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St George's Parish Church Stalybridge



Diocese of Manchester

35p

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



March 2018

St George's Church Stalybridge



LISTED PLACES OF WORSHIP

ROOF REPAIR FUND LOTTERY FUNDED

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 Mar	Thomas Cowman	1984	13 Mar	William Bateman	1978
	George Harry Hobson	1984		Donald Feetham	1997
	Mary Bailey	1969		Beatrice Kelsall	1981
	Tom Bowden	1972		Christine Higgins	2010
	Joan Wheatley	1972	14 Mar	Frank Stones	1990
	Allen Marsden	1995	18 Mar	Thomas Williamson Thomson	1983
	Betty Curtis	2014		Alma Nuttall	1991
	Kenneth John Dodd	2017		Roberto Luigi Pravisani	2005
2 Mar	George Jubb	1978		David Rawsterne	2009
	Gerard Postings	1996	19 Mar	Thomas Green	1966
3 Mar	Tom Broadbent	1989	20 Mar	Ernest Sidebottom	1988
4 Mar	Jean Boyle (nee Smith)	2011	21 Mar	James Shenton	1964
5 Mar	Dennis Harrison	1985		John Duxbury	1985
	Rose Ann Quest	1991		Regan Joseph Michael Tetlow	1988
6 Mar	James Wilkinson	1985		Frank Cooke Jackson	1993
	Albert Barber	1987		Emmeline Elizabeth Heap	1997
	James Eric Hinchliffe	1999	23 Mar	Harold Moore	1996
	Barry Mutch	2008		George James Crossland	2002
7 Mar	Henry Saxon	1977		James Wright	2001
	Sadie Shaw	1984		Ian Stuart Wharton	2014
	Jessie Mary Daly	1986	24 Mar	Alice Hardon	1989
8 Mar	Jane Norris	1969	26 Mar	Denis Patrick Daly	1984
	Margaret Cawley	1985		Samantha Jane Dunlop	1984
9 Mar	Gordon Wheatley	1998		Edward Noah Clayton	1989
	Joseph Sharpe	2000		Hilda Graham	2009
	Norman Nield	2005	27 Mar	Herbert Battersby	1965
10 Mar	Lewis Dain Gudger	2014		Theresa Aldred	1999
	Rosemary Andrew	2017		Mary Bardsley	1994
11 Mar	Sarah Ann Allsop	1986	28 Mar	Patricia Carter	2014
	Enid Longden	2014	29 Mar	William Spencer	2000
12 Mar	Herbert Bardsley	1981		Olive Stephenson	1985
	James Turner	1987		Bernard Joseph Walsh	2012
	Harold Webster	1987	30 Mar	Norman Stokes	1970
	Mabel Sweeney	1991		William Forde Clarke	2005
	Basil Kirk	1989		John William Arthur Dale	2008
	Mary Bailey	2014		Maureen Bebbington	2016
			31 Mar	Tom Grimes	1980
				Mark Press	1981

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE



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

The cost for the special inscription is £10 per entry

From the Registers

Funerals

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

5 February

Gordon Frederick Johnson (aged 88 years) Edge Lane, Droylsden

6 February

Stuart James Baxter (aged 33 years) Pickford Lane, Dukinfield

8 February

Kenneth Caine (aged 91 years) The Ladysmith, Ashton-under-Lyne



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

The end of winter is in sight! March comes, and with it longer days, warmer weather, blue skies, and, best of all – daffodils!!!!'

That daffodil time of year
O how I love, as poets do
That time when skies turn deeper blue,
And all can know the vernal thrills
Of landscapes filled with daffodils.

I love to spend a pleasing hour
Admiring nature's golden flower;
That trumpet shape, enhanced by dew
That vibrant, cheering yellow hue!

No better herald of the spring
No flower can more pleasure bring;
And spirits crushed by winter's ills
Are lifted by the daffodils!

By Nigel Beeton

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Dear All, LENT PLASTIC CHALLENGE



I'm writing this article on the afternoon of Ash Wednesday and wondering how much each of us will live up to the promises that we might make for Lent. Will we be giving something up, or taking things on?

For Anglicans, Lent is the time when we remember the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, facing challenge and temptation. It is a time when we reflect on God's purpose for our lives, and we are invited to take this on board and place ourselves in "the wilderness".

In my sermon for this evening's service, I mention the fact that we need to be mindful of the things we use. In order to live on this planet, we have to make it sustainable. You may have your own ideas about how you can help with this, but one of the ways in which we can do our bit is to enter the Lent Plastic Challenge. This has been devised by the Church of England Environment Programme in the hopes that we can reduce, or give up, single-use plastics in order to reduce the actions, which damage God's creation.

Since the 1950s over 8.3 billion tonnes of plastic has been produced. That is enough plastic to cover every inch of the United Kingdom, ankle-deep, more than ten times over. Out of all this just 9% was recycled.

In this challenge we are taken, day by day, through Lent, to see how we can reduce our reliance on plastic items – things which often end up in the sea and on our beaches, hurting and often killing the fish and other wildlife that live there.

I'm a great one for recycling, but there are times when things that you think can be recycled cannot. There has been a lot in the news recently about reducing the single use cups for tea and coffee given out at takeaways and the amount of damage these cause. Here are some numbers:

- UK throws away 2.5 billion disposable coffee cups every year
- Less than 1 per cent of coffee cups are recycled
- Half a million cups are littered every day
- Packaging producers only pay for 10 per cent of the cost of packaging disposal and recycling

In the UK we use seven million disposable coffee cups every day – that's 2.5 billion every year.

The problem with coffee cups goes beyond their sheer numbers. They

cannot be recycled, because they are lined with polyethylene, which cannot be recycled at standard recycling plants. Instead, they must be taken to special facilities – only three of which exist in the UK. Non-recycled plastic takes hundreds of years to break down, meaning lots of it ends up impacting on the natural environment.

Gradual breakdown of plastics results in tiny “microplastics” that can be ingested by animals, and chemicals that are potentially toxic to various creatures, including us. You may have seen this on the television programme *Blue Planet II*.

If you are keen to play your part in this challenge, then there is a sheet in church to help you – giving ideas for each day. Some are easy things to do, others not so, but none are impossible.

More information can be found on the Church care website http://www.churchcare.co.uk/images/Plastic_Free_Lent.pdf

You can also share your journey, thoughts, and tips on the Plastic-Less Lent Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/148636355799566/>

By the time you read this, we will probably be nearly half way through Lent, but, please try to do your bit for the earth whilst we are stewards of it.

Philip
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Easter prayer
Almighty Father,

When life is difficult and the way seems too hard, help us to remember the reality of Easter; of the resurrection of Jesus; of His wonderful saving work on the cross, overcoming death to offer us life for all eternity with you.

There is so much we don't understand, Lord, but you know everything, you are in charge and we can trust you even when we can't work things out.

Thank you for the hope, peace and joy that you alone can give - and all because of the resurrection of Jesus. Thank you that He is alive today and able to help us whatever our situation. Help us to ~~be your Easter People,~~ reaching out with your love and life.

In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching
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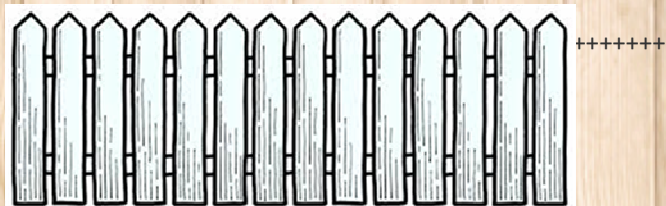
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ONE VOICE
TOGETHER IN PRAYER FOR AN **END TO POVERTY**

THE RESTORING LOVE OF GOD

Lent has just started, and at Tearfund we've been reflecting on the theme of restoration – how God takes the ashes of our brokenness and forges a crown of beauty. There are few places in the world where brokenness is more apparent than in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

It's a country of cruel contrast: it's one of the wealthiest nations on the planet, with an abundance of gold, diamonds, copper and oil; yet, because of unjust exploitation, ethnic conflict and corruption, most of the population live in abject poverty.

Deep in the dense forest that covers most of the country, live the Mbuti pygmies – an ethnic group so marginalised that even some development agencies have abandoned them. 'The modern day pygmy has gone through generations of being victimised, oppressed and degraded,' says David McAllister, Tearfund's Country Director for the DRC. Their relationships with other people groups in the DRC are in desperate need of restoration; many consider them to be subhuman.

Paid in poison For Matunda, a mother of three, the only way to get any food is to work on a nearby farm. She toils in the intense heat, but doesn't get a share of the produce. She is paid in scraps – a handful of cassava leaves and yams.

Her young family only eat one small meal a day. It's barely enough to survive.

The harsh diet of boiled yams and cassava leaves is not good for the family's health. Eating too much cassava can result in severe illness, as it contains trace amounts of poison.

'We don't have the tools to cultivate our land,' Matunda explains. 'I feel incredibly sad when I don't have anything to give the children, but I don't know where to get more food.'

True value But there is hope, because the church is here, bringing God's restoring love with them.

'We need to work with people to change mentalities, and for that reason we work with the church,' says David McAllister. We know at Tearfund that, as well as helping people with their physical needs, it's just as important to restore spiritual fullness. Through the local church, we're reaching out to Matunda and the other pygmy families – helping them acquire the tools and skills they need to grow their own food. And, throughout this process, we'll be helping them understand their true value as loved and created by God.

There is so much that needs to be done to help restore the lives of the Mbuti pygmies. But we know that, through the relentless love of God, all things are possible.

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Part three of the 'De-Cluttering series will follow in next month's magazine.

CHURCH FINANCES

January 2018 Weekly Giving

Date	Sunday	Open Plate	Envelopes	Total	Monthly Shortfall
04 Feb 2018	2 nd Sunday before Lent	£107.00	£398.46	£505.46	
11 Feb 2018	Sunday next before Lent	£37.59	£372.50	£410.09	
18 Feb 2018	1 st Sunday of Lent	£57.00	£386.51	£443.51	
25 Feb 2018	2 nd Sunday of Lent	£44.50	£434.90	£479.40	
	Standing Orders etc		£864.00	£864.00	
	Monthly Total	£246.09	£2,456.37	£2,702.46	-£763.54

* 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 February 2018 are:

1st Prize	£25	19	Caroline Hansell
2nd Prize	£15	103	Alan Smith
3rd Prize	£10	8	June Leigh

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.

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Jar of Grace 2017

The amount sent for 2017 was £323.26, it will be most appreciated to carry on the work of UNICEF UK.

Thank you to all who put their loose change in a jar, it soon mounts up and it is a little more than last year.

K Redeyoff

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“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” The second is this: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” There is no commandment greater than these.’ (Mark 12:30-31)

We are part of a global community and we face challenging global issues – one of the most pressing is climate change. We hear a lot about it although we don’t always see it in our

own lives. But the people Tearfund is working with in many countries around the world are having their lives turned upside down by it.

Billie Anderson is part of Tearfund’s Campaigns team, encouraging and equipping Christians to connect with issues like climate change as an expression of our love for those in poverty. Here she shares how we and our supporters are doing this.

Love is central to what we’re called to as Christians. And so, as people celebrated Valentine’s Day last month, we were also taking part in **#ShowTheLove** - The Climate Coalition’s annual celebration of all we love that is affected by climate change.

Our response to the call to **love our global neighbours** takes many shapes, but the run up to Valentine’s Day saw us sewing some green hearts for our MPs, including Vince Cable, the Teddington MP, to remind them that climate change is affecting people living in poverty now.

In Saffron Walden, Essex, Jean Mead involved the young people of her church in making green hearts to give out and send to MPs. Saffron Walden Community Church is a Connected Church, partnering with [Sagoal](#) in Nepal, so in their service on Sunday they spent time thinking about [climate change affects people in Nepal](#). By drawing attention to the people and places affected by climate change, together we can encourage decision makers to shift to clean energy and tackle climate change now.

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Readings and Psalms for March 2018

- Sun 4th** **3rd Sunday of Lent**
 10.30 **Exodus 20.1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1.18-25; John 2.13-22**
- Tues 6th 10.30 Daniel 2.20-23; Psalm 25.3-10; Matthew 18.21-end
- Sun 11th** **4th Sunday of Lent - *Mothering Sunday***
 10.30 **Colossians 3.12-17; John 19.25b-27**
Worship For All
- Tues 13th 10.30 Ezekiel 47.1-9,12; Psalm 46.1-8; John 5.1-3,5-16
- Sun 18th** **5th Sunday of Lent—Passiontide begins**
 10.30 **Jeremiah 31.31-34; Psalm 119.9-16; Hebrews 5.5-10; John 12.20-33**
- Tues 20th 10.30 Numbers 21.4-9; Psalm 102.1-3,16-23; John 8.21.30

HOLY WEEK

- Sun 25th** **Palm Sunday**
 8.30 Isaiah 50.4-9a; *Liturgy of the Palms*: Mark 11.1-11
 10.30 **Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50.1-9a; Psalm 31.9-16; Philippians 2.5-11; Mark 14.1-end of 15**
- Mon 26th 20.00 Agape
- Tues 27th 10.30 Isaiah 49.1-7; Psalm 71.1-14; 1 Corinthians 1.18-31; John 12.20-36
- Wed 28th 20.00 Stations of the Cross
- Thurs 29th** **Maundy Thursday**
 20.00 **Exodus 12.1-4,11-14; 1 Corinthians 11.23-26; John 13.1-17,31b-35**
- Fri 30th** **Good Friday**
 10.30 **Isaiah 52.13-end of 53; Psalm 22; Hebrews 4.14-16;5.7-9; John 18.1-end of 19**

February Crossword Solution
ACROSS: 1, Credit. 4, Tackle. 7, Cain. 8, Kenaniah. 9, Strength. 13, Beg. 16, Salvation Army. 17, ARC. 19, Every day. 24, Admonish. 25, Dire. 26, Sneeze. 27, Bronze.
DOWN: 1, Cock. 2, Epistolic. 3, Taken. 4, Tenet. 5, Cane. 6, Leave. 10, Erase. 11, Guide. 12, Honey. 13, Barbarian. 14, Guys. 15, Asia. 18, Rod in. 20, Voice. 21, Rahab. 22, Hope. 23, Mene.

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Technology Block

Saturday
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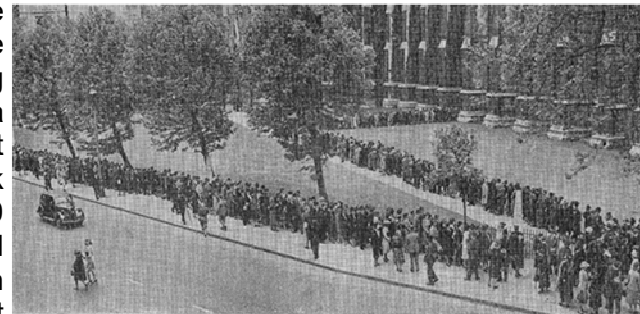


touching hearts, changing lives

this world of chaos which men have made.

DUNKIRK & DIVINE INTERVENTION

An example of just how strong and how widespread this belief in God really was, can be seen in the response of people, when King George VI called for a National Prayer Day at the time of the Dunkirk crisis. In May 1940 when France had fallen and the British Army was trapped at



Dunkirk where they were to be annihilated, King George 6th called for a National Day of Prayer to plead for Divine Intervention. So widespread and so deep was faith in God that literally millions of people flocked into churches to pray. The special service held in Westminster Abbey was so inundated that there is a famous photograph showing a queue a quarter of a mile long as people desperately tried to get in to pray. That's how important and how widespread faith was in that generation. They knew God was real and they knew He could be petitioned through heartfelt prayer. The result of that National Day of Prayer was of course the miracle of Dunkirk, without which none of us would be here today.

History shows that the faith of that generation was regularly rewarded. Only those who study the events of the Second World War can fully appreciate just how close we came to losing the war and losing our freedom. The facts show that at numerous crisis points when it seemed all was lost, the people of this nation witnessed God's Hand at work, changing what should have been the natural outcome of an event into a deliverance.

Part 2 next month

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life. Anon

Wartime Miracles and a National Scandal - Part 1

The World War II testimonies of six of the most senior figures including Eisenhower, Churchill and leading military officers, reveal God's protection of the Nation in response to prayer and faithfulness. If they could see the state of the Nation today, what might they wish us to know?

There is an old story of two spiders, one the mother and the other her son. The story goes that mother spider made a lovely home in her web and she suspended this web from a single strand hanging from a tree branch far above. One day, her son paid a visit. As he surveyed her home he noticed this single strand seemingly ascending into empty space. Thinking it useless he cut it and to his horror the whole web fell and was destroyed.

THE THREAD OF FAITH

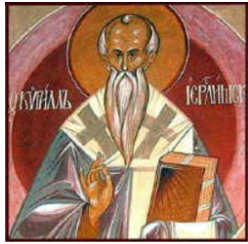
The spiritual lesson behind this story is very simple. Many people today look back upon the wartime generation and regard their faithful belief in Almighty God as something really strange and peculiar. As a minister I have often heard comments like "*Oh Granny and Grandad went to church every Sunday. I don't know why*". Or "*Granny read her Bible every day. How boring that must have been!*" They might occasionally add "*We have no interest in anything like that, being religious is a waste of time.*" It is this kind of attitude which has led many people today to cut the thread of faith in God which supported previous generations and now to their horror the whole structure of our society has collapsed in a myriad of social and moral problems. That thread, that faith in God; that Hope in Him, that Eternal Light which could never be extinguished, is precisely what kept previous generations going, through war and bloodshed. Today's generation has largely dismissed this faith as being unimportant and we see the ruinous results all around.

It is often said that the past is like another country with regard to belief and behaviour and I am reminded of this truth time and again as I study the attitudes of those who experienced wartime. As a minister for over thirty years I have immersed myself in researching wartime events from both World Wars. I have personally talked to those who served in the trenches during the First World War and I have talked to numerous ex-service personnel from the Second World War. It has been a unique privilege to have been able to do this and I can say with total conviction that an underlying faith in Almighty God was absolutely integral to keeping people in this country strong and keeping them going. They believed that God was real and in turn they witnessed profound examples of God being at work in

Some dates for your diary - March 2018

Thurs	1st	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sun	4th	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	Fourth Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday	
		10.30a.m.	Worship For All
Tues	13th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		7.45p.m.	Social and Fund Raising Meeting
Thurs	15th	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sun	18th	10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
		12.30p.m.	Holy Baptism
Tues	20th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		2.00p.m. to 3.00p.m.	Councillor Adrian Pearce - Surgery
		7.45p.m.	Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Council
Thurs	22nd	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sat	24th	2.00p.m. to 4.00p.m.	Fair Trade Afternoon Tea
Sun	25th	PALM SUNDAY - HOLY WEEK	
		8.30a.m.	Service of Holy Communion
		10.30a.m.	Liturgy of the Palms-Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
Mon	26th	8.00p.m.	Agape Meal
Tues	27th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
Wed	28th	8.00p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Thurs	29th	MAUNDY THURSDAY	
		8.00p.m.	Sung Eucharist of the Last Supper - Stripping of the Altars - followed by Vigil
Fri	30th	GOOD FRIDAY	
		10.30a.m.	The Service of The Cross
APRIL			
Sun	1st	EASTER DAY	
		6.30a.m.	Sunrise Service - top of Ridge Hill Lane (sunrise 6.42am)
		8.30a.m.	Holy Communion with Hymns
		10.30a.m.	A Service for Easter Day
		6.00p.m.	Holy Communion BCP
Tues	3rd	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion

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



Saint of the Month
Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem,
Teacher of the Faith, 386

A native of Jerusalem, Cyril was born in 315. Ordained priest in 348, he was soon consecrated as Bishop of Jerusalem in preference to Heraclius, his predecessor Maximus' designated successor. His period as bishop was turbulent and difficult. Cyril tried to establish his diocese's freedom from the control of Caesarea, and as a consequence found himself out of favour with the Bishop of Caesarea, Acacius. He was exiled three times, in 357, 360 and 367. In total he spent 16 years of his 35 years as bishop in exile.

Much of Cyril's exile was on account of his theological beliefs (which clashed with that of Acacius) and the lack of trust he showed in the ability of language to adequately convey doctrine. It has been said that he was probably always orthodox in thought, if not in language!

In the argument concerning the divinity of Christ, Cyril initially agreed with those who said that Christ was 'of a like nature' with God. He was suspicious of the influence of what he considered vague terminology in discussions about the presence of the divinity in Christ. Such disagreements in terminology led to misunderstandings and mistrust between Acacius of Caesarea and Cyril. Their relationship was fraught with theological rivalry and tension, and Acacius was instrumental in the councils that sent Cyril into exile. Cyril was ultimately reinstated to full episcopal duties in 378, and took part in the Second Ecumenical Council at Constantinople in 381.

Cyril was a teacher, and was in charge of teaching those in preparation for baptism at Jerusalem. Indeed, it may have been his desire to communicate the Christian faith effectively and accurately that led him into doctrinal controversy. Cyril was seeking precision, in an age where diverse opinion was the norm.

Cyril was not only active in theological debate and teaching. He was known as a protector of the poor, who willingly sold church property (property that had often been bequeathed by emperors and their families) and used the money gained to feed the poor. These actions were held against him on more than one occasion.

Many of Cyril's sermons and lectures have survived, and they reveal much about the life and teaching of the Early Church. He is remembered as a teacher of the Church, and as one who, although orthodox in thought, sought clarification of doctrine. He is an early example of those Christian leaders whose lot was often to be misunderstood because of the questions that he asked rather than the answers that he gave.

An excerpt from one of his lectures illustrates his teaching skill and his drive for precision:

And why did He call the grace of the Spirit water? Because by water all things subsist; because water brings forth grass ~~and living things; because~~ the water of the showers comes down from heaven; because it comes down one in form, but works in many forms . . . Thus also the Holy Spirit, being one, and of one nature, and indivisible, divides to each His grace, according as He will: and as the dry tree, after partaking of water, puts forth shoots, so also the soul in sin, when it has been through repentance made worthy of the Holy Spirit, brings forth clusters of righteousness.

Catechetical Lectures XVI

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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: 3 March 1918:
Getting Nowhere.

March 1918 brought more confusion than comfort to the British public. If they read the papers closely, they would learn of many peace treaties signed – between the new Bolshevik Russian government and some of its neighbours, including Bulgaria and Turkey and even with Germany – but with many hitches and hesitations.



THE GREAT WAR
 1914 - 1918

The Allies refused to recognise the Russian-German treaty, for instance, and fighting continued in some places. Yet while there was talk of peace on every hand, the War simply went on and on. The Germans launched a major offensive in France, code-named 'Michael', which pushed the Allied forces back from their lines on the western front. This German success so worried the generals that they called a crisis meeting at which General Foch was appointed 'generalissimo' to co-ordinate the tactics of the Allied armies.

Four years into the war, that would seem somewhat overdue. It was followed, as it happened, by the defeat of a similar German attack in the Arras area. So, no wonder the ordinary citizen was baffled. It was up and down, but going nowhere – and the casualties continued, of course.

In fact most people didn't follow the news that closely, and much of the reporting they did read was unjustifiably optimistic. The face to face interviews of today's radio and television news programmes make it harder for those in power to avoid unpleasant truths. But at this stage of a brutal war such an approach would have been regarded by many people, including my parents, as disloyalty bordering on treachery.

Nevertheless, people could see for themselves the shortages of food, and they knew that even on a recent moonless night, when navigation was difficult, the Germans were able to launch a bombing raid by aircraft, not Zeppelins, over England. For all the talk of victory, or peace, the mood at home was resigned but realistic. For 15 months a new prime minister had been in office, David Lloyd-George, who had spoken of his hopes for bringing the war to an end. But to carry that right through, he probably needed the mandate of an election win, and that was not to happen while the conflict still took place. At home or abroad, something unexpected was needed to release the log-jam

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SAVE THE DATE

The Ladies Day Traditional Afternoon Tea will be held on
 Saturday 11th August 2pm—4pm.
 The price is £10 per person including a glass of fizz!