

# St George's Parish Church Stalybridge



 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH  
FOR A  
DIFFERENT  
WORLD

50p

Now these three continue . . .



Of these, the greatest is . . . 1 Cor 13:13

February 2024

# St George's Church Stalybridge

Vicar	Rev Denise Owen Therevd.dowen@yahoo.co.uk	07741 269102
Wardens	Mrs Gillian Cotton  Mrs Valerie Fallows	0755 325 8674  0755 325 8674
Deputy Wardens	Mrs Christine Crabtree  Mrs Janet Vidler	0161 285 1775  0776 358 3278
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Mrs Karen Watkins	
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 Jean McManus	0161 339 1394

**FACEBOOK** [www.stg.org.uk](http://www.stg.org.uk)  
**@stgeorgestalybridge** **TWITTER**  
**@StGStalybridge**

*For baptisms, marriages or funerals or to have the name of a departed friend or relation entered in the Book of Remembrance, please contact the Vicar on 07741 269102 or Therevd.dowen@yahoo.co.uk*

*Baptisms are usually conducted at 12.30 pm  
on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month.*

*To receive Communion at home when you are sick or housebound, please contact the Vicar on 07741 269102 or Therevd.dowen@yahoo.co.uk*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



Is it too late to say Happy New Year? Possibly, especially since as I'm writing January 1<sup>st</sup> already seems quite a while ago. Isn't it amazing how quickly those days of celebration can be over? The way the Church calendar falls this year also means that Ash Wednesday is only a few weeks away. This year it falls on

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February which seems to be a strange juxtaposition. A romantic dinner out, or the chance to confront our sins and failings and repent of them? This is no doubt an easy choice for most people in our increasingly secular society. Most people would take the chance to be self-indulgent over the opportunity to be self-disciplined and self-denying. Indeed, very few people really seem to believe that self-reflection, that is thinking (and praying) about our behaviour and attitudes is of any value, let alone trying to change and grow.

As Christians, however, our approach is different. We do believe reflecting on our lives and wrong-doing has value, in fact, we do it every time we say the Confession in church together. We are encouraged to think seriously about the sins we've committed and repent. This isn't morbid or depressing, it's joyful and life-enhancing because we know we are completely forgiven and made new through God's grace and forgiveness. We can know the true freedom that God offers. Lent is that time of the liturgical year when we are particularly concerned to look inwards and ask God to show us where we have strayed from His will. This inevitably means we pray more, read scripture more and perhaps fast if we're able. These spiritual disciplines are aimed at helping us grow closer to God and once again be made aware of the wonder and privilege of being a disciple.

As I've written above, the fact that Ash Wednesday is also St Valentines Day this year is really interesting. Many of our family and friends, neighbours and work colleagues may well be celebrating, but Christians will be entering the holy and self-disciplined season of Lent.

Yours in Christ,  
Revd Denise

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## Service Details

### Sundays

**10.30am Parish Eucharist with hymns and Junior Church**  
every 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sunday in the month.

**10.30am Worship for All** - a simple Sunday service for everyone  
of all ages, including Holy Communion,  
every 4th Sunday in the month

### Tuesdays

**10.30am Holy Communion**

**For baptisms, weddings, funerals and all other enquiries please contact  
the Vicar on 07741 269102 or Therevd.downen@yahoo.co.uk**

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## **World Day of Prayer**



This year's World Day of Prayer is on Friday 1st March. We are invited to  
pray for peace and in particular for peace in the Holy Land.

There is a service at

**The Unitarian Church**

Forester Drive, Stalybridge, SK15 2DN

at

**2pm**

We join with our Christian friends for worship, prayer and fellowship.

**I beg, you. Bear with one another in love.**

# Ash Wednesday



## Holy Communion

with the  
Imposition of Ashes

St George's Church, Stalybridge  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February  
at  
7pm

Lent begins with this service in which we seek God's forgiveness for our own sins and for the sins of the world. We are assured of God's love and mercy and express our hopes for change and renewal.

Holy God  
Holy and strong  
Holy and immortal  
Have mercy upon us

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## PARISH EMAIL NEWSLETTER

To help us keep in touch we have a weekly email parish newsletter with bible readings and prayers for Sundays, information, updates, activities for Junior Church and announcements

If you don't already receive the e-newsletter and would like to, please email the wardens on [stgeorge.wardens@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeorge.wardens@yahoo.com) send your email address by text or WhatsApp to the wardens or sign up via our church Facebook page or website.



### My Feet

MOBILE Chiropody & Podiatry  
Foot care at home

Nail care,  
Corns,  
Callus,  
Fungal infections,  
**Ingrowing** toe nails.  
Footwear advice  
Insoles, and other  
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**Janette McLean**  
BSc (Hons) Podiatry

Tel: 0161 338 8950  
Mobile: 07961 583 668



HPC registered Podiatrist

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## Readings and Psalms for February 2024

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

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### Prayer for February 2024

Father, In this coldest and shortest of months, this month when traditionally thoughts turn to love and the promise of Spring, help us to be thankful and steadfast and to see Your bigger picture in what is sometimes a frightening world, a world where love between nations seems to be in short supply and the future uncertain.

We pray for all those whose lives are in turmoil through a lack of love and justice. Help us to remember the great love You have for Your world and Your people, so great that You sent Jesus to show us how to live, how to love and how to overcome the troubles of the world.

Thank you that Your love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. Help us to put our trust in Jesus, to keep our focus on Him, knowing He will never leave us or forsake us. Thank you that His love is stronger than the forces of evil, stronger than death. In his name, Amen.

## A Coin a Day for Leap Year!



The Fundraising Group met recently and one idea was to use 2024, which is a leap year, to raise money for the church and its ministry. Very few of us use cash on a daily basis anymore, but if you do have few spare coins could you put them aside this year? We're challenging you to saving 366 coins for St George's!

We know how generous many of you are with your money and your time and we don't want to add to your burden but 2024 is a special year and we'd like to mark it in some way.

We are continuing with Jars of Grace so this would be in addition, and we are asking for coins of small denominations.  
From Revd Denise Owen, Church wardens, PCC and Fundraising Committee.

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## World Day of Prayer





# Some dates for your diary - February 2024

Thurs	1st	9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Tiny Tots
		1.00 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.	Come Together Café for coffee, chat & activities
		7.30 p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
Fri	2nd	11.30 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Dementia Café - please book places on 07714235736
<b>Sun</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>10.30 a.m.</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist with hymns</b>
Mon	5th	9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Tiny Tots
Tues	6th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wed	7th	6.30 p.m.	Rainbows and Brownies
		7.30 p.m.	Guides
Thurs	8th	9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Tiny Tots
		1.00 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.	Come Together Café for coffee, chat & activities
		7.30 p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
<b>Sun</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>10.30 a.m.</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist with hymns</b>
Tues	13th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
<b>Wed</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>7.00 p.m.</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Service</b>
		7.30 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Informal prayer at St John the Baptist, Roughtown
Thurs	15th	1.00 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.	Come Together Café for coffee, chat & activities
Fri	16th	11.30 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Dementia Café - please book places on 07714235736
<b>Sun</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>10.30 a.m.</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist with hymns</b>
Mon	19th	9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Tiny Tots
Tues	20th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wed	21st	6.30 p.m.	Rainbows and Brownies
		7.30 p.m.	Guides
Thurs	22nd	9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Tiny Tots
		1.00 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.	Come Together Café for coffee, chat & activities
		7.30 p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice
<b>Sun</b>	<b>25th</b>	<b>10.30 a.m.</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist with hymns</b>
Mon	26th	9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Tiny Tots
Tues	27th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wed	28th	6.30 p.m.	Rainbows and Brownies
		7.30 p.m.	Guides
Thurs	29th	9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Tiny Tots
		1.00 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.	Come Together Café for coffee, chat & activities
		7.30 p.m.	Tameside Community Voices Practice

For more information please go to our website [www.stg.org.uk](http://www.stg.org.uk)

## **St George's News**

### **60 years a Chorister**

Our congratulations go to David Brayshaw who on Advent Sunday completed 60 years as a chorister at St Georges. As a boy of 7 years old to the present time, David has faithfully been a member of our choir. Thank you David for your dedicated service.

### **Magazine Thank You**

Our grateful thanks go to 2 of our magazine distributors.

Mrs Margaret Swallow has delivered our church magazine to peoples houses for 71 years, and has now decided it is time to retire.

Also, Mr John Finan has delivered magazines for a number of years, but has reluctantly decided to retire.

We thanks them both most sincerely for their time and dedication every month, and in all kinds of weather!!

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### **Memorial Survey**

The Memorial Survey for the end of 2023 is now complete. A number of memorial stones have some degree of 'looseness', which isn't a great concern, but should be attended to, to stop it deteriorating. However, a number are considered to be potentially dangerous. If you have a memorial stone at St. George's please check out the Home page on our website, [www.stg.org.uk](http://www.stg.org.uk) and look at the notice for the list of affected stones with a view to visiting the church to review and discuss the condition of the memorial stone. Any memorials considered potentially dangerous will be laid on the ground on or after 15 February 2024.

If you wish to speak to someone about a memorial you can contact the wardens by email at: [stgeorge.wardens@yahoo.com](mailto:stgeorge.wardens@yahoo.com) or by text or phone on 07553258674

## All in the month of February

It was:

150 years ago, on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 1874 that Sir Ernest Shackleton was born. This Irish-born British polar explorer led three British expeditions to the Antarctic.

100 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 1924 that BBC Radio broadcast the 'six-pips' Greenwich Time Signal for the first time.

Also 100 years ago, on 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 1924 that George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* was performed for the first time, in New York.

90 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1934 that Edward Elgar, the British composer, died.

75 years ago, on 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1949 that Niki Lauda, Austrian racing driver was born. He was Formula One World Champion in 1975, 1977 and 1984. He was severely injured and burnt in a crash at the 1976 German Grand Prix. (Died 2019.)

70 years ago, on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1954 that the first field test of the polio vaccine began in Pittsburgh. It grew into a year-long national trial involving 1.8 million children.

65 years ago, 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1959, became 'the day the music died', when American rock-and-roll performers Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper were killed in a plane crash in Iowa.

50 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 1974 that Conservative Prime Minister Edward Heath called a snap general election following the miners' strike and three-day week. It resulted in a hung parliament, and the Labour leader, Harold Wilson, became Prime Minister.

40 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 1984 that figure skaters Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean won the gold medal in ice-skating at the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo. They scored the first perfect 6.0 in Olympic history.

30 years ago, on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 1994 that serial killer Fred West was arrested in connection with the disappearance of his daughter. Police then discovered human bones buried in his garden. He was eventually charged with 11 murders, and his wife Rosemary with ten murders.

25 years ago, on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 1999 that the International Maritime Organisation stopped using the Morse code 'SOS' distress call. All sea-going vessels were required to have a Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) fitted by this date.

20 years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2004 that Facebook, the social media networking platform, was launched.

15 years ago, on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009 that the Black Saturday bushfires took place in Australia. The worst in Australia's history, they destroyed 1.1 million acres of land, killed 173 people, injured 414, and burned down more than 3,500 buildings, including 2,000 houses.

## A note from Larry

Dear Everyfurr,



It's me Larry! Look what I found in mummy's bedroom! I don't know what it is but it keeps looking at me! I try to scare it away by jumping at it but I only bump my head. In this picture I'm trying to stare at it until it disappears. It's funny though, because I only see it in mummy's bedroom. Mummy says it's a 'reflection'. I don't know what that means, really. Mummy also says that it's going to be Lent soon which is a time of 'reflection'. I don't think she means do jumping and staring like I do, but it's something to do with taking a good,

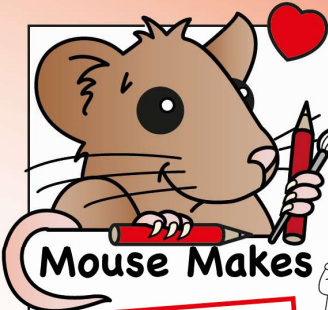
long, honest look in the spiritual mirror and asking God what we really look like. Mummy says this can be a very uncomfortable thing for hufurrs to do but it's important especially in Lent. Mummy has told me that Lent is a time when we fast. That means we give up something we enjoy but don't need. She has said I'm giving up Dreamies even if I don't want to! Sometimes mummy is very mean, but she says fasting will be good for me, and I'll enjoy my Dreamies even more when I can have them again.

Do you know, now I'm looking at it, that 'reflection' looks quite handsome! I'm sure this is what God sees when he looks at me. A very good, handsome kitty. What does God see when he looks at you?

Yours purfully,

Larry T Catte

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Mouse Makes

CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| ADAM      | ELIZABETH |
| ABRAHAM   | MARY      |
| ISAAC     | HANNAH    |
| JACOB     | PRISCILLA |
| BOAZ      | EVE       |
| ZECHARIAH | RUTH      |
| ELKANAH   | REBEKAH   |
| AQUILA    | RACHEL    |
| JOSEPH    | SARAH     |

Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 16:3

Who were the first couple?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

\_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 19:26

Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

\_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

\_\_\_\_\_ Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 1:5

FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT  
KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,  
MFU OPU NBO  
TFQBSBUF.  
NBSL  
UFO WFSTF  
OJOF

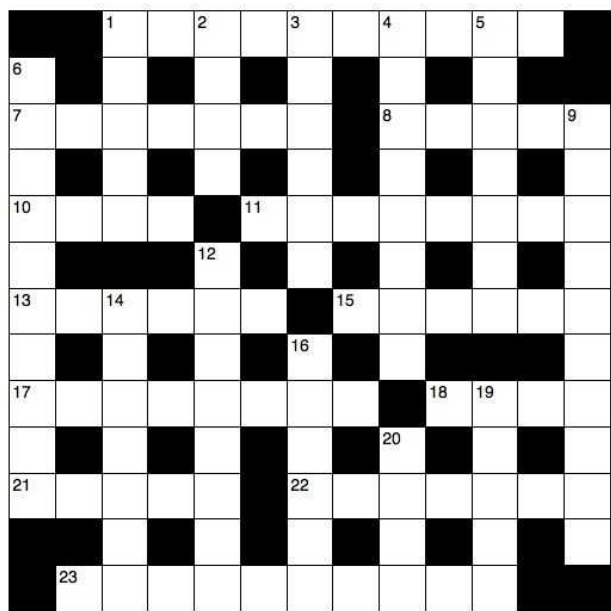
DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives!  
They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God  
See 1 Kings 11:1-3

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

- ABRAHAM  
ADAM • AQUILA  
BOAZ • ELKANAH  
ELIZABETH  
EVE • HANNAH  
ISAAC • JACOB  
JOSEPH • MARY  
PRISCILLA  
RACHEL  
REBEKAH • RUTH  
SARAH  
ZECHARIAH

February Crossword



Across

1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10), 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7), 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5), 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4), 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8), 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6), 15 Breakwater (6), 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8), 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4), 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that ‘he walked with God’ (Genesis 5:23–24) (5), 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7), 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

Down

1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5), 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4), 3 So rapt (anag.) (6), 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8), 5 Paul’s ‘fellow worker’, to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7), 6 God’s foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10), 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10), 12 ‘The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever’ (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8), 14 ‘My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my — ’ (Luke 1:46–47) (7), 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6), 19 ‘On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it’ (Matthew 16:18) (5), 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)



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Do you shop online?  
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***These donations really mount up and since joining two years ago a large amount has been raised JUST by people using easyfundraising when they shop online!!***

Please sign up to support us at  
[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stgeorgeschurchstalybridge](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stgeorgeschurchstalybridge)

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## Ridge Hill Lane WMC

Main room can be booked free of charge for various functions, subject to availability

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# BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS

## Baptisms

**10 December 2023**

Matilda Paige Warburton

Noah David Ord

**21 January 2024**

Millie Shae McCabe



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## 200 Club

### January winners

1st prize £25 no 24 Helen Kershaw; 2nd prize £15 no 57 Sylvia Barratt;  
3rd prize £10 no 32 Karen Watkins

During 2023 a total of £1116 was collected plus a £1 donation making a total of £1117. £600 was paid in prizes leaving a total of £517 for Church funds.

Thank you for your continued support of the 200 Club. The above figures are a little lower than the previous year and there are still some numbers available So if you would like to join the club please speak to Rose. The cost is £12 per number you hold for the full year.

Many thanks to Rose for continuing to run the 200 Club.



**Just a little reminder .....** that we are still collecting used postage stamps for Willow Wood Hospice. Please bring these to church and give to Rose.

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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
	Thomas Darraugh	2019		Jessie Birch	2011
12 Feb	Mary Pollitt	1987	28 Feb	Samuel Terence Broadbent	1990
	Leslie Anne Moura	2020		Robert Fowden	1982
14 Feb	John Devlin	1973		Elsie Hopwood	2006
15 Feb	John Edward Chadwick	2015	29 Feb	Agnes Goodwin	1996
	Yvonne Cooper	2019		Ollerenshaw	
16 Feb	Kenneth Shaw	2003			
17 Feb	Gertrude Fitchett	1984			
	George Hubert Morris	2015			
18 Feb	Annie Revell	1986			

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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.

The cost for the inscription is £10 per entry

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# TAMESIDE (S.A.S) GROUP

## Stroke Awareness Support Group

*Affiliated to the Stroke Association*

We are a social group for all who have survived a stroke,  
their families, friends and carer.

We meet on:

**Wednesday**

**10.30 am till 12.30 pm**

**at The Pavilion, Dukinfield Park**

Our aim is to enjoy life, no matter what and have fun and socialise.

Our message is:

***DON'T STOP BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, OURS IS OPEN.***

We look forward to new members and volunteers to  
join us. Come in for a brew and a chat.

**Don't be shy...Give us a try!**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION**

**Contact:**

**RAKSHA on - 07368 816232**

**HELPING TO REBUILD CONFIDENCE AND INDEPENDANCE**