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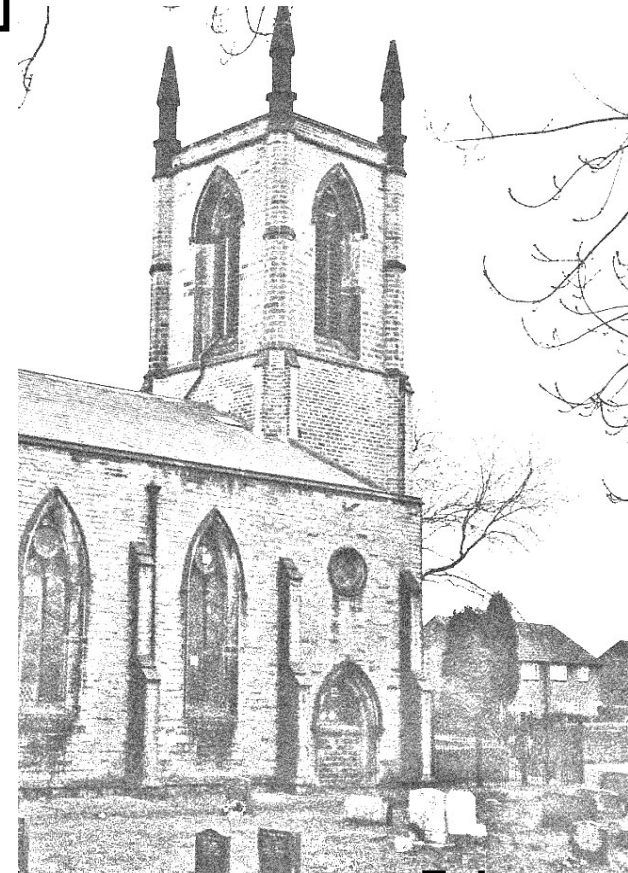
St George's Parish Church Stalybridge

Diocese of Manchester

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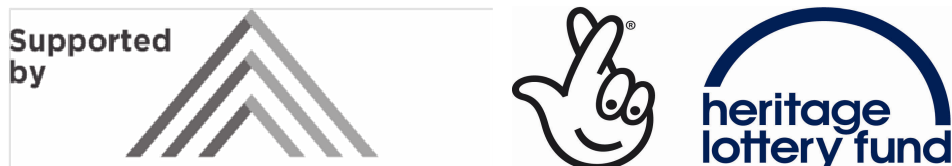


THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



February 2018

St George's Church Stalybridge



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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 (4 th Sunday only)
10.30 a.m.	Sung Communion and Junior Church (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 Philip or one of the Wardens.

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

From Our Book of Remembrance

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



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

7 January

Sarah Lauren Couper-Phillips, School Crescent, Stalybridge
Mia Alice Couper-Ashcroft, School Crescent, Stalybridge
Jason Jim Ashcroft, School Crescent, Stalybridge

Funerals

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

9 January

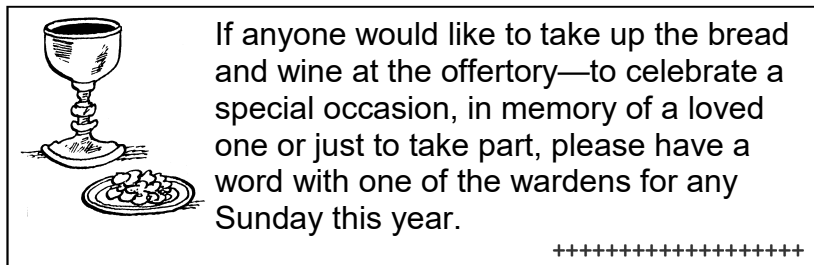
Joan Taylor (aged 95 years) Laurel Bank Nursing Home,
Gee Cross, Hyde

15 January

Eric Eastwood (aged 82 years) Church Walk, Stalybridge
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18 January

Satnam Singh Atwal (aged 71 years) Walkerwood Drive,
Stalybridge



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Dear All,



For several weeks during December and January we had major problems at home with our internet connection. It was continually cutting out every few minutes and, though the symbols and software said that we did have connection – we did not!

There were innumerable telephone calls with our internet provider, with our telephone line provider, with Tom, Dick and Harry and, in general, most people we know, or even those we casually met, were made aware of the problem and offered their advice.

We were provided with a new router but the problem persisted. The only positive side was the exercise regime. The computer is on the third floor and, being told to site the new router next to the phone line main entry point on the ground floor, then during the calls (some of which lasted a full hour) it was necessary to run between the machine and the router to check for a connection etc.

As you will appreciate, it was all very frustrating. It was virtually impossible to complete tasks and work efficiently at some of the routine work that the job entails. Most things these days are done online and, being out of the loop for large chunks of time, made things difficult to say the least.

The breakthrough was made when one of the internet provider advisors suggested that we try 'changing the channel' on the router, because where we live it seems that there's an awful lot of internet traffic. This was done and, though there have been a couple of blips, at the time of writing, we have had a week of more or less steady connection, so here's hoping!

It can be a little like that, sometimes, with prayer and our relationship with God. We are always connected, despite how we feel, but there are times when we seem to be 'out of the loop' and not as fully in touch as we need to be. Of course,

the break is always on our side and sometimes we need help in getting us back on the right channel.

This month we begin the forty days of Lent with a service at 8p.m. on Ash Wednesday when the imposition on ashes will be available for anyone who wants it.

Lent gives us all an ideal chance to re-tune to the right channel by setting time aside for prayer and meditation and maybe coming along to the Lent Group which will begin at 8.00 p.m. on Monday 19th February. Last year the topic was "The Things He Carried" written by Stephen Cottrell who is the Bishop of Chelmsford. It gave those who attended much food for thought and, listening to experiences of others in the group, opened up good and thought-provoking discussions. This year we will be using another of Bishop Stephen's books following a similar theme and which is entitled "The Things He Did" – the story of Holy Week. The sessions last for an hour. Please try to come along if you can.

With best wishes

+++++

Philip

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shutterstock - 171124490

We are holding a Valentine's Chocolate Tombola in the lounge Sunday 11th February.

All proceeds are going to the roof fund.

Any donations of chocolate for this event will be gratefully received.

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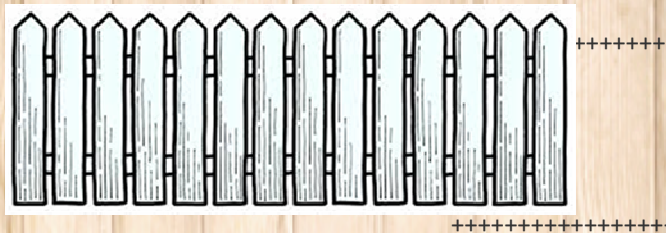
CONTACT US ON: - ++++++

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We all have TOO MUCH STUFF in our homes. But where do you begin to scale down? This is the second of a four-part series that may help.

HOME FREED: the theology of decluttering - Part 2: Decluttering Old Testament Style!

The story of creation, in Genesis chapter one, describes God bringing order out of chaos. God separates different things. God puts the right things in the right places. There is light and space and air, with enough to satisfy the needs of all creatures, and room to grow. This could describe the process of decluttering as well. So the first step in the physical process is to clear a space.

This provides inspiration for the task ahead of you. Just look at the way things could be! Cleared space also offers a place to rest and think, until the chaos has been conquered. Decluttering always makes things worse before it makes them better, as the contents of overflowing cupboards, boxes, and drawers are spread out to sort in the light. It is tiring work too, with so many decisions to make about what to keep and what to do with the rest of it.

So - cherish your space!

Decluttering a whole home can be a long process, but don't let that intimidate you. Instead, get started soon! Remember that in the book of Exodus, salvation is shown as being brought out from slavery and oppression into freedom and open space.

As the Psalmist wrote: 'We went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.' Psalm 66:12

Those who market products for us to consume (even space-saving "storage solutions") want us to see space as something to fill – preferably with whatever they sell. Yet God is present in the space. We can ask our Lord, in prayer, to change our attitude towards the space in our home, so we see space as a valuable commodity, something to use creatively and to enjoy.

Again, the Psalmist thanks God because: 'You gave me a wide place for my steps under me, and my feet did not slip.' Psalm 18:36

Once we are set free from the burden of constantly having to sort and maintain our overflow of possessions, there will be room and time to use the creative gifts that God has given to you. What are your gifts? Baking, dancing, growing vegetables, painting, storytelling, wood carving? – the list of possibilities is endless.

Look closely at the things in your house. Does each possession help you in using your God-given gifts, or slow you down by encumbering you? Aim to be set free from them for CREATIVITY, to be like our Creator God, enjoying the freedom of a simplified, uncluttered life, with time freed for what is most important.

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



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CHURCH FINANCES

January 2018 Weekly Giving

Date	Sunday	Open Plate	Envelopes	Total	Monthly Shortfall
31 Dec 2017	Christmas 1	£42.93	£423.00	£465.93	
07 Jan 2018	Epiphany	£40.51	£456.00	£496.51	
14 Jan 2018	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	£34.78	£490.04	£524.82	
21 Jan 2018	3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	£64.61	£343.85	£408.46	
28 Jan 2018	Presentation of Christ in the Temple-Candlemas	£57.70	£383.50	£441.20	
	Standing Orders etc		£864.00	£864.00	
Monthly Total		£240.53	£2,960.39	£3,200.92	-£265.08

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

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200 CLUB

The 200 Club winners for January 2018 are:

1st Prize	£25	29	Victoria Hayward
2nd Prize	£15	100	Dorothy Davenport
3rd Prize	£10		Beryl Shepherd

Subscriptions for 2018 are now due and should be paid to Rose.
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.
During 2017 there were 108 members and £600 was paid in prizes with £704 going to church funds.
Many thanks to all who support us

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Fair Trade 2017

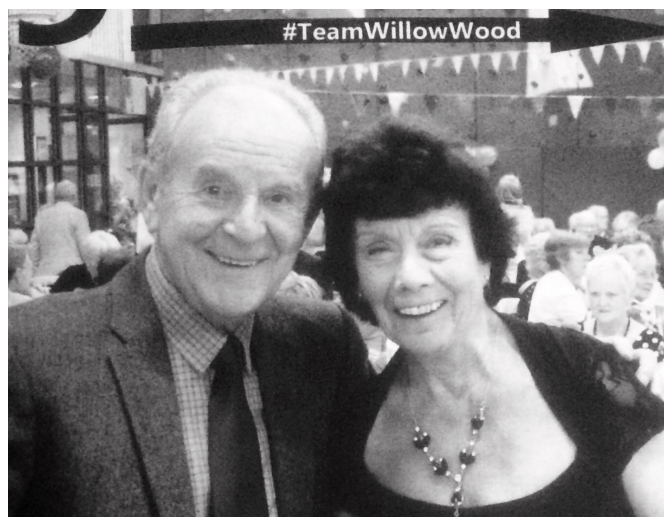
Fair Trade 2017 Sales £894 70
10% profit to church £89 45
Tea /coffee, sugar for the year £114 55
Thank you to all who support us to be a Fair Trade Church

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Joan recognised for outstanding service

Some years ago I put a note in our Pew Sheet asking if anyone could volunteer to help out at Willow Wood. At that time they needed transport taking patients to Day Care and safely home later.

It's ten years since I retired as Hospice Chaplain but one member of our congregation who responded to that note is still there helping out week by week.



Congratulations to Joan Sykes who recently made the front cover of the Together Team magazine when she was presented with her Fifteen Year Service Award.

Many thanks to Joan and others who are presently helping out in a variety of jobs including Reception and Admin, shop work, as well as in the vans collecting and distributing furniture for resale.

Recently Chief Executive Karen Houlston wrote "Whether you are a Staff Member or a Volunteer we go forward together as part of a great team".

Amen to that.
Doreen

Readings and Psalms for February 2018

Sun 4th	2nd Sunday before Lent
10.30	Proverbs 8.1,22-31; Psalm 104.26-end; Colossians 1.15-20; John 1.1-14
Tues 6th	10.30 1 Kings 8.22-23,27-30; Psalm 84.1-10; Mark 7.1-13
Sun 11th	Sunday next before Lent
10.30	2 Kings 2.1-12; Psalm 50.1-6; 2 Corinthians 4.3-6; Mark 9.2-9
Tues 13th	10.30 James 1.12-18; Psalm 94.12-18; Mark 8.14-21
Wed 14th	Ash Wednesday
20.00	Isaiah 58.1-12; Psalm 51.1-18; 2 Corinthians 5.20b - 6.10; John 8.1-11
Sun 18th	1st Sunday of Lent
10.30	Genesis 9.8-17; Psalm 25.1-9; 1 Peter 3.18-end; Mark 1.9-15
Tues 20th	10.30 Isaiah 55.10-11; Psalm 34.4-6,21-22; Matthew 6.7-15
Sun 25th	2nd Sunday of Lent
8.30	Genesis 17.1-7,15-16; Mark 8.31-end
10.30	Genesis 17.1-7,15-16; Mark 8.31-end
	Worship For All
Tues 27th	10.30 Isaiah 1.10,16-20; Psalm 50.8,16-end; Matthew 23.1-12

January Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 8, Bottomless pit. 9, Ice. 10, Decalogue. 11, Limbo. 13, Seconds. 16, Crimson. 19, Eager. 22, Abhorrent. 24, Lap. 25, Alpha and Omega.

DOWN: 1, Abdiel. 2, Stream. 3, Wondrous. 4, Flocks. 5, USCL. 6, A pagan. 7, Athens. 12, IOR. 14, Creation. 15, Dye. 16, Cravat. 17, In hope. 18, Need no. 20, Galley. 21, Repeat. 23, Read.



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NEW GROUP MONDAY

7.00pm with Terri
St George's Church
Church Walk
Stalybridge

TUESDAY

5pm & 7pm
with **Cassandra**
St Matthews, Dean Street,
Stalybridge SK15 2JD

THURSDAY

5.30pm & 7.30pm
with **Mandy**
The Bridge Inn
Stalybridge

SATURDAY

7.30am, 9.30am & 11.30am
with **Maria**
The Bridge Inn
Stalybridge

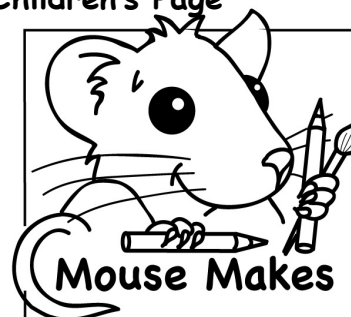
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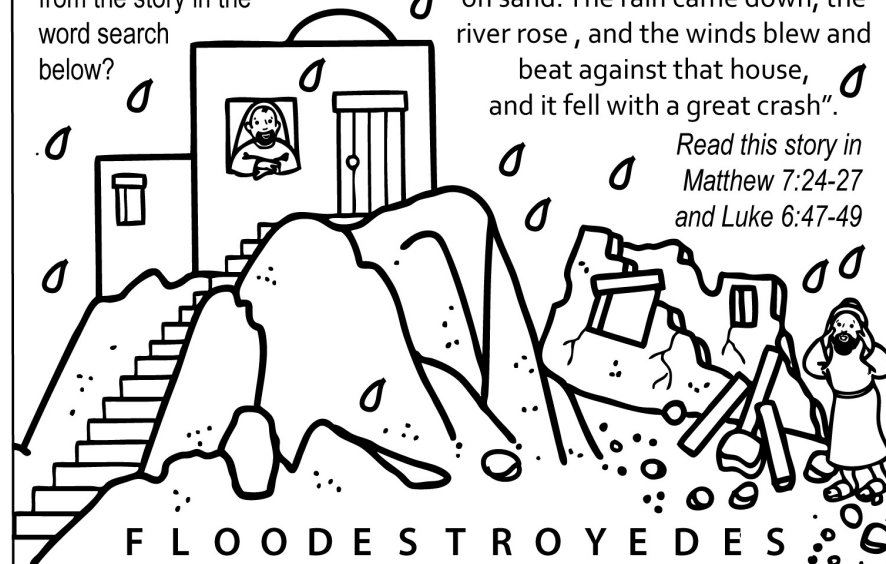
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Children's Page



Can you find the words
from the story in the
word search
below?



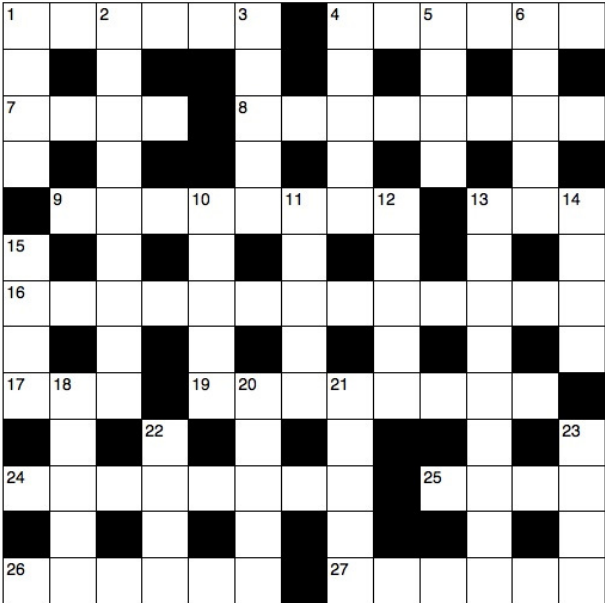
Jesus taught his disciples...
"Anyone who listens to my teaching and
follows it is wise, like a person who builds
his house on solid rock. Though the rain
came down, the river rose and the winds
blew and beat against the house it did not
fall. But everyone who hears these words
of mine and does not put them into practice
is like a foolish man who built his house
on sand. The rain came down, the
river rose, and the winds blew and
beat against that house,
and it fell with a great crash".

Read this story in
Matthew 7:24-27
and Luke 6:47-49

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

LISTEN • HEAR • JESUS • WORDS • WISE • MAN • BUILT • HOUSE • SOLID
FOUNDATION • ROCK • RAIN • WIND • FLOOD • RIVER • BURST • FOOLISH
SAND • GROUND • COLLAPSED • FELL • DESTROYED • RUIN

February Crossword



Across

1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6), 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6), 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4), 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8), 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8), 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3), 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4), 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1), 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1–2) (5,3), 24 Simon had (anag.) (8), 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4), 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6), 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4), 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9), 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5), 4 Belief (5), 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4), 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5), 10 A seer (anag.) (5), 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5), 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5), 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9), 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of 16 Across, — and Dolls (4), 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4), 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2), 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5), 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5), 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4), 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

Some dates for your diary - February 2018

Thurs	1st	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sun	4th	Second Sunday before Lent	
		10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
Tues	6th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
Thurs	8th	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sun	11th	Sunday next before Lent	
		10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
		6.30p.m.	Licensing of Revd Roger Farnworth as Borough Dean at St Michael, Ashton
Tues	13th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
Wed	14th	ASH WEDNESDAY	
		8.00p.m.	The Imposition of Ashes & Eucharist
Thurs	15th	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sun	18th	1st Sunday of Lent	
		10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
Tues	20th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		7.45p.m.	Parochial Church Council
		7.30p.m.	Deanery Synod
Thurs	22nd	School Holiday - No activities	
Sat	24th	2.00p.m.	to 4.00p.m. Fair Trade Afternoon Tea
		8.00p.m.	Quiz Night
Sun	25th	2nd Sunday of Lent	
		8.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30a.m.	Worship For All
Mon	26th	10.00a.m. - 4.00p.m. Clergy Formation Day at Manchester Cathedral	
Tues	27th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		2.00p.m. to 3.00p.m.	Councillor Adrian Pearce - Surgery

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



Saint of the Month
23 February
Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr, c.155

When Polycarp was 86 years old, he was bound, slain by the sword, and his body burnt in the arena at Smyrna, in front of a crowd baying for his blood. He was one of the first Christian martyrs and, according to his own account, had been a believer since childhood. His words at his trial, when he was asked to swear against God, have echoed down through the centuries as a testimony of one man's obedience to Christ:

For eighty-six years I have been his servant and he has never done me wrong; how can I blaspheme my King, who saved me?

Originally one of the disciples of John, Polycarp is a link between the apostles and the earliest Church Fathers. Accounts of his martyrdom were circulated from very soon after his death and give witness to the Early Church tradition of venerating martyrs and saints.

As one of the first bishops of Roman Asia, he tried to set a date for celebrating Easter with Anicetus, Bishop of Rome, but they failed to agree a compromise between their two traditions. The Church at Rome always celebrated Easter on a Sunday, but in Asia it was celebrated according to the Hebrew calendar, on whichever day of the week it fell. This had been a burning issue within the Early Church, and remained so for a long time. However, a mark of the esteem in which Polycarp was held can be seen in that he presided at the celebration of the Eucharist at Rome at the end of the discussions.

Polycarp is also remembered for the way in which he defended Christianity against early attacks, particularly by the Gnostics who sought to dilute the Church's understanding of the nature and person of Christ. Much of his writing is concerned with correcting heretical ideas of the Incarnation, particularly those of Marcion.

On one occasion when Polycarp was asked if he recognized Marcion in a room, he replied 'Of course; I recognize the first born of Satan.'

Polycarp is remembered as an example of humility under persecution, and as a man who showed true Christlike character throughout his life. In his letters he exhorts the Church to pray for those that persecute them, and are in authority over them:

Pray also for kings and powers and rulers, and for them that persecute you and hate you, and for the enemies of the cross, that your fruit may be manifest unto all, that you may be perfect in him.

1918 was the final year of the Great War. Canon David Winter looks back on highlights of those critical 12 months ...

Diary of a Momentous Year: February 1918: How long, O Lord, how long?



THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918

If there had been radio or television in 1918 the British public would have been more aware that events in northern Europe and the middle East were changing the history of the modern world. Of course, people knew – it was all over the newspapers – that Russia now had a Bolshevik Government, following the Revolution, and that British forces (including the eventually world-famous 'Lawrence of Arabia') were now deeply involved in a war to free the Arab peoples from Ottoman rule. But that all seemed far away, and there were more immediately pressing things to worry about at home.

The first, and for most people the worst, of these was the very effective German blockade. 'Britannia rules the waves' didn't seem very true when German submarines, the dreaded U-boats, could operate with impunity around our shores. During February, a British troopship carrying American soldiers was sunk off the Irish coast, and even more blatantly a hospital ship was sunk in the Bristol channel, both by German submarines. The city of Dover, in Kent, was shelled by the guns of a U-boat. The whole thing seemed to be getting out of hand – certainly the toll of freight ships sunk was drastically affecting food and other supplies in the shops.

The result of this was that the civilian population, whose war-time fears had hitherto largely concerned their loved ones at the front line, now felt the effects of war at close hand. Over the previous two years they had gradually become aware, largely through the bombing raids by Zeppelins on British towns and cities, that in modern warfare everyone is vulnerable. By the end of 1917, the Germans had largely abandoned Zeppelin raids, mainly because they had already lost the greater part of their fleet, but the threat of raids by aircraft was very much in people's minds. The shelling of Dover was a reminder that modern war knows no borders.

Not surprisingly, February 1918 saw many tentative attempts to gather support for a peace-making programme, largely encouraged by US President Wilson. Politicians were talking peace at last, and there had been cease-fires agreed in several long-lasting disputes in eastern Europe, and the middle East. But for anxious British people, some resolution of the apparently endless conflict with Germany was the main topic of their prayers.

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