H J I M S E D P E H A O
I O A A A L L S A I N T S
L L M A R K U G U T J T E
I A E N Y E K A L H U H P
P S S D O G E O P O D E H
B A R T H O L O M E W
G E O R G E E A B
W A N N E R S

... we are all members of the world-wide communion of saints!

Can you find these saints names in the word search above?

GEORGE • ANDREW • DAVID • PATRICK • MARY • JOSEPH • MATTHEW • MARK • LUKE
JOHN • PETER • THOMAS • JAMES • JUDE • BARTHOLOMEW • PAUL
TIMOTHY • PHILIP • STEPHEN • NICHOLAS • MICHAEL • ANNE • ALL SAINTS

October Crossword



Across

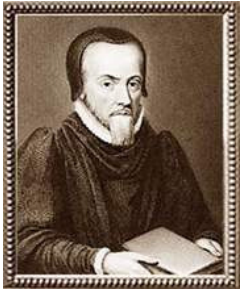
1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10), 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7), 8 Relieved (5), 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4), 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8), 13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6), 15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6), 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8), 18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her — ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4), 21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an — , — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51–52) (3,2), 22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2), 23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

Down

1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5), 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4), 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4), 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8), 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7), 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10), 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10), 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8), 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7), 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2), 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5), 20 See 18 Across

Some dates for your diary - November 2017

| | | |
|------------|------------------|---|
| Thurs | 2nd | School Holiday no activities |
| Sun | 5th | ALL SAINTS' and ALL SOULS' SUNDAY |
| | 10.30a.m. | Parish Eucharist & Junior Church |
| | 3.00p.m. | All Souls' Day Remembrance Service |
| Mon | 6th | 7.30p.m. Mission Action Planning Meeting |
| 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 | 8.00p.m. Quiz Night in the lounge |
| Sun | 12th | 3rd SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY |
| | 10.30a.m. | Parish Eucharist with |
| | | Act of Remembrance & Junior Church |
| 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 ADVENT |
| | 10.30a.m. | Parish Eucharist & Junior Church |
| | 12.30p.m. | Holy Baptism x 2 |
| | 1.30p.m. | Parish Lunch at Stamford Golf Club |
| Tues | 21st | 10.30a.m. Holy Communion |
| | | 7.45p.m. Parochial Church Council Meeting |
| Thurs | 23rd | 9.00a.m. Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs) |
| | | 7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice |
| Sat | 25th | 11.00a.m. to 2.00p.m. Christmas Fair with Santa in his Grotto |
| Sun | 26th | CHRIST THE KING |
| | 8.30a.m. | Holy Communion |
| | 10.30a.m. | Worship For All |
| Mon | 27th | 7.30p.m. Deanery Synod |
| Tues | 28th | 10.30a.m. Holy Communion |
| Thurs | 30th | 9.00a.m. Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs) |
| | | 7.30p.m. Tameside Community Voices Practice |



Saint of the Month
3 November
Richard Hooker,
Priest, Anglican Apologist,
Teacher of the Faith, 1600

Richard Hooker was born at Heavitree near Exeter around 1554, and educated at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He became a Fellow of the college in 1577 and deputy professor of Hebrew in 1579. He was ordained in 1581 and, being required to vacate his fellowship upon his marriage to Joan Churchman in 1584, was appointed Rector of Drayton Beauchamp.

From 1585 to 1591 he was Master of the Temple Church in London. Towards the end of his life he returned to rural ministry, first at Boscombe in Wiltshire from 1591 to 1595, then at Bishopsbourne in Kent where he remained until his death in 1600.

When Hooker arrived at the Temple Church in 1585 he found the Puritan Walter Travers already installed as afternoon lecturer. Possibly Travers was resentful that he had been passed over for the mastership, certainly Hooker would have objected to Travers' Puritan preaching. Whatever the cause, a dispute flared until Archbishop Whitgift took Hooker's side and Travers was removed.

But perhaps the Travers incident was significant in that it indicated Hooker's implacable opposition to the growth of Puritanism within the Church of England, which was the inspiration of his major work, the treatise *On the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*, published in eight volumes from 1594 (only the first five during his lifetime). In this work Hooker sought to respond to the attacks on the 1559 Elizabethan Settlement of the Church of England from the growing Puritan party in the Church.

As Queen Elizabeth's reign progressed, it became increasingly clear to all concerned that, as far as the queen was concerned, the 1559 Settlement was not the first step on the road to reform but the last. While for many Anglicans this presented no problem, for the Puritans, looking wistfully over their shoulders at Geneva, it was time to agitate. The 1580s and 1590s saw increasingly acrimonious disputes. This was the backcloth against which Hooker was writing. He sought to demonstrate the advantages of episcopacy in the Church of England against the presbyterian system proposed by many Puritans. Yet he was not dogmatic, regarding episcopacy as the best

but not the only legitimate form of church government. Anglicanism was rooted in both Scripture and tradition as befitted a Church both Catholic and Reformed. And as the Church was a dynamic, living institution, human reason – a gift of God – was a vital element in interpreting both Scripture and tradition.

Richard Hooker was the first real apologist for the seemingly untidy compromise that came to be known as Anglicanism. So crucial has Hooker been to Anglican thought over the centuries that evangelicals, Anglo-Catholics and central churchmen have all attempted to claim him as one of their own.

Canon David Winter looks forward to an annual event of kindness...

True charity towards children *in need*

November not only sees 'mists and mellow fruitfulness' but also 'Children in Need'. We take it for granted now – the show-biz glamour, the clips of ingenious fund-raising enterprises, the cheering audience and, of course, the regular announcement to loud applause of the growing total already donated to the cause.

When the BBC first proposed it, there were some misgivings. Was this really an appropriate use of entertainment? Would it deflect money from the established charities? Would it simply become a vehicle for celebrities to show off?

Well, it's been around now for 37 years, and raised over £600 million pounds for disabled and disadvantaged children around the world. It has, of course, had its celebrities – who could forget Terry Wogan's years as its mischievous chief presenter? But there has been no evidence that it has diminished the role of major charities. In fact, it has probably introduced millions of people to the experience of giving to charity.

I was at the BBC when it began and recall all those misgivings. One year at a management meeting someone asked why we didn't have 'Old People in Need'? The answer was that the plight of children more readily touched people's hearts, but that once they had experienced the joy of giving all those other causes would benefit. And so it has proved.

There is a prayer in Common Worship that speaks of our world 'torn apart by the ravages of sin'. In my head I always add, 'and held together by the gifts of grace'. I honestly think 'Children in Need' is one of those.