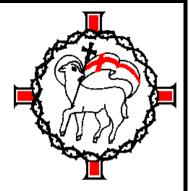
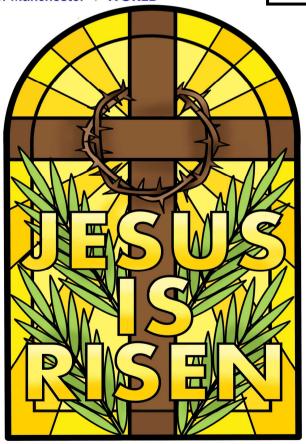
# St George's Parish Church Stalybridge







50p



**April 2025** 

## 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 Mrs Karen Watkins 07514 207454

Co-ordinator

P.C.C. Secretary

Treasurer Mr Andrew Watkins 07970 079306

Magazine Editor Mrs Linda Hurst 0161 330 0518

Room Hire Mrs Jean McManus 0161 339 1394

www.stg.org.uk

FACEBOOK TWITTER

@stgeorgestalybridge @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@yaho.co.uk







Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I've been reminded very recently of my baptism promises and how important they are to hoe ai live my life. I wonder if you ever look back to your baptism and think about what it means to you. As a vicar, I obviously officiate at a lot of baptisms, almost all of them baptisms of very young children and babies. We can get

a bit cynical about the fact that families bring their children to be 'Christened', but never or very rarely come to church again. That's not what I want to write about today. I attended an event at which we as clergy were challenged to reconsider one of the questions that is asked at a baptism. 'Do you turn to Christ?' The answer is, of course, 'I turn to Christ.' The challenge was for us, how far do we take that in our own lives?

We are expected to pray the Office daily, that is Morning and Evening Prayer which is fine, and which becomes a routine part of the day, but beyond that, how do we turn to Christ throughout the day. Are we conscious of walking or driving with God on our way to church. We do thank God as we are unlocking the church or switching the lights on and other everyday things. Do we find blessing in these simple tasks. Do we acknowledge that we are doing them for God and with God.

The big question was how much time do we spend with God in silent prayer? Do we sit down in church or in a prayer space in our vicarages and intentionally turn to Christ. Turn our hearts and minds to God. Do we think it's OK to leave phone calls and emails unanswered, sermons unwritten, desks untidied, tasks uncompleted, in order to spend 'quality' time with God. Do we sit and listen to God? Do we read scripture and expect it to be God's word for us that day? What would your answer be to any of these questions. How do you 'Turn to Christ' in your daily lives?

As for those baptism families I mentioned. Please pray for them. Pray for the children, pray for the Godparents, pray for mums and dads, and grandparents and all the rest. God loves them and longs for them to turn to Him as well.

	Yours	in	Ch	rist,
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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.dowen@yahoo.co.uk

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#### **Mission Community 6 and Deanery News**

The 2023 vision for the Diocese has evolved over time, and there are now four priorities. These are: Growing Younger; Church Planting and Revitalisation; developing Missional Leaders; Parish Renewal. These were reported on by Bishop Mark at the most recent Deanery Synod.

As a Mission Community we met at St John's, Hurst at the beginning of March to discuss how we could work together. Two priorities emerged. The first was better communication. People felt that almost from the beginning of the initiative to introduce Mission Communities communication about them and between them has been poor. People are still unsure about what they are for and how they can be of benefit to churches. The second priority was to find out what is already happening in our churches and let others know. In this way if there's an interesting project which could be introduced in other churches we could fine out more and perhaps visit. Some Mission Communities are much further along the path of collaboration than our Mission Community which is Mission Community 6. However, any step forward, however, small is progress and I'm sure that we will finds ways of working together and bearing fruit.

Revd Denise

## **Holy Week and Easter**



Palm Sunday – Holy Communion at 9.30am at St George, Stalybridge Service of the Word at 9.30am at St John, Roughtown Holy Communion at 11.30am at St George, Mossley

**Monday 14**<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am – Chrism Mass at Manchester Cathedral 7pm – Stations of the Cross at St George, Mossley

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April** at 10.30am – Holy Communion at St George, Stalybridge 7pm – Stations of the Cross St George, Stalybridge

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm – Prayers and Readings at St John, Roughtown

Maundy Thursday – Bring and Share Supper at 5pm at St George, Mossley 7pm - Holy Communion with foot washing and vigil until 10pm at St George, Mossley

6.30pm - Holy Communion at St George, Stalybridge

**Good Friday at 10.30am** – Good Friday Liturgy at St George, Stalybridge 2pm – Prayer and Meditation at St George, Mossley

**Easter Sunday** – Holy Communion at 9.30am at St George, Stalybridge (Fr Craig)

Holy Communion at 9.30am at St John, Roughtown Holy Communion at 11.30am at St George, Mossley

Join us for as many services as you're able to during Holy Week.

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## Ridge Hill Lane WMC

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

Artistes regularly





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New members always welcome

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### Readings and Psalms for April 2025

Tues 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.30	Ezekiel 47.1-9,12; Psalm 46.1-8; John 5.1-3,5-16			
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	5th Sund 9.30	ay of Lent Isaiah 43.16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3.4b-14; John 12.1-8			
Tues 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Numbers 21.4-9; Psalm 102.1-3,16-23; John 8.21-30			
HOLY WEEK Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sur 9.30	nday Isaiah 50.4-9a; Psalm 31.9-16; Philippians 2.5-11; Luke 22.14-end of 23			
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Isaiah 49.1-7; Psalm 71.1-14; 1 Corinthians 1.18-31; John 12.20-36			
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy 1 18.30	Гhursday Exodus 12.1-4,11-14; Psalm 116.1,10-end; 1 Corinthians 11.23-26; John 13.1-17,31b-35			
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup>	Good Frie	ood Friday			
	10.30	Isaiah 52.13-end of 53; Psalm 22.1-21; Hebrews 10.16-25; John 18.1-end of 19			
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Da 9.30	ay Acts 10.34-43; Psalm 118.14-24; 1 Corinthians 15.19 -26; John 20.1-18			
Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30	Acts 2.36-41; Psalm 33.4-5,18-end; John 20.11-18			
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30	2nd Sunday of Easter - Celebrating St George Acts 5.27-32; John 20.19-end Worship for All			
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Acts 15.35-end; Psalm 119.9-16; Ephesians 4.7-16; Mark 13.5-13			

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### **200 Club**

#### **March Winners**

1st prize £25 no 89 Margaret Smith; 2nd prize £15 no 25 Judith Fairbrother; 3rd prize £10 no 57 Sylvia Barrett

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.

## St George's Dementía Cafe, Church Walk, Stalybrídge, SK15 1DL



#### 11.30am - 2.00pm - Lunch provided. Ring Chris on 07714 235736 to book your place!

4<sup>th</sup> April Beetle Drive - who will build their Beetle first?!

18th April GOOD FRIDAY - NO MEETING

2<sup>nd</sup> May V E Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party!!

16<sup>th</sup> May Lunch at Notcutts Garden Centre

6<sup>th</sup> June Bowling on the lawn - weather permitting!!

20th June Garden games - weather permitting!!!

Whilst every effort will be made to adhere to the programme, changes may be made

(depending on what we feel like doing!)

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#### Where did your Easter egg come from?

Your Easter egg can be traced back to the early Church in Mesopotamia.



Since ancient times, people had been giving each other eggs at pagan Spring festivals, as eggs were a symbol of the new life and rebirth in nature all around them. Then came Jesus and His death and resurrection, which made Easter the ultimate time for Christians to celebrate new life and rebirth. After that, it was only a matter of time before eggs found their way into commemorating Easter.

This seems to have first happened with the very early church in Mesopotamia, where those early Christians began dyeing their eggs after Easter, to celebrate the new birth that Jesus had given to them. The practise of using eggs in Easter celebrations then spread to the Orthodox Churches, and from there to the Western Churches across Europe.

This year, why not buy an extra Easter egg or two, and join our church in donating them to our local food bank? You will make some local children very happy!

## Some dates for your diary - April 2025

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Tues		10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wed	2nd	6.30 p.m.	Brownies
		7.30 p.m.	Guides
Thurs	3rd	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	4th	11.30 a.m 2 p.m.	Dementia Café - please book places on 07714235736
Sun	6th	10.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist with hymns
Mon	7th	7.00 p.m.	Lent Course
Tues	8th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wed	9th	7.30 p.m.	Informal Meditation and Prayers, St John's, Roughtown
Thurs	10th	1.00 p.m 3.00 p.m.	Come Together Café for coffee, chat & activities
Sun	13th	9.30 a.m.	Palm Sunday Parish Eucharist with hymns
Mon	14th	10.30 a.m.	Chrism Mass at Manchester Cathedral
Tues	15th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
		7.00 p.m.	Stations of The Cross, St George's Mossley
Thurs	17th	1.00 p.m 3.00 p.m.	Come Together Café for coffee, chat & activities
		6.30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri	18th	10.30 a.m.	Good Friday Liturgy
		2.00 p.m.	Prayer and Meditation at St George's, Mossley
Sun	20th	9.30 a.m.	Easter Sunday Parish Eucharist with hymns
Tues	22nd	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wed	23rd	6.30 p.m.	Brownies
		7.30 p.m.	Guides
Thurs	24th	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	27th	10.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist with hymns
Mon	28th	9 a.m 11 a.m.	Tiny Tots
Tues	29th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion
Wed	30th	6.30 p.m.	Brownies
		7.30 p.m.	Guides

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

The death of Christ was the most dreadful blow ever given to the empire of darkness. - *William Plumer* 

## St George's News

#### 2025 - time for a new Church Electoral Roll

This is the year when EVERYONE gets dumped off the Electoral Roll – and needs to make a definite decision to come back on again. This happens in the Church of England every six years.

If you would like to be included in the new Electoral Roll please ask in church for an application form and return it completed to St George's Church before Easter Sunday 20th April 2025 in time for inclusion in our APCM meeting on 18th May 2025.

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#### **APCM**

The APCM will be held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May – after the service. This is when we vote in new PCC members, appoint assistant wardens and wardens. If you would like to be considered for any of these roles, please speak to Denise or Val, and complete a nomination form. You will need to be nominated and seconded.

Being on the PCC is great way to influence what happens in your Church, so please do consider being part of it.



St George's Church Lounge Saturday 3rd May 1.00pm-5.00pm

Come along and share in our VE Day Celebrations with an Afternoon Tea
Share memorabilia (and a few little extras!)

There is no charge but donations to the Royal British Legion will be very welcome

#### Why Do we Do That?

Have you ever noticed that I always add a little splash of water to the wine in the chalice before I begin the Eucharistic Prayer? Water plays quite an important part in our Holy Communion services. This is mostly to do with cleanliness both practically and symbolically, but the water added to the wine is different. First, it was quite usual for people to dilute wine with some water during

the period when Jesus instituted Holy Communion. It was common practice for anyone when drinking wine. The second and more profound reason is that it reminds us that when Jesus was on the cross a soldier pierced his side with a spear to check that he was dead. Water came out of his side, and we remember this in the water and the wine of the chalice.

You may also notice that a small amount of water is poured onto my hands when the altar has been prepared, and the Offertory has been collected and prayed over. This also happens just before the Eucharistic Prayer, and it is a symbolic cleansing. As the water is poured, I pray a short prayer asking God to 'Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me.' In other words, I'm asking God to make me spiritually ready to preside at the Eucharist. The cleansing of my hands is an outward sign of this inward grace.

One action which is connected to this, but which you may not see is that during the Eucharistic Prayer, before I pick up the host, I run the tips of my fingers along the corporal (the square cloth that is laid under the paten and chalice.) This is also to make sure that my hands are as clean as they can be before touching the sacred elements.

Again, all of these actions are outwards signs which reflect our understanding that what we are doing during Holy Communion is sacred, a drawing closer to God and an anticipation of the heavenly banquet we will one day enjoy in His presence.

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Confunction Source

**Confirmation** - Our Mission Community Confirmation Service will take place on **Sunday 11th May at 6pm**. Confirmation means making a public affirmation that you want to follow Christ. There will be preparation sessions when we will explore our faith together. Please see Revd Denise for more details.

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#### A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY!

We have been given the very generous gift of a brand new, all singing, all dancing (not quite but you get the drift!) sewing machine, still in the box, worth almost £200!!

We are selling raffle tickets at the bargain price of £2 for a strip of five tickets. All proceeds will go to church funds. The draw will take place at the Spring Fair on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

Now if, like me, you don't know one end of a needle from the other, do not despair!! On-line sites such as Vinted, E Bay are the ideal platforms to sell on the machine and make you some money (which if you're feeling REALLY generous you could then donate to church funds?!!)

Tickets are on sale in church and at all of our community groups between now and the draw date.

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#### **SPRING FAIR**

Our spring fair will soon be here and we are asking for donations for the following stalls:

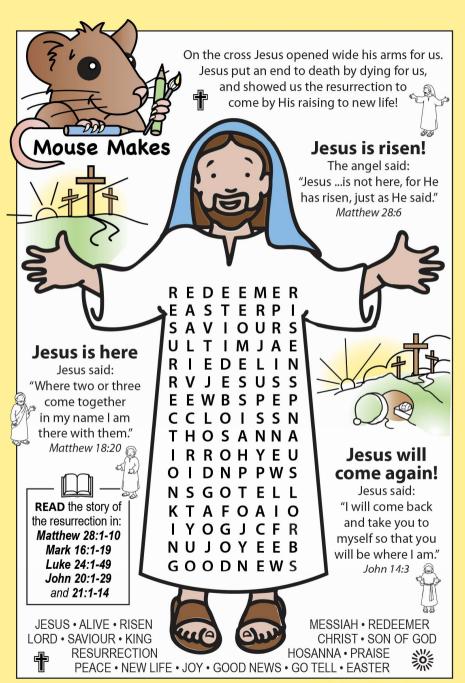
- Toiletries—please give to Julia
- Bottles for the bottle tombola—please give to Michael
- Raffle prizes—please give to Chris or Val

If you are able to help on the day please speak to Chris or Val.

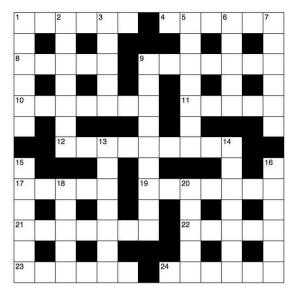
Unfortunately Val will be unable to to the mystery gifts at the spring fair due to her operation, however they will be back for the Christmas Fair so hang on to your goodies. If you do need to get them out of the house please give them to Chris to store at church



## Children's Page



#### **April Crossword**



#### **Across**

1 Relating to the whole universe (6), 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6), 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3), 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7), 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7), 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5), 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9), 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3–4) (5), 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7), 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7), 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5), 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6), 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

#### Down

1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6), 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7), 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5), 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3), 6 11 Across is certainly this (5), 7 He reps (anag.) (6), 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9), 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7), 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7), 15 The human mind or soul (6), 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6), 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5), 20 Bared (anag.) (5)





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

#### News from Robert T Tuxxie



Dear Everypurr!

Look at me! Mummy has been very sneaky and taken a photo of me as I was having a wash. I like to be super clean, so I make sure I wash every little bit of me every day. Sometimes fur goes into my tummy, so I have to be sick to bring it back out. I always leave a neat pile for mummy to take away. I especially like to be sick on her cream rug just to make sure she sees it. I don't know why she says, 'Robert' so loudly.

Mummy says that in Lent we have to do 'acts of service'. I think this means we have to help each other, so when I leave her something to clean up, I'm helping her do an act of service for me! I am such a good and thoughtful cat. Jesus likes us to be kind and generous and I am definitely both of those. Have you done acts of service this Lent? Do you leave things for purrsons to clean up? Or do you clean up for other purrsons? I bet you don't use a very loud voice like my mummy.

Yours purfully,

Robert T Tuxxie

#### **March Crossword Solution**

**ACROSS:** 1, Corinthians. 9, Abandon. 10, Eglon. 11, Spa. 13, Deem. 16, Hi-fi. 17, Abijah. 18, Ohad. 20, Myth. 21, Now see. 22, Knit. 23, Tide. 25, Arm. 28, Nahor. 29, All done. 30, Kind-hearted.

**DOWN:** 2, Of age. 3, ISDN. 4, Tens. 5, Idea. 6, Nullify. 7, Hardworking. 8, Enlightened. 12, Praise. 14, Mad. 15, Vigour. 19, Abishai. 20, Met. 24, Is one. 25, Arid. 26, Male. 27, Slur.

## The Church of St Michael and All Angels

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come and sing Stainer's



Sunday 6 April 2025

Soloists:

Philip Clieve (Tenor) and Benjamin Lewis (Baritone) David Jacks (Organist) John Miles (Director)

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Rehearsal at 2.30 pm followed by refreshments and performance at 4.45 pm. Or just come and listen!

Cost: £5 for singers or audience

For more information:

St Michael's, Church Street

Limited number of scores available please bring your own if you have one

Contact, John Miles (01457) 763701

Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 6XJ

### **BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & FUNERALS**

Baptisms
16th February
Casey Matthew Combs
30th February
Theo Rex David Dixon



# **Funerals 18th February**Karen Elizabeth Wright



#### **LEAP YEAR MONEY BOX**

A very big 'THANK YOU' to everyone who contributed in the Save a Coin Leap Year Money Box. We have raised over £621 with some money still to come in. This amount will go a long way in

paying recent bills incurred improving the heating system.

It's not too late to contribute if you would like to. Please give your money to Anrew, our treasurer, or if you would prefer to send a bank transfer the details are:

St George's Church Account no: 84774266 Sort code: 60 20 21

Thank you

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#### **Grave Tidy Service**

While we try to keep all of the graveyard clean and tidy all year round, it is getting to that time of year when everything seems to spring up! So we offer a grave tidy and attendance service



from April to October. The service is to ensure particular graves are de-weeded, well trimmed, neat and clear of leaves and twigs. We also clean the memorial. All of this is just £30 per year.

#### From Our Book of Remembrance

Apr 3	Alan Wilson	1970	Apr 17	Dennis Baxter	2001
	Fred Peck	1977	Apr 18	Edith Smith	1988
	William Dawson	1982		Ada Sayce	1989
	Joan Brocklehurst	1994	Apr 19	Mary Elizabeth Parkinson	1944
	Christine Hall (nee Higgins	2023		Bertha Stanley	1965
Apr 4	Grace Lee	1975		Doris Hibbert	1970
	Geoffrey Birch	2006		Samuel Cook	1989
Apr 5	Percy Dudleston	1979	Apr 20	Mary Wright	1989
Apr 6	Herbert Brocklehurst	1975		Louis Bowler	1990
Apr 7	Ellen Ratcliffe	1937		Lena Schofield	1997
	Ian Stephen Duncan	2020	Apr 22	Mark Allen Cowley	2009
Apr 8	Alistair William Rose	1983	Apr 23	Jennie Cook	1995
	Forbes			Bob Dentith	2021
Apr 9	John (Jack) Ireson	1987		Keith Dean Trudgeon	2023
	Kenneth Langton	2007	Apr 24	Joan Lindley	1983
	Howard Steven Fogg	2008		George Wardle	1997
	Robin Edward Morris	2015		Doreen Lilian Pritchard	2009
Apr 10	Walter Bramall	1977		Graham Webster	2009
	Minnie Talbot	1984	Apr 25	John Jepson Thomas	1991
	Freda Mary Day	1987		Alice Ann Walton	1998
Apr 12	Jacqueline Ruth Gillaspy	1987	Apr 26	Elsie Beatrice Dugdale	1974
	Andrea Louise Johnson	2004		Beatrice Isabella Brien	1985
Apr 14	Helen Shaw	1996		Harry Blackburn	2003
	Neil Kershaw	2013	Apr 27	John Kenyon	2001
Apr 15	Ernest Norris	1965	Apr 28	Ada Broadbent	1962
	Joseph Parry	2007	Apr 29	Laura Wright	2007
	Alice Banks	2009			
Apr 16	Joseph Shaw	1961			
	Emily Spencer	1990			
	Harold David Robinson	2021			

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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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