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St George's Parish Church Stalybridge

 **THE CHURCH
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Diocese of Manchester

**CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD**



35p



February 2021

St George's Church Stalybridge

Vicar **The Revd Penny Warner**
 revdpennywarner@outlookcom 07393 420763
(call, text, WhatsApp)
 St John's Vicarage,
 Carrhill Road, Mossley,
 OL5 0SA

Wardens Mrs Janet Vidler 0161 303 7689

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 Mrs Gillian Cotton 0161 303 2787

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Magazine Editor Mrs Linda Hurst 0161 330 0518

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 stgwarden@hotmail.co.uk

www.stg.org.uk

FACEBOOK **TWITTER**
 @stgeorgestalybridge @StGStalybridge

*For baptisms, marriages or funerals please phone the Vicar on 07393 420763.
 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, or to have
 the name of a departed friend or relation entered in the Book of Remembrance,
 please contact the Vicar.*



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
	Colin Birch	2001	27 Feb	Winifred Ada Christian	1968
11 Feb	Harold Lee	1961		Maud Green	1986
	Iris Wilson	1975		Clara Wardle	1987
	Ada Stephenson	1983		Elsie Violet Shaw	2000
	Mary Skelton	2012		Jessie Birch	2011
	Thomas Darraugh	2019	28 Feb	Samuel Terence Broadbent	1990
12 Feb	Mary Pollitt	1987		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 the vicar or one of the wardens. The cost for the inscription is £10 per entry



A huge thank you to everyone who is making sure that the life and ministry of St George's Church is continuing, albeit in different ways during this time.



We are continuing to collect for **Tameside East Foodbank**. If you'd like to contribute with items, do be in touch with Rev Penny.

We are doing our best to communicate with as many people as possible, by telephone, email, social media, post and running errands. Volunteers are still helping Penny to phone around church members and others who would like contact, so that we can keep in touch. **Please do be in touch if you would like to speak with someone, or you know someone who would (with their permission) or if there is anything we can do to help.**

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Lots of us are now doing a lot of our shopping online. St George's is registered with easyfundraising, which means you can help us to raise money for FREE!

All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE! These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stgeorgeschurchstalybridge



The Vicar writes...

It doesn't seem long since we were gearing up for an unusual Advent and Christmas and now here we are in February preparing for Lent and Easter as difficult days continue. Last year, as the coronavirus pandemic was beginning to take hold throughout Lent, the phrase, "this is the Lent-iest Lent I have ever Lent-ed" – it seems this year we are there once more.

This year, Lent will be marked differently. This is a wonderful opportunity for us all to be creative in finding ways to keep a holy Lent. We may think about reading a Lent book or making a special effort to pray at a certain time each day. We could make a special effort to count our blessings and to find ways to bless others – perhaps with a letter, phone call or gift. In all these things, recognise that God is with us, encouraging us, healing us and making us whole that we may continue to grow in love and do God's will looking forward to the day when we can rejoice and celebrate together.

During Lent we think about Jesus' own temptation in the wilderness. Each of us are facing different temptations during these days – the temptation to give up with the rules perhaps, the temptation to feel hopeless about the future, the temptation to feel as though darkness has triumphed over light and despair over hope. The current times are a huge challenge for all of us and testing for our faith in a good God who loves us. In this wilderness, God is with us, leading us, guiding us and sustaining us minute by minute, day by day. At the moment, just one minute, just one day at a time is enough – God is in this moment and will be there in the next.

If you would like to talk or to pray or have someone pray for you or a loved one, please do be in touch.

With love and prayers for a peaceful, different and holy Lent,
Penny

National Lockdown: Arrangements for Public Worship

You must stay at home as much as possible.

Currently, the law allows places of worship to remain open and for public worship to continue in this lockdown.

Leaving your home to attend worship, should you wish, is permitted by law.



Sundays

10.30am Parish Eucharist in church

12.15pm Junior Church (online)

6pm Sanctuary – Evening Prayers

(online and streamed to our Facebook page)

Tuesdays

10.30am Eucharist in church

Funerals in church can continue with a maximum of 30 people (including children) and no congregational singing.

Please be in touch if you need to discuss arrangements for baptisms and weddings.

A full risk assessment is in place and regularly revised.

We continue stringent hygiene and social distancing procedures.

You must not interact with anyone outside of your household/bubble.

Please take your seats immediately as you arrive

and leave the building at the end of worship, when directed.

YOU MUST NOT ATTEND if you are unwell, self isolating

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St George's Online Catch Ups in February

Join together via Zoom for an opportunity to say hello and have a chat with others from the comfort of your own home.

All are welcome!



Afternoon Tea

Tuesday 9th Feb at 2pm

Coffee Morning

Thursday 25th February at 10am

Bring your own refreshments!

Please ask Rev Penny for the Zoom login details and be in touch if you'd like help to set up Zoom and join in! The login details remain the same for each session.

Ridge Hill Lane WMC

Entertainment Saturday night or Sunday afternoon

New members always welcome

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

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A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

PARISH E-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 revdpennywarner@outlook.com, send your email address by text or WhatsApp to 07393 420763 or sign up via our church Facebook page or website.

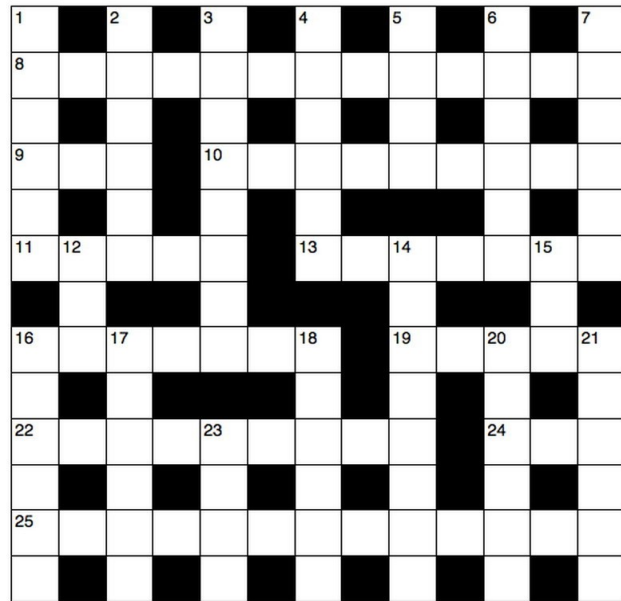


WATER AID

Across the world, extreme weather makes accessing clean water even more difficult for the poorest people. Rain is becoming more unpredictable. Intense droughts are drying up wells and springs. Floods are polluting water sources with salt and faeces. In Bangladesh, where nearly 5 million people don't have clean water, those who are least able to protect themselves must watch as their crops fail, and their families get sick as water-related diseases break out.

This Lent you can bring the gift of clean water - and with it improved health and livelihoods - so that communities are better able to face the obstacles that come their way. Pick a jar and start filling it with change this Lent. There are special jar sleeves available from church/to be posted, if you would like one. If you are using contactless payments at this time, perhaps you could make a special gift and pop a donation in a jar or envelope.

February Crossword



Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8), 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9), 11
 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2), 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7), 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7), 19
 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living
 sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5), 22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down:
 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7), 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the
 book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6), 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines
 (1 Samuel 4:11) (6), 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8), 4 'Do not rebuke an
 older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6), 5 One of Esau's
 grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4), 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4), 7 God's instructions to the
 Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3), 12
 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1), 14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always
 — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8), 15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a
 widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3), 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6), 17 How Jeremiah was
 likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9)
 (6), 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2), 20 Made by
 a plough (Job 39:10) (6), 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to —
 (Genesis 8:5) (6), 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases
 (Luke 9:1) (4)

Readings and Psalms for February 2021

Tues 2nd 10.30 Hebrews 12.1-4; Psalm 22. 25b-end; Mark 5. 21-end

Sun 7th 2nd Sunday before Lent

9 & 10.30 Proverbs 8. 1,22-31; Psalm 104. 26-end; Colossians 1.15-20; John 1.1-14

Tues 9th 10.30 Genesis 1.20-2.4a; Psalm 8; Mark 7. 1-13

Sun 14th Sunday next before Lent

9 & 10.30 2 Kings 2. 1-12; Psalm 50.1-6; 2 Corinthians 4.3-6; Mark 9.2-9

Tues 16th 10.30 Genesis 6.5-8;7.1-5,10; Psalm 29; Mark 8.14-21

Wed 17th Ash Wednesday

20.00 Isaiah 58.1-12; Psalm 51.1-18; 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10

Sun 21st 1st Sunday of Lent

9 & 10.30 Genesis 9.8-17; Psalm 25.1-9; 1 Peter 3.18-end; Mark 1.9-15

Tues 23rd 10.30 Isaiah 55.10-11; Psalm 34.4-6,21-22; Matthew 6.7-15

Sun 28th 2nd Sunday of Lent

9 & 10.30 Genesis 17.1-7,15-16; Psalm 22.23-end; Romans 4.13-end; Mark 8.31-end

January Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Cock. 3, Shackles. 8, Play. 9, Paradise. 11, Faithfully. 14, Enmesh. 15, Unseen. 17, Armageddon. 20, Benjamin. 21, Beri. 22, Capitals. 23, USPG.
DOWN: 1, Cup of tea. 2, Charisma. 4, Heap up. 5, Challenged. 6, Lois. 7, Slew. 10, The Servant. 12, Lewdness. 13, Unending. 16, Daniel. 18, BBFC. 19, Snap.

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Love Is...



As we mark Valentines' Day this month, it's good to ask the question: what does real love look like?

The Apostle Paul says: *'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.'* (1 Corinthians 13: 4-8).

Love is unconditional:

At heart, love is not just feelings but action! Paul talks here about unconditional love, using the word *agape*, which demonstrated in God's love for us: *'We love, because He first loved us.'* (1 John 4:19).

Love is forgiving:

According to the film Love Story, *'Love means never having to say you're sorry.'* This is rarely true in our experience! According to Paul, love is being ready to forgive others and *'keeping no record of wrongs'* (5). We can only forgive others because we know God forgiveness in our own lives.

Love is sacrificial:

Paul says that *agape* love is not selfish or self-seeking, but selfless and self-sacrificial, putting the needs of other people first. This is modelled by Jesus giving His life for us on the cross. Take the words from 1 Corinthians and instead of the word *love*, substitute your own name. Now substitute the word *Jesus*. This is the Jesus who is available to you to make your love for others grow and flourish.

Someone once compared love being like a group of porcupines huddling together on a cold night. The closer they get, the more they jab and hurt each other. *'To love at all is to be vulnerable.'* (C S Lewis).

Paws for thought



Love is in the air! February brings Valentine's Day and its another great day for my humans to show me how much they love me! I just know that I shall be showered with cuddles, love and kisses, tasty food and a lovely long walk...actually, it will just be like any other day of my life!

I know from being a Vicarage dog that whilst St Valentine may have overtaken the more secular market on 14th February, in the church calendar Ss Cyril and Methodius have their day.

Cyril and his older brother Methodius were born in Thessalonica and were great linguists. Cyril created the Slavonic alphabet and set about translating the Scriptures and liturgical texts into the language. They established the church in Moravia. Cyril died on 14th February 869 and Methodius returned to Moravia as archbishop, where he completed the translation of the Bible and continued the missionary work. He died in the year 885. They both did huge amounts of work creating understanding and communication between the eastern and western churches, helping Christians to love one another and work together.

We often hear about the "language of love". Is it a language of romantic hearts, chocolates, and expensive flowers or is it something more than that? Cyril and Methodius showed a love of God by encouraging good relationships, communication and understanding between people.

The past 12 months have seen us all have to rethink our means of communications – however we're in touch, let's show true love – which simply listens, cares, heals and unites.

With love to you all,

Buddy



Q U I Z

***Before the start of Lent,
join in our
Mardi Gras themed
Quiz***

***Saturday 13th February
at 7pm via Zoom***

Be in touch with Rev Penny for login details

***All welcome,
including family & friends.
Get your drinks and snacks ready!***



***There will be a prize for the best
"Mardi Gras" mask or hat or
headdress worn!***



Making sense of Lent

This month sees the start of Lent, the six-week period leading up to Easter. In the early Church, it was a time when new converts were instructed in the faith, ready for their baptism at Easter. Over the years, Lent has become a season of penitence, self-examination and fasting. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and taught his disciples to fast, 'when you fast..' (Matthew 6:17).

Fasting might involve missing one or two meals in a day, refraining from TV or alcohol, or whatever gets in the way of us fully focusing on God. What are the reasons for fasting?

- The act of giving up something is a tangible sacrifice to God, reminding us of our desire to put him first in our lives.
- Giving up things I value shows me how depend I can be on other things rather than God.
- Fasting helps me to surrender my 'idols' to God.
- When fasting I am reminded of a deeper hunger and need for God in my life: 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.' (Matthew 5:6). I learn to be more dependent on God, while releasing the stuff I depend on in my life.

Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines eg joining a study group, 'random acts of kindness', giving more time to prayer and Bible study Whatever you do, have a great Lent!

'Jesus takes it for granted that his disciples will observe the pious custom of fasting. Strict exercise of self-control is an essential feature of the Christian's life. Such customs have only one purpose - to make the disciples more ready and cheerful to accomplish those things which God would have done.' (Dietrich Bonhoeffer).

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A time of preparation as we examine ourselves, our lives and our world. This is a season of penitence, prayer and fasting as we wait for the joy of Easter.

ASH WEDNESDAY
17th February 2021
Eucharist at 7pm at St George's Church
(Please note: there will be no imposition of ashes due to COVID restrictions.)

“SANCTUARY”

Sunday Evenings at 6pm via Zoom

A quiet time of prayer and reflection shared between the parishes of Mossley, St John the Evangelist, Hurst & St George's, Stalybridge

During Lent we will focus on the Stations of the Cross

You can join the service via Zoom at 6pm.

(The service will be posted on Facebook as a video afterwards)

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