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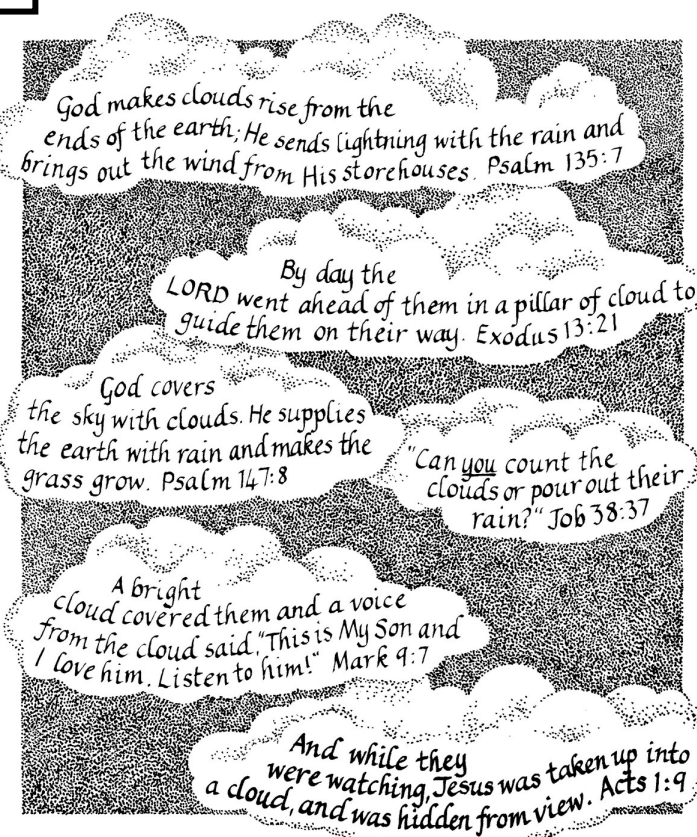
St George's Parish Church Stalybridge



Diocese of Manchester

35p

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



May 2018

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 (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

May 1	Stephen Mark Young	2009	May 17	William Henry Priestley	1950
	Kenneth Doggett	2013		Bessie Travis	1991
May 2	Annie Selby	1975		Richard Barratt	2006
	Derek Kay	2009	May 18	Abel Ollerenshaw	1967
May 4	Harry Wright	1981	May 19	Clarice Barber	1976
	Martha Keatting	1996		William Dale	1967
May 6	Evelyn Parkinson	1902	May 21	Gladys Lowe	1996
	William Cooper	1970	May 22	James Geoffrey Brayshaw	1970
	Martha Kinder	1987		George Henry Cope	1970
May 8	Agnes Winifred Barker	1979	May 23	John William Wadsworth	1987
May 9	Alice Day	1966		Agnes Waddington	2007
May 11	Catherine Ann Nowel	1988		Myrtle Constance Prescott	2016
	Redeyoff		May 24	William Grimshaw	1998
	Mary Miller(nee Higgins)	2010		Albert Hopwood	2012
May 13	Florence Wilson	1986	May 25	Tibor Volcsey	2008
	Wendy Rosemary Miles	2016	May 26	Ian Peter Blake	2009
May 15	May Blease	1999	May 28	Margaret Theodora Roberts	2017
	Joyce Honan Jakeman	2004	May 29	Martha Cooper	1987
	Mary Woolley	2008	May 30	Pamela Chorley	1973
	Charles Swainson	2012		Raymond Herbert Russell	2013
May 16	Eileen Buckley	1979	May 31	Harry Williamson	2010
	William Hamnett Tonge	2006			

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



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.

From the Registers

Baptisms

We welcome into the Lord's family

22 April

Lyla Julianne Taylor, Edgeworth Row, Stansfield Road, Hyde

Weddings

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

22 April

Robert Stephen Taylor to Kelly Dawn Hadfield

Funerals

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

20 April

Jennifer Sersa (aged 68 years) Springs Lane, Stalybridge

26 April

Albert Brocklehurst (aged 70 years) The Close, Stalybridge

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Dear All,

The Annual Parochial Church meeting was held on 20 March. Here is a greatly abridged version of the report I gave to the meeting as a review of our activities during 2017.



Firstly, I must thank you all for your financial contributions, so that, once again, we have been able to pay our Parish Share in full. The Parish Share for this current year will be £27,810 – an increase of £810 over last year's Share.

We attended the Ashton Deanery's Fit for Mission Meeting to see how churches might work together in clusters to forward the mission of the church. With St George's being the only church in Stalybridge, located in Manchester Diocese, it is difficult to see where we should engage with other churches: should it be with Mossley, or with the Ashton Team? Alternatively, should we think about going into the Chester Diocese to form a mission unit with the other Anglican churches in Stalybridge?

We have been considering a new Mission Statement, which should be easy to remember and roll off the tongue. Our statement is Faith in God, Hope in Jesus, Love and Service for All. The Statement is the basis of our Mission Action Plan, and we now have a small team who have been looking at various ways of implementing these strategies.

Underlying all our work at St George's is the worship of God, and we thank all those involved, in one way or another, in preparing the church for worship. We also thank our Director of Music and our entire choir, both regular members and the Ad Hoc Choir, who come together for special services.

We had a visit in January, from Archdeacon Cherry, and in June, I, along with other Deanery members, walked with Bishop Mark for part of his Deanery Prayer Walk. June was also the month when I, along with most of the clergy in the Diocese, attended the three day Continuing Ministerial Diocesan Conference in Swanwick in Derbyshire.

We are encouraged by the number of Junior Church members who continue to attend regularly. Their number is slowly increasing, and their faith developing and growing, thanks to the commitment of the

Junior Church Leaders, and of course to the members of the Junior Church themselves. We are currently in the process of applying for the Child Friendly Church Award.

In July, two adults and four children were presented for confirmation. Throughout last year, thirty nine families brought children for baptism, or were, indeed, baptised themselves, and ten couples married in church. In July, we dedicated a plaque in memory of Colin Wilson, a former Sunday School teacher.

We have continued to hold monthly events throughout the year to increase our social life, fellowship and with it, a little fund raising. These have included Fair Trade Afternoon Teas, Quizzes, Senior Citizens' party, Tameside Community Voices concert, Spring and Christmas Fairs, Race Night, Sunday Lunch at Stamford Golf Club and a Brass Band Concert.

In June, a hole appeared in the ceiling above the nave due to ingress of water, which had happened over a number of years. There proved to be substantially more damage than initially thought but after many months and a number of setbacks, the work was completed just in time for our Nine Lessons and Carols service.

In September, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the first service of the joint parishes of Old and New St George.

Throughout the year, I was invited to take a number of school assemblies, seven in total, at Silver Springs Academy, and thereby forging closer links with the Academy.

For the fourth year in a row, we were hosts, in December, for a Memorial Service organised by Elizabeth Way Funeral Services.

We again combined the Christingle Service with the Junior Church Nativity Musical entitled 'Star of Wonder'.

The clergy in Stalybridge continue to meet regularly to share hopes and problems and for mutual encouragement. We also meet as the Whit Walks Committee, discussing various items for the successful Walks in Stalybridge. Members from the different churches also gathered to sing carols on the Railway Station just before Christmas.

We continue to attend Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adult meetings. It is important that we keep all children and vulnerable adults at the forefront of our church activities.

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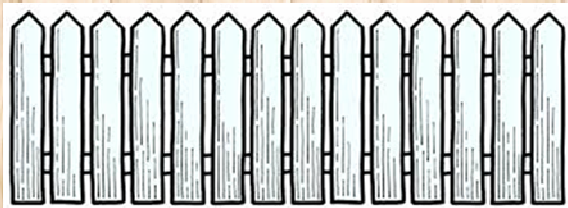
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In 2017, we applied for grant funding to the English Heritage Lottery Fund to carry out work to complement that already done on our south parapet and guttering. The proposed work will concentrate on the north parapet and guttering and a complete re-roof over the main part of the building. Total cost of the project will be about £313,000 of which we need to raise £26,000 ourselves.

Despite having had a new boiler fitted, there are still problems with the heating system.

As I have said many times previously, I wish to encourage you to consider if you might be able to take on a more formal role in worship and parish work. If you feel you could make a commitment to training for a formal position, then please pray hard about it, and ask God if he is calling you. I am delighted that someone from St. George's has now embarked on the Authorised Lay Ministry training course and will be licensed this September.

I conclude, as always, by offering grateful thanks to our loyal and hardworking wardens, and to all our PCC members in their continuing support, not just of me, but also of the whole of St George's. My grateful thanks also go to our faithful band of volunteer helpers to whom we all owe so much and without whom we could not carry on. Thank you all very, very, much. Most of all, we thank Almighty God for his continuing grace and blessings on us all here at St George's.

Philip

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Pentecost Prayer

Father,

Thank you for sending Jesus to be one of us and to show us how you want us to live.

Thank you that He chose to live for us and to die for us.

Thank you that when He returned to you, He didn't leave us to flounder but sent us His Spirit to live in us and to equip us to continue the work He had begun.

Thank you for that Day of Pentecost when the Spirit became freely available to everyone who believes in Jesus and is willing to receive Him.

May we be willing Lord, willing and confident that whatever challenges life throws at us, we can face them and overcome them because you are with us and in us.

Please fill us afresh daily with your Spirit, that we may overflow with your love and peace and joy. In Jesus' name,

Amen.

By Daphne Kitchen

* Due to some larger articles this month the final part of 'HOME FREED: the theology of de-cluttering ' has been postponed until June's magazine.

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Can't get round to finishing the decorating?



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CHURCH FINANCES

April 2018 Weekly Giving

Date	Sunday	Open Plate	Envelopes	Total	Monthly Shortfall
01 Apr 2018	Easter Day	£108.26	£452.12	£560.38	
08 Apr 2018	2 nd Sunday of Easter	£112.65	£249.00	£361.65	
15 Apr 2018	3 rd Sunday of Easter	£75.50	£536.10	£611.60	
22 Apr 2018	4 th Sunday of Easter Celebrating St George	£	£	£	
29 Apr 2018	5 th Sunday of Easter Standing Orders etc		£952.00	£952.00	
Monthly Total		£296.41	£2,189.22	£2,485.63	-£980.37

* 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 April 2018 are:

1st Prize	£25	77	Phil Noonan
2nd Prize	£15	18	Iris Agnew
3rd Prize	£10	22	Michael Davies

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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Come and join us

Spring Fair

Café - Plants - Tombola -
Home Bake - Bottle Stall

Saturday 12th May 2018

11.00 am—2.00 pm

Books
DVD's

St George's Church
Church Walk
Stalybridge

Readings and Psalms for May 2018

Tues 1 st	10.30	Isaiah 30.15-21; Psalm 119.1-8; Ephesians 1.3-10; John 14.1-14
Sun 6 th		6th Sunday of Easter
	10.30	Acts 10.44-end; Psalm 98; 1 John 5.1-6; John 15.9-17
Tues 8 th	10.30	Acts 16.22-34; Psalm 138; John 16.5-11
Thurs 10 th		Ascension Day
	20.00	Daniel 7.9-14; Acts 1.1-11; Luke 24.44-end
Sun 13 th		7th Sunday of Easter
	10.30	Acts 1.15-17,21-end; Psalm 1; 1 John 5.9-13; John 17.6-19
Tues 15 th	10.30	Acts 20.17-27; Psalm 68.9-10,18-19; John 17.1-11
Sun 20 th		Pentecost - Whit Sunday
	10.30	Ezekiel 37.1-14; Psalm 104.26-36,37b; Acts 2.1-21; John 15.26-27,16.4b-15
Tues 22 nd	10.30	James 4.1-10; Psalm 55.7-9,24; Mark 9.30-37
Sun 27 th		Trinity Sunday
	8.30	Isaiah 6.1-8; John 3.1-17
	10.30	Isaiah 6.1-8; John 3.1-17 <i>Worship For All</i>
Tues 29 th	10.30	1 Peter 1.10-16; Psalm 98.1-5; Mark 10.28-31

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April Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Womb. 3, Agnostic. 9, Long ago. 10, Fleet. 11, Horeb. 12, Yellow. 14, Deceitfulness. 17, Banish. 19, Towel. 22, Boils. 23, Inferno. 24, Eternity. 25, Defy.

DOWN: 1, Will hide. 2, Minor. 4, Glory of Christ. 5, Offal. 6, The Robe. 7, City. 8, Zabbai. 13, Psalmody. 15, Chalice. 16, Let off. 18, If son. 20, Worse. 21, Able.

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Monday 5pm & 7pm

St George's Church (upstairs),
Church Walk

Tuesday 5pm & 7pm

St Matthew's Church Hall, Dean St
(next to Hayloft)

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Thursday 7.30pm

West Hill School,
Technology Block

Saturday

7.30am, 9.30am & 11.30am
The Bridge Inn, Town Centre

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WHY HAS GOD PRESERVED US?

In April 1945 the Bishop of Chelmsford Dr Henry Wilson wrote in the press,

"If ever a great nation was on the point of supreme and final disaster and yet was saved and reinstated, it was ourselves. That is a fact which should be written on the souls of us all in indelible letters of fire. It does not require an exceptionally religious mind to detect in all this the Hand of God. It has been a miracle and the person who does not recognise that, is impervious to the deeper significance of events."

Challenging people as to why we had been saved, the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr William Temple said in his sermon at St Paul's Cathedral on Battle of Britain Sunday in 1943 *"Why has God preserved us? We may, and we must believe that He Who led our fathers in ways so strange, and has preserved our land in a manner so marvellous, has a purpose for us to serve in the preparation for His perfect Kingdom."*

THE SINGLE STRAND...BROKEN

It is plain to see that between the wartime generation and today's generation the thread of faith has broken. In matters of faith it really is like a different Country between then and now. Just imagine if those individuals whom I have quoted, individuals who had personally witnessed God's intervention first hand, were by some miraculous means sent back to speak to our Nation today, what do you think they would say? Their message would surely be; *"This Nation must take Almighty God seriously and people must take the Bible seriously. They must carefully apply the Lord's will, as revealed in Scripture, to their own personal lives because faith does matter, it makes all the difference; it is the single strand that holds the whole web secure."* But along with this message I think they would also have a question to ask of those holding positions of influence. They would surely want to know why the events they witnessed which were so profound and are so well documented, are at the same time so rarely taught, talked about or even mentioned in churches, Parliament or schools today. **This is a national scandal and a betrayal of the very freedoms and democracy which this generation claims to appreciate.**

Faith is so important after all, that if it hadn't been for the faithfulness of the wartime generation praying to Almighty God, none of today's generation would ever have been born. This truth needs to be broadcast in every church and taught in every school, right across this Nation of ours. *"Thank you Granny for reading your Bible every day and going to church. Your faith and the faith of your generation meant I could live."*

What God dramatically did for that generation, He can also do for ours. Our nation urgently needs His help and protection. May we, like the wartime generation before us, turn to God in a true spirit of repentance and plead for Divine help. In 2 Chronicles 7:14 He promises, *"If people humble themselves and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land."* If our nation, once again sought God's help as it did during Wartime, now, just as then, miracles of blessing and protection would begin to happen.

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Wartime Miracles and a National Scandal—Part 3

Continuing the World War II testimonies of six of the most senior figures who 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?

"THIS IS THE LORD'S DOING"

When the war in Europe ended in May 1945 with the surrender of Germany, Field Marshall Montgomery, Commander in Chief of the 21st Army Group sent a personal message to all the Troops under his command. In his position as Commander in Chief he too had knowledge about what had really gone on during the War. My uncle served under him and he passed onto me a copy of this personal message. The opening part of the message sent to all troops, goes like this;

"On this day of victory in Europe I feel I would like to speak to all who have served and fought with me during the last few years....We all have a feeling of great joy and thankfulness that we have been preserved to see this day. We must remember to give praise and thankfulness where it is due. 'This is the Lord's doing and it is marvellous in our eyes'." (Psalm 118v23).

I have quoted from six highly intelligent and gifted individuals who held the most profound key positions during the Second World War. These people were the most informed and knowledgeable of any in the Country and as they reflected on events, they recognised that Almighty God had answered the prayers of the Nation as it pleaded for His Intervention. The wartime generation knew God was real, they knew He would listen to prayer offered in a spirit of humility and repentance, and in turn their faith was rewarded with deliverance.

FROM THE FOXHOLES OF LUXEMBOURG

Just as there were great and mighty deliverances through wartime, there are also numerous examples of small and localised instances of Divine help. Listen to this personal letter written from a soldier to his mother. The soldier was called Joel, he was serving in Patton's Third Army and he describes how the entire platoon narrowly escaped being wiped out as it faced the Germans in Luxembourg. He wrote,

"One of my best friends, Tom, with his whole platoon were pinned down by mortar and artillery fire. They were given the order to move but they couldn't because the enemy had full view of them from a hill and were zeroing their fire on them accurately. Tom is the most conscientious Christian boy I have ever met in the services. He knew something had to be done to save the fifty men. He crawled from his foxhole and looked things over. Seeing the hopelessness of the situation, he lay down behind a tree and prayed earnestly for God to help him. This is true mother...after he prayed a mist or fog rolled down between the two hills, and the whole platoon got out of their foxholes and escaped. They reorganised in a little town behind the lines where there was a church building. They all went in and knelt down to pray and thank the Lord, and then they asked Tom to take the service. This is true mother, and it just shows how much prayer can mean. If that was not an answer to prayer I don't know what is."

Some dates for your diary - May 2018

Tues	1st	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		7.45p.m.	Social and Fund Raising Meeting
Wed	2nd	7.30p.m.	Deanery Synod Meeting at St George's, Mossley
Thurs	3rd		Local Elections in Church Lounge
		7.30p.m.	Confirmation Class in Upstairs Hall
Sun	6th	6th Sunday of Easter	
		10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist
		12.30p.m.	Holy Baptism x 3
Tues	8th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
Wed	9th	Eve of Ascension Day	
		8.00p.m.	Holy Communion Service with Hymns for The Ascension of Our Lord
Thurs	10th	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
Sat	12th	11.00a.m. to 2.00p.m. Spring Fair & Grand Draw	
Sun	13th	7th Sunday of Easter (Sunday after Ascension Day)	
		10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
Tues	15th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		7.45p.m.	Parochial Church Council
Thurs	17th	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Fri	18th	7.30p.m. to 7.30a.m. Night of Prayer at St. Paul's	
Sun	20th	PENTECOST - WHIT SUNDAY	
		10.30a.m.	Parish Eucharist
		1.45p.m.	Assemble at Church
		2.00p.m.	Walk to Stalybridge
		2.30p.m.	United Act of Witness
Tues	22nd	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
Thurs	24th	9.00a.m.	Time 4 Fun (0 to 5yrs)
		7.30p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Sun	27th	TRINITY SUNDAY	
		8.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.30pm.	Worship For All
Tues	29th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		2.00p.m. to 3.00p.m.	Councillor Adrian Pearce - Surgery
Thurs	31st	9.00a.m.	No Activities (School Holidays)
		7.30p.m.	No Activities (School Holidays)

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



Saint of the Month
26 May Augustine,
first Archbishop of Canterbury, 605

Augustine's date of birth and origins are unknown. What is known is that he was prior of the monastery of St Andrew at Rome in 596 when he was instructed by Pope Gregory the Great to lead a group of 40 monks to England to preach to the heathen English. (Bede recounted the story of Gregory being intrigued by the sight of fair-haired boys in the slave market at Rome and conceiving the idea of a mission to their homeland.) Though Augustine famously turned back to Rome while the mission party was passing through Gaul, this was not so much cold feet on his part as a desire by the highly conscientious Augustine to inform the Pope of the mission party's corporate reticence and to ask his advice. Returning with a papal letter of encouragement, Augustine led the monks on to England, landing at Thanet in Kent in 597.

After some initial wariness, Augustine was well received by King Ethelbert of Kent, whose wife, Bertha, had been brought up in the Christian faith and, indeed, had a Frankish bishop, Luidhard, as her chaplain (though neither, it seems, had used their influence in any form of mission). Augustine was allowed the use of the old Roman church of St Martin in Canterbury as his base and here he and his companions established the daily rhythm of the Benedictine Rule. Whether it was the personal influence of the new arrivals or because their presence had emboldened the queen and her chaplain is not known, but very soon afterwards King Ethelbert asked to be instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism.

The king's conversion naturally gave a great impetus to the spread of Christianity and though Bede was careful to state that compulsion was not used there can have been few in Kent who could not see that Christianity was the faith of the future. An indication of this was that on Christmas Day, 597, Augustine is said to have baptised more than ten thousand people near the mouth of the Medway. Shortly afterwards he crossed over to Gaul and was consecrated bishop by Virgilius, the Metropolitan of Arles. Ethelbert sponsored a meeting with the existing Celtic bishops in the West of Britain. The conference took place in Malmesbury in 603, but Augustine badly mishandled it, appearing imperious and arrogant. It took another sixty years before an accommodation was reached at the Synod of Whitby. Nevertheless Augustine is revered by Anglicans as the first of a line of over one hundred archbishops, whose enthronement takes place in 'St Augustine's chair' in Canterbury Cathedral. From his day to the present, there has been an unbroken succession of archbishops of Canterbury.

1918 was the final year of the Great War. This year, Canon David Winter is looking back on highlights of those critical 12 months, when the very shape of modern world history was being hammered out on the battlefields.

Diary of a Momentous Year:

May 1918: Not just cannon-fodder

If, like me, you wonder how on earth people coped with the sheer horror of the carnage on the battlefields of the First World War, two pieces of writing suggest an answer. One, the poem 'For the Fallen', I wrote about last month. In this article I would like to consider the poem, subsequently an enormously popular hymn, 'O Valiant Hearts'.

It was written by John Stanhope Arkwright and published in a collection of his work in 1919. It seems to me to reflect tellingly the emotional response of a nation in deepest mourning for half a generation of young men. Its best known tune is by Charles Harris. It was my father's favourite hymn, sung every Remembrance Sunday.

But I can remember our new young vicar, fresh from service as an army chaplain in the nineteen-forties, explaining that we would not be singing it again. It confused, he explained, two entirely different things, the sacrifice of so many soldiers' lives in war with the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. The heart of the problem was verse 4, which directly compared the two acts of sacrifice. On the cross 'in the frailty of our human clay/ Christ our Redeemer passed the self-same way'. It is seldom sung now, but I noticed the tune was played by the military band at last Autumn's Festival of Remembrance.

I have rediscovered it while researching these articles. It is a beautiful hymn, full of passion, grief and hope. Whatever its theological naivety, it offered enormous comfort to a generation reeling from the ghastly slaughter of a war which brought bereavement to virtually every family in Britain. The hymn told them what they needed to hear, that their loved ones were not victims of a senseless conflict; their lives and deaths had meaning and a spiritual dignity. Perhaps once a year we should get it out and read it through their eyes.

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Grace to be not like porridge

O Lord, grant that we may not be like porridge: stiff, stodgy
and hard to stir.
But like cornflakes: crisp, fresh and ready to serve. Anon



THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918