

St George's Parish Church Stalybridge

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD



50p



December 2025 & January 2026

St George's Church Stalybridge

| | | |
|--|--|---------------|
| Vicar | Rev Denise Owen Therevd.dowen@yahoo.co.uk | 07741 269102 |
| Wardens | Mrs Valerie Fallows | 0755 325 8674 |
| 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
TWITTER
[@stgeorgestalybridge](https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgestalybridge) [@StGStalybridge](https://twitter.com/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 Wardens on 07553 258674 or stgeorge.wardens@yahoo.com.

*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 Chris Crabtree on 07714235736 or
Karen Wright on 07443451112*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



It's almost the most wonderful time of the year! That time of year, or more accurately that day, when we put all our worries and fears aside, and allow ourselves to simply celebrate. No, I'm not talking about my birthday, but the birth of Christ of course. I'm talking about that time when we celebrate; 'Summer in winter, day in night, heaven in earth and God in man.' The wonderful, saving fact that God became a man in Jesus.

For so many people there is a great deal of preparation, expectation and expense involved with Christmas, and for many, Christmas means only Christmas Day. It seems to me that all the anticipation and excitement can never really be fulfilled as completely as the adverts suggest. The joy of opening presents and eating too much food soon fades and people are left with the cold sprouts, wrapping paper, bottles and tins that all need to be recycled. So much money spent on one or perhaps two days of feasting.

It's different for those of us who are followers of Jesus, though I hope. As you know, for us in the Church, Christmas is a whole season of celebration and thanksgiving. A season which leads into Epiphany. We celebrate God's supreme act of salvation for many weeks, and rightly so. It's almost too obvious to say, but the greatest present, the greatest gift, is the presence of God on earth and in our lives through Christ and his Spirit.

Sadly, fewer and fewer people consider Christmas to be a time of religious devotion or reflection. Some people, it appears, don't even know the story of the stable, Bethlehem, the shepherds and the baby.

And yet, Christmas is a major religious feast for us who are disciples. We can go some way to promoting the Christ element of Christmas, by inviting someone to church or talking to people about what we believe. These words are sum it up beautifully:

Great Little one whose all-embracing birth
Brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year,

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 Wardens on email: stgeorge.wardens@yahoo.com

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Christmas Services at St George's



Sunday 21st December

Nine Lessons and Carols 6.30pm

Join us for this beautiful candle lit service as we hear about the Greatest Story through Carols and Words

Christmas Eve

Christingle and Crib Blessing at 2pm

Midnight Mass at 9pm

Christmas Day Eucharist at 9.30am



Brunch with Santa!

Santa will be joining us
at Saint George's Church, Stalybridge.

On Saturday 6th December.

You can choose from two sessions
10am-12noon or 1pm-3pm

The cost is £5 per child and £3 per adult.

This includes a visit with Santa, a gift for
each child and a light meal for
everyone.

Bookings can be made by email at
brunchwithsanta@yahoo.com

Please state which session you would
like, number of adults, number of
children, age and first name of each
child in your email – this is so that Santa
can get a suitable gift.

We can't wait to see you!!

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

MOBILE Chiropody & Podiatry
Foot care at home

Nail care,
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Janette McLean
BSc (Hons) Podiatry

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Carr's

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Readings and Psalms for December 2025

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Tues 2 nd | 10.30 | Isaiah 11.1-10; Psalm 72.1-4,18-19; Luke 10.21-24 |
| Sun 7 th | 2nd Sunday of Advent | |
| | 9.30 | Isaiah 11.1-10; Psalm 72.1-7,18-19; Romans 15.4-13; Matthew 3.1-12 |
| Tues 9 th | 10.30 | Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 96.1,10-end; Matthew 18.12-14 |
| Sun 14 th | 3rd Sunday of Advent | |
| | 9.30 | Isaiah 35.1-10; Canticle: Magnificat; James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11 |
| Tues 16 th | 10.30 | Zephaniah 3.1-2,9-13; Psalm 34.1-6,21-22; Matthew 21.28-32 |
| Sun 21 st | 4th Sunday of Advent | |
| | 9.30 | Isaiah 7.10-16; Psalm 80.1-8,18-20; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-end |
| | 18.30 | A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols |
| Tues 23 rd | 10.30 | Malachi 3.1-4,4.5-end; Psalm 25.3-9; Luke 1.57-66 |
| Wed 24 th | Christmas Eve | |
| | 14.00 | Christingle Service and Blessing of the Crib |
| | 21.00 | Bethlehem Mass |
| Thurs 25 th | Christmas Day | |
| | 9.30 | Isaiah 52.7-10; Psalm 98 Hebrews 1.1-4; John 1.1-14 |
| Sun 28 th | Holy Innocents | |
| | 9.30 | Jeremiah 31.15-17; Psalm 124; 1 Corinthians 1.26-29; Matthew 2.13-18 |
| Tues 30 th | 10.30 | 1 John 2.12-17; Psalm 96.7-10; Luke 2.36-40 |

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Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents for a minute and look around.
Anon

Christmas News from Robert T Tuxxie



Dear Everypurr,

Have I told you that my mummy goes BANG, BANG, BANG in the mornings? She jumps up in the air and hops around and lifts heavy things and bends over and does all sorts of very strange things. She calls it 'exercise'. I don't know what 'exercise' is, but I don't like to look of it. Her face goes bright red! Can that be healthy? Mummy says 'exercise' is good for her, but I don't think it is.

Look at me in my cosy igloo. That is much better for me and for everypurr!

Find a comfy, warm place and have a nice rest. What could be better? Mummy tries to make me 'exercise' with feathers and balls and a red light but I'm far too clever to fall for it.

Anyway, mummy says I have to mention our lovely Jesus, so I will. Did you know it's going to be Jesus' birthday soon? We will have special food, (Dreamies, I hope!), and we will say extra special prayers. I will make mummy put a little kitty in the nativity scene, because I'm sure there must have been kitties there in that stable. I think kitties are Jesus' favourites, but mummy says Jesus loves everypurr the same, and he wants everypurr to know how much he loves them. I love Jesus and I'm going to tell my kittie friends about him. Will you?

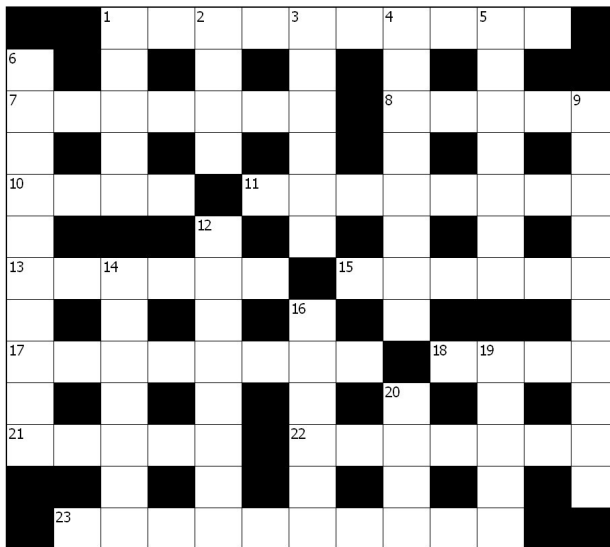
Your purfully,
Robert T Tuxxie esq.

Some dates for your diary - December 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 |
| Sat | 6th | 10am -12 noon | Brunch with Santa |
| | | 1pm - 3pm | Brunch with Santa |
| 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. - 9 p.m. | Informal prayer at St John the Baptist, 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 | 3.00 p.m. - 5.00.p.m. | Christmas Songs and Mince Pies |
| | | 7.00 p.m. | Tameside Community Voices Christmas Concert |
| 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 |
| Sun | 21st | 9.30 a.m. | Parish Eucharist with hymns |
| | | 6.30 p.m. | Service of Nine Lessons and Carols |
| Tues | 23th | 10.30 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| Wed | 24th | 2.00 p.m. | Christingle Service and Blessing of the Crib |
| | | 9.00 p.m. | Bethlehem Mass |
| Thurs | 25th | 9.30 p.m. | Christmas Day Eucharist with hymns |
| Sun | 28th | 9.30 a.m. | Parish Eucharist with hymns |
| Tues | 30th | 10.30 a.m. | Holy Communion |

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

December Crossword

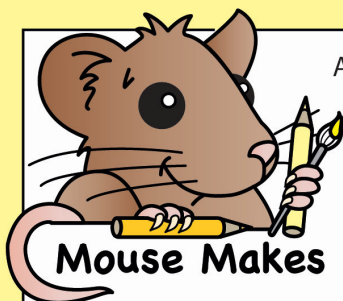


Across

1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10),
 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7), 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5), 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4), 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8), 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6), 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith (6), 17 Stormy (8), 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4), 21 Arson (anag.) (5), 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7), 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

1 and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5), 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ... as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4), 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6), 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19,20) (8), 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7), 6 Offer your bodies as living, holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1) (10), 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10), 12 One who accepts government by God (8), 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7), 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6), 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5), 20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ... his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) (4)



At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus,
God's Son and our Saviour
coming into the world as a baby,
and we look forward to the time
when Jesus will come again,
not as a baby but as the
King of kings and Lord of lords!

read

John 14:3

A baby needs clothes
to keep warm like
a snuggly sleep suit
or a vest and nappy.

What were you dressed in?

Jesus was wrapped in

.....

read Luke 2:7

A baby needs somewhere
to be born like at home
or in a hospital.

Where were you born?

Jesus was born
in a stable in

.....

read Luke 2:1-6

A baby needs
somewhere
to sleep like
a crib or a cot.
*What did you
sleep in?*

Jesus slept in a

.....

read Luke 2:7

A baby needs
a name.

*What name were
you called?*

Jesus was given
a special name
that had a
special meaning.

read

Matthew 1:21-23



HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

NADOLIG LLAWEN ★ NOLLAIG CHRIDHEIL ★ NOLLAG SHONA

JOYEUX NOËL • FELIZ NAVIDAD • BUON NATALE • GOD JUL • FROHE WEIHNACHTEN

Simple Prayers

This is a very short prayer you could use this Advent or at any time during the year.

It's a prayer for a particular person but you could adapt it for your own prayer intentions.

Light a candle and pray:

As I leave
this candle burning
I leave *(name)*
in Your warmth
and in Your light.
Look after *(name)*, Lord.



Here's another prayer. This time it's a prayer for yourself.

A good one to use as we enter a new year.

Light a candle and pray:

Jesus,
I want to walk with You.
Shine in my darkness.
Circle me with your truth and love.
Come and share in my tears and laughter.
Help me to be just and courageous.
I want to walk in Your light.

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Do you have a favourite Christmas Carol?



I love Christmas carols, and I love singing them. I know some of the most well-known carols almost by heart and I always look forward to Christmas Eve when we can officially start singing them. If you do have a favourite, or favourites, I wonder what it is that appeals to you about it? The words, the music, or is it the whole atmosphere of a carol service and Christmas that it or they evoke?

Carols, perhaps more than any other hymns and songs we sing in church, tell a story. They tell the story of the birth of Christ. *In the Bleak Midwinter* describes the cold and the hard earth of winter. *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* describes the message of the angels to the shepherds as they sang out with joy. *O Little Town of Bethlehem* tells us that supreme gift of God was given quietly in a very small town.

Carols, of course, also remind us of the significance of the birth of Jesus: 'And our eyes at last shall see him', 'O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel', 'Glorious now, behold him arise' are just some of the theological statements made in carols and which we have imbibed and have become part of how we understand what we believe. We understand and we celebrate.

There is one particular line that I have been thinking about recently. It comes from *O Little Town of Bethlehem*,

Cast out our sin, and enter in
be born in us today.

A simple statement which describes what happens when we decide to follow, or know that we are following Christ, and perhaps another wonderful prayer for us this Christmas and New Year.

Rev'd Denise



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ONLINE?

Remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE! Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

Please sign up to support us at

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stgeorgeschurchstalybridge

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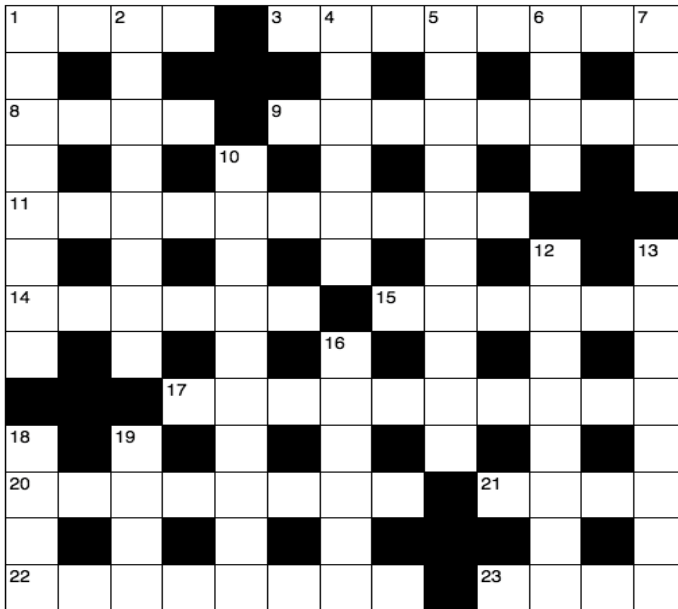
200 Club

November winners

1st prize £25 no103 Alan Smith; 2nd prize £15 no 70 Kathleen Gough;
3rd prize £10 no 6 Rose Hayward

Thank you for your continued support of the 200 Club. If you would like to join the 200 Club please speak to Rose. There are still some numbers available and the cost is £12 per number you hold for the full year.

January Crossword



Across

1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4), 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8), 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4), 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2–4) (8), 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10), 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6), 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6), 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10), 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8), 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4), 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8), 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — (3,2,3), 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8), 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2), 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10), 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4), 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4), 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7), 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8), 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8), 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6), 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1), 19 Pans (anag.) (4)

Vandalism in the Churchyard

You may have heard that some of the headstones in the churchyard have been vandalised. This has been very distressing, especially for the families whose loved one's headstones have been affected. We have posted about this on our Facebook page, and it has featured in the Tameside Correspondent online.

However, we have just found out, almost two weeks after it happened, that it wasn't, in fact, vandalism. It was workers from Tameside Council who had come to check the stability of the headstones. They had laid down the headstones which were posing a risk. They did this without informing me as the vicar, leaving any 'Make Safe' notices on the headstones, or even leaving a note in the church letterbox.

As the vicar, I can't tell you how angry I am about it. The man I spoke to was very apologetic and said they were changing their policy so that we would be informed before they came from now on, but this doesn't really address the distress that has been caused.

We can take comfort from the fact that it wasn't vandalism and only hope that the Council acts in a more sensitive way in the future.

Rev'd Denise

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November Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Bartholomew. 9, Evil one. 10, Adore. 11, Ran. 13, Oreb. 16, Zinc. 17, Entail. 18, Hung. 20, Lehi. 21, Joshua. 22, Pity. 23, Wide. 25, Age. 28, Alarm. 29, Partake. 30, Sennacherib.

DOWN: 2, Alive. 3, Took. 4, Over. 5, Onan. 6, Emotive. 7, Jehoshaphat. 8, Melchizedek. 12, A light. 14, Beg. 15, Strong. 19, Not have. 20, Law. 24, Iraqi. 25, Amen. 26, Epic. 27, Free.

December Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Tabernacle. 7, Absalom. 8, Incas. 10, Roes. 11, Captured. 13, Fright. 15, Cavell. 17, Cyclonic. 18, Herb. 21, Sonar. 22, Amazing. 23, Settlement.

DOWN: 1, Taste. 2, Bold. 3, Ramiah. 4, Abiathar. 5, Lucerne. 6, Sacrifices. 9, Saddlebags. 12, Theocrat. 14, Incense. 16, Pilate. 19, Exist. 20, Save.

Some dates for your diary - January 2025

| | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------------------|---|
| Fri | 2nd | 11.30 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Dementia Café - please book places on 07714235736 |
| Sun | 4th | 9.30 a.m. | Parish Eucharist with hymns |
| Mon | 5th | 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. | Tiny Tots |
| Tues | 6th | 10.30 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| Wed | 7th | 6.30 p.m. | 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 |
| Sun | 11th | 9.30 a.m. | Parish Eucharist with hymns |
| Mon | 12th | 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. | Tiny Tots |
| Tues | 13th | 10.30 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| Wed | 14th | 6.30 p.m. | Brownies |
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| Thurs | 15th | 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. | Tiny Tots |
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| Tues | 20th | 10.30 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| Wed | 21st | 6.30 p.m. | 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 |
| Sun | 25th | 9.30 a.m. | Parish Eucharist with hymns |
| Mon | 26th | 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. | Tiny Tots |
| Tues | 27th | 10.30 a.m. | Holy Communion |
| Wed | 28th | 6.30 p.m. | 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 |



Events Diary

Mondays 9-11am Mums & Tots £1
11am Warm Hub with lunch & games £1

Tuesdays 12-2pm Knit and Natter
12.30 – 2.30pm Community gardening

Wednesdays 1-6pm Nurse led clinic 4 Ambleside

Thursdays 2.30pm The Bread & Butter Thing food bank

Saturdays 11-2pm Bike Revival, trained volunteers to help with free bike repairs and low-cost bike hire for all ages. Bikes sometimes available for sale at very competitive prices.

For more information please contact Margaret Doherty on
07368986973

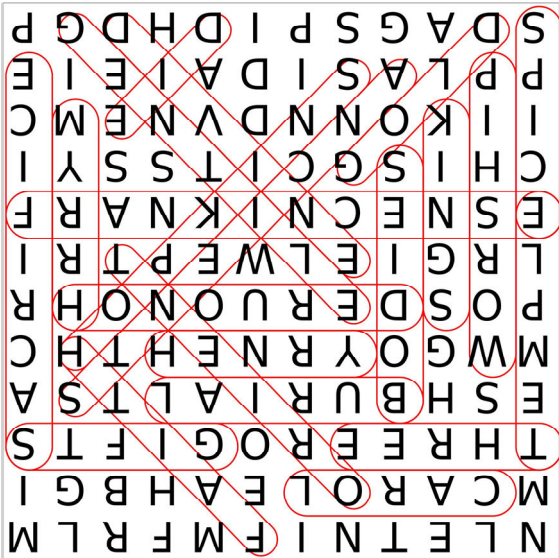
ridgehilltogether@gmail.com

Readings and Psalms for January 2026

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------|---|
| Sun 4 th | Epiphany | 9.30 | Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.10-15; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12 |
| Tues 6 th | | 10.30 | 1 John 4.7-10; Psalm 72.1-8; Mark 6.34-44 |
| Sun 11 th | 1st Sunday of Epiphany - Baptism of Christ | 9.30 | Isaiah 42.1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10.34-43; Matthew 3.13-end |
| Tues 13 th | | 10.30 | 1 Samuel 1.9-20; Cantic: Magnificat; Mark 1.21-28 |
| Sun 18 th | 2nd Sunday of Epiphany | 9.30 | Isaiah 49.1-7; Psalm 40.1-12; 1 Corinthians 1.1-9; John 1.29-42 |
| Tues 22 nd | | 10.30 | 1 Samuel 16.1-13; Psalm 89.19-27; Mark 2.23-end |
| Sun 25 th | 3rd Sunday of Epiphany - Conversion of Paul | 9.30 | Jeremiah 1.4-10; Matthew 19.27-end <i>Worship for All</i> |
| Tues 27 th | | 10.30 | 2 Samuel 6.12-15,17-19; Psalm 24.7end; Mark 3.31-end |

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Wordsearch Solution





ST GEORGE'S DEMENTIA CAFÉ

I thought it would be a good idea to give you all a quick update on what's going on at our Dementia Café. We are once again at capacity because of the restrictions of the church room. Having said that, attendance can vary due to the very nature of the disease. It really does depend on how our guests are when they wake up in the morning! One of our guests wouldn't get up the other week until his wife told him "We're going to see Chris!" (he doesn't recognise that he had Dementia so therefore doesn't need support!) but he was eager to come and see us.

We provide a hot meal which varies from Corned Beef Hash, Pea & Ham Soup, Jacket potatoes with a variety of fillings, Chicken Casserole, sausage and mash ... the list goes on. We have been fortunate enough to be successful in obtaining grants from TMBC via the Community Winter Support of £1,500 this year towards heating and cooking costs which have then been donated to church funds to offset against the fuel bills.

Our entertainment varies tremendously. All our guests have a love of music, indeed, one of our guests who is non-verbal will happily sing along and dance to her favourite song! We now have Armchair Dance (instead of Armchair Aerobics) which came about after I saw Water Aerobics on holiday done to favourite dance records – Agadoo, Superman, Hokey Cokey etc. and when we tried it out, they loved it! We have a band called "Sounds Familiar" who regularly play for us playing sixties and seventies music. We have been visited by a Harris Hawk (!) and they couldn't wait to take their turn in holding her! We love to be "normal" and go out for lunch, lately at Notcutts Garden Centre who are very accommodating or Tameside Wellness Centre for Ten Pin Bowling and lunch (they're a very competitive lot!)

One of our guests once said to me "You don't have to entertain us, Chris. We just love meeting up and being together" which reinforces the need for groups such as ours. Sadly, we have lost a few of our guests this year but have welcomed newcomers.

I must thank our valued Volunteers whose jobs include making all important brews, washing up, serving lunch, clearing tables or, more importantly, sitting and chatting to our guests. Our carers value the time to chat to others in a similar situation or to offload their sadness and frustration. Our Volunteers do it all! Thank you so much – you are all stars!

Chris Crabtree

Word Search - Gifts of the Wise Men

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? One Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote the much-loved Christmas carol, ‘We Three Kings of Orient Are’.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people. The Wise Men were the very first Gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had!

- Gifts
- Gold
- Frankincense
- Myrrh
- Henry
- Hopkins
- Carol
- Three
- Kings
- Orient
- Worship
- Temple
- Spice
- Ancients
- Bodies
- Burial
- Honoured
- Divine
- Sacrifice
- Die
- Gentile
- faith



From Our December Book of Remembrance

| | | | | | |
|--------|---------------------------|------|--------|------------------------|------|
| 1 Dec | Dean Stanley | 1976 | 18 Dec | Mary Lloyd | 1999 |
| 2 Dec | Harriet Shenton | 1976 | | Thelma Adnett | 2005 |
| | Harold Harrison Rowbottom | 1988 | | Edith Brayshaw | 2010 |
| | Harry Brayshaw | 2001 | 19 Dec | Jonas Ward | 2000 |
| 4 Dec | Ellen Wooley Lomas | 1970 | 20 Dec | Dorothy Holborn Dawson | 2022 |
| 7 Dec | Edgar Jones | 1990 | 22 Dec | Jessie Wyld | 1991 |
| 9 Dec | Jack Fitchett | 1951 | | Gladys Jakeman | 1999 |
| 10 Dec | Jane Anne Greenhalgh | 1978 | | Winifred Barnshaw | 2005 |
| | Malcolm James Donald | 2008 | 23 Dec | Emma Gudger | 1962 |
| | Walter Charles Aves | 2016 | | Sarah Hannah Hague | 1981 |
| 11 Dec | Neil Kershaw | 2013 | | James Stott | 1983 |
| 12 Dec | Joseph Kinder | 1929 | | Dorothy Stott | 2012 |
| | George Woolley Buckley | 1990 | 24 Dec | Mona Jefferson | 1988 |
| 13 Dec | Frank Turner | 1976 | | Audrey Fallows | 2012 |
| | Raymond Stewart | 2018 | | Stephen Karl Walsh | 2019 |
| 14 Dec | Gertrude Barbara Fitchett | 1938 | 25 Dec | Frank Buckley | 1974 |
| | Ernest Ives | 1975 | | David William Heap | 1979 |
| | Nora Grace Council | 2008 | | James Reedy | 1982 |
| | Philip Edward Davenport | 2010 | | Derek Hibbert | 1992 |
| 15 Dec | William Dyson Duckworth | 2010 | | Ivy Holt | 2009 |
| 16 Dec | John Hague | 1968 | | Marian Beatrice Ogden | 2013 |
| | Minnie Press | 1984 | 28 Dec | Emily Rosina Pendleton | 1987 |
| | Eva Whittingham | 1984 | | Alfred Wilde | 1988 |
| | Edith Longden | 2008 | | Thomas Holt | 2009 |
| | Nancy Nield | 2019 | | George Henry Burtoft | 2010 |
| 17 Dec | Anthony John David Gough | 1993 | | Alan Oldham Miller | 2011 |
| | Bertha Barnfield | 1998 | 29 Dec | Joan Pickles | 2006 |
| | Norman Quest | 2001 | 31 Dec | Alice Shenton | 1989 |
| | William Hadfield | 2012 | | Joseph Lees | 2000 |
| 18 Dec | Martha Ireson | 1937 | | John White | 2008 |
| | | | | Madge Aves | 2021 |

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS

Baptisms

2nd November

Christopher John Renwick Pernet– Fisher

Funerals

6th November

Derek Noonan

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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

From Our January Book of Remembrance

| | | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------|------|--------|------------------------|------|
| 1 Jan | Ezekiel Lomas | 1941 | 19 Jan | Mary Eastwood | 1989 |
| 2 Jan | Edward Cooper | 1980 | | Michael Redfern | 2023 |
| | Ernest Bramall | 1982 | 20 Jan | Raymond Jack Clarke | 1983 |
| | Marjorie Day | 1982 | | Katherine Devlin | 1988 |
| | David Cotton | 2007 | | Jean Ollerenshaw | 2012 |
| 3 Jan | Ivy Marshall | 2006 | | Brian George Mitchell | 2024 |
| 4 Jan | William Parkinson | 1943 | 21 Jan | Heather Alwyn Clarke | 2012 |
| | Nellie Mellor | 1977 | 22 Jan | Thomas Howard | 1964 |
| | Phyllis Peck | 1981 | | Harry Walton | 1967 |
| | Barry Aldred | 1999 | | Eliza Emma Sidebottom | 1988 |
| 5 Jan | Joseph Hibbert | 1957 | 23 Jan | Jesslyn Tonge | 1991 |
| | Hugh Shepley | 1987 | | Neil Hadfield | 2011 |
| | Gertrude Sullivan | 1998 | 24 Jan | Harold Spencer | 1962 |
| 6 Jan | Harry Walton | 1988 | | Henry Howard | 1981 |
| | John Barratt | 1996 | | Rhoda Hancock | 1989 |
| 8 Jan | Fred Harris | 1979 | | Albert Marcel Hough | 2017 |
| | George Leonard Eakins | 1981 | 25 Jan | Agnes Smith | 1975 |
| | James Norman Kelday | 2000 | | Moreen Branwood | 2005 |
| 9 Jan | Susan Ann Maud Barnfield | 1953 | | Carol Hyde | 2010 |
| | Sarah Clewes | 1994 | | Joseph Middleton | 2019 |
| | Derek Greenwood | 2019 | 26 Jan | Edith Emma Clinton | 1987 |
| 10 Jan | Tom Sidebottom | 1979 | | Nellie Wood | 1987 |
| 11 Jan | Jesse Horsefield | 1984 | | Eric James Chorlton | 2001 |
| | Drinda Jefferson | 1990 | | Margaret Slack | 2007 |
| | Evelyn Barlow | 2003 | 27 Jan | Fred Kay | 1968 |
| | James Watson | 2014 | | Bridget Bower | 1994 |
| 12 Jan | Ethel Battersby | 1992 | | Geoffrey Phillip Brown | 1995 |
| 13 Jan | Kathleen Thwaites | 1992 | | Ronald Bower | 2000 |
| 14 Jan | Robert Nicholson | 1988 | 28 Jan | Abraham Newton | 1983 |
| | Eva Helen Ollerenshaw | 1989 | | Veronica Quinn | 1997 |
| | Kyle Martin Cropper | 2004 | 29 Jan | Fred Holt | 1939 |
| | Ramsden | | | Eddie Holden | 1990 |
| 15 Jan | James Ireson | 1990 | | Karen Jane Bradbury | 2007 |
| | Norman Council | 2014 | | Mildred Bradshaw | 2014 |
| 16 Jan | William Gudger | 1963 | 30 Jan | Alice Saxon | 1997 |
| | Minnie Schofield | 2012 | 31 Jan | Alice Ann Priestley | 1955 |
| 17 Jan | David Lees | 2011 | | John Robert Stanley | 1990 |
| 18 Jan | William Frederick Ireson | 1962 | | John Patrick Higgins | 2006 |
| | George William Catlow | 2000 | | | |
| | Marian Hulme | 2002 | | | |
| | Reginald Hewitt | 2008 | | | |

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***Proprietors:* N.T. Revell
Denise Roberts née Revell
Cassie Roberts**