

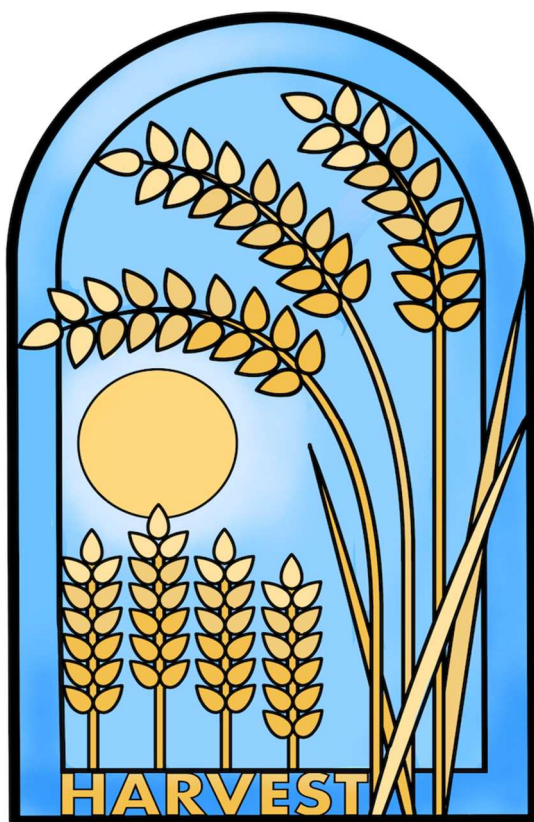
St George's Parish Church Stalybridge



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD

50p



September 2025

St George's Church Stalybridge

Vicar	Rev Denise Owen Therevd.dowen@yahoo.co.uk	07741 269102
Wardens	Mrs Valerie Fallows stgeorge.wardens@yahoo.com	
Deputy Wardens	Mrs Christine Crabtree	0161 285 1775
Safeguarding Co-ordinator P.C.C. Secretary	Mrs Karen Watkins	07514 207454
Treasurer	Mr Andrew Watkins	07970 079306
Magazine Editor	Mrs Linda Hurst	0161 330 0518
Room Hire	Mrs Jean McManus	0161 339 1394

FACEBOOK **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,

As many of you know, before I was ordained, I was a teacher in primary schools for many years. I got used to a different rhythm of time across the year, so for me September always feels like the beginning of something new.

When I was teaching September meant the end of the long summer holiday and the start of a new school year. I used to enjoy going into the school for a few days in the last weeks of the holiday to get things in the classroom ready. New names, new books, new children to get to know, sometimes new colleagues, it was always an exciting time.

September still has that feel for me even now, although I left teaching over a decade ago. It still feels like a month that has lots of possibilities. We see the season move towards autumn, the weather become cooler, and the nights continue to draw in. New things begin or things start up again.

‘Newness’ is something I often think about in relation to my faith. St Paul tells us that when we choose to follow Christ, we are a new creation, ‘the old has gone, the new has come’. We are made new, and I think we’re made new not just once but every time we come to God in penitence and faith. We make a new start whenever we turn to God sincerely and we are given a new start through God’s grace and goodness. I don’t want to make tenuous links, but just as when I was teaching, September meant a new year, so each time we come to God we are made new or more accurately we become the person we are meant to be once again.

For me this is even more exciting than that September new school year feeling! God puts our pasts behind us and allows us to continue as new and recreated people. A blank page in our book of life if you like.

Happy new school year? Happy new you?

Yours in Christ,

Revd Denise

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Service Details

Sundays

9.30am Parish Eucharist with hymns - every 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Sunday in the month.

9.30am 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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GIFT DAY UPDATE



A very big 'THANK YOU' to everyone who has donated to our anniversary gift campaign. We were trying to raise money for a new Hymnal Plus system, a much needed, but expensive system that would give our organists a well deserved break but still enable us to sing hymns accompanied by organ music.

We knew this was a big ask and didn't expect to be able to afford the system straight away but, thanks to a very generous donation from our lovely friend Colin Spencer, we have reached our target and are now the proud owners of the new Hymnal Plus system.

Contributions are still coming in and any additional money will be used to buy 'add ons' for the system.

We will be having an official launching in the next few weeks when we hope Colin will be able to join us to listen to the system and celebrate with cake!

Thank you all again for your generosity.

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FUN ACTIVITY DAY

On Saturday 21st of June our Brownies, Guides and Leaders had a Fun Activity Day at Swineshaw campsite Stalybridge. We all met up at 9.30 on Brushes Road and walked up to the campsite. On the way, we did a Brownie Badge, Mapping it out and A Country Walk, which we completed when we sat down on site while having a welcome drink.

When we arrived we were met by the Scout Leader from 5th Stalybridge Scout troop David McManus. He had brought up 2 tents and the indoor archery set. We were shown how to put up the tents, one a pop up and the other that uses poles. The Brownies and Guides had great fun in the tents while the barbeque was set up. David then sent us off to collect wood that was suitable to burn. While the lunch was being cooked some of the group went to explore around the site. Lunch was Beef Burgers on a Bap, cakes and drinks. Thank you to the Chefs. Just after lunch our honorary Brownie arrived. This was David's dog Skye who was made very welcome by all.

After lunch we were shown how to use the Bows and Arrows and all the safety measures we had to obey. We had 3 targets all set at a safe distance from each other, we had to stand behind a safety line and were not allowed to cross the line till all the arrows had been sent. Even Skye listened and followed. Everybody had a great time and a lot managed to hit the targets,

The Brownies and Guides were then asked to make a display by using only items found on the site belonging to Mother Nature, leaves, stones, wood chippings, grass and some flowers. We had 3 fantastic pieces of art to see. Two groups had made art showing the campsite and one of a girl.



We left the site at 3.30 for our walk down to meet the parents, leaving nothing behind but our thanks to Mother Nature and the Tame Valley Scouts that run the site. A great day was had by all, the site can be used by all uniformed organizations and Duke of Edinburgh groups.

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Ridge Hill Lane WMC

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

Artistes regularly



All live sport shown on
large screens



Pool tables

Children allowed under supervision

New members always welcome

Contact manager for further info on

07450352283



My Feet

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Readings and Psalms for September 2025

Tues 2 nd	10.30	1 Thessalonians 4.13-end; Psalm 96; Luke 4.16-30
Sun 7th	12th Sunday after Trinity	
	9.30	Deuteronomy 30.15-end; Psalm 1; Philemon 1-12; Luke 14.25-33
Tues 9 th	10.30	Colossians 2.6-15; Psalm 8; Luke 6.12-19
Sun 14th	13th Sunday after Trinity - Holy Cross Day	
	9.30	Numbers 21.4-9; Psalm 22.23-28; Philippians 2.6-11; John 3.13-17
Tues 16 th	10.30	1 Timothy 3.1-13; Psalm 101; Luke 7.11-17
Sun 21st	14th Sunday after Trinity - Harvest Thanksgiving	
	9.30	Deuteronomy 26.1-11; Psalm 100; Philippians 4.4-9; John 6.25-35
Tues 23 rd	10.30	Ezra 6.7-8,12,14-20; Psalm 124; Luke 8.19-21
Sun 28th	15th Sunday after Trinity	
	9.30	Amos 6.1a,4-7; Luke 16.19-end <i>Worship for All</i>
Tues 30 th	10.30	Zechariah 8.20-end; Psalm 87; Luke 9.51-56

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200 Club

July Winners

1st prize £25 no 6 Rose Hayward; 2nd Prize £15 no 21 Timothy Hayward;
3rd prize £10 no 8 Ian Cooke

August Winners

1st prize £25 No32 Karen Watkins; 2nd prize £15 No 63 Malcomb Brooker;
3rd Prize £10 No99 Sarah Dentith

Thank you for your continued support of the 200 Club. 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.



RidgeHill Together is the new charity formed as community legacy following the closure of Big Local on Ambleside.

The charity, based in the Baptist church will continue to offer a range of activities and support for the local community. We have a community garden with allotments, bee-hives producing honey for sale, Bike Kitchen on Saturdays helping with repairs and bike loans at reasonable cost.

The Knit and Natter club continues Tuesday afternoons, Bread and Butter Thing every Thursday, Art & Craft groups, Kids activities in the school holidays, Be Well Tameside offering health support and advice.

The charity will be run by a team of volunteer trustees who hope to build on the great work of the Big Local and offer more opportunities and services.

Please feel free to call in and find out more or visit our Facebook page

RIDGEHILL TOGETHER HUB

Some dates for your diary - September 2025

Mon	1st	9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Tiny Tots
Tues	2nd	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wed	3rd	6.30 p.m.	Brownies
		7.30 p.m.	Guides
Thurs	4th	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	5th	11.30 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Dementia Café - please book places on 07714235736
Sun	7th	9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist with hymns
Mon	8th	9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Tiny Tots
Tues	9th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wed	10th	6.30 p.m.	Brownies
		7.30 p.m.	Guides
		7.30 p.m.	Informal Meditation and Prayers, St John's, Roughtown
Thurs	11th	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
Sat	13th	11 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Heritage Open Day
Sun	14th	9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist with hymns
Mon	15th	9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Tiny Tots
Tues	16th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wed	17th	6.30 p.m.	Brownies
		7.30 p.m.	Guides
Thurs	18th	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	19th	11.30 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Dementia Café - please book places on 07714235736
Sat	20th	7.30 p.m.	Quiz Night
Sun	21st	9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist - Harvest Thanksgiving
		11.00 a.m.	Bring n' Share Bunch
Mon	22nd	9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Tiny Tots
Tues	23rd	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wed	24th	6.30 p.m.	Brownies
		7.30 p.m.	Guides
Thurs	25th	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
Sun	28th	9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist with hymns
Mon	29th	9 a.m. - 11 a.m.	Tiny Tots
Tues	30th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

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

I H S



Have you ever wondered what these letters mean?

This is a photo of an altar frontal from St George's, Stalybridge but you may have seen something similar at St George's, Mossley or St John's, Roughtown. You find the letters IHS embroidered on falls hanging from lecterns, on stoles, carved into church furniture and in various different places in church. It isn't a misspelling of HIS. These three letters are actually the first three letters of the name 'Jesus', the word 'Jesus' in shorthand if you like, but seen through the lens of Greek and Latin. In Greek, which is the language the New Testament was written in, the word 'Jesus' looks like this: IHΣΥΣ. I should also say that the very earliest versions of the New Testament were written in capital letters. You can probably see the I (J) and H (E) but what about the S? This is basically a confusion of the two letters 'Σ' and 'S'. They both make the same sound and in the Roman world of the New Testament, educated people would have spoken and written both Latin and Greek. It just so happens that at some point in the early years of the church the mix-up in the letters became embedded in the symbols and imagery associated with Jesus. IHΣ became IHS. So IHS doesn't mean anything in itself, it's a mixture of Latin and Greek letters which we see in many churches in the Western world, and which point us towards Jesus.

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Why Do We Do That?

I've been asked very recently about some of the responses we make in church during our service, and whether they change or stay the same through out the year. You'll all know that the colours in church change according to the liturgical season, but so do some of the prayers and introductions. You may notice that the Eucharistic Prayer which is the long prayer the priest prays at the altar over the elements changes to match the season, so in Advent the Prayer anticipates the coming of the Christ child, and during the Christmas season the Prayer celebrates his arrival.

Other elements of the liturgy also change such as the Introductions to the Confession and Peace and the closing Blessing. These seasonal changes are meant to reflect the 'mood' of the season. In Lent the mood would be sombre and penitential, at Easter, the mood is celebratory and joyful. For example, here is the Introduction to the Peace for Lent:

*Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.*

And here is the Introduction to the Peace for Easter:

*The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,
'Peace be with you.'
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.*

During our current season which is Trinity or Ordinary Time, the president, or person who is presiding at the service, can choose which one of a number of Introductions or Blessings to use, perhaps based on the readings for the day or the theme of the sermon.

In general, although not always, the responses the congregation makes remain the same throughout the year. There is a lot of choice in the modern Church of England liturgies.

Is there anything you'd like to know about what we do in church?

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News from Robert T Tuxxie



Dear Everypurr,

Here is a picture of me sitting outside and enjoying the sun! Mummy says I look very elegant and classy. I wanted to show you a picture of me having a wash, but mummy said, 'No!'.

I have started to like being outside, although I don't go very far. Some other kitties come into my garden and although I am a very brave and mighty hunter, I stay away from them. Also, if I stay close to home, I can hear

the food cupboard opening so I'm never late for tea. Mummy tries to make me say a little prayer before I start eating. She says I should say, 'Thank you' to God for my food, even if it isn't the food I want to eat that day. It is very difficult for me to remember to say a thank you prayer, because my food is there right in front of me ready to be eaten and my tummy is always hungry, so why wait? Mummy is always telling me to say thank you for something or other even for her! I suppose I am grateful to have a mummy and a nice place to live... but she should be grateful to me, too, because look how handsome am!

Yours purfully,

Robert T Tuxxie

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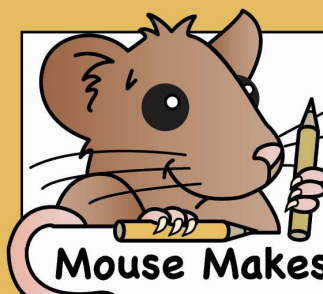
Smile Lines - Using the English language...

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that. . .

electricians could be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, and dry cleaners depressed?

Likewise, bedmakers might be debunked, bulldozer operators degraded, organ donors delivered, software engineers detested, and underwear manufacturers debriefed?

And won't all composers one day decompose? On a more positive note, perhaps we can hope politicians will someday be devoted...



Mouse Makes

"May the people **praise** you **God**...
The **land yields** its harvest, God,
our God **blesses** us."
- from Psalm 67:5-6

"Let us fear and respect the Lord our God.
He gives **autumn** and **spring** rains
at the right time. He makes sure that we
have the harvest at just the right **time**."
- from Jeremiah 5:24

"**Honour** the
Lord with your
wealth and the
first part of
your **harvest**."
- Proverbs 3:9



"God... gives you **rain** from
heaven and good harvests
at the right times. He gives
you plenty of **food** and
fills your hearts with **joy**."
- from Acts 14:16-17

"So the one who **plants** is not
important, and the one who **waters**
is not important. Only **GOD** is
important because He is the one
who makes things **grow**."
- 1 Corinthians 3:7

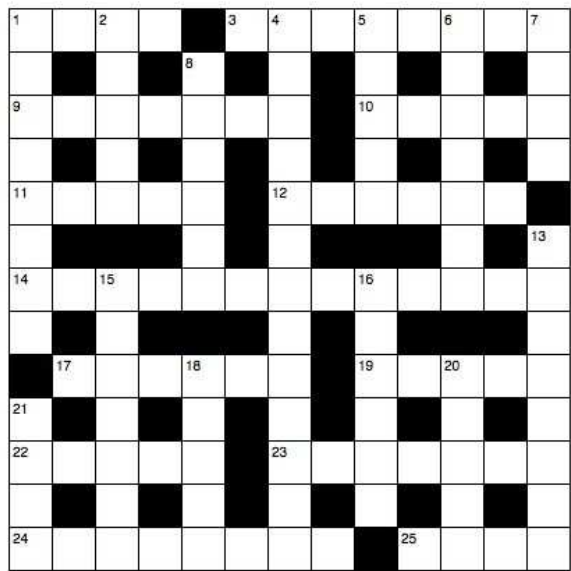
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S	U	N	F	I	E	L	D	R	E	A	P

Find the words in **bold** type in the bible quotes in the
wordsearch then look for the words below too!

PLOUGH • FIELD • SOIL • SCATTER • SOW • SEEDS • SUN
REAP • PICK • CROPS • GRAIN • CORN • BARN • BREAD • THANKSGIVING



September Crossword



Across

1 ‘A little later someone else saw Peter and said, “You — are one of them”’ (Luke 22:58) (4); 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8); 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4); 10 ‘An athlete... does not receive the victor’s crown unless he competes according to the — ’ (2 Timothy 2:5) (5); 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th- century Methodist, Donald — (5); 12 ‘Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour’ (Psalm 38:22) (4,2); 14 ‘The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus’ (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5); 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6); 19 ‘It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ’ (Psalm 118:8) (2,3); 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5); 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7); 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8); 25 ‘Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist’ (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8); 2 ‘Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed’ (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5); 4 ‘I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is’ (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6); 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5); 6 Of the Muslim faith (7); 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4); 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6); 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8); 15 CIA char (anag.) (7); 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6); 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5); 20 Episcopal headwear (5); 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)



Did you know that St George's Church, Stalybridge is registered on #easyfundraising? This means you can raise free donations for us in 2025 when you shop online! Over 8,000 retailers will make a donation on your behalf when you shop. All the big names like Sainsbury's, M&S, Argos, Just Eat and many others are ready to donate at no extra cost to you. Plus, sign up and raise your first donation and they'll get a bonus £1:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/stgeorgeschurchstalybridge/576b0c/s2s/zhbCJtHD/SE868/facebook/>

These donations really mount up and since joining 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***

St George's Dementia Café news



A SURPRISE VISITOR!

We had a surprise visitor at one of our Dementia Cafes last month! A Harris Hawk came to pay us a call! One of our Volunteers, Margaret was in the church grounds one day when she met Gary who was exercising the hawk in our churchyard. He lives locally and often takes the opportunity to exercise Phoenix around our church. They started chatting and she told him about our Dementia Café – and the rest as they say, is history!

I was a little confused as to how this would turn out – did he want us to take our guests outside? I couldn't imagine the bird being comfortable inside? How wrong I was! Gary brought her before our guests arrived to give us a sneak preview. She is such a beautiful bird and extremely well trained.

After lunch they arrived to the astonishment of our guests! I couldn't believe how eager they all were to hold her! The knack is to keep the bird on the glove and to slide your hand inside it. Our guests and their carers were quite literally queueing up to hold her! The calming effect that Phoenix had on our guests was amazing to see; those who have anxiety issues were perfectly comfortable and calm with her.

Gary gave us lots of information on caring for Phoenix; her food, her flying regime and the part she plays in his work. If she is too light he is unable to let her fly as she would leave him to go hunting for food and would not return to him (he lost her for a week once!) too heavy and she won't fly so her diet and weight are constantly assessed.

She was perfectly behaved and our guests were absolutely in awe of her. I have lots of photos which I will display on the noticeboard for a short time. We can't wait to welcome her back again!

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September - New Beginnings by Canon Paul Hardingham



September is the time of year when we get back to our routines after the summer break. As whole-life disciples (lit: *learners*) we are all called to learn from Jesus and live like Him. God wants us to make a difference in our workplaces and schools, and with family and friends. As Paul writes:

‘And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.’ (Colossians 3:17).

‘WHATEVER you do’: God is at work in every aspect of our lives. He can use whatever we do to make a difference to those around. Do we believe this? Our lives shouldn’t be like an orange, segmented into the sacred and secular, but more like an apple, in which all of our lives are available to Him.



‘Whatever YOU do’: God wants to use us to share God’s love as we serve others around us, wherever we spend time. We can trust Him for the resources we need hour by hour, day by day, year by year. What do we need from Him?

‘Whatever you DO’: We work for God alone, in responding to God’s love for us. How does this perspective make a difference when what we do is hard, unrewarding, or even unappreciated by others?

A man standing on a train platform was asked one day: *‘Who are you?’* He replied, *‘I am a Christian thinly disguised as an accountant.’* If we were asked the same question ourselves, how would we respond? As disciples of Jesus Christ, our identity is rooted in God and His call upon our lives. For each of us, September means learning from Jesus about how we might live for Him in the different places we find ourselves.



BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS

Baptisms

3rd August

Nevaeh Rose Ogden-Hope

10th August

Luke Cheetham

17th August

Ruben Gareth Lomas



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Don't Forget ...

Heritage Open Day Saturday 13th September

St George's will be throwing open it's doors between 11am and 3pm for the annual Heritage Open Day. This year's theme is buildings and architecture so why not come along, you'll be very welcome.

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Zumba Classes @ St George's

Keep fit and have fun at the weekly Zumba class at St George's every Tuesday evening at 6.30 pm. Call Ria for details on 07933107985



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From Our Book of Remembrance

1 Sep	Thomas Martin	1974	21 Sep	Arthur Shaw Castle	1995
	Freda Butler	2010		Joseph Wynne Bithell	2013
2 Sep	Mabel Ethel Shaw	1988	23 Sep	Mary Louise Harris	1975
	Ida Mawdsley	1998		Harold Barnfield	1992
4 Sep	Eric Clegg	1993		Edith Jubb	1992
5 Sep	Betty Denby	1963		Peter Barratt	2011
	Norman Dawson	1985	24 Sep	Harry Mitchell Lister	1929
	Ruth Sutton	1997		George Ronald Scott	1979
7 Sep	George Sayce	1985	26 Sep	Mary Williams	2012
	Mary Sidebottom	1987	28 Sep	Alma Cuttle	1985
8 Sep	Harold Thwaites	1957		Mary Jane Higgins	2005
9 Sep	William Grimshaw	1974		Raymond Peter Redfern	2007
10 Sep	Boris Buckley	2006		Janet MacKenzie	2014
11 Sep	Derek Augustus Cooper	2022	29 Sep	Harry Rawsterne	2009
12 Sep	Graham Brown	2021	30 Sep	Reginald Aldred	1998
19 Sep	Joseph Alun Davies	2012			

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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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